

Biodiversity Enhancement Plan & Habitat Creation Method Statement

July 2026

Project Reference: PR-0054-24

Lakeside View

Lower Road

Halewood

L26 2XA

National Grid Reference: SJ 458 859



Document Title	Biodiversity Enhancement Plan & Habitat Creation Method Statement
Issue no.	1.0
Prepared for	MAC Roofing
Prepared by	Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd

Author	Miss. K. Judson ACIEEM	
Reviewed by	Mr. J. Hark	Mr. H. Mulligan ACIEEM
Review date	31/07/2026	31/07/2026
Approved by	Mrs. K. Wilding CEnv MISEP ACIEEM	
Date of Issue	03/08/2026	

Terms of use:

This report has been prepared by Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the instruction and permissions granted by the client. The results, conclusions and recommendations of this report are proportionate and in line with the British Standard 42020:2013.

Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd have produced this report with all due integrity and adhere to the CIEEM Professional Code of Conduct, with the aim of upholding their objectives and the reputation of the profession.

We disclaim any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of the above.

This report is confidential to the client.

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction & Background
- 2.0 Biodiversity Enhancement Plan
 - 2.1 Context
 - 2.2 Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement
 - 2.3 Guide to Biodiversity Enhancements
- 3.0 Methods Statements
 - 3.1 Context
 - 3.2 Green Hay Transfer
 - 3.3 Reedbed and Marginal Plant Creation
- 4.0 Closing
- 5.0 Bibliography

External Appendices:

- *PR-0054-24 Lakeside View – BNG Assessment (Extended Site Boundary) (Tyrer Ecological Consultants, May 2026)*
- *PR-0054-24 Lakeside View – The Statutory Metric (Extended Site Boundary) (Tyrer Ecological Consultants May 2026)*
- *PR-0054-24 Lakeside View – BNG Assessment (Tyrer Ecological Consultants November 2025)*
- *PR-0054-24 Lakeside View – The Statutory Metric (Tyrer Ecological Consultants November 2025)*
- *Land adj. and to rear of No. 1-3 Lakeside View – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Tyrer Ecological Consultants February 2024)*
- *Land adjacent and to the Rear of No. 1-3 Lakeside View – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Tyrer Ecological Consultants, July 2021)*
- *Hayes Farm - Ecological Scoping Survey (The Tyrer Partnership, October 2013)*

1.0 Introduction & Background

- 1.1 A planning application was submitted to Knowsley Council (Ref.: 21/00074/FUL¹) regarding Land adjacent and to the rear of No. 1-3 Lakeside View, Lower Road, Halewood, L26 2XA; plans involve the erection of 12 dwellings together with vehicular access, parking, landscaping and other associated works.
- 1.2 The application has proceeded in phases, with the initial phase granted planning permission in 2021. Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd have had a longstanding involvement with the project. Delays in proceeding with the scheme, updates made to the scheme, changes to the boundary and changes in legislation and local policy since planning permission was granted have meant that production of subsequent ecological documentation has been required. The following documents have been issued in relation to the application to this stage:
- *PR-0054-24 Lakeside View – BNG Assessment (Extended Site Boundary) (Tyrer Ecological Consultants, May 2026),*
 - *PR-0054-24 Lakeside View – The Statutory Metric (Extended Site Boundary) (Tyrer Ecological Consultants May 2026),*
 - *PR-0054-24 Lakeside View – BNG Assessment (Tyrer Ecological Consultants November 2025),*
 - *PR-0054-24 Lakeside View – The Statutory Metric (Tyrer Ecological Consultants November 2025),*
 - *Land adj. and to rear of No. 1-3 Lakeside View – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Tyrer Ecological Consultants February 2024),*
 - *Land adjacent and to the Rear of No. 1-3 Lakeside View – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Tyrer Ecological Consultants, July 2021),*
 - *Hayes Farm - Ecological Scoping Survey (The Tyrer Partnership, October 2013)*
- 1.3 Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd have subsequently been recommissioned to help address two conditions of planning as per the decision notice², namely Condition 8 and Condition 25, which were not entirely fulfilled by previously submitted documentation from a variety of sources. The details of the conditions and the exact points which remain unfulfilled, as detailed in comments by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) are detailed below:

