



**Brindle
&Green**

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

Land at Blythe House Farm, Leed Road, Staffordshire

Report Reference: BG25.587

February 2026



For every environment

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1 Summary

- 1.1.1 Brindle and Green Environmental Consultants Ltd were commissioned by ADSAS Planning to undertake a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) for an area of land at Blythe House farm, Staffordshire. The purpose of this document is to set out the details for the establishment and enhancement of onsite habitats and their long-term management in order to meet their associated net gain targets. Additional prescriptions have been outlined to safeguard ground nesting birds, foraging and commuting bats, badgers and great crested newts. Design proposals can be found in Appendix 1. This report is to be read in conjunction with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (BG25.587).

2 Introduction

2.1 Scope and Aim of the Appraisal

2.1.1 Brindle & Green Ecological Consultants Ltd were commissioned by ADAS Planning to compile a LEMP in relation to the two granted planning applications, the first being SMD/2022/0160 to support the proposed development of a solar farm with battery storage facility and associated access. The second granted application is SMD/2023/0594 which is for partial site clearance to facilitate the installation of a solar array, substation and associated access forming an extension to Blythe Solar Farm associated with the former granted application SMD/2022/0160.

2.1.2 This document seeks to discharge Condition 10 of the granted planning applications SMD/2022/0160 and SMD/2023/0594 which were granted on the 01/02/2023 and 22/07/2024 respectively and seek post construction enhancement of the habitats within the application boundary, ensuring suitable mitigation has been safeguarded for the benefit of roosting bats and nesting birds. This LEMP will assess the impacts and provide management measures to safeguard protected and priority species.

2.1.3 The content of the LEMP shall include the following:

- Details of off-site ground nesting bird mitigation on the land immediately to the southeast of the site
- Design details for retained ecological and landscape features
- Details for proposed habitat creation and proposed new planting/landscape features
- A management and monitoring plan for new and existing habitats and key species including repeat breeding bird surveys at appropriate intervals
- Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.
- Aims and objectives of management.
- Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.
- Preparation of a work schedule and timescales of implementation (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five-year period).

- Details of the body or organization responsible for implementation of the plan.

- 2.1.4 This document refers to the findings of the Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) compiled by RammSanderson (RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA, March 2022) and the ground nesting bird mitigation note (Tyler Grange, November 2022) to provide an indicative timescale for implementation of the mitigation and compensation measures to be undertaken prior to the commencement of works onsite (Table 1), during construction and ongoing post construction management relating to habitat management. Enhancements have been guided by the accompanying Biodiversity Impact Assessment ((RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA, March 2022) which seeks to achieve a net gain on habitats within the application boundary.
- 2.1.5 This document should inform the management of retained and enhanced habitats within the site ownership, inform supplementary planting within the site ownership and inform the planting plan for the soft landscaping scheme (Figure 3, Appendix 2) within the red line boundary. The planting proposals onsite should support a mix of species-rich and pasture grassland interspersed with scattered trees and a mix of retained native hedgerows and species rich native hedgerows to provide year-round ecological value for protected species on site.
- 2.1.6 The EcIA produced by RammSanderson in 2022 referenced 51 breeding bird species within the site, most of which were not expected to be impacted due to association with boundary trees and hedgerows. The breeding bird mitigation strategy produced by Tyler Grange Group (15483_R01a_JD_NC, November 2022) refers specifically to the value of the site for ground nesting birds of conservation concern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*).
- 2.1.7 The proposals are considered unlikely to negatively effect foraging and commuting bats present on site; however Biodiversity Protection Zones detailed in the CEMP (BG25.587, January 2026) and planting proposals directed towards connective features aim to mitigate the impacts of construction on the use of the site.
- 2.1.8 Badger findings are sensitive and discussed in a confidential appendix (Appendix 5)
- 2.1.9 Habitats identified as suitable for Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) are present in site and will be protected through detailed method statement secured through a Low Impact GCN licence.

2.1.10 Deviation from the design plans detailed within Appendix 1 may necessitate amendments to this document at a later stage. If construction has not commenced within one year of the date of this report, the document may require reviewing and/or updating.

3 Description and Evaluation of Features to be Managed

3.1 Existing Features on Site to be Considered

- 3.1.1 The site was the subject of a UK Habitat Classification survey and further ecological consideration undertaken by RammSanderson Ltd in March 2022, the results of which are reported within the Ecological Impact Assessment (RammSanderson, March 2022).
- 3.1.2 The application site was approximately 23.7 ha in extent and was located off the A50, south of the village of Upper Tean within a rural area of Staffordshire to the east of Stoke on Trent. The surrounding landscape was primarily agricultural, with arable fields extending to the south and west with pasture regimes to the north and east of the site. The site was dominated by low value modified grassland and cereal crops interspersed with native hedgerows and scattered trees. An overgrown pond was located on the southern extent of the site which requires enhancement under a long-term management plan.
- 3.1.3 The A50 defined the northern edge of the site and created a barrier to terrestrial species' dispersal. Connectivity to the south, east and west currently remains largely un-interrupted, and hedgerows provided corridors to scattered woodland parcels in the wider environment.
- 3.1.4 The habitats on site were evaluated as having up to 'Local' value in relation to the immediate surroundings and a regional context. The area to be cleared to facilitate development was primarily low value grassland, however, two mature, mixed tree lines, which ran centrally through the site, will also be lost and as such, replacement planting is desirable.

Badger Walkover

- 3.1.5 The badger survey was conducted as a pre-commencement check as recommended in the EciA (RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA, March 2022) and was carried out in accordance with guidelines approved by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, including: Best Practice Guidance - Badger Surveys, Scottish Natural Heritage (2003), Inverness Badger Survey 2003. Commissioned Report No. 096. and Surveying Badgers, The Mammal Society, Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989).
- 3.1.6 Legislation relating to Badgers can be found in Appendix 3 of this report.

- 3.1.7 Evidence of badger activity, including faeces, paths, scratching, snuffle holes, hair or footprints, was searched for along all the boundary features within the application site.

Identification of Setts

- 3.1.8 Any holes discovered were categorised into sett types using the following criteria, quoted from Natural England guidance (NE, 2007):

- Main Setts usually appear well-used, well established and have a large number of holes. Big spoil heaps, often with piles of old bedding are located outside. Main setts tend to have well-worn paths between the sett and foraging areas, and between sett holes. They are generally considered to be breeding setts and are often in use all year round. A social group of badgers will only have one main sett within their territory.
- Annexe Setts are always close to a main sett and are usually connected by one or more obvious well-worn paths. They consist of several holes but are not necessarily in use the whole time, even if the main sett is very active. Should a second litter of cubs be born within the social group, they are likely to be raised within an annexe sett.
- Subsidiary Setts often these setts have very few holes, are usually at least 50m from a main sett and do not have an obvious path connecting them with another sett. Subsidiary setts are not continuously active.
- Outlying Setts usually comprising one or two holes with very little spoil outside (thus indicating that the tunnel system underground is not extensive), outlying setts have no obvious path connecting them with another sett and are used only sporadically.

- 3.1.9 Indication of the level of activity at each sett:

- Well used sett entrances contain no debris or vegetation, are obviously regularly used and often show signs of having been recently excavated.
- Partially used setts are those with entrances not in regular use and which may have debris (twigs, leaves, moss etc) around the entrance. However, they could potentially be used regularly in the future with minimal clearance necessary.

- Disused setts show signs of not having been in use for a considerable period of time and would not be used again without extensive clearance by a badger.

3.1.10 A single day-time walkover survey was undertaken on 15/01/2026 by Billie-Jo Payne BSc (Hons), Assistant Ecologist and Josh Bowler BSc (Hons), Qualifying Member of CIEEM, Graduate Ecologist

3.1.11 The results from the badger walkover are presented in a **confidential** appendix (Appendix 5).

3.2 Habitat Creation – Purpose and Objectives

3.2.1 The site was found to support local value for protected species. Creation of additional habitats with a view to increase floristic diversity within grassland and hedgerows seeks to improve foraging resources present on site for breeding birds, foraging and commuting bats, badger and mammal species of principle importance including hedgehog and brown hare. Retention of hedgerows and inclusion of additional species rich hedgerows managed to create refugia for great crested newt and reptiles. Implementation of a sympathetic management regime for the retained pond on site and the creation of additional ponds to form a complex as recommended in the Ecological Impact Assessment (RammSanderson, March 2022) seek to improve the habitat resource for amphibians.

