trees at a minimum height of 3m. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the Biodiversity Enhancements Location Plan.

5.2.2 Timing of Installation

The bird boxes must be installed at the earliest opportunity in order to compensate for the disturbance of the on-site nesting habitat. Bird boxes can be installed at any time of the year. However, they must remain undisturbed throughout the bird nesting season (March to September inclusive) to avoid disturbing nesting birds and committing an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Section 2.4 includes the Schedule of Works.

5.2.3 Maintenance of Bird Boxes

The boxes are made of Woodstone, which have been selected due to their durability compared traditional softwood boxes.

The following maintenance measures are to be completed, following the installation of the boxes:

- Bird boxes will require periodic checking and cleaning, (e.g., once every two years).
- Unhatched eggs may be removed legally between September and January and must then be disposed of.
- Disused nests must be removed and cleaned using boiling water to remove parasites. Boxes should be left to dry before replacing the lid. Insecticides and flea powders must not be used.
- If any boxes are identified as damaged or missing, they are to be replaced with a box of similar specification.

Note bird boxes must only be opened and cleaned outside the bird nesting season (which is between March to September inclusive).

5.3 Hedgehog

The site is considered to have potential to support hedgehogs, therefore, hedgehog highways are to be installed across the site to improve connectivity. Additionally, hedgehog homes are to be installed within suitable areas for hedgehogs within the site to provide additional hibernation features.

Appendix 1 details the location of the proposed hedgehog homes to be installed within the site. If hedgehog homes are not available, brash/wood piles can be used instead in similar locations.

Specifications for hedgehog enhancements are detailed in Table 7.

Table 7 – Hedgehog enhancements that can be bought from websites such as britishhedgehogs.org.uk, arkwildlife.co.uk or other online retailers

Specification	Image	Number of homes
Hedgehog Home Approximately 23 x 52 x 40cm (9" x 20½ " x 16").		6
Hedgehog Highway Height: 13cm Width: 15cm Image for illustrative purposes only, sign not required		Within garden fences

5.3.1 Hedgehog Homes Locations

A hedgehog house contains a narrow or tunnel-like entrance, which is essential to prevent predators such as foxes and badgers gaining access to the hedgehog house. In addition, camouflaging the top and sides of house with soil and leaves can also help to reduce the chance of predation, ensuring that the entrance remains clear at all times for hedgehog access.

Hedgehog homes are to be placed out of direct sunlight and must not face the north or north-east aspects (to avoid cold winter winds) and where it will not be disturbed, such as against a wall, bank or fence (British Hedgehog Preservation Society, 2018).

To prolong the longevity, hedgehog homes must be emptied (if absent from hedgehog presence) annually in April or October, to reduce the infestation of fleas and ticks that can be transferred through nest use. If hedgehog presence is confirmed within hedgehog homes from initial inspection (upon gently removing the lid), then this hedgehog home must be exempt from the annual clean until the following year (subject to presence of a hedgehog).

If possible, the addition of hay or straw must be added to each hedgehog home for insulation and replaced after an annual clean has been completed. Further information is available on the Hedgehog Street website (https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/cleaning-out-boxes/), and within the Work Schedule located in Section 5.4.

5.3.2 Hedgehog Highway Locations

Hedgehog highways comprise small gaps within fences, approximately 13cm x 13cm. They are to be installed across the site creating a corridor for hedgehogs to commute across the site and into residential gardens. It is recommended that every fence within the development has a hedgehog highway gap included to facilitate full movement of hedgehog across the site.

5.4 Work Schedule

Key

	Recommended times when works can be conducted
	Times to avoid work

5.4.1 During Construction

Works	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Erect boxes / Deploy hedgehog houses	Any time of year. All bird/bat/hedgehog boxes to be erected prior to the completion of the scheme.											

5.4.2 Post-Construction

Works	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bird box check and cleaning			Avoid bird nesting season									
Bat box checks												
Annual hedgehog house clean and replacement of bedding (if absent from hedgehog presence)												

Bird and bat box checks should be conducted in October of every other year to ensure that there is sufficient time for any repairs or replacements to be conducted.