“Condition 8 (Hard – Soft Landscaping)”

7. The submitted soft landscape plan includes appropriate planting and seeding mixes and details the retained and planted trees and locations of all planting and sowing for the above habitats. However, there are no references to other retained plants and no references to translocation of plants as outlined in Condition 4 Q. The PEA references the semi improved neutral grassland of high quality in good condition (PEA, Table 7.1). Translocation of species from areas of this grassland to be lost to development, to retained / created grassland is not included in the Landscape Plan/ LEMP/ CEMP. Details of this procedure should be included within the Landscape Plan and the procedure for doing so should be outlined within the LEMP and/or CEMP. This could, for example, be in the form of taking cuttings from the grassland on site and using the green hay to seed areas where grassland is to be instated/retained.

8. There are currently no details of planting to mitigate for loss of Priority Habitat reedbed, and enhancements as suggested (PEA, Appendix III, July 2021) have not been incorporated. The

¹ See: <https://planapp.knowsley.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QNPDZXIXLKV00&activeTab=summary>

² See: https://epa3.knowsley.gov.uk/PublicAccess_LIVE/Document/ViewDocument?id=B493CF06D6C34F8C82B3B5E37C4339AB

soft landscaping plan requires updating in line with these recommendations specially the aquatic marginal plants outlined in appendix III (PEA, Tyrer, 2021) and specific reedbed habitat mitigation requires outlining. More information is provided below in paragraph 11.

9. Details of further habitat creation, outlined in paragraphs 12 and 14, are required to be included in updates landscape plans.

Condition 25 (LEMP)

14. Details of the following recommended habitat creation are missing for the LEMP and are required to be included in an updated LEMP.

- Bat roost creation,*
- Bird boxes,*
- Hedgehog highways”*

- 1.4 The aforementioned points are proposed to be addressed in this document via the authoring of a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (Condition 25) and two Method Statements for Green Hay Transfer and the planting of Reedbed / Aquatic Marginal Habitat (Condition 8).
- 1.5 This document is designed as a piece of supplementary information to support the Landscape and Environment Management Plan (LEMP) (*Urban Green, January 2025*).

2.0 Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

2.1 Context

- 2.1.1 A Biodiversity Enhancement Plan has been provided (see **Figure 2.2.1**, overleaf), with recommendations in relation to breeding birds and bats fulfilling Condition 25, Point 14 of the decision notice which states:

“Details of the following recommended habitat creation are missing for the LEMP and are required to be included in an updated LEMP.

- *Bat roost creation,*
- *Bird boxes,*
- *Hedgehog highways”*

2.2 Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement

- 2.2.1 The Biodiversity Enhancement Plan comprises the installation of two 32mm Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes, two 28mm Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes, two Schwegler 2F Bat Boxes, four Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box ‘C’s, two 1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terraces, one hedgehog nest box and six hedgehog highway entrances with warning signs. The specific location of each enhancement measure is detailed in **Figure 2.2.1**, with a summary presented in **Table 2.2.1**. Further information about the products and details on installation are presented in **Section 2.3** ‘Guide to Biodiversity Enhancement’.

Table 2.2.1 – Summary of Biodiversity Enhancements and quantities needed

Symbol	Product	Quantity
	Schwegler 1B Nest Box (28mm)	X2
	Schwegler 1B Nest Box (32mm)	X2
	2F Schwegler Bat Box	X2
	Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box ‘C’	X4
	1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace	X2
	Hedgehog Nest Box	X1
	Hedgehog Highway with Warning Sign	X6

- 2.2.2 It is recommended that native planting is also incorporated into the site; native botanical species improve the value of a site for a wide variety of native wildlife through provision of food and shelter, whereas non-native species are frequently not used or are of lower value to our native species.

