

LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

RADWELL BURY FARM BESS, HERTFORDSHIRE

prepared by



commissioned by

BALANCE POWER PROJECTS LTD.

AUGUST 2026



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Project Title	Radwell Bury Farm BESS		
Project Number	9592		
Document Title	Landscape & Ecological Management Plan		
Client	Balance Power Projects Ltd.		
Author	Charlie Durigan		
Version	1.0 – Draft for comment	Issued on	8 th July 2026
	2.0 – Final for submission		18 th August 2026
	3.0 – Minor amends		19 th August 2026
Checked and Approved for issue by	Polly Luscombe		

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Clarkson and Woods Ltd. were commissioned by Balance Power Projects Ltd. to prepare a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) for Radwell Bury Farm Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near Letchworth Garden City, Herts.

1.1.2 This document has been prepared in order to inform the discharge of the following planning condition:

North Herts Council (Application No: 24/02713/FP) - Condition 10

A landscape and ecological management plan (LEMP) shall be submitted to, and be approved in writing by, the local planning authority prior to commencement of the development. The content of the LEMP shall include the following;

- a) Description and evaluation of features to be managed*
- b) Aims and objectives of management in accordance with the Biodiversity Gain Plan for the site*
- c) Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives*
- d) Prescriptions for management actions*
- e) Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a 30 year period)*
- f) Details of the body or organization responsible for implementation of the plan; and*
- g) Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures.*

The LEMP shall also include details of the legal and funding mechanism(s) by which the long-term implementation of the plan will be secured by the developer with the management body(ies) responsible for its delivery.

The plan shall also set out (where the results from monitoring show that conservation aims and objectives of the LEMP are not being met) how contingencies and/or remedial action will be identified, agreed and implemented so that the development still delivers the fully functioning biodiversity objectives of the originally approved scheme.

The approved plan will be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure the proposal has regard for the long term management and maintenance of habitats and ecology within the site, in line with Policy NE2 and NE4 of the Local Plan.

1.1.3 The preparation of this LEMP has been informed by the following documents:

- Ecological Impact Assessment¹
- Detailed Soft Landscape Plan²
- Drainage General Arrangement³
- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (provided within EclA) and Statutory Metric (v2) for the Site.

1.1.4 Table 1 below signposts where each requirement of Condition 10 is addressed within this document.

Table 1: Condition 10 Compliance

Requirement of Condition 10	Where addressed
Description and evaluation of features to be managed	Sections 3 and 4
Aims and objectives of management in accordance with the Biodiversity Gain Plan for the site	Section 3

¹ Ecological Impact Assessment – v3, Radwell Bury Farm BESS. Clarkson and Woods (September 2024)

² Detailed Soft Landscape Plan ref: 3600-01-L-DR-03 & 04. Radwell Bury Farm BESS. Axis (July 2026)

³ Drainage General Arrangement ref: 5024440-RDG-XX-XX-D-C-0500-P02. Ridge (August 2024)



Requirement of Condition 10	Where addressed
Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives	Section 4
Prescriptions for management actions	Section 4 (MS1 - MS7)
Preparation of a work schedule, including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a 30 year period	Appendix A; Section 1
Details of the body or organisation responsible for implementation of the plan	Section 2
Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures	Section 5 (with MS2, MS5 and MS6)
Details of the legal and funding mechanism(s) by which long-term implementation will be secured	Section 2
How contingencies an/or remedial action will be identified, agreed and implemented where monitoring shows objectives are not being met	MS8

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 The purpose of this LEMP is to:

- Set out the agreed objectives for landscape management of the Site;
- Set clear standards for the performance of landscape maintenance work;
- Assist in the development of work programmes for landscape maintenance staff;
- Establish landscape maintenance responsibilities; and
- Help monitor success and progress against the objectives

1.2.2 The LEMP provides management regimes and schedules for the habitats and key ecological features present (or expected to be present) within the Site, as well as details of responsible personnel. In addition, prescriptions for the installation and maintenance of habitat enhancement features are described. Long-term monitoring of the Site is also specified to evaluate success and progress against the aims and objectives, and to provide strategies for identifying and implementing remedial measures if required.

1.2.3 This LEMP has been prepared in accordance with guidelines set out within the Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development, British Standard 42020:2013.

1.2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), revised in December 2024, provides guidance on consideration of biodiversity in the planning process and states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by “minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures”. It also states that “opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate”. This LEMP seeks to maximise the ecological benefits which the development may offer.

1.2.5 The prescriptions laid out in this LEMP relate to the operational phase of the development. The landscape proposals are set out in the scheme required under Condition 12 of the planning permission, and landscape maintenance during the establishment period (Years 1 to 5) is detailed within the Landscape Management Plan (LMP) submitted to inform the discharge of Condition 13. This LEMP operates alongside the LMP during that period and will be implemented for a minimum of 30 years from the completion of construction, with the annual work plan at Appendix A rolled forward each year over that period. The details of this plan must be regularly reviewed by competent and qualified persons and revised, if necessary. The LEMP may be modified at any time to address issues identified at the Site, although any changes to the LEMP must be sent to the LPA for approval.



2 RESPONSIBLE PERSONNEL & LINES OF COMMUNICATION

2.1 Site Owner

- 2.1.1 Balance Power Projects Ltd. (Site Owner) are to be responsible for the implementation of this LEMP through the lifespan of the development and shall ensure that the party responsible for management of the Site fulfils the measures detailed in this LEMP.
- 2.1.2 The Site owners shall liaise with the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to commission and arrange an ecologist's input or site attendance, where required.
- 2.1.3 Should management responsibilities of the Site change, new personnel will be made aware of and action this LEMP.