3.2.2 Key management targets have been identified to enhance and maintain the ecological value of the retained linear features and the existing pond to the south of site and are summarised within Table 1.

Table 1: Ecological Receptors, the impact associated with the development and the proposed mitigation / enhancements.

Receptor	Source of Impact	Un-mitigated Impact	Proposed Working Method	Risk with Mitigation	Timing of Proposed Works
Habitats	Loss of low value grassland and mixed species tree lines.	Certain (not significant) negative impact at the local level	Post construction seeding enhancement of grassland and inclusion of species-rich hedgerows along site boundaries as mitigation for losses	Neutral	Autumn / Winter 2026
	Impacts to root protection of existing trees and vegetation.		Appropriate buffer and exclusion outlined within Appendix 2.		Autumn 2026
Breeding birds	Potential disturbance, loss, or harm to nesting birds, their nests, eggs and young.	Certain (non-significant) negative impact at the local level	Vegetation clearance undertaken outside of nesting bird season. If this is not possible, a pre-works check of the habitat will be conducted to ensure no nesting individuals are present.	Neutral	Autumn 2026
	Loss of nesting habitat.		Post construction enhancement (see habitat creation areas below).		Autumn 2026
Commuting and foraging bats	Disturbance to commuting/foraging pathways during construction	Unlikely (non significant) negative impact at the local level	Sensitive lighting scheme employed during construction.	Neutral	During construction

Receptor	Source of Impact	Un-mitigated Impact	Proposed Working Method	Risk with Mitigation	Timing of Proposed Works
Roosting bats	T21 hosting roosting potential for individuals or low numbers of bats to be removed	Unlikely (non significant) negative impact at the local level	T21 is to be soft felled in winter months and compensatory roost provision installed.	Neutral	Winter 2026
Badgers	Injury/harm to individuals	Certain (not significant) negative impact at the local level	Method statement detailing precautionary working measures secured through a Natural England Badger Licence	Probable negative (not significant)	Spring 2027
	Disturbance				
	Loss of sett building habitat		Sett closure under Natural England Licence Creation of artificial sett prior to commencement of works		
Reptiles	Injury/harm to individuals during construction and vegetation removal	Unlikely (non-significant) negative impact at the local level	Reasonable Avoidance Measures outlined in CEMP	Neutral	During construction
Great Crested Newt	Injury/harm to individuals during construction and vegetation removal	Unlikely (non significant) negative impact at the local level	Method statement detailing precautionary working measures secured through a low impact Natural England Licence		During construction

4 Aims and Objectives of Management

- 4.1.1 The LEMP seeks to secure long term enhancement prescriptions and their long-term management to conserve and enhance the ecological and landscape value of the site and adjacent habitat through safeguarding and enhancing the ecological and physical integrity.

4.2 Objective 1: Maintain and Protect Existing Conservation Value of Retained Features

- 4.2.1 Retained hedgerows and scattered trees are to be protected during construction works, enhancement measures to grassland and hedgerows be implemented where possible to build upon the connective value of the habitat. The retained pond to the south of the site is to be enhanced for the benefit of local protected species under a management plan.
- 4.2.2 Biodiversity Protection Zones (Appendix 2, Figure 1) encompassing a 30m exclusion zone around the retained pond and a 15m exclusion zone around retained trees and hedgerows to be established with Heras fencing prior to commencement of works.
- 4.2.3 Two-way badger gates to be installed on temporary fencing during construction and any permanent fencing installed as part of the scheme to maintain commuting and foraging pathways.
- 4.2.4 Mitigation Licenses for Great crested newt and badger will be secured before commencement of any works on site. Recommendations for badger mitigation license and licensable works are subject to current development plans (Appendix 1). Should development outline changes be approved under a Section 73 agreement under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the requirement for works to be licensed may be reviewed. Further measures to safeguard badgers during construction are outlined in the Construction Ecological Management Plan (BG25.587, February 2026).

4.3 Objective 2: Creation of New Habitats to Safeguard Local Protected Species Populations

- 4.3.1 Pasture fields on site to be reseeded with native seed mix post construction targeting other neutral grassland; two areas at the southern extent of the site are to be seeded with a species rich native seed mix and managed for floristic diversity. Grassland within the solar farm to be

managed by low stocking density sheep grazing; with areas of open space bordering hedgerows expected to achieve higher diversity.

- 4.3.2 Creation of Breeding Bird Mitigation Area including skylark plots and scrapes to attract lapwing to the specifications outlined in the Ground-nesting Bird Mitigation Strategy (15483_R01a_JD_NC Tyler Grange, November 2022).

4.4 Objective 3: Monitor and Review the Success of the Implemented Strategy

- 4.4.1 Maintain a flexible management approach which responds to the changing needs of the landscape and ecology of the site. The success of habitat management and the implementation of compensatory habitat should be monitored annually for 5 years and reviewed after this point. The management of the site including created and enhanced habitats will continue for the operational lifetime of the development.
- 4.4.2 Enhancement and management prescriptions are influenced by the results of the previous ecological reports and seeks post construction planting and management to safeguard the ecological function of habitats and protected species. Subsequent recommendations for the site are focused towards improving the biological diversity where possible within the scheme footprint.
- 4.4.3 Habitats will be assessed annually in a monitoring visit in the first five years from establishment using UKHAB condition assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain condition assessment criteria to ensure habitats are reaching targeted condition set out within the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (RammSanderson, March 2022) and accompanying metric.
- 4.4.4 Species rich grassland parcels targeting 'Good' condition will be subject to annual botanical survey following NVC methodology for the first 5 years following establishment.
- 4.4.5 The ground nesting bird mitigation area will be subject to surveys during breeding season to determine uptake of created plots and scrapes in the first five years following establishment.
- 4.4.6 Grazing at low stocking densities (0.5LU/ha – Livestock Units per hectare) is the recommended management regime as per the Ecological Impact Assessment (RammSanderson, March 2022) for the parcels of other neutral grassland between the solar panels. Monitoring of the success

of grazing regimes must account for additional grazing pressure from wild mammals such as deer.

- 4.4.7 In the event that grassland habitats are identified to be failing to reach their targeted condition, grazing livestock will be removed from the affected land parcel and the area is to be harrowed and aerated with a mechanical scarifier before being reseeded with the approved seed mix utilised at establishment.
- 4.4.8 Hedgerows failing to meet targeted condition will be reassessed and supplementary planting with pot-grown standards >1m in height will be completed.

5 Appropriate Management Options for Achieving Aims and Objectives

5.1 Objective 1: Maintain and Protect Existing Conservation Value of Retained Features

Retained Hedgerows

- 5.1.1 Retained boundary vegetation (including the hedgerows) to be suitably protected during construction with Heras fencing installed at a 15m buffer to ensure their long-term success for the perpetuity of the development (Figure 1, Appendix 2). Proposals will be targeted towards invertebrates, bats, birds, herptiles and mammal species of principle importance including hedgehogs.
- 5.1.2 Post construction lighting will be directed away from retained hedgerows, with light overspill onto retained hedgerows and trees being 1lux (ideally 0).

Proposed Implementation and Management

- 5.1.3 Construction areas to be suitably delineated by Heras security fencing, to allow a suitable buffer between construction work and retained linear features. Signs will be erected to enforce that no spoil, construction materials or plant is to enter this area. Fencing to be left in situ for the perpetuity of construction works, to be removed when ground works are complete.

Retained Pond (Non-Priority)

- 5.1.4 The retained pond situated at the south of the site will be suitably protected during construction works with the establishment of a Biodiversity Protection Zone at a 30m buffer from the centre of the retained pond and delineated with herptile fencing.

Proposed Implementation and Management

- 5.1.5 Methodology outlined in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (BG25.587, January 2026) for retained habitats will be followed during construction pertaining to storage of chemicals and pollutant control measures.

Protected Species

Badger

- 5.1.6 The proximity of a main sett to access roads and working areas, results in a risk of injury and harm to badgers during construction activities and post construction use of access roads. Therefore, a Natural England Badger License will be applied for and granted prior to commencement of any works within the Zone of Influence of the known sett. The licence will outline appropriate mitigation measures and working methods which will be followed during works. The Construction Environmental Management Plan (BG25.587) outlines Reasonable Avoidance Measures to be followed at all phases of construction on receipt of a granted licence to safeguard badgers foraging and commuting through the site.