Timings

- 2.2.3 The proposed enhancement measures for birds, as indicated above, should be implemented prior to the respective active / breeding seasons of March – September. In this case, the enhancement will be erected following the culmination of the project, so that they are in place for the active season.

All wild birds (with only minor exceptions) and their nests, whilst being built or containing eggs or dependent young, are protected from destruction, damage and disturbance under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is a punishable offence to interfere in any way with an active nest. As such, it is imperative that the mitigation measures are erected prior to this time period and are left undisturbed through the breeding season, unless they have been checked by a suitably qualified ecologist within 48 hours or less of any works which may have potential to disturb the nest



Figure 2.2.1 – Adapted Proposed Site Plan with indicative locations of biodiversity enhancement measures (© Urban Green, 2025)

2.3 Guide to Biodiversity Enhancements

- 2.3.1 **Schwegler 1B Nest Box:** The 1B nest box will attract a wide range of species and is available with different entrance hole sizes to prevent birds from competing with each other for the boxes. The nest box can be attached to the tree or wall using an aluminium nail or by hanging over a branch and is made from Woodcrete to ensure that it lasts for decades. The front panel is removable for inspection and cleaning.



Notes on Installation: A 28mm entrance size has been recommended to provide a suitable space for small passerines such as blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) which have been identified nesting at the site. This will be placed at a height of at least 2m on the northern aspect of two trees on the northern border of the site, as indicated in **Figure 2.2.1**. Two 32mm entrance hole sized bird boxes will be placed on the north-western aspect of two trees on the western border of the site, as indicated in **Figure 2.2.1**.

See: <https://www.nhbs.com/1b-schwegler-nest-box?bkfno=174756>

- 2.3.2 **2F Schwegler Bat Box:** The 2F is the standard and most popular Schwegler bat box. It is ideal as a starter box to see if there are bats in your area or to provide much needed secure roosting space. It has been designed as a summer roosting space for bats and has a simple entrance hole at the front. The Schwegler 2F has a removable front panel and can be converted to a bird nest box using a replacement 1B front panel if there is no evidence of bat activity after a couple of years. The 2F is manufactured from long-lasting Woodcrete, which is a blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, and will last for at least 20 - 25 years, making it suitable for long-term mitigation projects. Woodcrete is breathable and maintains a stable temperature inside the box and the 2F is painted black to absorb warmth. It also provides a rough surface for bats to cling to and climb up.



Notes on Installation: This 2F bat box will be sited at a height of between 3m to 6m on the south-eastern aspect of two trees located along the western border of the site, as identified within **Figure 2.2.1**. Please note that once bats have inhabited a roost site they may only be disturbed by licensed bat workers.

See: <https://www.nhbs.com/2f-schwegler-bat-box-general-purpose>

- 2.3.3 **Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'C':** The Enclosed Bat Box 'C' from Ibstock is designed for the pipistrelle bat. It is ideal for new builds as it can be integrated directly into the brickwork to produce a discrete but attractive home for bats. The box has an attractive bat motive on the front and is both durable and fully frost resistant. The inside of the box is designed to create several roosting zones which are ideal for crevice dwelling bats. The bottom entrance means that no maintenance is required as droppings will simply fall out the bottom.



Notes on Installation: This box will be mounted on the south-eastern elevation of the new dwellings, at a height of between 4m and 6m.

See: <https://www.nhbs.com/ibstock-enclosed-bat-box-c>

- 2.3.4 **1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace:** The 1SP is ideal for three sparrow families. Made of Schwegler's revolutionary wood-concrete mix, this terrace is durable, breathable and will last many decades. It may also occasionally attract tits, redstarts and spotted flycatchers.

The terrace can be fixed on to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall. It is suitable for all types of houses in built-up areas, and on industrial and agricultural buildings such as barns, sheds and factories. Ideally place the terrace 2m or more above the ground. Either install on the surface of the wall using the plugs and screws provided, or install directly into the wall. Cleaning is advisable but not necessary, and the front panel can be removed by turning the screw hook.