2.2 Management Company and Landscape Contractors

- 2.2.1 The appointed management company shall supply landscape contractors who are duly competent and have a duty to ensure that the stipulated measures in the LEMP are being implemented correctly.

2.3 Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

- 2.3.1 The ECoW will be a line of enquiry for issues requiring ecological expertise during the operational phase of the development. The ECoW shall assist and advise Balance Power Projects Ltd. and their appointed management company in their adherence to the requirements of this LEMP.
- 2.3.2 Ecological queries should be directed to Clarkson & Woods Ltd. Where another ecological consultancy is employed to fulfil this role, any ecologist must be suitably qualified, have at least two years' experience and be in receipt of suitable training in how the responsibilities of the ECoW are to be discharged.

2.4 Contact Details

	Name	Phone	Address
Main Contractor	Balance Power Projects Ltd.	0151 958 0431	107 Leaside, St. Helens WA9 5GG
ECoW	Clarkson & Woods	01934 712500	Overbrook Business Centre, Poolbridge Road, Blackford, Somerset BS28 4PA
Management Company	TBC		
Landscape Contractor	TBC		

2.5 Legal and Funding Mechanism(s)

- 2.5.1 At present, no management company has been appointed. The responsibility for implementing and funding the LEMP rests with the Site Owner, who will fund the management measures through project investment and operational revenues for the lifetime of the development. Should a management company and/or landscape contractor be appointed, delivery of this LEMP will be secured through the contract(s) for those services, and the obligations of this LEMP will transfer to any subsequent operator of the development.



3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 Habitats to be Managed

- 3.1.1 The habitats to be created and managed under this LEMP, their approximate extent and the target condition to be achieved and maintained, are set out in Table 2 below, in accordance with the Biodiversity Gain Plan for the Site (Clarkson & Woods, July 2026) and the accompanying Statutory Biodiversity Metric (v2). Together these habitats deliver a net gain of 6.44 area habitat units (+72.1%) and 2.56 hedgerow units (+33.7%) against the pre-development baseline.

Table 2: Summary of Proposed BNG Habitats

Habitat (BNG type)	Location and establishment	Approx. Extent	Target condition	Managed under
Modified grassland	Undeveloped areas across the Site, seeded with Emorsgate EM5	c. 2.5ha	Good (Table 3)	MS1, MS3
Pond edge and SuDS marginal vegetation and SuDs features	Seeded with Emorsgate EM8 and EP1	c. 0.14ha	Moderate (Table 4)	MS3, MS6
Mixed scrub (h3h)	Buffer planting to the eastern boundary and copse parcels, per the approved landscape plan	c. 0.4ha	Moderate (Table 5)	MS4, MS5
Native species-rich hedgerow	New double-staggered planting along the western and part of the northern boundaries	c. 0.3km	Moderate (Table 6)	MS4, MS5
Retained hedgerows	Southern and eastern boundaries, retained and protected during construction (CEMP: Biodiversity refers)	c. 0.5km	Maintained to at least baseline condition (Moderate)	MS5

- 3.1.2 Habitat creation works (ground preparation, seeding and planting) are secured through the approved landscape scheme (Condition 12) and are described in MS1 and MS4; this LEMP secures the long-term management, monitoring and remediation of these habitats. As-built extents will be confirmed following construction and recorded in the first monitoring report (MS8).
- 3.1.3 This LEMP has been prepared to ensure that the opportunities for landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement presented by the development are realised, and to maximise the potential for biodiversity net gain.
- 3.1.4 The following objectives have been identified which, if met, will ensure that retained and newly created habitats and ecological features are managed appropriately for the long-term benefit of biodiversity.
- 3.1.5 These objectives will be addressed through the Prescriptions provided in Section 4, along with a timetable of implementation in Appendix A. The Prescriptions will be implemented by the landscape maintenance contractors/ management personnel who will action this LEMP during the operational phase of the development.

- **Objective 1: To manage the newly seeded grassland to establish a diverse sward and achieve Modified Grassland in Good condition under the BNG metric**

The undeveloped areas of the Site will be seeded with Emorsgate EM5 'Meadow Mixture for Loamy Soils'. SuDS features will be seeded with EM8 'Meadow Mixture for Wetlands' and EP1 'Pond Edge Mixture'.

These areas of grassland will be managed for diversity, which will benefit a range of species including birds, small mammals (including foraging bats) and invertebrates. The grassland will be managed to achieve at least Modified Grassland (MG) in Good condition (Table 3 refers) and SuDs Habitat in Moderate condition (Table 4).



Table 3: Target Condition Assessment for MG (Good)

A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.	Y
B	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 vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Y/N
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present).	Y
D	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.	Y
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Y
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Y
Essential criterion achieved		Y
Number of criteria passed		6-7

Table 4: Target Condition Assessment for SuDs (Moderate)

Core Criteria		
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	N
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	Y
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) ² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area ³ . Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Y
Additional Criterion for Bioswale and SuDs Habitat Types		
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife ⁴ .	Y
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.	Y
Number of criteria passed		4



- **Objective 2: To manage newly planted hedgerow and tree/shrub buffers to maximise their biodiversity value and achieve Moderate condition under the BNG metric**

Newly planted hedgerows along the western and part of the northern site boundaries, and a native scrub buffer along the eastern boundary will be managed to maximise their value for wildlife and visual amenity. This will be achieved through a cutting regime that allows wildlife to survive and recolonise before subsequent cuts.