Amphibians

- 5.1.7 Prior to commencement of any works on site a Natural England Low Impact License for Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) will be submitted and approved. The precautionary working method detailed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (BG25.587, January 2026). Will be followed during construction works, any further detailed methods included in the Mitigation License will be followed during works on site.

5.2 Objective 2: Creation of New Habitat and Enhancement of Retained Created Hedgerows

- 5.2.1 Native species rich hedgerows shall be planted in three locations in the southeast section of the site in line with the accompanying Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) (RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA , March 2022). Species will be native and annually blooming to include a mix of; 20% hazel (*Corylus avellana*), 25% hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), 20% field maple (*Acer campestre*), 10% dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), 5% crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), 15% blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and 5% guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*).

Establishment

- 5.2.2 A staggered double row of trees and shrubs will be planted, with 0.3m centres and a 0.3m offset. These shall consist of 0.4-0.6m bare root transplants.

- 5.2.3 This general pattern would be subject to local variation to reflect future management proposals including hedge laying. It has been conceived in order to generate a multi-layered functional hedge that is expected to have a reasonably high survival rate.
- 5.2.4 Planting should be completed between November and February, during planting works the roots must be covered until the tree is in the ground by either pots, temporary slot planting or black plastic sheeting. Root desiccation during planting is a barrier to successful establishment and a main cause of mortality in newly planted trees. Planting works should ideally be scheduled during mild weather conditions with no heavy frost or snow forecast within 72 hours after planting.
- 5.2.5 Newly planted trees are to be supported by a timber tree stake and biodegradable tree guard. A 30cm buffer from the stake is to be covered with a layer of mulch to insulate the base of the tree and form a barrier for weeds.
- 5.2.6 The trees will be, as far as is reasonably possible, locally sourced and of appropriate local provenance (as defined by Forestry Commission Practice Note [1999] Using Local Stock for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs) [Local Provenance Regions 304 or 403 - regions ordered by preference, most preferable – least preferable].
- 5.2.7 Tree stakes should be used to support newly planted whips, boarded by bio-degradable tree guards to protect during establishment detailed in 5.2.8-5.2.10.

Protection Measures

- 5.2.8 The new hedges will be protected by post and wire fencing installed 1m from the hedgeline in fields where grazing is proposed to support the diversity of created other neutral grassland. Stock proof netted wire fencing will be used and secured on the field side of the posts to prevent damage to the fence by livestock.
- 5.2.9 Feathered whips will be protected by a mulch mat, e.g. c.1m² Hemcore Biomats (or similar). Biomats are fully biodegradable and will reduce the need for post restoration watering and weed control.
- 5.2.10 Tubex (or equivalent) tree shelters will be used to protect trees from rodent and rabbit damage and held in place by a bamboo stake.

Management

- 5.2.11 In the first three years after planting, young trees planted as bare root whips lack the water storage and uptake capabilities that develop as they mature and take on size, therefore they are at risk of dehydration and mortality in summer months. Between May and September in year 1 and 2, all newly planted trees will require watering weekly. Ground within a 30cm buffer of the main stem should be saturated to 15cm soil depth, accounting for soil conditions and type. In extended periods of dry weather (10 days or more without rainfall) or in particularly hot weather (25 degrees or higher) the watering regimen should be increased to twice weekly. Newly planted hedgerows will be inspected annually in late summer for the first 5 years of establishment. Specimens which have died or become diseased will be replaced within the following winter planting season.
- 5.2.12 The mulch laid around the main stem during establishment will have degraded by the end of year 2 and weeds may begin to grow around the base of the trees. Large forbs such as lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*) have long taproots and grow rapidly to exceed 150cm in height, meaning such species may out-compete young trees and shrubs for soil nutrition and light. Each sapling should be spot checked every 60 days in spring and every 30 days in summer for pernicious weeds and general condition. Pernicious weeds will be removed by hand pulling or an organic acetic acid-based herbicide, e.g. Roundup pro bioactive, which is suitable for use near amphibians.
- 5.2.13 Pruning should be limited to the sides of the created hedgerows to encourage upward growth; vertical height should not be removed to facilitate hedge laying in the long term.
- 5.2.14 Once newly established trees have reached a base stem diameter of <10cm new hedgerows will be laid in a 'Midland Bullock' style using traditional methods to stimulate growth from the base with the brashy growth stripped from the southern side the hedges to facilitate laying. The prepared pleachers will be laid with the canopy facing uphill.
- 5.2.15 The brashy growth will be laid to the north and pleachers supported by natural hazel or sawn timber stakes placed in a single line at 50cm intervals. Hazel binders will be woven along the top of the stakes to support the structure. The finished laid hedge should exceed 135cm in height.
- 5.2.16 Laying will be repeated as above every 10-15 years or when vertical growths from laid pleachers exceeds 10cm in diameter.

Other Neutral Grassland – Targeting ‘Poor’ Condition

- 5.2.17 Parcels of other neutral grassland are to be established within the solar array across the site and seeded with N5 Long Season Meadow mix from Naturescape. It was anticipated that the grassland at the borders of the solar array would achieve ‘good’ condition in the Ecological Impact Assessment, while the grassland under the solar panels is expected to achieve ‘poor’ condition as outlined in the accompanying metric (RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA , March 2022).

Establishment

- 5.2.18 Following the development of the solar farm the ground will be prepared with a rotavator attached to a tractor if space between panels allows otherwise a quad bike mounted cultivator to till the soil and create an even seed bed.
- 5.2.19 N5 Long Season Meadow Mix or similar approved seeds will be sown to the manufacturer’s recommendations of 40kg/ha using a hopper attachment to an ATV to ensure even coverage. Seeding will take place in early spring following light rainfall to assist germination and seed adhesion to the soil.
- 5.2.20 The first weeks after sowing will see succession of highly competitive annual weeds favouring disturbed soil. These will be left for a minimum of 8 weeks after seeding to shelter establishing seeds before the area is brought under a grazing regime. It is expected the established annual weeds will be browsed by livestock first to allow the grass sward additional time to establish.

Management

- 5.2.21 As recommended in the Ecological Impact Assessment (RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA, March 2022) management of created grassland fields will be undertaken by traditional sheep grazing at low stocking densities; not exceeding 0.5LU/ha (livestock units per hectare). Sheep, including ewes with dependant lambs count as 0.15LU and the site area as reported is 23.7ha. A stocking density of no more than 79 sheep across the site is recommended to maintain floristic diversity of the other neutral grassland.

Other Neutral Grassland – Targeting ‘Good’ condition

- 5.2.22 Two areas of grassland to the south of the site will be seeded with AB8 Floristically Enhanced Field Margin; produced by Cotswold Grass Seed Direct ((RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA , March 2022).

These areas are expected to reach 'good' condition within the management period. Proposals will target breeding birds and bats.

Establishment

- 5.2.23 Ground will be prepared and existing vegetation removed with a harrow to break up root mats and turn the topsoil. The ground will then be aerated and seeded with a hopper attachment to a quadbike or similar ATV. Flags or lengths of hazard tape attached to bamboo stakes will then be distributed over the area to deter birds foraging the sown seed.
- 5.2.24 Seeding will take place between late October and early February to allow overnight frost to assist in seed germination and target a higher uptake of seed in the initial establishment period.
- 5.2.25 The first weeks after sowing will see succession of highly competitive annual weeds favouring disturbed soil. These will be left until mid-July in year 1 to shelter establishing seeds before the whole area is cut using a tractor mounted disc mower and cuttings removed to prevent eutrophication of the soil and subsequent re-establishment of competitive weeds. Cutting works will be conducted in a linear pattern or from the centre of each field out to allow opportunistic species using tall vegetation for shelter may disperse safely. Following the initial cut the area will be left unmown until the end of September, from which grazing livestock at low stocking densities of 0.5LU/ha will be introduced over winter.

Management

- 5.2.26 To maintain higher floristic diversity in these areas, grazing livestock will be excluded from the species rich grassland parcels between May and early September to prevent preferential browsing on the flowering heads of plants by sheep and allow seed drop to maintain diversity prior to reintroducing the grazing regime.

Pond (Non-Priority)

Establishment

- 5.2.27 The location created pond will consider topography of the area and the basin will be dug at a low point to allow natural overland flow and groundwater to fill the pond post establishment.
- 5.2.28 Created pond will be lined with bentonite clay rather than a butyl lining as the latter absorbs and transfers heat from direct sunlight to the water; whereby creating optimal conditions for the

growth of duckweed and algae. Clay lined ponds are less prone to heat transfer from direct sunlight and maintain consistent temperatures optimal for amphibians.