Notes on Installation: The terrace will be mounted on the northern gable end of the two 'L' shaped buildings proposed at the north and south of the site, as indicated in **Figure 2.2.1**.

See: <https://www.nhbs.com/1sp-schwegler-sparrow-terrace>

- 2.3.5 **Hedgehog Nest Box:** A completely redesigned hedgehog nest that incorporates all the best features of previous nests, is far safer for the hedgehog, and eliminates loose entrance tunnels and plastic pipes by building all these features into one robust design.

Notes on Installation: This hedgehog home will be placed in an area of long grass at the north-west of the site, as far away from dwellings as possible.

See: <https://www.nhbs.com/hedgehog-nest-box>



- 2.3.6 **Hedgehog Highway with Warning Sign:** This hedgehog sign has been designed by the People's Trust for Endangered Species to highlight holes in garden fences and walls that are used by hedgehogs and are vital to allow them to move between habitats. Hedgehog numbers have declined rapidly in the UK over the last fifty years, largely due to a loss of suitable habitat and restricted movement. Putting a hole in a garden wall or fence can connect previously isolated habitats and in-doing so hugely benefit this iconic species.



Notes on Installation: In the bases of fences connecting the rear garden of homes and connecting gardens adjacent to semi-natural habitat, hedgehog highways will be cut and demarcated for retention with a hedgehog highway sign. Locations are indicated within **Figure 2.2.1**.

See: <https://www.nhbs.com/hedgehog-highway-warning-sign>

3.0 Habitat Creation Method Statements

3.1 Context

3.1.1 During the previous ecological surveys undertaken at the site, it was noted that the grassland on site was relatively species rich for a grassland in an otherwise semi-urban area. The 2024 PEA produced by Tyrer Ecological Consultants categorised the grassland as 'g3c 18 107 125 – species-rich neutral grassland; mown and collected, flower forage abundant' and listed more than 20 species throughout the sward.

3.1.2 Given the quality of the grassland present on site, which represents a good seed resource, MEAS provided the following advice:

“7. The submitted soft landscape plan includes appropriate planting and seeding mixes and details the retained and planted trees and locations of all planting and sowing for the above habitats. However, there are no references to other retained plants and no references to translocation of plants as outlined in Condition 4 Q. The PEA references the semi improved neutral grassland of high quality in good condition (PEA, Table 7.1). Translocation of species from areas of this grassland to be lost to development, to retained / created grassland is not included in the Landscape Plan/ LEMP/ CEMP. Details of this procedure should be included within the Landscape Plan and the procedure for doing so should be outlined within the LEMP and/or CEMP. This could, for example, be in the form of taking cuttings from the grassland on site and using the green hay to seed areas where grassland is to be instated/retained.”

3.1.3 The use of a green hay transfer method, where appropriate supplemented by plug planting, is proposed within this document to mitigate for the loss of species / areas of grassland which are to be lost / enclosed within garden spaces to facilitate the development.

3.1.4 Priority reedbed habitat was also identified at the margins of the pond at the site during the 2021 PEA and subsequent site visits . Areas of this habitat will be lost to facilitate the development and as such, it was recommended that compensatory areas of reedbed should be planted in pond margins with appropriate species including bulrush (*Typha latifolia*).

3.1.5 In relation to the loss of priority reedbed habitat, MEAS provided the following advice:

“8. There are currently no details of planting to mitigate for loss of Priority Habitat reedbed, and enhancements as suggested (PEA, Appendix III, July 2021) have not been Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service – delivering high quality environmental advice and sustainable solutions to the Districts of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St. Helens, Sefton and Wirral incorporated. The soft landscaping plan requires updating in line with these recommendations specially the aquatic marginal plants outlined in appendix III (PEA, Tyrer, 2021) and specific reedbed habitat mitigation requires outlining. More information is provided below in paragraph 11.”