6 Ecological Strategy

This section summarises the management strategy for each habitat proposed to be introduced within the final design of the scheme and the recommended management practices for habitats to be retained within the development. Each objective includes a target time for positive assessment provided to enable identification of failing management and trigger early intervention. Management plans have been included detailing management objectives for an initial 5-year period. Regular monitoring of the site against the management objectives will be conducted during the first five years of the project, and a review of the management strategies will be undertaken, with any updates or changes to the program incorporated for the next five years of the management plan.

The proposed landscape layout (Urban Green, 2024c), found in the Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Urban Green, 2024a), displays the final proposed habitats and their location on site. Areas which are classified as 'developed land, sealed surface' offer no ecological benefit and the ecological value of 'vegetated gardens' is highly dependent on how they are used by homeowners. Therefore, both habitats are automatically allocated condition scores of N/A and require no ecologically driven management.

6.1 Retained Linear Hedgerow Habitats

6.1.1 Line of Trees

There were four lines of trees present on the site which will all be retained in their entirety. Detailed management techniques for lines of trees are described within Table 8 along with the corresponding condition criteria. All of these lines of trees are in **moderate** condition; in order to maintain this condition, at least 3 of the condition criteria detailed in Table 8 are expected to be achieved. An annual schedule of works for the first 5 years post-development is detailed in Table 15 in Section 6.5.

Table 8 – Management Objectives for Line of Trees

Condition Assessment Criteria / objective	Management Activities	Benefit to environment	Target time for Positive Assessment
1. More than 70% of trees are native species	• Replace failed trees with new tree planting • Native species should be preferred for replacement planting. Chosen species should be consistent with the local species composition	Native trees are associated with higher overall species diversity and provide resources suited to native wildlife	From year 1
2. Tree canopy is predominantly continuous	• Where gaps in the canopy arise, new trees of appropriate size should be planted to fill these gaps • Only undertake pruning within the canopy, particularly where the crown would be reduced, where necessary	Continuous canopy cover forms an unbroken, linear corridor which facilitates the movement of wildlife between habitats and across landscapes	From year 1
3. Includes one or more mature	• Limit the use of damaging management practices e.g., herbicide use	Promotes healthy growth of trees to mature or veteran status. Mature	From year 1

	or veteran trees	• When trees reach maturity, appropriate corrective surgery may be necessary to sustain good health • Removal of diseased trees to prevent spread • Undertake regular arboricultural assessments based on recommendations in the AIA	and veteran trees offer more ecological niches and ecosystem services than younger trees	
4.	There is an undisturbed, naturally vegetated strip 6m either side	• Leave 6m strips adjacent to the line of trees unmanaged to allow a natural vegetated community to develop • In these areas, avoid activities which would cause disturbance, such as mowing, weeding, applying fertiliser, high levels of footfall • This is not achievable for all lines of trees on site due to location and so some lines of trees will automatically fail this criterion	An additional, natural habitat around the line of trees will act as a buffer between the trees and wider development and as a transition habitat for fauna	From year 1
5.	At least 95% of trees are in healthy condition	• Only undertake management activities where necessary • Limit use of herbicides around trees • Tree works/pruning should be undertaken by a qualified professional • Avoid cutting all specimens across the plot in a single period, particularly where this is likely to remove all flower/fruit interest for wildlife. • Removal of diseased trees to prevent spread • Ensure tree canopy is balanced and consistent with the natural structure for the species	Promotes healthy growth and supports growth to maturity or veteran status	From year 1

6.2 Created Area Habitats

6.2.1 Urban - Urban trees – Proposed Trees

A total of 275 (123 small and 152 medium) trees will be planted across the site, however 147 have been classified within separate habitats. The remaining 108 urban trees will be planted in the public open space, with twenty being within the Railway Land Hogshaw LWS. The mix incorporates both native and non-native species, such as silver birch, bird cherry (*Prunus padus*), pedunculate oak, hornbeam 'Frans Fontaine' (*Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine'), and field maple 'Streetwise' (*Acer campestre* 'Streetwise').

Detailed management techniques for new urban trees are described within Table 9 along with the corresponding condition criteria. The targeted condition for the new urban trees is **moderate**, with an expected target condition time of 27 years. In order to reach the expected targeted condition, at least 3

of the condition criteria must be achieved. As individual trees automatically pass criterion 2, this is not assessed. An annual schedule of works for the first 5 years post-development is detailed in Table 16 in Section 6.4.