- 5.2.29 The margins of the pond basin will be tilled and levelled with a rotavator and sloping sides of the basin topped with bentonite liner will be dampened with water prior to seeding. The marginal zone will be seeded by hand with N8 Water's Edge Mix (or similar approved) at the manufacturer's specifications of 50kg/ha.

Management

- 5.2.30 Arisings from cutting surrounding grassland will be raked off and removed from site to prevent eutrophication and algal blooms. Management operations will seek to avoid cutting grassland or marginal planting between May and September to further prevent eutrophication
- 5.2.31 Management of emergent and submerged vegetation will only be undertaken when cover of the pond basin by vegetation exceeds 85-90%, whereby dominant vegetation will be reduced by no more than 25% via hand pulling with limited use of hand tools if necessary. Any marginal submerged or floating vegetation removed during management works will be left at the edge of the pond no more than 0.5m from the water level to allow invertebrates to return to the pond prior to vegetation removal to a designated area or offsite.

Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation Area

- 5.2.32 A plot 3.4ha in extent south of the application boundary will be created at commencement of works on site in September/ October 2026 to allow sufficient time for the created habitats to establish prior to the breeding season of the targeted notable species of lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) between April and August 2027.

Establishment

- 5.2.33 The mitigation area is currently in use as arable land; rotated between silage and crop production. Prior to commencement of works on site the crop will be cut and the ground harrowed and levelled to create an even seed bed with a tractor-mounted harrow.
- 5.2.34 The northern extent of the parcel targeted towards skylark will be seeded with Enhanced Two-Year Wild Bird Mix (AHL2/CAHL2/AB9) from Cotswold Grass Seeds or similar approved. Seeds

will be sown using a tractor-mounted drill to 35mm depth at the manufacturer's recommended density of 25kg/ha before being rolled to prevent loss to wind or foraging birds.

- 5.2.35 The southern extent of the parcel close to an existing network of drains will be targeted towards lapwing and seeded with Beetle Bank & Tussocky Grass Margin (AHL3 & AHL4) from Cotswold Grass Seeds or similar approved. Seeds will be sown using a tractor-mounted drill to 20mm depth at the manufacturer's recommended density of 25kg/ha before being rolled to prevent loss to wind or foraging birds.

Skylark Plots

- 5.2.36 Three Skylark plots at least 3m wide and a minimum of 16m² in area and at least 50m from field margins will be installed annually in the northern extent of the ground nesting bird mitigation area during sowing in late February. Formed by turning off the drill during sowing to leave an unsown plot. Further guidance for management of skylark plots can be found at AB4 – Skylark Plots (Gov.uk)/ AHW4 – Skylark Plots (Gov.uk).

Lapwing Scrapes

- 5.2.37 Three scrapes between 20m² and 40m² and approximately 0.5m in depth with graduated sloping sides will be created following ground preparation. Scrapes will be situated at the southern end of the mitigation area close to a network of agricultural drains to the south of the application boundary. Agri – Environment scheme guidance required wader scrapes targeting lapwing to hold water from at least 1st March to the 31st May each year.
- 5.2.38 Scrapes will be lined with a mixture of subsoil excavated during creation of the scrapes and bentonite clay to create an impermeable seal to capture overland flow and rainfall while allowing growth of the roots of planted vegetation.
- 5.2.39 Each scrape will be seeded with N5 Water's edge mix from Naturescape and plug planted with hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*) and soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) sourced from Naturescape as 9cm pot grown plug plants at a rate of 2 plants per square meter.

Management

- 5.2.40 No management of vegetation will take place in this area during core breeding season between April and August; including the exclusion of grazing livestock from the mitigation area for the duration of breeding season.

- 5.2.41 The southern extent of the mitigation area will be cut annually in early September with a tractor mounted disc mower set to retain at least a 75mm sward. Machinery will cut in a linear pattern or from the centre of the parcel outwards in rings to allow opportunistic species to disperse. Cuttings will be left in place for a minimum of 48 hours to allow seed to drop from 'green hay' and reduce reseeding requirements before being raked off and removed from site.
- 5.2.42 The northern extent of the parcel seeded with Enhanced Two-Year Wild Bird Mix (AHL2/CAHL2/AB9) from Cotswold Grass Seeds will be retained over winter to provide cover to wintering birds and cut at the end of February and redrilled annually at the manufacturer's recommendation of 35mm depth at 25kg/ha to allow the maintenance of skylark plots.

Mixed Scrub

- 5.2.43 An area of mixed scrub comprised of 25% hazel (*Corylus avellana*), 25% hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), 10% privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), 10% elder (*Sambucus nigra*), 10% crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), 15% blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and 5% guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) is to be planted in the centre of the site.

Establishment

- 5.2.44 Prior to scrub planting the soil will be harrowed to create an even bed, signs of soil compaction including bare ground and water retention will be aerated with a mechanical scarifier to break up the grass sward and target any residual ground compaction from prior agricultural land use.
- 5.2.45 The parcel of scrub is targeting 'Good' condition (RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA , March 2022) so will be established to achieve a diverse age structure within the management period. A range of age classes including 60% bare root whips (>50cm in height), 20% standard trees 60cm-1m in height and 20% standard trees >150cm in height will be planted to diversify age structure from establishment. Pot grown standard trees are recommended to reduce mortality in year 1 and increase the chance of successful establishment.
- 5.2.46 Trees are to be planted between November and February, during planting works the roots must be covered until the tree is in the ground by either pots or black plastic sheeting. Root desiccation during planting is a barrier to successful establishment and a main cause of mortality in newly planted trees. Planting works should ideally be scheduled during mild weather conditions with no heavy frost or snow forecast within 72 hours after planting. Newly planted

trees are to be supported by a timber tree stake and biodegradable tree guard. A 30cm buffer from the stake is to be covered with a layer of mulch to insulate the base of the tree and form a barrier for weeds.

- 5.2.47 A transitional area of grassland encompassing glades and rides and a 2-5m buffer around the margin of the scrub parcel will be seeded with EM10 Tussock Meadow Mix from Emorsgate seeds, or similar approved at the manufacturer's recommendation.

Management

- 5.2.48 In the first two years after planting, young trees lack the water storage and uptake capabilities that develop as they mature and take on size, therefore they are at risk of dehydration and mortality in summer months. Between May and September in year 1 and 2 all newly planted trees will require watering weekly. Ground within a 30cm buffer of the main stem should be saturated to 15cm soil depth, accounting for soil conditions and type. In extended periods of dry weather (10 days or more without rainfall) or in particularly hot weather (25 degrees or higher) the watering regimen should be increased to twice weekly
- 5.2.49 The mulch laid around the main stem during establishment will have degraded by the end of year 2 and weeds may begin to grow around the base of the trees. Large forbs such as lesser burdock have long taproots and grow rapidly to exceed 150cm in height, meaning such species may out compete young trees and shrubs for soil nutrition and light. Each sapling should be spot checked every 60 days in spring and every 30 days in summer for pernicious weeds and general condition. Any herbicide used will be suitable for use near amphibians e.g. Roundup pro bioactive.
- 5.2.50 The area of scrub will be split into four plots and brought into a coppice rotation to maintain structural diversity in the long term. The boundaries of the plots may be highlighted by the installation of colour coded posts at the boundary corners of each section for ease of ongoing management. One plot is to be cut per winter on an 8-year rotation, resulting in multiple stages of regrowth throughout the parcel at any one time. Coppice harvesting should be limited to winter months when sap has dropped and the risk of disease transmission or damage is diminished. Coppicing works will be completed with hand tools or chainsaws. Heavy machinery and vehicles must not be used within the scrub parcel to prevent damage to regenerative growth and ground compaction around roots.

- 5.2.51 Cuttings from coppice will be added to existing hibernacula detailed in 5.2.49 as part of ongoing maintenance to replace logs and deadwood habitat within hibernacula as the material installed at establishment decays.

Wildlife Boxes and hibernacula

- 5.2.52 Additional enhancements may take the form of roosting provision for birds and bats placed in retained trees within the application boundary.
- 5.2.53 Five Schwegler 1B nest boxes will be placed within boundary vegetation at the southern extent of the site to enhance provision for nesting birds.
- 5.2.54 Most mature trees including those with potential roost features for bats will be retained in current plans (Appendix 1); however T21 will be soft felled as recommended in the EclA. To compensate for the loss of roosting provision provided by T21, two Schwegler 1FF bat boxes or similar approved will be placed at the northeast or northwest elevations of neighbouring trees following the soft felling of T21.