And goes on to state:

“12. The enhancement of the pond is described under “Habitat Creation and Proposed Landscape Elements” (LEMP section 5.2) and should be moved to the “Enhancements of Retained Habitats” (LEMP, section 5.1). Details relating to the habitat creation “Creation of reedbeds in areas of the pond margin absent of vegetation, such as plugging of Bulrush/Reedmace, to mitigate for loss of habitat along the western edge” are not included within the LEMP. Updates are required to include this required information and should include suggestions made above (Paragraph 7). Reference to control of pond vegetation is made (LEMP, section 8.8.4) referring to section 8.3 of the LEMP, however section 8.3 details only

the maintenance of trees and not pond vegetation. Clarification of pond vegetation management prescriptions and enhancements are required.”

- 3.1.6 This document aims to address and satisfy the comments made by MEAS in relation to reedbed via proposing a scheme of habitat creation inclusive of details of species used, locations and methods of planting.

3.2 Green Hay Transfer

Methods Background

- 3.2.1 Green Hay Transfer is a traditional method of species-rich grassland creation / enhancement that uses the fresh cuttings of a donor site applied onto a receptor site. Cuttings are taken just as constituent species are shedding seed and are immediately spread over an already prepared receptor site. This allows seeds from the donor site to set on a receptor site, creating a species-rich sward.
- 3.2.2 This method statement highlights areas which will be used as ‘donor’ sites and those which may be used as ‘receptor’ sites, timings of cuts, methods of ground preparation and methods of cutting, collecting and spreading. In addition, where green hay transfer is not possible, supplementary methods for manual seed collection and plug planting are also outlined to bolster enhancement and creation efforts.

Receptor & Donor Areas

- 3.2.3 Areas to be used as donor and receptor areas (and hereafter referred to as such) are presented in **Figure 3.2.1**.



Figure 3.2.1 – Demarcated donor and receptor areas (adapted from drawing UG_2864_LAN_GA_DRW_001 © MAC Grouping UK, 2025)

Receptor Site Preparation

Nutrient Level Control

- 3.2.4 To control nutrient levels at the site, receptor areas (see **Figure 3.2.1**) which are proposed to be created should be comprised of soil extracted from the existing site, for example, the areas proposed to be converted to road / housing at the north / west of the site. This will ensure that nutrient levels, pH and soil type are as similar as possible to how they were pre-development and in close alignment to the soil conditions of the donor areas. No external topsoil, compost or fertiliser should be deposited on either the receptor or donor sites.

Bare Ground Creation

- 3.2.5 Given the receptor areas at the site are proposed to be created, it is likely that these areas will already have high levels of bare ground. Nonetheless, if areas have been colonised by grasses and forbs, the area should be cut and collected, and bare ground should be created via scarification of the soil. Scarifying may be achieved through manual raking using either a spring-tine or rigid lawn rake. Receptor areas at Lakeside View are relatively small and as such manual raking is the preferred method as powered/mechanical scarification may have negative impacts on surrounding habitats.



Figure 3.2.2 – Example of scarified ground

- 3.2.6 Undesirable forbs ('weeds') should be removed during the bare ground creation process too. This may be achieved through manual hand pulling (to remove the root) or using a small trowel to target species. Species to target for removal are presented in the **Table 3.2.1**. In addition, any encroaching scrubby species such as bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) or willows (*Salix* sp.) etc. (i.e., obviously non-grassland / woody / shrubby species) should also be removed.

Table 3.2.1 – Undesirable forbs to be targeted for removal

Common Name	Taxonomic Name
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>

Hay Strewing Method

Cutting Timings

- 3.2.7 The donor site should be cut whilst the grasses and forbs are still green, i.e., before the seeds have dropped, late enough in the season for the seeds to have matured. Timings may therefore vary but this cut should typically be taken between mid-July to mid-August. During a hot year, this may be taken in mid- or even early-July, and a wet / cool year, it may be taken in mid-late August. The consulting ecologist may be required to provide further specific advice based on the conditions at the time.

