

# **Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan**

## **Burnt House Farm**

Turton Road, Bury

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## 1. Burnt House Farm

### 1.1 Objective and Aims

1.1.1 The objective of the enhancement and maintenance plan: **To retain and enhance the site for wildlife, whilst ensuring the ecological features created are easy to maintain.**

1.1.2 The site enhancement, compensation and maintenance measures aim to:

***Retain habitat on site through:***

- Retention of existing boundary shrubs.

***Enhancement of biodiversity and ecological functionality on site through:***

- Planting of **native species hedgerow**
- Planting of **native species trees**
- Provision of **barn owl boxes on poles**
- Provision of **bird roost boxes on the building**
- Provision of **bat roost boxes on the building**
- Ensuring access for small mammals and other wildlife by ensuring a **'hedgehog highway'**



## 1.2 Proposed planting:

### *Hedgerow Planting*

- 1.2.1 Native hedgerow species will complement the existing native trees present on site.
- 1.2.2 All the species produce flowers and fruits valuable for local wildlife.
- 1.2.3 The linear hedgerows alongside the access track will act to prevent heavy run-off to the south towards the stream.

**Table 2 Species for native hedgerow creation**

| <i>Species</i>     | <i>Latin</i>                 | <i>Specification</i> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Hawthorn</i>    | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>    | <b>70%</b>           |
| <i>Holly</i>       | <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>       | <b>10%</b>           |
| <i>Wild Cherry</i> | <i>Prunus avium</i>          | <b>5%</b>            |
| <i>Wild privet</i> | <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>     | <b>10%</b>           |
| <i>Honeysuckle</i> | <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> | <b>Occasional</b>    |

### *Native tree planting*

- 1.2.4 Individual trees provide additional structure and habitat for wildlife. A small number of individual standard trees will be planted on site.
  - 2 no. wild cherry (*Prunus avium*)
  - 1 no. rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)

## 1.3 Sourcing plants

- The plants should be sourced from local garden centres within 20km of the site.
- Shrubs and trees should be bought in 5L pots and will be 60-80cm in height.
- Pots are recommended over bare root-produce, as bare roots require planting immediately.



## 1.4 Hedgerow and Trees: Management

### *Management for new shrub / tree planting*

#### **Preparation works:**

- 1.4.1 Preparation of the ground for new hedgerows is important to ensure the health and long-term success of the hedgerow:
- Remove existing ground vegetation
  - Dig over the soil
  - Ensure newly planted species are protected from trampling by people by using fencing
  - Use mulch around and between the base of new plants to prevent growth of competitive grasses.
  - Hedgerow whips should be planted in a double staggered row 30-40cm apart, with the two rows 50cm apart. There should be approximately 7 plants per meter.
  - Honeysuckle should be planted between the other shrubs to provide structural cohesion.
  - Planting season is from mid-November – mid-March.

#### **Sourcing Plants:**

- Ideally, plants should be sourced from local garden centres within 20km of the site.
- Shrubs and trees should be bought in 5L pots and will be 60-80cm in height.
- Pots are recommended over bare root-produce, as bare roots require planting immediately.

#### **Aftercare:**

- Suppression of weed growth may be required to prevent smothering of the new hedgerow and individual tree plants.
- It may be necessary to interplant the hedgerow the following season if some plants have not taken.
- For the first three years the hedgerow should be trimmed back to encourage low lateral growth of branches.
- Growth of the hedgerow should be trimmed back by half in the first 3 years.
- The hedgerow will not be established for 3-5 years.
- Ideally the new hedgerows will establish to be 2-3m in height with an A-shaped profile. This allows for maximum sun exposure and can be cut with a flail mower.
- After 3-5 years the new hedgerows can be treated as 'established' hedgerows.



### ***Management for Established Hedgerows:***

- Hedgerows should be cut back in the winter months January– February to avoid conflicts with nesting birds.
- Each side of the hedgerow should be pruned alternatively, every 2 years, with the top cut in association with one side only so also cut every 2 years.
- If possible, the hedgerows should be trimmed into an A-shaped profile to encourage maximum sunlight and growth.
- Grassy ‘other neutral grassland’ margins will be allowed to establish approx. 1m wide (or wider) along the base of the hedgerows.

**Table 3: Management of Hedgerows / Boundary Planting From Year 1-5**

| Hedgerow Type                   | Year 1                                                                                                                                                                              | Year 2                                                | Year 3                     | Year 4                            | Year 5                                                              |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>New Hedgerow shrubs only</b> | Plant new plants.<br>Suppress weeds                                                                                                                                                 | Replace where necessary.<br>Prune back new growth 50% | *Prune back new growth 50% | Avoid pruning – only if necessary | Prune one side only and follow management for Established Hedgerows |
| <b>Established Hedgerows</b>    | Once established hedgerows should ideally be pruned on each side in alternative years to allow growth and protection for wildlife. The top of the hedgerow can be trimmed annually. |                                                       |                            |                                   |                                                                     |

\*Pruning should take place in autumn to avoid bird-nesting season unless it is evident (for example when plants are very young) that no birds are nesting or if a nesting bird check has been undertaken by a suitably qualified individual.

## **1.5 Barn Owl Boxes**

1.5.1 In order to maintain the ecological functionality of the site for barn owl it is proposed that:

- Three barn owl boxes are installed on poles on the site boundary. The boxes can be bought or constructed by hand. They will provide a sheltered cavity with a flat nesting site, proven to be effective for barn owl.

### ***Box Specification***

1.5.2 The boxes should be erected on poles within a minimum diameter of 150mm (for example telegraph poles) at a height of approximately 4.5m and NOT less than 4m above ground.

1.5.3 The nest boxes must have a floor area of at least 600mm x 600mm. The entrance hole must be 100mm x 130mm and the depth of the internal floor to the entrance hole not less than 540mm. The external platform should be at least 0.125m<sup>2</sup>.

1.5.4 Wood used should be softwood ply and FSC approved. The top of the box should be covered



with heavy duty roofing felt and all joints of the roof and box sealed to prevent water ingress.

**Figure 1: An example of a pole-mounted barn owl box.**



From The Barn Owl Trust

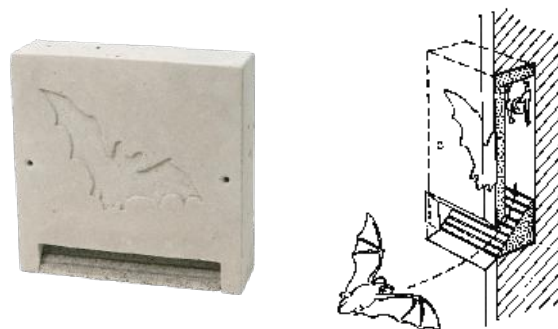
## 1.6 Other Bird and Bat Boxes

### **Bats**

- Two crevice-roost sites for roosting bats are integrated into the newly converted building. These should be located on the south, east or west elevation.

Recommended boxes are the 1FE Schwegler bat access panel. The boxes are durable and do not require cleaning.

Refer to Figure 2 for recommended box locations.



## **Birds**

- Three Vivara Pro WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Boxes are installed under the eaves of the newly converted building. House sparrow nest in colonies so grouping the boxes is beneficial. The boxes should be located on the north or northeast, to avoid harsh sun and wind.

Refer to Figure 2 for recommended box locations.



## **1.7 Hedgehog Highway**

- 1.7.1 Any fencing around the site will be raised approximately 13cm above the ground in places to allow movement of wildlife beneath. Alternatively, a 13 x 13cm hole can be made in each boundary to allow wildlife to pass.



Figure 2: Proposed Enhancement