5.3 Objective 3: Monitor Retained and Created Habitats: Management Plan Review

- 5.3.1 Artificial lighting should be limited along the retained hedgerows and created scrub to prevent overspill on to the retained mature trees and pond creating a linear connective corridor (Appendix 2). Proposals will be targeted towards foraging and commuting bats.
- 5.3.2 The plan should be reviewed at years 1, 2, 3 and 5, with the production of a new plan, incorporating revisions following the review of the results of the monitoring of created habitats as described below. A rolling 5- year revision of the management plan should be conducted thereafter. Revised management plans should be issued to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council within 3 months of review. Monitoring of habitats will be conducted at years 1, 2, 3 and 5 with a rolling 5-year monitoring schedule to ensure prescriptions remain relevant and habitats will achieve target conditions outlined within the accompanying BIA (RammSanderson, March 2022). Reviews, monitoring and management of the site should be conducted for the operational lifetime of the development.

Hedgerows and scrub

- 5.3.3 An annual monitoring visit in Spring or Autumn between year 1 and year 5 will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist to assess the condition of the retained hedgerows against UKHAB condition assessment criteria, the success of establishment in created hedgerows and scrub and note signs of excessive browsing (where relevant Should excessive browsing be noted the responsible ecologist will determine if the damage is caused by livestock or trespass grazing from deer populations and will provide recommendations pertaining to adjustments to the grazing strategy or developing buffers through remedial planting or fencing .
- 5.3.4 Failed whips will be replaced like-for-like at the next habitat maintenance visit. Should >10% of whips fail in a given year within the first five years of establishment; the replacement whips will be pot grown rather than bare root.

Pond (Non-Priority)

- 5.3.5 Water monitoring assessing a broad spectrum of abiotic factors including dissolved oxygen, phosphates and nitrates will be undertaken annually from year 1- year 5 and every 5 years thereafter to assess the water quality of the created pond.
- 5.3.6 A substantial increase in nitrate and phosphate levels between visits will require remedial action under guidance of a suitably qualified ecologist.
- 5.3.7 Remedial action to intercept pollutants suspended in overland flow will involve pond margins being stocked with common reed (*Phragmites australis*) to intercept suspended pollutants present in runoff. Monitoring will be required to maintain this species within the marginal zone and prevent over-encroachment of the surface. Should common reed coverage exceed 50% then it will be reduced by 50% in the next management visit.

Grassland

- 5.3.8 An annual walkover will be undertaken to assess the condition of the created other neutral grassland against the targeted condition set out in the BIA (RammSanderson, March 2022). Adjustment of stocking density may be required if significant areas of bare ground due to poaching are observed near water troughs or seasonally wet areas, or if floristic diversity in areas targeting 'good' condition have failed to reach expected levels.

- 5.3.9 Larger deer species likely to be found in the locality of the site are fallow (*Dama dama*) and roe (*Capreolus capreolus*) have large home ranges in excess of 50ha (Morellett *et al.*, 2013; British Deer Society, 2010) and are unlikely to be dependent on the grazing and browsing resources offered by the site. However, adjustments to the stocking density of livestock may be required to account for the seasonal movements of deer populations in the locality. Grazing and browsing pressure from deer may be monitored using a standing faecal count survey to estimate deer population in combination with a walkover to record field signs and identify high traffic areas.
- 5.3.10 Chapter 4.3 recommends a stocking density of 79 sheep for the 23.7ha site; individual deer are considered as 0.3LU, therefore, the stocking density should be reduced by two sheep for every deer; should monitoring efforts identify deer numbers are overstocking the habitats present.
- 5.3.11 Poached areas of grassland such as those around mineral blocks and water sources that have had the sward eroded to bare ground, at the monitoring visit, will be rotovated and reseeded, with grazing stock excluded from the treated area for a minimum of 6 months to allow reestablishment of the grassland structure.
- 5.3.12 Species rich other neutral grassland parcels targeting 'good' condition will be assessed against UKHAB condition assessment criteria and subjected to annual botanical survey following NVC survey methodology annually between year 1 and year 5 after establishment and every 5 years thereafter for the remainder of the management period.

Scrub

- 5.3.13 An annual monitoring walkover will be undertaken between March and August in the first five years after establishment with the scrub habitat being assessed against UKHAB condition assessment criteria.
- 5.3.14 As detailed in chapter 5.3.9 assessment by a suitably qualified ecologist will be required to determine browsing pressure and make recommendations to adjustments to fencing provision or the grazing regime if the condition assessment visit notes suppression of regeneration in the scrub by browsing from deer or sheep.

Ground nesting bird mitigation area

- 5.3.15 Aftercare monitoring will be required to assess the uptake of the skylark plots and lapwing scrapes created within the ground nesting bird mitigation area. Long term monitoring of the site

will take place for a minimum of five years to gather baseline data on the population dynamics and distribution of notable ground nesting birds within the mitigation area. This data should be collected annually, and a report with analysis of the findings and any further recommendations for management techniques be submitted at the end of the five-year period. Additionally, monitoring the success of habitat creation will be required to ensure habitat creation is meeting its net gain targets.

6 Prescriptions for Management Action and Proposed Work Schedule

Table 2: Work schedule

Management Prescriptions	Timing of Works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16- 20	Year 21-25	Year 26 - 30	+30 Years
Newly Planted Trees															
Check guards and tree supports until established and are no longer required.	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Remove stakes and tree guards once establishment is deemed complete.	Unrestricted					✓									
Weed by hand around tree base.	Winter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Formative prune where necessary to establish a strong central leader on trees. Trees should be assessed, removing and reducing side shoots. This work should be on going until the tree is considered to be established.	Winter		✓	✓	✓	✓									

Management Prescriptions	Timing of Works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30	+30 Years
Safety checks and tree condition assessment undertaken on a 4-year rotation from establishment.	Unrestricted			✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check for establishment of INNS and removal of any schedule 9 species in the next management visit	March - October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other Neutral Grassland 'Poor'															
Management of sward targeting 'Poor' condition in solar farm through low stock density grazing.	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mow roadside verges.	September/ October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check and repair eroded areas as required. Rotovate to 150mm, 100mm topsoil and reseed. Exclude grazing stock for a period of 6 months following this work.	Check: May – September Reseeding: September/ October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Removal of encroaching scrub	November- February	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check for establishment of INNS and removal of any schedule 9 species in the next management visit	March - October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other Neutral Grassland 'Good'															