Cutting Methods

- 3.2.8 Hay may be cut using either manual or mechanical methods, depending on what is available and the area of the donor site. Hay should not be cut using a mower that will desiccate the hay. Appropriate equipment to use is presented in the list below:

Manual Methods	Mechanical Methods
• Scythes • Hay Knives • Bale Cutters	• Disc Mowers • Drum Mowers • Sicklebar Mowers

NB: Hay should only be cut in periods of dry weather / when the soil is not waterlogged to reduce levels of soil compaction.

Temporary Hay Storage & Transfer

- 3.2.9 Cut hay from the donor site should be stored and transferred to the receptor site either in conventional bales, where possible, or using tonne bags. It is important that hay is not left in storage for more than 24 hours.

Hay Strewing

- 3.2.10 Hay should be strewn quickly once at the receptor site and should be spread thinly and evenly. Spreading can be done using a muck spreader or with pitchforks. **Once spread, green hay should be left in-situ for 2 – 3 weeks.** Within those 2 – 3 weeks, it should be turned over at least once to ensure viable seeds drop out.
- 3.2.11 In regard to the quantity of green hay needed from the donor site to sufficiently cover the receptor sites, it should be noted that the green hay needed is relatively small; typically, for every 500 square metres of receptor site, 100 square metres of the donor site will need to be cut.

Additional Enhancement Measures

Plug Planting

- 3.2.12 Green hay transfer works best for annual species, whilst perennial plants often do not take as well. During the clearance / site preparation phase of the works, any desirable perennial forbs such as glaucous sedge (*Carex flacca*), common spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) etc. (see species list presented in the 2021 PEA) that would otherwise be lost may be dug up and stored in nursery pots, and transferred to the retained or created areas of grassland. No

removal of such plants on donor areas should occur as these translocations carry the risk of killing the plant, and as such should only be done in areas where they would certainly be lost without intervention.

Hand Collected Seed

- 3.2.13 Some plants will go to seed before others, and some later than others. Seed may therefore be harvested from areas of grassland proposed to be lost and stored for sowing once the receptor site ground has been prepared as per paragraphs 3.2.5 and 3.2.6.

Long-Term Management

Background

- 3.2.14 Long-term management methods are presented in the following paragraphs. An annual management calendar is presented in **Table 3.2.2**. Where and when desired, repeat green hay transfer may also be done in subsequent years to bolster the plant populations on the receptor sites. This should only be done on a case-by-case basis i.e., if it is observed that the species richness of the receptor sites is declining. Though, natural colonisation of further species result of the proximity of the receptor sites to the donor sites at Lakeside View should secure a good species composition in the receptor areas in perpetuity provided long-term management is continued and no nutrient enrichment / significant disturbance is experienced.

***NB:** Significant enrichment may occur result of dog fouling and urination hence, areas of grassland proposed to be retained / created as g3c may need to be gently fenced off / given signs to warn against the potential negative impacts of nutrient enrichment result of such activities.*

Annual Cut

- 3.2.15 At the beginning of the growing season (March onwards) the grasslands (both donor and receptor areas) should be cut to between 5 – 10cm in height and then left to grow until at least the end of June, ideally until mid-July to mid-August.
- 3.2.16 When the hay / grass at the parcels of g3c (receptor and donor areas) is cut (using the tools and methods presented in paragraph 3.2.8), the arisings should be left in-situ until the material has fully dried and the seeds have dropped. Turning of the arising hay may help the drying process and for the seeds to drop. These cuttings should be left for between 1 – 3 weeks before they are removed.
- 3.2.17 Once dry, the arising hay should be collected and removed from the site and disposed of in a green waste bin. Or, if so desired, used as hay / fodder. It is important that the cuttings are removed so that the nutrient levels at the site remain low, which is vital for a species-rich sward.

