

TECHNICAL NOTE: SCOPE OF WORKS

Axis

Rochdale BSF

November 2025

Below is a scope of works prepared to inform the creation of an Ecological Mitigation Area at Land off Dig Gate Lane, Milnrow, Rochdale (the 'Site'). The mitigation area will provide habitat to support Pond Mud Snails which will be translocated from an existing pond within the Site, the habitats will include a new pond, shallow scrapes, small sections of hedgerow planting, tree planting, creation of tussocky grassland, the creation of a amphibian/reptile hibernacula, creation of gravel basking mounds for reptiles, and provision of habitat log piles.

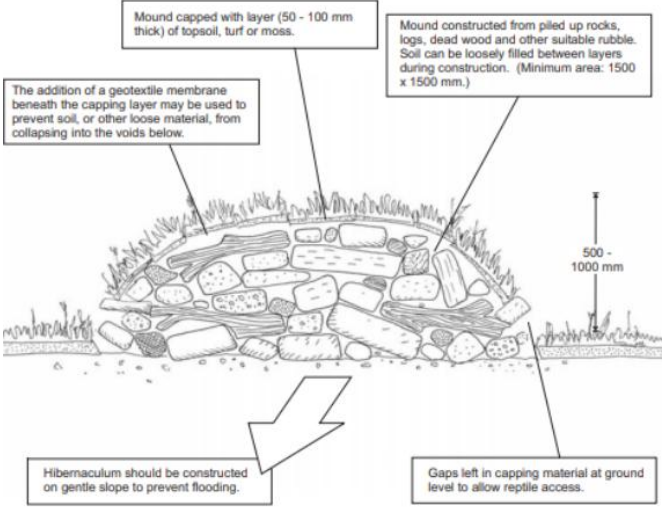
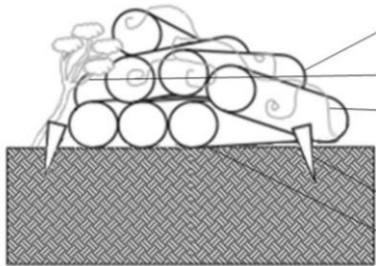
The details of the habitat creation are shown in the Replacement Pond Strategy and Ecological Management Plan August 2022 including the Ecological Mitigation Area Masterplan and Planting Plan that should be read in conjunction with this scope.

Scope of Works

Task	Scope	Recommended Timings
Site preparation		
Clearance: existing vegetation	Cutting back of existing woody vegetation where required. The area is relatively small and work could be undertaken using powered hand tools (e.g. brush cutters/strimmers) or with a machine mounted fail/cutting tool.	Outside nesting bird season (1 February to 31 August) or done under supervision Recommended Dec. 2025 – Feb. 2026
Pond Creation		
Creation: New pond	The creation of an irregularly shaped pond, with a maximum depth of 1.2m at its centre, to be excavated using a 360 degree tracked excavator. The pond will be approximately 20m in length, the width will vary to a maximum of around 6m with two basins connected by a shallow central area. The south-west basin to be around 1m in depth and the north-east basin 1.2m deep with the connecting section 0.5m deep. Although shallow groundwater is likely present within soils it is recommended that the pond is lined with a membrane or puddled with clay to ensure that it will hold water.	Recommended as soon as possible Dec. 2025 - Feb. 2026 to allow pond to fill naturally with rainwater. To be undertaken in suitable weather conditions when ground is workable (i.e. not frozen or waterlogged)

Task	Scope	Recommended Timings
Creation: 2 No. scrapes	The creation of 2 No. scrapes connected with the margins of the newly created pond. Scrapes will be created as shallow basins with a maximum depth of 0.4m and will not require any liner or clay. Locations as per Ecological Mitigation Area Masterplan and Planting Plan.	During same period as pond creation (above).
Creation: Earth bund	The creation of a small earth bund around the boundary of the Site. Bund to be approximately 2m wide and 0.5m high. Bund to be created using arisings from pond excavation, should additional material be required this can be achieved by scraping the topsoil from the central area around the pond. Location as per Ecological Mitigation Area Masterplan and Planting Plan.	During same period as pond creation (above).
Planting: Aquatic and marginal species	Planting of marginal aquatic plants, as per the specifications in the Ecological Mitigation Area Masterplan and Planting Plan see species list below Mature plug plants are to be used which have the greatest potential for survival and establishment (see species list below).	As early as possible to allow plants time to establish. During suitable weather conditions March/April 2026
Drainage: Existing pond	Drain existing pond using a shielded pump with ecologist present for supervision. Prior to drainage the ecologist will conduct a search for snails and amphibians in accessible vegetation and temporarily hold any found in container to be translocated to new pond. Any pond snails or amphibians captured within the pump screen will be translocated into new pond by the ecologist. Pumped water from existing pond can be discharged into the new pond to provide additional water to top up levels.	Once new pond is holding water and vegetation is established (to be confirmed by ecologist) – earliest July 2026 (outside amphibian breeding season, March to June)