Table 5: Target Condition Assessment for Scrub (Moderate)

A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species, - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Y
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	N
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA5) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Y
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and/or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Y
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Y/N
Number of criteria passed		3-4

Table 6: Target Condition Assessment for Native Species-rich Hedgerows (Moderate)

A1	Height	>1.5 m average along length, woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	N
A2	Width	>1.5 m average along length	N
B1	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Y
B2	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and no canopy gaps >5 m	Y
C1	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length. Measured from outer edge of hedgerow and present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	Y
C2	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	Y
D1	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA3) and recently introduced species.	Y
D2	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	Y
Number of criteria passed			6



- **Objective 3: To monitor the Site and assess the success of management and adherence to the prescribed management**

In order to deliver the proposed ecological objectives, monitoring of the effects of management prescriptions will be required in order to ensure that these are effective, and to inform any necessary refinement of the site management. In addition, monitoring will include inspections of the ecological enhancements to assess their success and ensure their continued suitability.

4 BIODIVERSITY WORKING METHOD STATEMENTS

- 4.1.1 Adherence to the method statements detailed below will ensure that operational activities follow best practice measures relating to biodiversity, and will contribute to achieving the Objectives set out in Section 3.
- 4.1.2 The method statements below have been set out in discrete sections to allow them to be extracted and passed on to relevant contractors or filed/placed on a notice board on site, if required.
- 4.1.3 A summary of timings for implementation of these method statements is provided in Appendix A.
- 4.1.4 The Landscape Scheme, which shows the locations of all ecological habitats and features to be managed and monitored under the LEMP, is provided in the Detailed Soft Landscape Plan, secured under Condition 12 (drawings 3600-01-L-DR-03 and 04).
- 4.1.5 Periodic review of the Method Statements will be undertaken, informed by monitoring by the management company and the ecologist, to ensure that the recommendations remain relevant and any required remedial action is taken. Should any changes in management be required, this LEMP will be amended.



METHOD STATEMENT No.1: Grassland Seeding

Project Name	Radwell Bury Farm BESS
Personnel Required	Landscape Contractor
Description of Work	Development of a diverse grassland sward through seeding with appropriate mix
Purpose	To ensure successful establishment of grassland and to increase the floristic diversity of the Site

Following completion of construction, the following (or similar) seed mixtures will be sown within the relevant areas of the Site:

- Emorsgate EM5 Meadow Mixture for Loamy Soils will be sown within the wider site
- Emorsgate EM8 Meadow Mixture for Wetlands will be sown within the proposed drainage features
- Emorsgate EP1 Pond Edge Mixture to the edges of standing open water

Seeding will be undertaken when weather conditions allow, avoiding periods of waterlogged ground, frost or drought, and in line with the supplier's recommendations (<https://wildseed.co.uk>), as follows:

Ground Preparation

EM5, EM8, EP1: *Good preparation is essential to success so aim to control weeds and produce a good quality seed bed before sowing. To prepare a seed bed first remove weeds using repeated cultivation. Then plough or dig to bury the surface vegetation, harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth.*

EM5, EM8: *After the above, roll to produce a level firm surface.*

EM5: *Loamy soils are easily worked and can usually be prepared for seeding in either the autumn or spring.*

Sowing

EM5, EM8: *Seed is best sown in the autumn or spring, but can be sown at other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture. Sowings on ground prone to winter flooding are safest either in the early autumn or in spring once the land has drained. Most plants need time to grow mature enough to withstand flooding.*

The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. To get an even distribution and avoid running out, divide the seed into two or more parts and sow in overlapping sections. Do not incorporate or cover the seed, but firm in with a roll, to give good soil/seed contact.

EP1: *Sowings on ground prone to winter flooding are safest either in late summer or in spring once the land has drained. Most plants need time to grow mature enough to withstand flooding. The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. To get an even distribution and avoid running out divide the seed into two or more parts and sow in overlapping sections. Do not incorporate or cover the seed.*

If there are any areas which have suffered high soil compaction prior to seeding, for instance due to heavy machinery being deployed, additional remedial works may be required to ensure the soil structure is suitable for subsequent sowing. If such a requirement arises, caution should be exercised to ensure newly installed underground services are not damaged during such operations.

If there is an abundance of annual or perennial weeds within areas to be seeded, consideration may be given to the spot treatment of these areas with a glyphosate non-residual herbicide prior to the preparation of the ground (harrow and rolling) and subsequent seeding.

No chemical fertilisers will be used as this encourages the growth of vigorous grasses and weeds, restricting meadow flowers.

Reporting Requirements	Log of activities conducted to be kept and shared with the management company
Monitoring/Aftercare Requirement	Inspection of establishment success as required in MS2 , Aftercare and management as required in MS3 , Monitoring as required in MS8



METHOD STATEMENT No.2: Grassland Establishment Inspection

Project Name	Radwell Bury Farm BESS
Personnel Required	Operations & Management Company
Description of Work	Inspect development of grassland sward and deliver remedial action if necessary
Purpose	To ensure successful establishment of grassland and identify issues with establishment at early stage

An inspection will be undertaken in early-August in the first year following seeding of the grassland in **MS1**. The inspection will be undertaken by the O&M company or an ecologist. Should the proportion of bare ground be greater than 20%, sowing will be repeated in these areas. Reseeding in August is likely to be particularly appropriate where the months of May, June and July have been very dry.