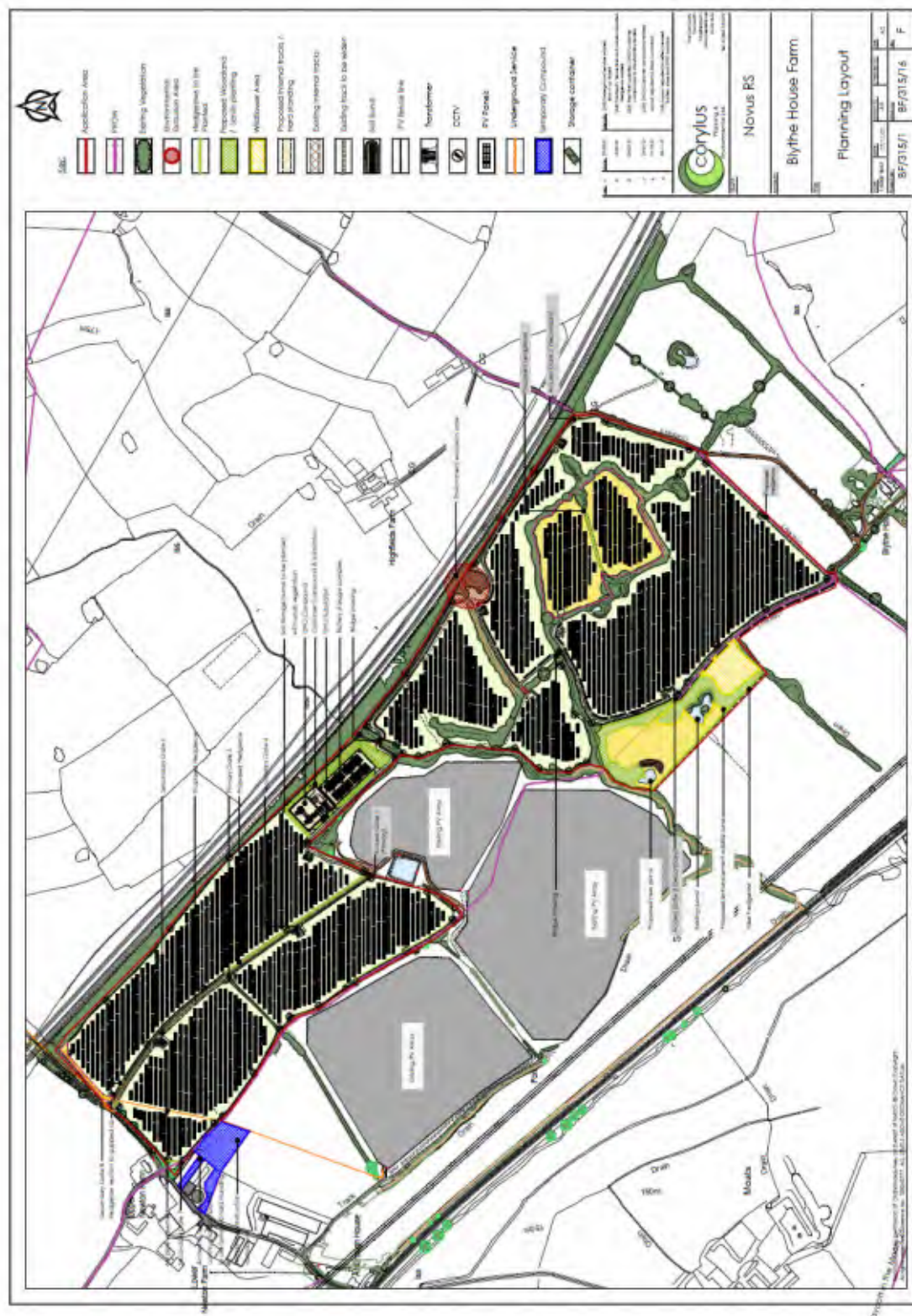
Management Prescriptions	Timing of Works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30	+30 Years
Restricted grazing; livestock to be removed from the species rich other neutral grassland parcels between the end of March and the end of September	March-September	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check for establishment of INNS and removal of any schedule 9 species in the next management visit	March - October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hedgerows															
Safety checks and tree condition assessment undertaken on a 4-year rotation from establishment.	Unrestricted				✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lay created hedgerows in traditional 'Midland Bullock' style once the stem base has reached 10cm diameter	November-February									✓		✓		✓	✓
Gap-fill hedgerow with specimens where necessary to encourage a thick hedgerow and prevent basal gaps.	October – end March	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flail hedgerow (not those that have been laid) to promote a thick, fruiting hedge of between 2 and 4 meters (avoid cutting adjacent mature trees). Repeat every 3 years on a rotational basis.	November – early February			✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Management Prescriptions	Timing of Works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30	+30 Years
Check for establishment of INNS and removal of any schedule 9 species in the next management visit	March - October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scrub															
Ongoing gap-filling with specimens where necessary to encourage a thick scrub layer and prevent basal gaps.	October - March		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual cut of transitional grassland margin and maintenance cut of rides and glades	09	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coppicing on an 8-year rotation.	November – early February	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check for establishment of INNS and removal of any schedule 9 species in the next management visit	March - October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation Area															
Annual monitoring of skylark plot and lapwing scrape uptake	March-August	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual cut of grassland in southern extent of the mitigation area	September	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Management Prescriptions	Timing of Works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16- 20	Year 21-25	Year 26 - 30	+30 Years
Annual cut and redrilling of northern extent of the mitigation area	February	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Wildlife boxes/Hibernacula															
Management and replacement of bat/bird boxes	November - February	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hibernacula to be annually monitored for 5 years post construction, followed by every 2-3 years thereafter. Failure / damage to the hibernacula will be repaired	March - September	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

BG25.587 Land at Blythe House Farm – LEMP



Appendix 2: Mitigation Plans

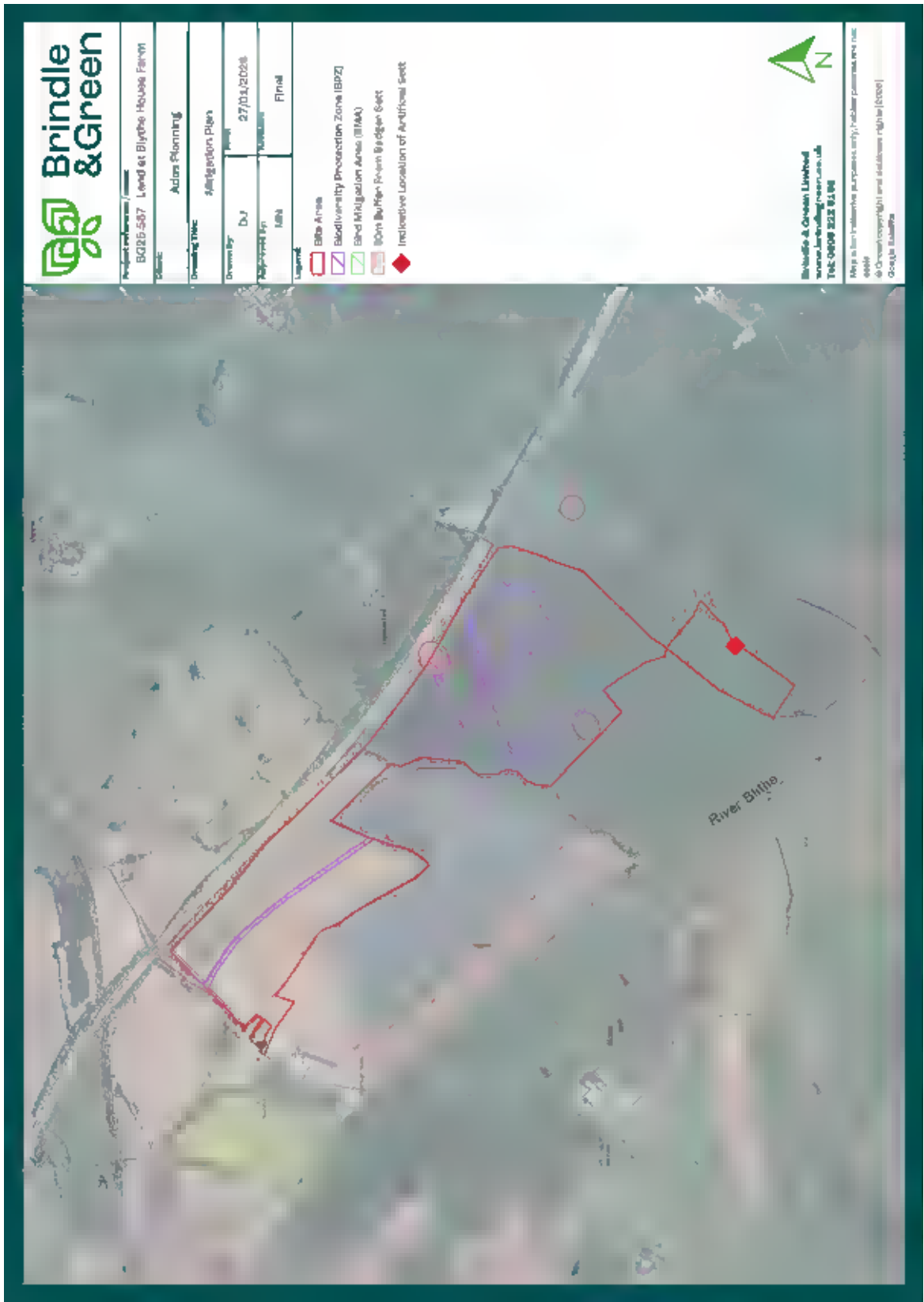


Figure 1: Mitigation Plan showing Biodiversity Protection Zones and Breeding Bird Mitigation Zone