Table 9 – Management Objectives for Urban Trees

Condition Assessment Criteria / objective	Management Activities	Benefit to environment	Target time for Positive Assessment
1. The tree is a native species	Replace failed trees like for like (according to planting scheme and landscapes)	Trees provide biodiverse habitats, with native trees supporting more native species	From year 1
2. The tree canopy is predominantly continuous	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. The tree is mature or veteran	• Limit the use of damaging management practices e.g., herbicide use • After 10-20 years, trees will reach semi-maturity and appropriate corrective surgery may be necessary. • Undertake regular arboricultural assessments based on formal recommendations (Urban Green, 2024d)	Mature and veteran trees are more effective than young trees at providing air filtration services and sequester carbon. Veteran trees provide additional niches for wildlife.	10 years
4. There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities and no current regular pruning regime so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy	• Only undertake management activities where necessary • Limit use of herbicides around trees • Tree works/pruning should be undertaken by a qualified professional • Avoid cutting all specimens across the plot in a single period, particularly where this is likely to removes all flower/fruit interest for wildlife. • Ensure tree canopy is balanced and consistent with the natural structure for the species	Promotes healthy growth and supports growth to maturity.	From year 1
5. Micro-habitats for birds, mammals and insects are present	• Leave any micro-habitat features, such as ivy and loose bark, in place	Ensures diversity is maintained throughout by allowing the creation of additional habitat niches	By year 5

	• Where it is safe and appropriate, retain areas of dead wood • No management activities to take place during nesting season (February to August) • Avoid undertaking management activities on all trees in a single month period to retain important resources for wildlife. • Installation of bird and bat boxes in suitable locations on trees	which can be exploited by wildlife.	
6. More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath	• Leave a 2m unmown buffer zone around each tree to allow natural succession of surrounding vegetation • No use of herbicides within this zone • Periodic removal of non-native invasive species (Appendix 2)	Creates a buffer habitat around trees to allow movement of wildlife and increases diversity of flora	From year 1

6.2.2 Urban - Introduced Shrub

Areas of introduced shrub containing different species mixes will be created within the public space to improve the visual amenity of the area. Within the landscape proposals, the introduced shrub mixes are classified as 'Proposed Ornamental Shrub and Herbaceous Planting' and 'Proposed Semi-native Shrub Planting,' and include species such as Japanese quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*), creeping willow (Salix repens), and spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*).

Planting will provide a positive visual impact but has limited value as a habitat. Introduced shrub is automatically assigned a condition score of **N/A** within the metric and, due to the ornamental nature and limited ecological value that this habitat type provides, only basic aesthetic management is required.

6.2.3 Heathland and Shrub - Mixed Scrub

Blocks of native mixed scrub habitat will be planted within the areas of wildflower meadows, to the east and west of the site, adding diversity to these habitats. These mixes are classified as 'Proposed Native Shrub Planting' and 'Proposed Woodland Understory Planting' in the landscape proposals. Species such as dog wood (*Cornus sanguinea*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), silver birch, bird cherry and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) will be planted in mixed groups to create this habitat.

Detailed management techniques for new mixed scrub are described within Table 11 along with the corresponding condition criteria. The expected condition for all areas of mixed scrub is **poor**, with an expected target condition time of 1 year. Management practices should aim to produce a habitat which

reaches a better condition score of moderate (meets 3 condition criteria) or good (meets all criteria) by following the guidance laid out in Table 10. An annual schedule of works for the first 5 years post-development is detailed in Table 17 in Section 6.4.

Table 10 – Management Objectives for Mixed Scrub

Condition Assessment Criteria / objective	Management Activities	Benefit to environment	Target time for Positive Assessment
1. Habitat is representative of UKHab description and there are at least three woody species	• As many native, shrubby species as possible to be incorporated at design stage • Replace lost plants with another of the same species, size and quality to ensure diversity is maintained and one species cannot dominate.	A wide range of species provides varied foraging, commuting nesting opportunities to birds, invertebrates and small mammals	From year 1
2. There is a good age range	• Allow natural seeding of new shrubs • Appropriate pruning of shrubs to promote health and reach full growth • Replace lost shrubs with young plants, according to the landscape plan	Different life stages provide different foraging and habitat opportunities	From year 4
3. There is an absence of invasive non-native species	• Identification and removal of invasive non-native species as soon as possible. • Where possible, do this by hand. If necessary, application of herbicide should be carried out by an experienced contractor.	Ensure native assemblage of species throughout mixed scrub habitat. Prevents competition from aggressive non-native species.	From year 1
4. The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and/or herbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat(s).	• Limit mowing in the immediate habitat surrounding the areas of mixed scrub to allow succession of natural vegetation • Avoid using fertiliser on site to prevent a small number of species dominating	Creates a gentle habitat gradient to allow movement of fauna and increases diversity around the mixed scrub habitat.	From year 1
5. There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	• Hand removal of woody species in clearings/rides/glades which would close the open spaces within this habitat • Retain pruned wood on site as hibernacula	Creates edge habitat which provides additional foraging and commuting benefits for birds, invertebrates and small mammals	By year 5