The O&M company will continue to assess the proportion of bare ground on the Site. Newly seeded grassland areas are unlikely to remain bare for extended periods of time. In the unlikely event that grassland fails to become established upon areas of bare ground created during the works, these areas should be lightly scarified and reseeded with the same seed mix used to seed as per **MS1**

Reporting Requirements	Log of activities conducted to be kept and shared with the management company
Monitoring/Aftercare Requirement	Aftercare and management as required in MS3 , Monitoring as required in MS8



METHOD STATEMENT No. 3: Grassland Management

Project Name	Radwell Bury Farm BESS
Personnel Required	Land Manager / Operations Manager / Landscape Contractor
Description of Work	Ongoing grassland management
Purpose	To inform appropriate management of grassland managed for floral diversity

First Year Management

The newly seeded areas of grassland will be subject to regular (approx. monthly) cutting (August to March) to a height of 400-600mm during the first year of establishment to prevent the proliferation of annual weeds within the sward.

Arisings will be collected to prevent the build-up of nutrients and thereby promote the establishment of a diverse sward. These can be taken off site or used to create a compost heap within the Site (>20m from any existing or newly created waterbodies, such as the SuDS features). If this is not possible, the frequency of cutting should be increased so that arisings can be dispersed without creating a significant mulch layer.

Management will be broadly undertaken in line with the supplier's recommendations (<https://wildseed.co.uk>), as follows:

EM5, EM8: *Resist cutting the annual weeds until mid- to late-summer (especially the EM5 mixture which contains Yellow Rattle). Then cut and remove the cuttings. This will reveal the young meadow, which can then be kept short (i.e. to 50mm) by grazing or mowing through to the end of March of the following year.*

EP1: *In the first year, annual weed growth may be cut back to encourage the development of a good perennial ground cover. Establishment on sites prone to flooding may be patchy and may take several years to fully colonise.*

Annual weeds may arise within the sward, originating from the existing soil seed bank. If in low numbers, these should be kept to provide initial cover for developing sown seedlings and to act as a seasonal supply of forage for local invertebrates. If these annuals are considered dense enough to prevent the establishment of germinating seedlings from the sown seed mixture, they should be subjected to regular cutting during the first year of establishment, with arisings collected and either moved off-site or used to create a compost heap within the Site (as above).

Dig out any residual perennial weeds, such as docks, from all areas using hand tools.

Management Once Established (Second Year onwards)

Grassland will be managed to achieve at least Modified Grassland in Good condition under the BNG metric (Table 3 refers), seeking to target the following criteria:

- At least 6-8 vascular plant species will be present per m², including at least two forbs (the essential criterion for Good condition);
- Sward height will be varied, with at least 20% of the sward less than 7cm and at least 20% more than 7cm in height;
- Cover of bare ground will be between 1% and 10%, physical damage will be evident across less than 5% of the grassland area, and scrub and bracken will each account for less than 20%; and
- There will be an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA).

EM5 & EM8: *The best results are usually obtained by traditional meadow management based around a main summer hay cut in combination with autumn and possibly spring mowing or grazing.*

The grassland will not be cut or grazed from spring (late-March/April) through to late-July/August to give the sown species an opportunity to flower. After flowering in July or August 50% of the Site will be cut to c. 100mm, alternating on a 2-year rotation. The arisings will be left to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days and then remove from site.

Should issues with establishment or floral diversity be identified during monitoring visits, additional cuts may be required, for example by mowing re-growth through to late autumn/winter (i.e. October/November) to c.50mm, or a second cut in spring, or shifting to an annual hay-cut regime.



METHOD STATEMENT No. 3: Grassland Management

EM5: Loamy soils tend to be more fertile, encouraging the growth of grasses. Increasing the frequency of mowing or grazing to remove surplus grass can help to maintain a balanced sward structure with a good flower content. This will be informed by annual inspections.

Dense stands of single species, such as bulrush, yellow iris or common reed, for example, will be selectively thinned out as required (to be informed by annual monitoring).

Pond edge management will be carried out between September and October to minimise impacts to wildlife.

SuDS Features

The SuDS features (attenuation basins, swales and associated ditches) serve both a drainage and a biodiversity function. Vegetation management will maintain the hydraulic performance of these features in accordance with the approved drainage design (Drainage General Arrangement ref: 5024440-RDG-XX-XX-D-C-0500-P02) while maximising their value for wildlife; where a separate drainage maintenance schedule applies, works will be coordinated so that neither regime compromises the other. The SuDS features will be managed to achieve at least Moderate condition under the BNG metric (Table 4 refers).

Basin floors and side slopes seeded with EM8 will be managed as part of the wider grassland.

Marginal and pond-edge vegetation sown with EP1 will be subject to low-intensity rotational management, cutting and removing approximately one third of the vegetated margin of each feature per year in September – October, such that no feature is entirely cut in any one year and a varied vegetation structure is maintained at all times. Dense single-species stands (e.g. bulrush *Typha latifolia*, common reed *Phragmites australis* or flag iris *Iris pseudacorus*) will be selectively thinned where annual monitoring indicates they are dominating, and any accumulation of silt or arisings that could impede inlets, outlets or flow control structures will be reported for removal.

All cutting will be undertaken during dry conditions using equipment appropriate to soft ground, working from the banks wherever possible, and arisings will be removed and placed no closer than 20m from any waterbody. Cut material will be left adjacent to the water's edge for 24–48 hours prior to removal to allow aquatic and semi-aquatic wildlife to return to the feature. Immediately prior to works, a check for nesting birds, amphibians and other wildlife will be made, and works will be postponed or adjusted where necessary.

