

3.7 Site 7. Station Road, Attlebridge

Photographs



Key Facts

- 3.7.1 Size of the Site: 0.60ha
- 3.7.2 Habitats present: **Modified grassland, Bracken, Bramble scrub, Bare ground, Tall forbs, Other woodland; broadleaved, Native hedgerow with trees.**
- 3.7.3 Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas, County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Roadside Nature Reserves, Priority Habitats, Statutory Designated Sites present on site? **Priority Habitat deciduous woodland offsite to south.**
- 3.7.4 Recommended habitat measures in LNRS: **None.**

Baseline Habitat Description and BNG Calculation

- 3.7.5 The Site comprised a triangle of land to the back of houses with arable fields to the north and east. It had heavy recreational usage by residents including car parking which had created bare ground near the houses.
- 3.7.6 The main habitat on Site was the modified grassland in **poor condition**. At the time of survey the grassland was of a uniform short/medium length with signs of recent mowing with arisings left in situ. The grassland had less than six vascular plant species per square metre and was dominated by perennial ryegrass, cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog and creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*. Wildflowers were infrequent and consisted of yarrow, creeping buttercup, dandelion and broad leaved cock *Rumex obtusifolius*.
- 3.7.7 The northern boundary of the Site contained tall forbs in **poor condition** dominated by common nettle and occasional bramble and grass clippings.

- 3.7.8 An area of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and bramble was present in the south of the Site.
- 3.7.9 In the north-east corner of the Site was an area of other woodland; broadleaved in **poor condition**. It was species poor and comprised of a canopy of oak, an understory of elder and hawthorn and a field layer of common nettle, herb Robert, ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea* and green alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens*.
- 3.7.10 There was a native hedgerow with trees along the eastern boundary in **good condition**. It was approximately 3-4m in height and 3m in width comprising: oak, beech, hawthorn and apple. There was a large mature oak in the centre of the hedgerow with good habitat value.
- 3.7.11 The west of the Site was bare ground due to heavy vehicular usage for parking.
- 3.7.12 In total, the habitats on Site represent **1.41 Habitat Units and 1.12 Hedgerow Units** as shown in Tables 11 and 12 below.

Table 11. Baseline BNG Calculation for Habitats

Habitat	Area (hectares)	Ecological Distinctiveness	Condition	Habitat Units (HU)
Modified grassland	0.3747	Low	Poor	0.75
Bracken	0.0121	Low	N/A	0.02
Bramble	0.0134	Medium	N/A	0.05
Tall forbs	0.0287	Low	Poor	0.06
Bare ground	0.0745	Low	Poor	0.15
Other woodland; broadleaved	0.0941	Medium	Poor	0.38
Total	0.60			1.41

Table 12. Baseline BNG Calculation of Hedgerows

Habitat	Length (kilometres)	Ecological Distinctiveness	Condition	Hedgerow Units (HeU)
Native hedgerow with trees	0.093	Medium	Good	1.12
Total	0.093			1.12

- 3.7.13 A map of the baseline habitats is provided in Figure 7, Appendix 1.

Proposed Biodiversity Enhancements

- Bollards along parking area to protect grassland;
- Plant species-rich native hedgerow on northern boundary and keep minimum 1m width of grassland next to hedgerow unmown;
- Keep the majority of the grassland long; and
- Install two bird boxes and two bat boxes on trees.

Specification of Management Actions

3.7.14 Proposed biodiversity enhancements are shown on Figure 7, Appendix 2.

Bollards:

- Bollards will be installed in the west of the Site in order to protect the existing grassland from further damage caused by car parking.

Species-rich native hedgerow:

- Plant 60-90cm height bare root whips of at least five mixed native hedgerow species at 2m centers in the location shown in Figure 7, Appendix 2. Whips to be notch planted in double staggered rows with five plants per linear metre from November-March inclusive and not in frozen ground. A total of 47m of hedgerow will be planted. Whips will be protected with a suitable biodegradable guard to protect from vole and deer damage, bamboo cane and tie. The area around the whips should be cleared of vegetation and mulched generously with woodchip to a depth of 50-100mm, taking care not to bury the stems of the newly planted whips.
- Whips will need to be watered generously and regularly in hot dry summer spells for the first two years post planting.
- Check whips annually and top up mulch/clear weeds to limit competing vegetation.
- At year three, remove canes, guards and ties if whips are established. Remove and replace any dead whips.
- At year five cut hedgerow back hard to encourage a proliferation of bushy growth.

Long Grass Around Perimeter:

- Keep grass long by reducing mowing frequency in the areas shown in Figure 7, Appendix 2, primarily around the outside of the Site.
- The grass in these areas will be left long and cut twice per year – once in late February/early March and again in late August/early September. The long grass will create enhanced microclimates for invertebrates and produce seed for birds and small mammals. The long grass will be cut with a scythe/trimmer/mower to 50mm height twice a year and kept short over the winter with regular mowing as required.

All cuttings will be removed from the Site to avoid re-enrichment of the soil and encourage greater abundance and diversity of native wildflowers.

- No fertiliser, herbicide or commercial grass mix will be applied at any time.

Bird and bat boxes:

- Two bird boxes and two bat boxes will be installed on suitable trees as per the guidance in Appendix 3.

Five Year Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

3.7.15 Following the management specification and guidance above, the Table below provides the timing of management actions over 5 years.

Habitat	Management Action and Timing				
	2025/2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Species-rich hedgerow	Plant 47m of hedgerow from November-March.	Water regularly in hot dry spells. Keep mulch topped up.	Water regularly in hot dry spells. Keep mulch topped up.	Remove canes/guards/ties in the winter. Replace any dead/dying individuals.	Cut back hedgerow to encourage bushy growth.
Long grass area	First cut and collect in late February/ early March. Second cut in late August/early September. Remove arisings offsite.	Same as 2025/2026.	Same as 2025/2026.	Same as 2025/2026.	Same as 2025/2026.
Bird and bat boxes	Install bird and bat boxes on trees	Check boxes remain securely attached.	Check boxes remain securely attached.	Check boxes remain securely attached.	Check boxes remain securely attached.

Annual Monitoring Checklist

3.7.16 The checklist below is devised as a quick annual check to be carried out and completed by the responsible Community Asset Manager to ensure that the recommended enhancements measures above have taken place. The items in the checklist below have been replicated in a separate Annual Monitoring excel spreadsheet for ease of completion.

Annual Monitoring Checklist for Station Road, Attlebridge

Habitat	Management Action	Tick relevant column if completed				
		2025/2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Species rich native hedgerow	47m of new hedgerow whips planted and mulched?					
	Whips watered and mulch topped up annually?					
	Canes/ties/guards removed?					
	First hard cut completed?					
Long grass	First cut undertaken?					
	Second cut undertaken?					
	Winter mowing undertaken?					
Bird and bat boxes	Installed?					
	Annually checked to make sure still safely secured to tree?					

Post-enhancement BNG Calculation and Map

- 3.7.19 The proposed enhancements will produce a BNG uplift of **41.47%** in Habitat Units over **10 years**. This is solely derived from the proposed management of the grassland.
- 3.7.20 A further BNG uplift of **28.19%** in Hedgerow Units over **five years** will be delivered as a result of the species-rich native hedgerow planting.