Task	Scope	Recommended Timings
Silt translocation	Translocation of silt from the original pond to newly created pond, via the use of a 360 degree tracked excavator. 360 degree tracked excavator will scrape the surface of the existing pond (once drained) to remove silt and transfer to new pond. Use of a grading bucket without teeth is recommended. Any excess vegetation may be removed from the bucket before the silt is transferred to the new pond. Care to be taken that new planting is not impacted by dumping of silt or vehicle movements.	After draining existing pond and only when new pond holding water and vegetation is established (to be confirmed by ecologist) – earliest July 2026 (outside amphibian breeding season, March to June)
Terrestrial Habitat Creation		
Creation: 2 No. hibernacula feature	Creation of 2 No. above ground reptile/amphibian hibernacula features. To be 1m x 2m in dimension. The turf and topsoil will be scraped to 0.3m (30cm) and put to one side for re-use. Within the scraped area a layer of clean, inert, free draining rubble of varied sizes will be lain. Above the rubble layer a stable mound to 1m high will be created from clean inert rubble and large logs. If needed, the mound can be pinned in place using wooden stakes for stability. Loose soil and clean wood chippings may be used to fill gaps during construction to maintain stability but must not be compacted into gaps. The completed mound will be covered by a geotextile membrane and capped by the turf originally removed. The final mound is to be created so that gaps between exposed logs are present to allow animals to access the feature. See diagram and example below. Where possible material is to be sourced from vegetation clearance within the Site. Any imported rubble must be clean and free of contamination and logs from trees free of disease. Indicative location shown on masterplan/planting plan.	Immediately after earthworks are completed

Task	Scope	Recommended Timings
	 Mound capped with layer (50 - 100 mm thick) of topsoil, turf or moss. The addition of a geotextile membrane beneath the capping layer may be used to prevent soil, or other loose material, from collapsing into the voids below. Mound constructed from piled up rocks, logs, dead wood and other suitable rubble. Soil can be loosely filled between layers during construction. (Minimum area: 1500 x 1500 mm.) 500 - 1000 mm Hibernaculum should be constructed on gentle slope to prevent flooding. Gaps left in capping material at ground level to allow reptile access. Example: 	
Creation: 2 No. Habitat log piles	2x log piles to be created in indicative locations shown on masterplan/planting plan. Log piles to be 1m x 1m minimum dimensions. Log piles to consist of large logs of at least 100mm diameter. To be placed on the ground and arranged in a stable configuration to around 0.5m in height. Smaller twigs and chippings may be added to the pile once the larger logs are in place. Use wooden stakes to stabilise the pile if necessary. See diagram and example below.  Logs with a minimum diameter of 100mm and bark are of highest value in the pile. Twigs and shrub off-cuttings may be added. Creepers may be left to grow over the pile for stabilisation. Management might be required to prevent overshadowing of the pile. Stakes to prevent pile collapse. Logs left in contact with the ground.	Once habitat creation works are completed

Task	Scope	Recommended Timings
		
Creation: 2 No. gravel basking mounds	Small basking mounds will be created in the indicative locations shown on the masterplan/planting plan. Suitable to support amphibians and reptiles. Mounds to be 0.5-1m in height and approximately 2-3m wide. Topsoil to be removed to 0.3m and a layer of clean inert rubble laid as a base. The core of the bank can be created with larger blocks/bricks/rubble or logs and then overlain with the removed turf and topsoil. To finish/cap the mound place some large flat rocks/stones around the slopes and cover with a layer of clean inert gravel and smaller rocks.	After earthworks are completed Dec. 2025 - March 2026.
Planting: Scrub	Notch planting of 195 No. shrub transplants. See planting specification below. Each plant provided with 10 litres of compost with 35g Enmag fertilizer and 5g P4 water retention granules. Compost 30% topsoil 70%. Planting as per the locations within the Ecological Mitigation Area Masterplan and Planting Plan. Provide 600mm biodegradable tree guards/shelters with stake and tie for young trees and shrubs	Dec. 2025 – March 2026 in suitable weather conditions frozen or heavily waterlogged ground should be avoided.