No chemical fertilisers will be used, no herbicides will be applied within 10m of the top of any ditch or waterbody, and any control of invasive or undesirable species within or adjacent to wet features will be by mechanical or hand methods only. Should aquatic invasive non-native species (e.g. New Zealand pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*) colonise any feature, works will cease in that area and a control strategy will be agreed with the ecologist under MS8 before management resumes, with biosecurity measures (Check-Clean-Dry) applied to all equipment moving between wet features.

General

Where grazing is implemented, the SuDS features will be fenced off to prevent access by livestock.

Newly created ditches are to be managed in line with the wider grassland.

Where waterlogged or boggy areas are regularly observed within the wider grassland on Site and grassland seeding is unsuccessful, the area will be resown with a more appropriate mixture, such as EM8 or EP1.

Mowing will only take place during periods of dry weather to ensure that waterlogged ground is not damaged by machinery. All arisings will be removed from site following each cut. Machines and heavy equipment will be used with care on wet sites to avoid damage to soil and vegetation.

No chemical fertilisers will be used as this encourages the growth of vigorous grasses and weeds, restricting wildflower growth. The use of weed killers will be avoided and used only as spot treatments and/or with hand-held sprayers where absolutely necessary. No use of chemicals within 10m from the top of ditches will be undertaken.

Reporting Requirements	Log of inspection and activities conducted to be kept by management company
Monitoring/Aftercare Requirement	Evidence of monitoring to be recorded as required in MS8



METHOD STATEMENT No.4: Tree, Hedgerow and Scrub Planting

Project Name	Radwell Bury Farm BESS
Personnel Required	Operations & Management Company / Landscape Contractor
Description of Work	Creation of new and supplementary planting of boundary vegetation and new areas of scrub and woodland.
Purpose	To improve the green infrastructure network in the Site, boost biodiversity and establish robust visual screening

All Planting

All hedgerow and scrub planting shall be conducted in accordance with the approved landscape plan in the first window following grassland seeding, between October and February inclusive. Container-grown stock can be planted at any time, but preferentially between early November and the end of April and will be used instead of bare root if planting cannot be carried out between October and February. Planting shall not be carried out during periods of frost, drought, cold drying winds or when the soil is waterlogged or frozen.

Best practice horticultural techniques should be used in the planting of scrub and hedgerow vegetation to ensure rapid early growth.

Hedgerow and scrub planting must not be undertaken within 20m of any badger sett. ECoW attendance and a toolbox talk will be required prior to planting being undertaken within 20-30m of a badger sett (the CEMP: Biodiversity for the Site refers – Clarkson & Woods, July 2026).

Soil around all newly planted trees and shrubs will be watered immediately after planting and prior to mulching as per the specifications of the landscape / planting plan to ensure the settling of soil around root-balls.

A mulch mat will be used around the base of the plants to reduce grass and weed growth, and to maintain moisture after initial planting.

Good general horticultural practices shall be employed, including avoidance of the use of peat, plant fertilisers, herbicides, slug pellets and pesticides. No herbicide is to be used in proximity to existing vegetation. Any herbicides must be listed on the HSE Pesticides Register of UK Authorised Products, and herbicide application must conform to the 'Pesticides: Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products' DEFRA, January 2006).

Where required to protect against browsing, biodegradable tree guards will be installed for new whip planting. Alternatively, mesh tree guards may be used, to reduce the likelihood of failure due to heat stress.

Hedgerows

A new native, species-rich hedgerow will be created along the north and western site boundaries. This will be planted in double-staggered rows. All new hedgerow plants will be sourced in accordance with BS 3936 and will be planted in accordance with BS 4428: 1989.

Soil around newly planted hedgerows will be watered immediately after planting and prior to the spreading of mulch.

A 1m strip will be cleared of vegetation in the areas of proposed hedge planting. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm in diameter will be removed from the planting areas and disposed of off-Site.

The hedgerows are to be notch-planted in an appropriate notch to take the full spread of the roots. Hedgerow species will be planted at a rate of four per linear metre in a double-staggered row at 0.5m centres. Woodland copse planting will be notch-planted at 2m centres, with species, stock sizes and locations as specified on the Detailed Soft Landscape Plan.



METHOD STATEMENT No.4: Tree, Hedgerow and Scrub Planting

Reporting Requirements

Log of activities conducted to be retained by the management company and shared with the Client/Developer

Monitoring/Aftercare Requirement

Aftercare and management as required in **MS5**, Monitoring as required in **MS8**



METHOD STATEMENT No.5: Tree, Hedgerow and Scrub Management

Project Name	Radwell Bury Farm BESS
Personnel Required	Operations & Management Company
Description of Work	Inspect development of woody vegetation and deliver remedial action if necessary
Purpose	To ensure successful establishment of woody vegetation

First Year of Management (after planting) – All Planting

During the first season of planting, all whips will be watered as necessary in accordance with the recommendations of the supplier. They will also be kept free of weeds and protected from rabbits.

New planting will be inspected on a bi-monthly basis after planting. Any failed planting will be identified and replaced within the next available planting season. Any standard trees which fail will be replaced on a like-for-like basis. Should a species repeatedly fail, a similar alternative of local provenance will be used.

Damaged, diseased or dead wood will be pruned immediately after first leaf break. The hedgerow whips will be lightly trimmed every second or third year, allowing the hedgerow to increase in size each time.

Subsequent Years - Scrub

Inspections will be conducted every autumn – winter during the first five years to assess the condition of the whips and inform the need for any replacement planting. Any dead or damaged plants will be noted and replaced (as specified above).

Copses of 'mixed scrub' will be allowed to develop to woodland, with management limited to establishment care, replacement of failures and edge management only. A rotational cutting approach to the edge habitat will be implemented, with no more than c.35% of the total area of scrub cut in any one year.