6.2.4 Woodland - Other Woodland; Broadleaved

Two areas of woodland will be created on the site; one will be to the south-west of the site, within the Railway Land Hogshaw LWS, and one will be along the north-eastern boundary of the site, with the north-western section of it falling within the LWS. Both new areas of woodland will include predominantly native tree species, such as silver birch, pedunculate oak, alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), goat willow, and rowan, and an understory of scrub species such as elder, dog wood and hazel.

The targeted condition for the three new woodland habitats are **moderate**, with an expected target condition time of 15 years. Detailed management techniques are described within Table 11 along with the corresponding condition criteria. In order to reach the expected targeted condition of **moderate**, this habitat must achieve a condition score of at least 26 points. An annual schedule of works for the first 5 years post-development is detailed in Table 18 in Section 6.4.

Table 11 – Management objectives for broadleaved woodland

Condition assessment criteria	Management and enhancement activities	Benefit to environment	Target time for positive assessment
1. Age distribution of trees	• Annual visual inspection of trees in high priority areas and undertake arboricultural works where necessary • Supplementary planting of young, native trees in large gaps in canopy • Select species appropriate for the region and existing woodland structure, for example, birch (*Betula* spp.), cherry (*Prunus* spp.) and oak (*Quercus* spp.) • Thinning of poor quality and dense saplings	Provides diverse vertical structure, increase foraging and nesting opportunities, and ensures continuous cover of trees in good health	From year 5
2. Wild, domestic, and feral herbivore damage	• Install fencing or tree guards to protect from grazing if damage is observed • Undertake pruning where excess damage may impact the health of trees	Ensures trees reach full maturity, are free from damage and are in good health	From year 1
3. Invasive plant species	• Identify and remove invasive non-native species as soon as possible (Appendix 11) • Where possible, remove invasive species by hand. If necessary, application of herbicide should be carried out by an experienced contractor	Ensure native assemblage of species throughout habitat. Prevents competition from aggressive non-native species	From year 1
4. Number of native tree species	• Introduction of new, native species where large gaps in the canopy and understory are present or develop • New planting should be native and suitable for the region	Native species within a habitat provide more niches and foraging resources for native wildlife	From year 3

	• Removal of natural regeneration of non-native tree species		
5. Cover of native tree and shrub species	• Supplementary planting of shrub species in the understory to produce minimum 80% cover of native species • Ensure all planting is of native species appropriate for the wider landscape	Native species within a habitat provide more niches and foraging resources for native wildlife and a balance of shrubs and trees provides a diverse vertical structure within woodland	From year 3
6. Open space within woodland	• Human disturbance should be managed to allow natural regeneration in open spaces. This could include creating path networks or restricting access to sensitive spaces • Where cover of open space exceeds 20%, gaps in canopy can be planted with medium to large, native tree species	Ensures continuous tree cover which is important for commuting and nesting wildlife	From year 5
7. Woodland regeneration	• Undertake arboricultural work where required to promote good health of individual trees and encourage growth to maturity • Selective thinning of dense existing growth (no more than 2m spacing) to increase light, water, and nutrient availability for the progression of new generations • Manage anthropogenic influence so areas of natural regeneration are undisturbed	Encourages growth of different age classes which provides varied vertical structure and foraging opportunities	From year 5
8. Tree health	• Continuous monitoring for signs of disease • Implement biosecurity measures if works are taking place within the woodland and there is a risk of cross contamination with other sites • Remove diseased trees when possible • Removal of regeneration of species which are susceptible to disease e.g. ash and elm (*Ulmus* spp.)	Promotes healthy growth and prevents regional and national spread of disease	From year 1
9. Vegetation ground flora	• Selective thinning of dense existing growth to increase water and nutrient levels in soil and light levels reaching the ground	A diverse ground flora layer provides additional habitat opportunities for wildlife and promotes overall floral diversity of the woodland	From year 2

