Outline Meadow Management Plan for Land South of London Road, Coldwaltham allocated under emerging Policy SD64 of the Submission South Downs Local Plan.

Introduction

This Outline Meadow Management Plan (OMMP) is a jointly agreed document between the Barlavington Estate and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). It sets out a summary of high level enhancements and management approaches related to the development of draft Allocation SD64: Land South of London Road, Coldwaltham in the Submission South Downs Local Plan. Any planning application for the site will need to be accompanied by a more detailed meadow management plan informed by up-to-date ecological information and to be approved by the SDNPA as the local planning authority prior to the grant of planning permission. The detailed plan will provide the technical specifics necessary to achieve the net gain in biodiversity for the site including timing and phasing of actions; it will also include a long term monitoring section. The enhancements set out in this document are the responsibility of the Barlavington Estate as landowner to implement. This responsibility passes in perpetuity to any future landowner of the site.

Appendix 1 is a map of the draft allocation site showing the proposed area of housing and the residual area of open space. The map references the areas of habitat enhancement and methods of management set out in the OMMP.

The Barlavington Estate and the SDNPA note and agree that the following major modification to the Submission Local Plan:

The site itself is of biodiversity value and any development proposal will need to be demonstrably guided by the existing nature conservation interest of the site, which will be informed by appropriate survey. It will be necessary to design the development to maximise existing habitats and species and retain a large proportion of undeveloped land for the purpose of retaining and enhancing biodiversity. It is of key importance therefore that the development itself and the residual open space are designed around the existing biodiversity value and not to provide amenity grassland except for that area adjacent to the south west boundary of the new homes. This must be carefully designed in order to provide a net gain in biodiversity at the local level.

Reference should be made to the following documents in the Core Document Library:

- The Submission Local Plan (SDLP/01) and Schedule of Changes (SDLP01.1)
- The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Land South of London Road, Coldwaltham produced by Wildlife Splash on behalf of the SDNPA (SS09)
- Development brief for London Road, Coldwaltham (SS05)

Enhancements and Methods of Management

The Barlavington Estate agree to implement the following enhancements to the open space allocated under emerging Policy SD64: Land South of London Road, Coldwaltham

Meadow Management and Enhancement

The residual meadow area as shown on the Map in Appendix 1 will be kept under traditional meadow management, which is a cut in the late summer after flowering and seed set followed by grazing of the aftermath. This will slowly strip the meadow of nutrients and will churn the soil, trample in the seeds and provide small bare patches and niches providing safe sites for germination. It is also beneficial to a range of invertebrates. The shorter mown grassland will increase the value of the meadow for invertebrates giving basking and hunting opportunities, particularly if the pathway eventually becomes a well-trodden track. The cuttings will be removed to prevent nutrient build up.

Hedgerow creation

The restoration of the gappy hedgerow along the south west boundary of the field will provide a continuous corridor from woodland to the north of the field to woodland to the south west of the field. This would be of immense value to dispersing Dormice if they are in the area. It would also provide a safe corridor (flight line) for commuting bats to the north of the site accessing the rich foraging grounds of Waltham Brooks.

Scrub creation along the hedgerows particularly in the south and west corners of the field will support breeding nightingales at Waltham Brooks.

Restoration and strengthening of the hedge that runs south east along the site boundary will serve to deter access on to Waltham Brooks.

A hedgerow to replace the metal fencing around the existing housing, including the south east facing edge of the housing, will vastly increase the potential for nesting birds, invertebrates and reptiles. Moreover a hedgerow around the new housing will further achieve this and, in total, this will amount to approximately 750 m of new hedgerow creation.

The hedgerows will comprise native species sourced from stock of local provenance where possible , with a mixture of properties such as berries, nuts, nectar, thorns and dense foliage selected from the following list of suitable species:

- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa)*
- Common Dog Rose (*Rosa canina)*
- Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris)*
- Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea)*
- Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
- Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum)*
- Hawthorn *(Crataegus monogyna)*
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium)*
- Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur)*
- Yew (*Taxus baccata)*

Hedgerow management

Subsequent hedgerow management will seek to maximise the biodiversity potential for all groups.