Cuts shall take place in January or February to avoid the bird-nesting season and to ensure that the scrub provides shelter and foraging resources through the winter months.

Subsequent Years - Hedgerows

New hedgerows will be managed to achieve at least Moderate Condition under the BNG metric, seeking to target the following criteria:

- Height and width will exceed 1.5m height along length on average;
- Gaps between the ground and base of the canopy will be <0.5m for >90% of length, and canopy gaps will be <5m, making up <10% of total length;
- >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground will be free of invasive non-native species, and >90% of the hedgerow will be free of damage caused by human activities; and
- At least 95% of hedgerow trees will be in a healthy condition, with little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by physical damage.

All established hedgerows will be cut on one side per year, on a 2–3-year rotation, with sections being distributed throughout the site, not in one continuous length. Hedgerows will be cut using an incremental cutting regime in January or February to avoid the bird nesting season (usually between March and August, but seasonally variable) and to ensure that the hedgerows provide shelter and foraging resources through the winter months. The cutting height will be raised by 10-15cm each year. This will allow plants to produce flowers and fruit, which are primarily borne on the previous year's growth, thereby providing foraging resources for invertebrates, birds and small mammals, whilst preventing the hedgerow height from increasing too rapidly.



METHOD STATEMENT No.5: Tree, Hedgerow and Scrub Management

A bushy growth will be promoted so that the hedgerows screening value is maintained, whilst also providing sheltering and foraging opportunities for wildlife. A minimum height of 3m will be maintained (in full leaf and excluding mature trees), with any shorter hedgerows being cut progressively taller each year.

After 10 years, any hedgerows which have become leggy may be laid to encourage more bushy growth. The ECoW/other professional is to advise on future management in line with the management cycle overleaf. Further information can be found in Hedgelink UK's "The Hedgerow Management Cycle" guidance document⁴ (see Figure 1 overleaf).

General

Unless biodegradable tree guards are used, removal of tree protection will be undertaken promptly once specimens have successfully established after at least three years, and once specimens are of a reasonable height. This is to prevent trunk distortion, damage and constriction which can be caused by tree guards and stakes, which can lead to structural weakness developing in the trunks.

Annual inspections for the first five years will be conducted by the O&M company to assess the condition of the hedgerow and inform the need for any replacement planting. Any dead or damaged plants will be noted and replaced (as required) on an annual basis for at least the first five years from initial planting.

A 0.5m radius around all planting will be maintained as weed free through application of mulch for the first 3 years after planting (5 years for trees). Herbicide shall be used as a last resort, with manual removal of weeds adopted preferentially. Any herbicide shall be selective and spot-sprayed to avoid drift.

Any dead or damaged plants will be noted during inspections in September for the first 5 years post-planting and replaced with stock of the same species in the next planting window. Where a single species is failing in large numbers, the species mix may need to be revised in agreement with the LPA.

Undesirable species identified through ecological monitoring shall be removed over winter (October – February).

Any pruning of trees and shrubs will ideally be carried out between October and February to avoid impacts on nesting birds and to ensure trees and shrubs are able to flower, fruit and set seed.

Any activities involving tree pruning or removal will be carried out subsequent to receiving advice from the ecologist re. roosting bats/nesting birds. A survey (and subsequent licensing) may be required to ensure the work is legally compliant.

Any wood produced from management activities may be piled within the Site to create habitat for wildlife such as invertebrates and amphibians.

Reporting Requirements	Log of activities conducted to be retained by the management company
Monitoring/Aftercare Requirement	Evidence of monitoring to be recorded as required in MS8

⁴ Adams, N. The Hedgerow Management Cycle. Hedgelink UK



- 1** Heavily over-trimmed with many gaps and sparse stems, their bases gnarled or rotting. May be invaded by elder, sycamore or other invasive species.

ACTION Coppice and re-plant gaps. Grub out or poison invasive species.
- 2** Over-trimmed, infrequent stems too far apart to be 'let up' for laying, perhaps evidence of laying in the past. Hard knuckle at trim line, shrubs developing mushroom shaped growth form.

ACTION Coppice and re-plant gaps.
- 3** Over-trimmed, frequent stems. Stems still healthy but require more height. Hard knuckle may be starting to form at trim line.

ACTION Allow incremental height gain at each cut or 'let up' up for laying.
- 4** Recently layed, coppiced, or planted hedgerow.

ACTION Trim lightly for first few years, then cut on a two or preferably three or more year rotation, allowing height to increase a little each time.
- 5** Healthy, dense, hedgerow with frequent stems and more than 2m in height.

ACTION Trim on a two or preferably a three or more year rotation. Raise cutting height if hard knuckle forming at trim line.
- 6** a) Hedgerow more than 3m high and trimmed on rotation. b) May also be non-intervention hedge, having intentionally been left un-trimmed for several years.

ACTION a) Enter hedge into non-intervention period. b) Re-shape with circular saw then return to rotational trimming or non-intervention period.
- 7** Hedgerow with frequent healthy stems more than 4m high.

ACTION Lay or reduce height and width with circular saw blade. Would also respond well to coppicing.
- 8** Mature tall hedgerow with spreading tops. Stems still healthy (although they may be infrequent) but too large (more than 18cm in diameter) for laying.

ACTION Either reduce in height and width with circular saw blade or coppice and re-plant gaps if necessary.
- 9** Over-mature hedgerow with tops dying back, collapse possible. Perhaps becoming dominated by tree species such as oak, ash or sycamore.