Task	Scope	Recommended Timings
Planting of individual trees	12 No. individual trees to be planted as mature specimens (6-10cm in diameter) as per locations shown on masterplan/planting plan and species list.	Dec. 2025 – Feb. 2026 in suitable weather conditions frozen or heavily waterlogged ground should be avoided.
Seeding tussocky grassland	Ground to be tilled mechanically to prepare a seed bed. Sow Emorsgate EM10 (or similar, e.g. Naturescape wet meadow mix N7) as per supplier's instructions.	Earliest late spring (April) 2026
Planting: Hedgerow	Planting of approximately 18m of hedgerow comprising 259 No. hedgerow shrub transplants planted in 4 rows 0.33m apart with 0.33m centres. Hedgerows located in the western section of the Site locations as shown on the Ecological Mitigation Area Masterplan and Planting Plan.	Dec. 2025 – Feb. 2026 in suitable weather conditions frozen or heavily waterlogged ground should be avoided.
Installation: Stock proof fencing	Installation of a new 1.2m high galvanized stockproof fencing secured to 100mm diameter treated and driven fence posts as per the document. A length of approximately 125m is required as shown on the masterplan/planting plan; The mesh size must contain at least 130 x 130mm openings at base of the fence.	After earthworks complete Dec. 2025/Jan. 2026
Installation: Access Gate	Install 1x field access gate (5m/16ft). To be located as per Masterplan/Planting Plan. A galvanised agricultural metal rail gate with stockproof mesh to lower section and spring bolt. Required: 1x gate; 2x gate posts; 1x heavy duty chain and padlock for security.	After earthworks complete Dec. 2025/Jan. 2026. To be installed at same time as fencing (above).

PLANTING SPECIFICATION SPECIES LISTS

All planting to be of British Origin and locally sourced (where possible).

Marginal /Aquatic Planting

Scientific Name	Name	Root Zone	Specification.	No.
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water plantain	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
<i>Myosotis scorpiodes</i>	Water forget-me-not	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard rush	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	Rough chervil	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
<i>Cruciatta laevipes</i>	Crosswort	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12

Scientific Name	Name	Root Zone	Specification.	No.
Mentha aquatica	Water mint	9cm	British origin. Established roots 2-3 months old min. Plant Sept-April	12
Callitriche stagnalis	Water starwort	9cm	British origin. Planted in aquatic compost in hessian sacks secured to margins – Plant in bunches	12
Myriophyllum spicatum	Spiked water milfoil	9cm	British origin. Planted in aquatic compost in hessian sacks secured to margins – Plant in bunches	12

Native Shrub Planting

Scientific Name	Name	Height cm	Specification.	No.
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	40-60	Seed raised transplant. 3 brks	39
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	60-80	Seed raised transplant	29
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	40-60	Seed raised transplant. 3 brks	49
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	60-80	Seed raised transplant. 2 brks	29
Viburnum opulus	Guelder rose	40-60	Seed raised transplant. 2 brks	49

Native Hedgerow Planting

Scientific Name	Name	Height cm	Specification.	No.
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	40-60	Seed raised transplant. 3 brks	39
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	60-80	Seed raised transplant	29
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	40-60	Seed raised transplant. 3 brks	49

Scientific Name	Name	Height cm	Specification.	No.
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	60-80	Seed raised transplant. 2 brks	29
Viburnum opulus	Guelder rose	40-60	Seed raised transplant. 2 brks	49

Individual Tree Planting

Scientific Name	Name	Diameter cm	Height cm	Specification.	No.
Acer campestre	Field Maple	8-10	250-300	Feathered; 5brks	2
Alnus glutinosa	Alder	8-10	250-300	Feathered; 5brks	2
Betula pendula	Silver birch	8-10	250-300	Feathered; 5brks	3
Populus tremula	Aspen	8-10	250-300	Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 3brks	2
Quercus robur	English/ pedunculate oak	6-8	250-300	Light Standard; clear stem 150-175cm; 3brks	1
Tilia cordata	Small-leaved Lime	6-8	250-300	Light Standard; clear stem 150-175cm; 3brks	2

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