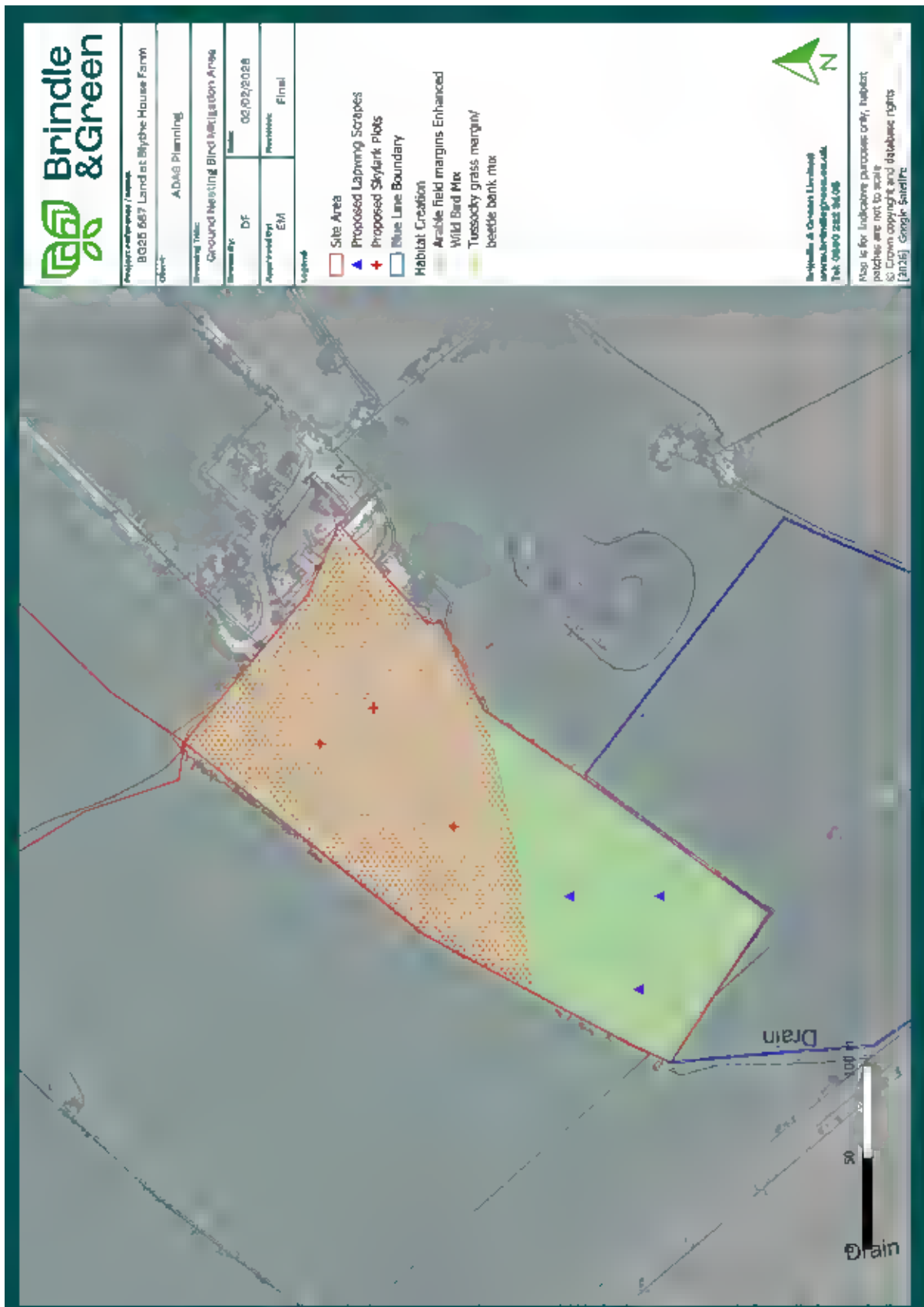


Figure 2: Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation Area Plan



Figure 3: Landscaping Plan (Corylus, March 2022)

Appendix 3: Legislation

Badgers (*Meles meles*)

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It is illegal to wilfully kill, injure, disturb or take any badger, or attempt to do so and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, or obstruct access to any part of a badger sett.

Site assessments are undertaken in accordance with:

- Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). Surveying Badgers.

During the badger survey conducted on 15/01/2026, the site and the 30-metre zone of Influence considered for this species are searched for evidence of badger activity. The surveyor will identify evidence of activity, or habitat suitability for this protected species. Even if no evidence of badger activity is found, if local conditions suggest that the habitat may be suitable for badger, further surveys including camera analysis of sett entrances to determine use will be recommended.

Appendix 4: References

Morellett et al., (2013) Seasonality, weather and climate affect home range size in roe deer across a wide latitudinal gradient within Europe, Journal of Animal Ecology 2013, 82, 1326–1339 doi: 10.1111/1365-2656.12105

British Deer Society (2025) [The British Deer Society](#) accessed on 02/02/2026

Rural Payments Agency (2016) Creating Wader Scrapes [WN2: Creation of scrapes and gutters - GOV.UK](#) accessed on 28/01/2026

Tyler Grange Group Limited (2022) Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation Plan 15483_R01a_JD_NC

N5 Long Season Meadow Mixture (Naturescape) [N5 Long Season Meadow Mixture | Naturescape Wildflower Farm](#)

N8 Water's Edge Meadow Mixture (Naturescape) [N8 Water's Edge Meadow Mixture | Naturescape Wildflower Farm](#)

Enhanced Two Year Wild Bird Mix (AHL2/CAHL2/AB9) Ref: MIXEWB (Cotswold grass seeds) [Enhanced Two Year Wild Bird Mix \(AHL2/CAHL2/AB9\)](#)

Beetle Bank & Tussocky Grass Margin (AHL3 & AHL4) Ref: mixbb [Beetle Bank & Tussocky Grass Margin \(AHL3 & AHL4\)](#)

RammSanderson Ltd (2022) Blythe Solar Farm Ecological Impact Assessment RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA

Appendix 5: Confidential Badger Records

Image	Description
Photograph 1	
	Mammal run-through at the southwest of the site
Photograph 2	
	Badger print identified at the southwest of the site

Image	Description
Photograph 3	
	Mammal run-through within the zone of influence south of the site
Photograph 4	
	Main sett entrance at the northern end of the site Tunnel directed northeast
Photograph 5	

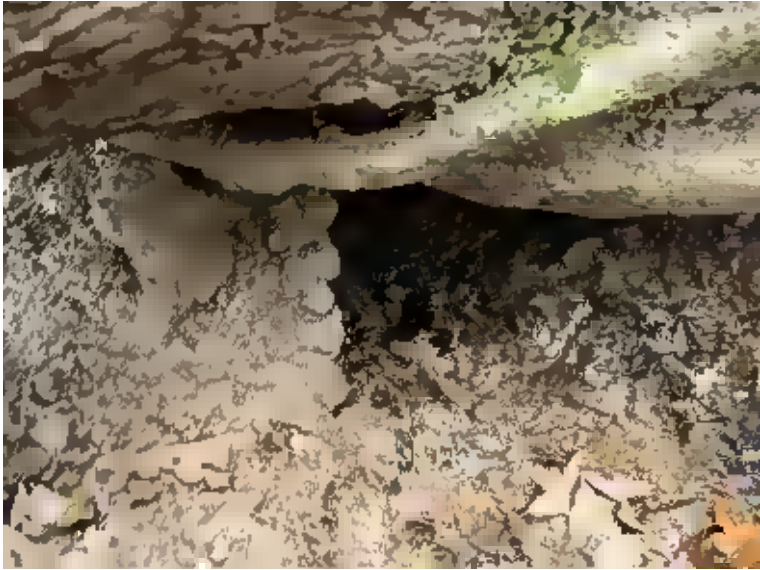
Image	Description
	Main sett entrance at the northern end of the site Tunnel directed southeast
Photograph 6	
	Main sett entrance at the northern end of the site Tunnel directed north
Photograph 7	

Image	Description
	Outlier sett entrance at the south of the site, tunnel directed northeast

Table 3: Badger survey photographs

Badger (*Meles meles*) are present on site, with a main sett identified in the EcIA (RSE_5710b_R1_V2_ECIA, March 2022) reconfirmed as active during a follow up survey conducted by Brindle and Green in January 2026; and an outlier sett identified at the south of the site also confirmed as active during the follow up survey (Figure 2). The main sett comprised nine entrance holes facing northwest and west and the surrounding area hosted a number of signs of recent activity including fresh prints, mammal run-throughs and foraging activity. The outlier sett at the southern extent of the site comprised three entrances; one facing north and the other two facing southwest. Two of the entrances to this sett were determined to be partially active with the remaining entrance identified as active with fresh prints leading from the sett to the wider site. A further outlier sett was identified within the zone of influence to the east, comprising a single partially active entrance facing west. A plan showing the location of all entrances identified and the direction of the tunnels is included in Figure 4 to Figure 8.