ACTION Coppice, retaining a few selected healthy trees, and plant up gaps.
- 10** Hedge developed into line of trees.

ACTION Manage as a line of trees, if necessary undertake selective thinning. If shrubs still exist beneath trees raise height of tree canopy to allow in more light.

Figure 1: The Hedgerow Management Scale (extracted from https://hedgelink.org.uk/cms/cms_content/files/78_hedgelink_a5_12pp_leaflet_7.pdf)



METHOD STATEMENT No.6: Management of Injurious Weeds

Project Name Radwell Bury Farm BESS

Personnel Required Operations & Management Company

Description of Work Management of injurious weeds and other undesirable species

Purpose To control the spread and proliferation of injurious weeds and undesirable species

The Site will be managed to ensure that any of the five injurious weeds (Weeds Act 1959) do not proliferate or spread on (or from) the Site. The five species are listed below:

- Common ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*
- Spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*
- Creeping or field thistle *Cirsium arvense*
- Broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*
- Curled dock *Rumex crispus*

Should any of these species become problematic (i.e. spread to more than 10% of the total field area) management prescriptions may need to be altered.

Where required, injurious weeds will be cut to ground level prior to or during early flowering (but not when plants are setting seed). For example, late June to early autumn for docks and before mid-July for spear thistle. A further cut may be required in autumn (September/October, during dry weather). Ragwort may need to be hand pulled rather than cut and creeping thistle may also require chemical control as cutting or pulling is not effective.

Should the extent of weeds remain at >10% after two years of cutting, injurious weeds may require further targeted treatment. This will either include:

- Spot treatment with a broad spectrum, non-persistent herbicide; or
- Treatment with a species-specific, selective weed killer in accordance with the ecology of the respective weed and manufacturer's advice.

Should herbicides be utilised, the ecologist will be contacted prior to use for further advice. Precautionary measures will also need to be taken where herbicide use is proposed in proximity to watercourses. Therefore, herbicide use requires careful consideration and is to be used only as a last resort.

Other Undesirable Species

Other species such as tree saplings, bindweed and dense areas of bramble and nettles may also cause problems. Undesirable species will be removed by mechanical cutting. Where bare areas are present which become quickly colonised by undesirable plants, these areas may be re-sown per MS1.

Reporting Requirements Log of activities conducted to be retained by the management company and shared with the Client/Developer.

Monitoring/Aftercare Requirement Inspection of establishment success as required in **MS2**, Aftercare and management as required in **MS3**, Monitoring as required in **MS8**



METHOD STATEMENT No.7: General Site Maintenance

Project Name	Radwell Bury Farm BESS
Personnel Required	Operations & Management Company
Description of Work	Control of litter, sustainable use of materials and implementation of good horticultural practices
Purpose	To increase the biodiversity value of habitats within the Site, ensure their suitability for protected/notable species, minimise wider environmental impacts and maintain amenity value of the Site

Products and Materials

All materials associated with planting and Site management shall be locally sourced and recyclable wherever possible. Composts will not be used; any compost that is nevertheless required shall be peat-free. Seed-mixes and tree/shrub stock shall be native, of local provenance where available, and appropriate to soil conditions and climate.

Litter

Throughout the lifetime of the BESS, habitats within the Site shall be monitored and kept free of waste and debris, with waste appropriately disposed of.

The O&M team shall ensure the Site is kept free of litter and other debris through a regular programme of monitoring, collection and disposal, coinciding with visits to maintain habitats.

This shall be carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse issued under Section 89 of the Environment Protection Act (1990).

Chemical Agents

Good horticultural practices will be followed throughout the lifetime of the BESS. The use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides will be avoided where possible. Hand control measures such as repeated cutting of weeds or pest removal should be employed ahead of chemical control. Herbicides and pesticides will not be used unless expressly required to remove invasive or injurious plant species, or to control significant issues with pests, and will be used as spot-treatment only; not broadcast spraying.

Reporting Requirements	N/A
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Monitoring/Aftercare Requirement	Monitoring as required in MS8
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METHOD STATEMENT No.8: Ecological Monitoring

Project Name Radwell Bury Farm BESS

Personnel Required Operations & Management Company

Description of Work Monitoring of the ecological development of the Site

Purpose To ensure habitats are establishing as set out within this document, and to ensure remedial action or refinement of management can be identified and delivered

A sign-off visit by an experienced ECoW will be required at the end of construction, or photographic evidence provided to the ECoW to confirm that all features have been installed. A log of installation is to be kept by Balance Power Projects Ltd.

Regular maintenance by the management company will inform the need for any remedial measures throughout the lifetime of the operational phase of the development.

In May, June or July of Years 2, 5, 10, 20 and 30 the Site shall be monitored by an experienced ECoW to assess the establishment and development of habitats. As well as establishment of the habitats, planting failures and the presence of any invasive species will be recorded.

A brief monitoring report will be prepared following completion of each year's monitoring to inform the post-construction assessment for the Site. Where necessary, recommendations will be made to amend the management prescriptions to protect/enhance the habitats and species within the site, and thus ensure the objectives of this management plan are met.

Biological monitoring will ensure the habitats on/bounding the site are developing as intended and will track the establishment of a species-rich sward within the grassland, which should increase in diversity over time. Monitoring will also be used to ensure injurious weeds do not continue to dominate or vegetation failure occurs. Regular monitoring will allow comparisons against the intended ecological benefits of the site over time and their benefits to a broad range of species.