	• Manage anthropogenic influence so areas suitable for regeneration are undisturbed • Create a diverse ground flora community by introducing a seed mix or plugs • Introduced ground flora species should be native and suited to woodland and shade habitats, for example, bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)		
10. Woodland vertical structure	• Supplementary planting of shrub species in the understory, including species such as hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and hawthorn • Appropriate management of trees to promote good health and encourage growth to maturity	Varied vertical structure offers broader nesting, commuting and foraging opportunities to a wider range of birds, invertebrates and small mammals	From year 10
11. Veteran trees	• Continuous monitoring of tree health and undertake appropriate arboricultural work when necessary to promote good health and encourage growth to maturity • Removal of non-native invasive species which could negatively impact growth • Select individual tree specimens to retain and thin surrounding competing stems	Veteran trees provide habitat niches to native wildlife which younger trees lack	From year 10
12. Amount of deadwood	• Retain non-diseased standing deadwood, including branches and trees, where safe and possible • If dead wood is pruned, leave removed limbs in the woodland as hibernacula	Deadwood is a habitat and foraging resource for bird and invertebrate species	From year 1
13. Woodland disturbance	• No use of fertilisers within the woodland • Manage anthropogenic activity within the woodland to limit damage and disturbance e.g. installation of paths	Limiting nutrient enrichment and disturbance prevents a handful of species dominating and ensures healthy growth of natural regeneration	From year 1

6.2.5 Grassland - Other Neutral Grassland – Proposed Wildflower Meadow

Areas of wildflower meadow will be created in public areas along all boundaries of the site, buffering the site from the adjacent woodland and arable land. These areas will be prepared and sown with EM2 standard general purpose meadow mixture which contains a mix of 85% slow growing grasses and 15% wildflowers, including species such as common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and black medic (*Medicago lupulina*).

Detailed management techniques for new wildflower meadows are described within Table 12 along with the corresponding condition criteria. The expected condition for this habitat is **good**, with an expected target condition time of 10 years. In order to reach the expected targeted condition, all of the condition criteria detailed in Table 12 must be achieved. An annual schedule of works for the first 5 years post-development is detailed in Table 19 in Section 6.4.

Table 12 – Management Objectives for Other Neutral Grassland

Condition Assessment Criteria / objective	Management Activities	Benefit to environment	Target time for Positive Assessment
1. The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species are clearly visible throughout sward	• Remove arisings after mowing to prevent nutrient enrichment of soils and the likelihood of a handful of species dominating • Re-seed areas of bare ground using the same seed mix	Ensures the grassland remains as a medium distinctiveness habitat and contains a high species richness	From year 1
2. Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm)	• Once established, mow wildflower meadows to 50-75mm in spring and autumn to encourage seasonal growth. • Remove arisings to keep nutrient levels low • Stagger mowing of different sections of meadow/groundcover planting to encourage maximum diversity	Varied sward heights provide increased opportunities for commuting and foraging for birds, invertebrates and small mammals	From year 1
3. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	• Ensure adequate seeding of bare ground at 4g/m^2 • Monitor growth and seed areas of bare ground when seasonally appropriate.	Ensures widespread cover of wildflower assemblages and reduces space for more dominant species to colonise	From year 2
4. Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.	• Regular inspection of meadow area for bracken and scrub growth • Hand removal of bracken and scrub species where cover is approaching 20%	Removing bracken at an early stage prevents species from dominating the habitat and outcompeting other desired species	From year 2
5. There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on	• Identification and removal of invasive non-native species as soon as possible. • Where possible, do this by hand. If necessary,	Ensure native assemblage of species throughout grassland habitat. Prevents competition	From year 1

Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	application of herbicide should be carried out by an experienced contractor.	from aggressive non-native species.	
6. There are greater than 9 species per metre squared	• No fertiliser to be used on wildflower areas • Reduce mowing to twice yearly to allow flowers to set seed • Monitoring and removal of non-native invasive species • Monitoring and removal of more dominant shrub species	Ensures high floristic diversity and a wide range of habitat and foraging provisions for pollinator and bird species	From year 1

6.2.6 Grassland – Modified Grassland – Proposed Seeded Amenity Grass

Germinal grade A19 grass seed containing 5 grass species, including perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and corail strong creeping red fescue (*Fescuta rubra rubra*), will be sown within the residential areas, adjacent to roads and driveways, forming verges. This grassland is expected to contain a low species richness and be heavily managed by mowing, resulting in a low sward height. It will also buffer the wildflower meadow habitat from the roads.