The main sett and outlier sett on site will require closure under a Natural England Badger License and the outlier sett within the zone of influence will be suitable protected during works. Construction activities will follow precautionary working methods detailed in the CEMP (BG25.587, January 2026)



Figure 4: Badger Survey Map 1 of 5

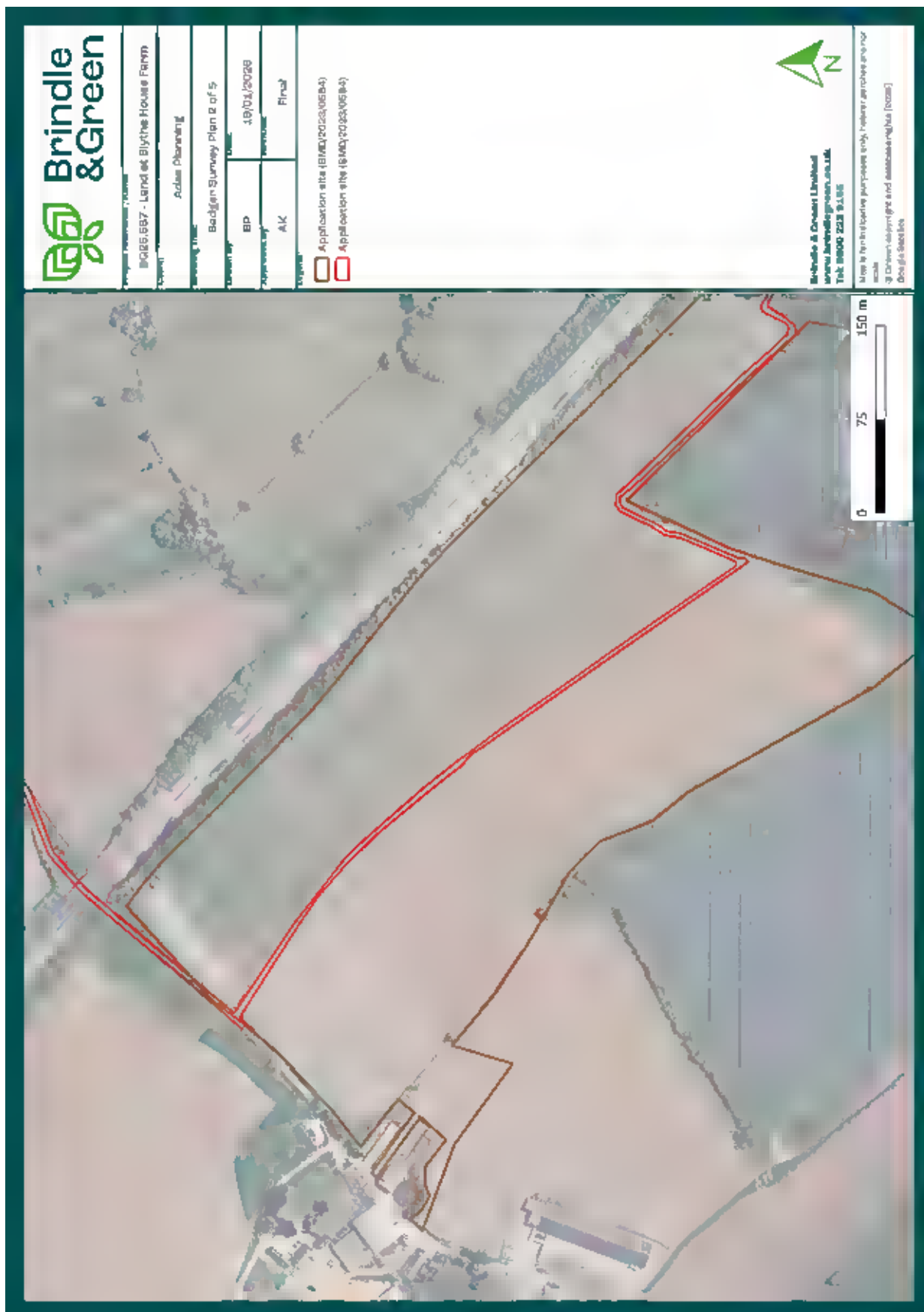


Figure 5: Badger Survey Map 2 of 5



Figure 6: Badger Survey Map 3 of 5



Figure 7: Badger Survey Map 4 of 5

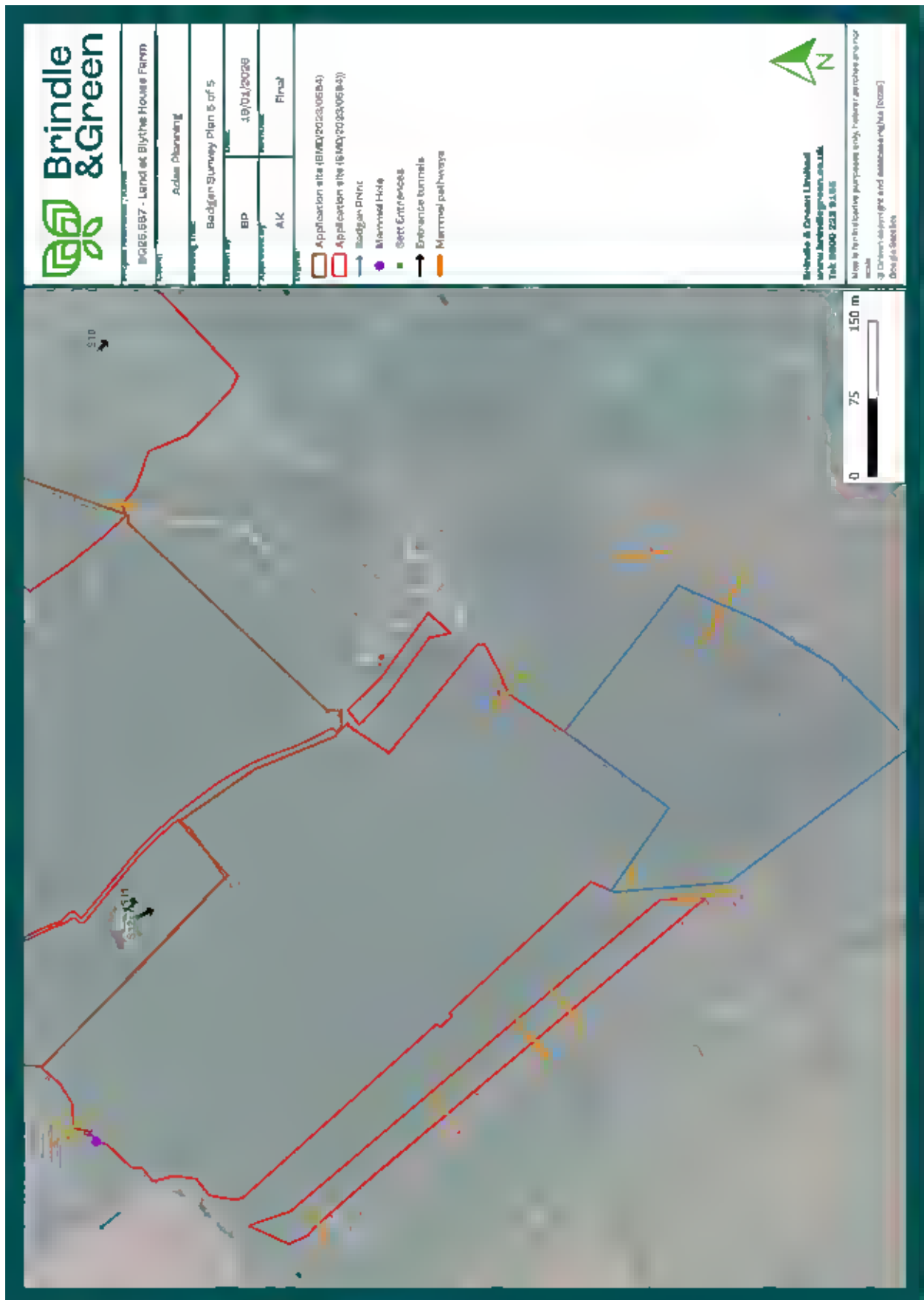


Figure 8: Badger Survey Map 5 of 5