When cutting the field a margin of vegetation of one to two metres wide should be left allowing a margin Bramble grading into tall herbaceous vegetation to develop. Hedgerows will be trimmed in January or February to avoid the destruction of birds' nests (present from March to August) and to allow any berry crop to be used by wintering birds (September to December).

Hedgerows will be trimmed on a two or three year rotation, rather than annually, to ensure that thick nesting cover is available, and to boost the berry crop that generally develops on second-year growth.

Nectar and niche provision

The addition of species with a longer corolla such as Betony *Betonica officinalis*, Common Comfrey *Symphytum officinale*, Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* and Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* (a plant specifically for hawk-moths) will provide a welcome nectar source for long-tongued bumblebees and hawk-moths.

Additionally, an increase in the range of flowering plant species will result in far more niches for invertebrates and encourage specialist invertebrates that may be reliant on a particular, less common plant species.

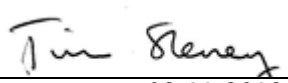
Proposed pathways, hedgerows and short-term grazing will also vastly increase the number of niches available for invertebrates.

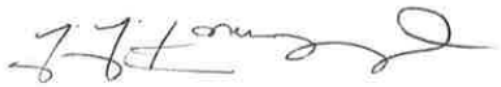
Artificial nest sites

Nest boxes will incorporated into the new development with boxes incorporated into the buildings facing the meadow. They can be placed under eaves and on walls. It is also recommended that bat bricks and boxes be incorporated into the fabric of the buildings.

A Barn Owl box will be fitted to one of the Oaks along the south east boundary of the meadow to take advantage of the high quality foraging opportunities in the vicinity for such birds of prey.

The Sussex Wildlife Trust will support the Barlavington Estate with conservation management advice when required, to ensure that the meadow remains in positive conservation management and enhances the biodiversity value of the adjacent designated site.

Signed on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority 
Date: 08-11-2018
Name: Tim Slaney
Position Director of Planning

Signed on behalf of the Barlavington Estate 
Date 08-11-18
Name: Jeremy Farrelly
Position: Planning Associate, Genesis Town Planning Ltd

19.8m

5m

The Cottage

Wildbrooks

Brookview South

PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Playground

FOOTPATH LINK

BROOKVIEW

BROOKLAND WAY

Widneys

Post

El Sub Sta

Tudor House

ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Gardens

NEW HEDGEROW PLANTED TO WESTERN BOUNDARY OF ALLOTMENTS.

PROPOSED MEADOW AREA WITH PUBLIC ACCESS - MOWN PATHS THROUGH MEADOW GRASS WITH POSSIBLE MOWN AREA TO FORM OPEN ACCESS PLAY AREA.

METAL CHAIN LINK FENCE REMOVED.

NEW DOUBLE FENCE WITH HEDGE PLANTED IN GAP BETWEEN POINTS 'A' AND 'B'.

PROPOSED MEADOW AREA. NO PUBLIC ACCESS. CUT IN LATE SUMMER TO HAY / SILAGE - RE-GROWTH GRAZED WITH CATTLE.

COPPICING AND HEDGE RESTORATION SOUTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY

2m FIELD MARGIN AROUND MEADOWS (LEFT UNCUT FOR WILDLIFE BENEFIT).

HEDGEROW TO BE COPPICED AND RE-PLANTED FILLING IN GAPS TO FORM CORRIDOR WITH NATIVE SPECIES SUCH AS BLACKTHORN, HAWTHORN, CRAB APPLE, DOG ROSE, FIELD MAPLE, HOLLY AND STANDARD OAKS FORMING OVERSTORY. NEST BOXES TO BE INCORPORATED IN HEDGEROW TREES. BARN OWL BOX TO BE SITED IN OAK TREES.

PROPOSED WOODLAND / SCRUB AREA TO BE PLANTED UP TO IMPROVE BIRD HABITAT AND SCREEN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS FROM SITE.

Sewage Works

A

B

N

Scale bar (m)

0 15 30 45 60 75 150

PLAN SHOWING MANAGEMENT OF MEADOW ON LAND SOUTH OF LONDON ROAD, COLDWALTHAM BY THE BARLAVINGTON ESTATE

SCALE 1:1500 @A3

DATE NOV 18

DWG NO 829/01