Detailed management techniques for modified grassland are described within Table 13, along with the corresponding condition criteria. The expected condition of the grassland is **poor**, with an expected target condition time of 1 year, and, due to the low species richness, these areas of modified grassland cannot achieve moderate or good condition. For this reason, criteria 1 has not been assessed. Regardless, consideration should be given to implementing management practices which promote the development of a habitat which still offers value to local wildlife.

Table 13 – Management Objectives for Modified Grassland

Condition Assessment Criteria / objective	Management Activities	Benefit to environment	Target time for Positive Assessment
1. There must be 6-8 species per m^2. If a grassland has 9 or more species per m^2 it should be classified as a medium distinctiveness grassland habitat type.	N/A	N/A	N/A
2. Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for	• Observe periods where mowing is avoided e.g. No Mow May • Leave 1m unmown buffer strips around areas of grassland • Avoid cutting all areas of grass at once to	Varied sward heights provide increased opportunities for commuting and foraging for birds, invertebrates and small mammals	From year 1

	insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	provide structural diversity across the site		
3.	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	• Consistent monitoring of habitat for growth of shrub species • Hand removal of any growth of woody species	Maintains the characteristic of the habitat and prevents overgrowth by shrub species	From year 2
4.	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	• Ensure areas of bare ground are kept to a minimum to reduce erosion by re-seeding bare ground • Only carry out necessary maintenance activities when specified and at the appropriate time of year • Management activities to be carried out by a suitably qualified person using the correct equipment	Preventing physical damage promotes healthy growth of vegetation and uniformity within the habitat	From year 1
5.	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	• Seed any bare areas with a suitable seed mix	Ensures widespread cover of desired species and reduces space for non-desirable species to colonise	From year 1
6.	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	• Consistent monitoring of the habitat for bracken growth • Hand removal of bracken upon discovery	Removing bracken at an early stage prevents species from dominating the habitat and outcompeting other desired species	From year 2

6.2.7 Lakes – Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)

A non-priority pond will be created to the west of the site and will act as a drainage feature. Native reeds will be planted within this habitat, including species such as lesser pond sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), and branched bur reed (*Sparganium erectum*). There will also be an area of wet

meadow surrounding the pond which will also be classified within the pond habitat, containing species such as yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), and red campion (*Silene dioica*), and grass species include meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra*).

Detailed management techniques for the new pond are described within Table 14 along with the corresponding condition criteria. The expected condition for the pond habitat is **moderate**, with an expected target condition time of 3 years. In order to reach the expected targeted condition, at least five of the condition criteria must be achieved. Criteria 4, 5 and 7 are fixed during the installation of the pond, therefore cannot be assessed. An annual schedule of works for the first 5 years post-development is detailed in Table 20 in Section 6.4.

Table 14 – Management objectives for Pond (Non-priority Habitat)

Condition assessment criteria	Management and enhancement activities	Benefit to environment	Target time for positive assessment
1. The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity)	• Ensure marginal habitats are suitably maintained to reduce run-off of sediment into the pond • Avoid intensive management activities or excessive human disturbance around the pond edge • Remove large litter regularly	Ensures aquatic vegetation receives adequate light levels	From year 1
2. There is semi-natural habitat for at least 10 m from the pond edge.	• Maintain marginal habitats and re-seed any areas of bare ground within the other neutral grassland habitat • Encourage colonisation of bare ground by managing disturbance by anthropogenic activity around the pond edge i.e. designated walkways/paths, restricted areas	Marginal semi-natural habitat provides a transitional habitat between the pond and other site areas. Valuable area for refuge for amphibious species.	From year 1
3. Less than 10% of the pond is covered with duckweed or filamentous algae.	• Remove duckweed and filamentous algae by hand using a pond net or a rake	Ensures aquatic vegetation receives adequate light levels	From year 1
4. The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, either via streams, ditches or artificial pipework.	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Pond water levels should be able to fluctuate naturally	N/A	N/A	N/A