Ad-hoc Autumn Cut

- 3.2.18 If the grass at areas of g3c continues to grow into the autumn following the initial cut, several other cuts may be required. Cutting should not be required during the winter months.

Pollinator Highways

- 3.2.19 Each year, some areas of grassland (e.g., strips of grassland) should be left un-cut during the autumn to provide food sources for pollinators. These specific areas should change each year / i.e., be rotated, to prevent localised areas of low species richness.

Table 3.2.2 – Annual long-term management operations schedule for grassland

Operation	Months												Notes
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Visual inspection of g3c grasslands							✓	✓					Inspect grassland annually
Year 1 management			a/r										Grassland should be reseeded, watered and mown as required.
Year 2 onward cutting			✓					✓	✓				Annual cut as per Sections 3.2.15 – 17
INNS and injurious plants removal	a/r												Targeted hand removal of INNS and species in Table 3.2.1
Remove injurious plants, scrub and bracken	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	Identify injurious plants and notify site manager, remove by hand
Seeding of bare areas								a/r					E.g., following hand collected seed method (3.2.13)
Table Key One operation per specified month – ✓ As required = a/r													

3.3 Reedbed & Marginal Plant Creation

Methods Background

- 3.3.1 Wetlands, a term which encompasses reedbeds and marginal vegetation, are an important but declining habitat in Britain. This method statement aims to provide a clear guide on how to create / restore reedbeds at Lakeside View to a condition in close alignment to reedbeds / marginal vegetation found at the site prior to the development (i.e., at baseline).
- 3.3.2 The areas targeted for reedbed creation are presented in **Figure 3.3.1**. Note, stretches have been left to allow for recreational and / or emergence access if / when required.



Figure 3.3.1 – Areas demarcated for reedbed creation are presented in purple.

Site / Area Selections

- 3.3.3 Whilst **Figure 3.3.1** illustrates areas which have been selected for creation, post-development the condition of these areas may have changed. Prospective sites for wetland creation should ideally be areas of land inundated with water for at least part of the year, with generally waterlogged soils capable of supporting wetland species. Areas should generally be to a depth of no more than 1m and in proximity to marginal areas of the water body.
- 3.3.4 Wetland habitats are formed of a diverse mosaic of micro-habitats and niches, and as such a large variety of floral species can be present. See **Table 3.3.1** for suitable species for planting within the reedbed.

Table 3.3.1 – Suitable species for planting within created / enhanced reedbed

Common Name	Scientific Name
Common club-rush	<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Reed canary-grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>

Preparation

3.3.5 Preparation for habitat creation varies on a site-by-site basis dependent on the nature of the site in relation to water levels, rate of inundation and soil type.

3.3.6 For reedbed creation, the following should be considered:

- Planting techniques may include the use of cuttings, pot-grown plants or pre-planted coil fibre rolls; where possible, plant materials should be sourced locally / should be translocated from areas proposed to be lost to areas propose to be retained in perpetuity.
- Plant should occur from between late March to the end of May.
- Density should be between 4 – 10 plugs per square metre.
- Whilst growing / establishing, areas should be protected from disturbance, grazing and trampling which may be achieved through the installation of a temporary fence. Establishment generally takes between 3 – 5 years.
- Utilise native species when planting within new reedbeds at all locations, both within the margins as well as the emergent / floating aquatic vegetation within the water body. See **Table 3.3.1** above for a list of suitable native species for planting in reedbeds.

3.3.7 In addition to planting the common reeds that characterise a reedbed, as presented in **Table 3.3.1**, planting of supplementary species to increase biodiversity should also be considered where possible. Species that may be planted are presented in **Table 3.3.2**.

Table 3.3.2 – Additional supplementary species for planting within created / enhanced reedbed

Common Name	Scientific Name
False fox-sedge	<i>Carex otrubae</i>
Gipsywort	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>
Greater pond-sedge	<i>Carex riparia</i>
Lesser pond-sedge	<i>Carex acutiformis</i>
Purple-loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Reed sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>
Water mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
Water forget-me-not	<i>Myositis scorpioides</i>
Yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>

Long-term Management

3.3.8 During any future wetland management / maintenance works, disturbance to the surrounding habitats will be minimised and the works should be undertaken by hand and light machine (trimmer, brush cutter, clearance saw) wherever possible.