Where necessary, recommendations will be made to amend management prescriptions to ensure and promote a more diverse sward and create a larger range of habitats across the site. Any changes in management will be agreed in writing with the LPA. Contingencies and remedial measures will be identified, agreed and implemented as set out in Section 5.

Reporting Requirements A monitoring report will be produced by the ecologist following each survey visit. The report will outline the findings and set out any changes in management which may be required. The report will be shared with the client and should be supplied to the Local Planning Authority. All species records will be sent to the local Environmental Records Centre to supplement their records.

Monitoring/Aftercare Requirement N/A



5 CONTINGENCIES AND REMEDIAL MEASURES

- 5.1.1 This section sets out how contingencies and/or remedial action will be identified, agreed and implemented in the event that the results of monitoring show that the conservation aims and objectives of this LEMP (Section 3, Table 2) are not being met, so that the development continues to deliver the fully functioning biodiversity objectives of the originally approved scheme, including the habitat outcomes set out in the Biodiversity Gain Plan.

5.2 Identification

- 5.2.1 Monitoring will be undertaken as set out in MS8, supplemented by the establishment inspections detailed in MS2, and ongoing checks within MS5 and MS6. Following each monitoring visit, the appointed Management Company or appointed ECoW will assess the condition of each habitat parcel against the success criteria in Tables 1-3, and will state in the monitoring report whether each aim and objective is being met, is on track to be met, or is at risk of not being met.
- 5.2.2 Where an objective is assessed as 'at risk' or 'not being met', the monitoring report will identify the likely cause (i.e. poor establishment, inappropriate cutting regime, nutrient enrichment, excessive scrub encroachment, plant failure, damage, or colonisation by invasive non-native species) and will recommend proportionate remedial measures. Depending on the habitat and cause, these may include: over-seeding or re-seeding with an appropriate mixture; like-for-like replacement of failed trees, shrubs or hedgerow plants; adjustment of the cutting or grazing regime (timing, frequency or height); additional arisings removal to reduce fertility; weed or invasive species control; localised ground works or drainage remediation; or temporary protective fencing.

5.3 Agreement

- 5.3.1 Recommended remedial measures, together with the timescale for their implementation and any consequential amendments to the prescriptions in Section 4 or the work schedule in Appendix A, will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and agreed in writing before implementation. Minor in-kind actions already provided for within the method statements (such as routine replacement of failed plants under MS4 and MS5) will be actioned directly and reported in the next monitoring report.

5.4 Implementation

- 5.4.1 Agreed remedial measures will be implemented by, or on behalf of Balance Power Projects Ltd. / the Site Owner, as the body responsible for delivery of this LEMP (Section 2), within the agreed timescale and at its cost, using the funding mechanism described in Section 2. Appendix A will be updated to incorporate the agreed measures when the annual work plan is rolled forward.
- 5.4.2 The effectiveness of remedial measures will be assessed at the next scheduled monitoring visit, or by an additional interim visit where the ecologist considers this necessary. Where measures have not achieved the intended outcome, the process in paragraphs 5.1.2 to 5.1.5 will be repeated with revised measures, such that management is adapted iteratively until the aims and objectives of this LEMP are achieved and maintained.



APPENDIX A: MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Annual Management Timetable										Suitable/Optimal				
										Unsuitable/Sub-optimal				
										Not Required/Prohibited				
MS	Activity	Timing Detail	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	Grassland seeding	Post-construction. Seeding of grassland habitats to be carried out during first available period post-construction (autumn or spring). Autumn sowing is optimal, as the EM5 mixture contains yellow rattle which requires autumn sowing; spring sowing is possible, but sub-optimal.												
2	Grassland inspection	Year 1 establishment inspection of grassland												
3	Grassland cutting – Year 1	Year 1 only – regular cutting from mid to late summer, through to March the following year. Remove the cuttings.												
3	Cutting of grassland sown with EM5 'Meadow Mixture for Loamy Soils' and EM8 'Meadow Mixture for Wetlands' – Subsequent Years	50% of site cut in late July – August once flowers have set seed on a 2-year rotation.												
3	Cutting of grassland sown with EP1 - Subsequent Years	SuDS basin and pond-edge vegetation cut on rotation (approximately one third per year) in September/October, during dry periods.												



Annual Management Timetable										Suitable/Optimal					
										Unsuitable/Sub-optimal					
										Not Required/Prohibited					
MS	Activity	Timing Detail	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
4	Installation of new tree, hedgerow and scrub planting	To be carried out after construction													
5	Inspection and weeding of native scrub and hedgerow planting condition	Monthly inspections to 12 months after planting and annually thereafter													
5	Watering of native scrub / hedgerow planting	As necessary, for duration of operation. More regular during periods of drought													
5	Pruning of native scrub planting	As necessary, for duration of operation													
5	Replacement scrub / hedgerow Planting	Failed plants will be replaced (as required) like-for-like and on an annual basis													
5	Hedgerow Cutting (avoiding standard trees)	On a 2-3 year rotation, once established, for the duration of operation and with cutting height raised by 10-15cm each year													
5	Removal of Tree Guards	Promptly once specimens have successfully established after at least three years (without cutting), and are of a reasonable height													
6	Management of injurious weeds	Through operational lifetime													



Annual Management Timetable										Suitable/Optimal					
										Unsuitable/Sub-optimal					
										Not Required/Prohibited					
MS	Activity	Timing Detail	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
7	General Site Maintenance	Sustainable use of materials, appropriate waste disposal and good horticultural practices throughout the lifetime of the project													
8	Ecological Monitoring of Planting/ Habitat Establishment	Every year by management company. Years 2, 5, 10, 20 and 30 by experienced ECoW.													

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