

LAND OFF LOWER ROAD 25/00175/COU

WILDFLOWER MEADOW PLANTING SCHEME

Condition 4 Wildflower Planting

Applicant: Oliver Harrison

10th December 2025

1. Purpose and Objectives

To create a perennial, low-maintenance wildflower-rich grassland in a designated area of the dog exercise field that:

- Provides year-round visual amenity
- Delivers a measurable net gain for biodiversity
- Requires minimal ongoing maintenance and no fertiliser or pesticide use

2. Location and Extent

Total site area: approx. 1.7 acres

Grassed dog exercise was overseeded with clover meadow mix for pollinator promotion in Summer 2025

Area to be established as wildflower meadow: 3m wide perimeter strip on the edge adjoining agricultural land approximately 175m in length.

3. Site Preparation (Spring 2026)

Timing: March to May 2026 (weather and soil conditions permitting)

Step	Method	Rationale
Vegetation removal	Cut existing grass/vegetation to 50 mm and remove arisings. Spray off perennial weeds (e.g. docks, thistles, nettles) with glyphosate if necessary (single application only).	Creates low-fertility seedbed
Cultivate topsoil	Power-harrow or rotavate to 100–150 mm depth; remove stones >50 mm	Improves seed–soil contact
Final seedbed	Create fine, firm tilth; lightly roll	Optimum germination conditions

4. Seed Mix and Sowing

- Seed mixture: Emorsgate EM3 (Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture) or Pictorial Meadows PM23 Perennial + Annual Dog-Tolerant Mix (both widely accepted by LPAs).
- Contains ≥ 80 % native British-origin wildflowers and fine grasses (100 % flora native to UK).
- Includes dog-tolerant, robust species proposed:
 - Wildflowers: Ox-eye Daisy, Field Scabious, Knapweed, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Self-heal, Meadow Buttercup, Red Campion, Yarrow, Ribwort Plantain
 - Grasses: Crested Dog's-tail, Chewing's Fescue, Slender-creeping Red Fescue, Smooth-stalked Meadow-grass
- Sowing rate: 16 kilo/acre (pure wildflower & grass mix)
- Sowing method: Seed drill, followed by light ring rolling to ensure good seed–soil contact.
- Sowing window: Spring 2026

5. Biodiversity Net Gain

Using Defra Metric 4.0 (simplified calculation):

Existing habitat: Poor semi-improved grassland (baseline 2.14 units/ha)

Proposed habitat: Species-rich neutral meadow – Moderate distinctiveness, good condition after 5 years

Estimated net gain on meadow area: +100–150 %

6. Attachments

- wildflowerstrip.jpg - Site plan showing proposed area in green

Declaration

The works will be carried out strictly in accordance with this approved scheme. Any material variation will be agreed in writing with Knowsley Borough Council prior to implementation.