- 3.3.9 There is no ideal time of year to manage a wetland, as different animals and plants have different cycles of breeding, growth and dispersal; however, it is generally considered that late autumn or winter is the most appropriate time for water body management.
- 3.3.10 It is important that suitable anti-pollution measures are implemented, prior to any construction / management works being undertaken. The Environment Agency has produced a series of advice documents covering a variety of aspects which may need to be addressed when working within or near the water bodies, dependant on the development.
- 3.3.11 Wetlands have the potential to be a hazard to members of the public, and if protection is required an appropriate barrier should be provided. Wooden palisade fencing is recommended with vertical slats with a maximum gap between each of 100mm, with room at the bottom of the barrier for faunal species to commute. Fencing must be at least 1100mm high. All access gates must be lockable, and their padlocks or other locks kept in good working condition with access to be limited to authorised individuals only.
- 3.3.12 Once vegetation has been established within the habitat on suitable base soil, it is considered that biological management methods will allow for the maintenance of a healthy and functioning wetland habitat.

Inspections

- 3.3.13 Inspect on an annual basis when vegetation is beginning to flower (typically July-August) to ensure that all species are competing, and that any water is near the surface and the quality looks to be good. Species indicative of sub-optimal condition should be removed (**Table 3.3.3**) and should be seen as a sign that some nutrient enrichment may be being experienced. The source of this enrichment should be removed.
- 3.3.14 More regular inspections may be required in relation to water quality, hydrology, scrub / scattered trees, ground cover and INNS, dependent on the results of the annual inspections.
- 3.3.15 It is advised that the wetlands be re-assessed on the second and fifth year to determine potential for periodic management such as large-scale removal of dominant species, which might include invasives or any species which is occupying a larger proportion of the ground level than it should be.

Table 3.3.3 – Species indicative of sub-optimal condition in wetlands

Common Name	Scientific Name
Amphibious Bistort	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Docks	<i>Rumex spp.</i>
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Additional relevant species local to site / region	

- 3.3.16 **Table 3.3.4** overleaf outlines both a yearly calendar for the undertaking of the above management prescriptions.

Table 3.3.4 – Maintenance operations schedule for reedbed (Annual)

Lakeside View, Lower Road, Halewood, L26 2XA
Biodiversity Enhancement Plan & Habitat Creation Method Statement

Operation	Months												Notes
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Hydrological assessment of site	✓				✓				✓				Initial tri-annual check through year to determine water table level at water quality within the site
Shallow bund construction	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	To maintain water level on wetland, following above assessment and with topography in mind
Plant suitable reedbed species		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Common reed, floating club-rush and reed-canary grass
Remove rubbish / litter / debris	a/r												Report any signs of pollution and enact remedial works immediately
Remove excess silt from water bodies	a/r												Use netting in ephemeral pools and limit disturbance to flora / fauna
Cutting of trees & scrub	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	Using hand tools or potentially Mayfield cutters and scrub clearing saws
INNS removal	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	By licensed invasive species contractor
Cutting of reed	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	Using hand tools where possible
Table Key One operation per specified month = ✓ As required = a/r													

4.0 Closing

- 4.1 Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd can confirm that the contents of this document can be relied upon, and the information contained within has been presented using best practice survey methodology and an understanding of the site, benchmarked by the long-standing experience of the Ecologists affiliated with the company.
- 4.2 For any further advice / support in relation to the habitat management and / or monitoring of Lakeside View, please contact enquiries@tyrer-ecologicalconsultants.co.uk, quoting the project reference number (PR-0054-24) on the front page of this report.

Best wishes,



Miss. K. Judson

(03/08/2026)

Tyrer Ecological Consultants