

Biodiversity Net Gain Scheme

Braxted Park Estate



Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) at landscape scale to maximise environmental outcomes.

This is an exciting opportunity for developers to become part of an innovative nature-led scheme and to be at the forefront of a strategic ecological opportunity area.

Distances

- 1.6 km from Tiptree
- 4.1 km from Witham
- 8 km from Maldon



Get in touch with our experts

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To provide a solution to developers with offsite BNG requirements, Bidwells has partnered with Braxted Park Estate to develop an innovative scheme which enables biodiversity units to be purchased 'off-the-shelf'.

Location

The site is located approx. 8 miles southeast of Braintree and sits across three Local Planning Authorities: Colchester City Council, Braintree District Council and Maldon District Council. The site also sits within the Northern Thames Basin National Character Area..

The site is in an ecologically strategic location and will improve habitat connectivity across the landscape. The scheme will act as a habitat stepping stone between Tiptree SSSI and Whetmead Nature Reserve.

Landscape character

The site and surrounding countryside are predominantly agricultural, comprising large fields bounded by hedgerows, as well as scattered small woodlands.

Land size

The BNG site is circa 70 hectares (173 acres).

Current use and baseline habitats

The land is principally farmed for combinable crops. Baseline habitat is predominantly arable, with boundary hedgerows and small areas of modified grassland and scrub.

Habitat creation

Biodiversity units will be available for the following habitats:

High distinctiveness

- Hedgerow
- Lake

Medium distinctiveness

- Grassland
- Heathland and shrub
- Woodland
- Individual trees
- Cropland

Low distinctiveness

- Hedgerow

Land management

Strategic spatial planning of habitat delivery across the site has been undertaken and a robust 30-year Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan is in place to maximise environmental outcomes.

This BNG scheme has a s106 agreement in place with Colchester City Council, Braintree District Council, and Maldon District Council, and has been accepted onto the Biodiversity Gain Site Register (reference number: BGS-200825001).



Biodiversity enhancement plan



Species-rich hedgerows



Native broadleaved woodland



Ponds



Turtle dove habitats

Photo © Liz Cutting

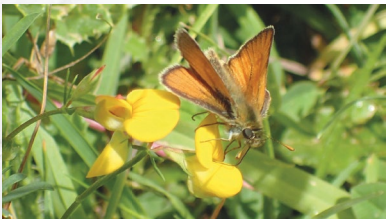


Mixed scrub



Nightingale habitats

Photo © Liz Cutting



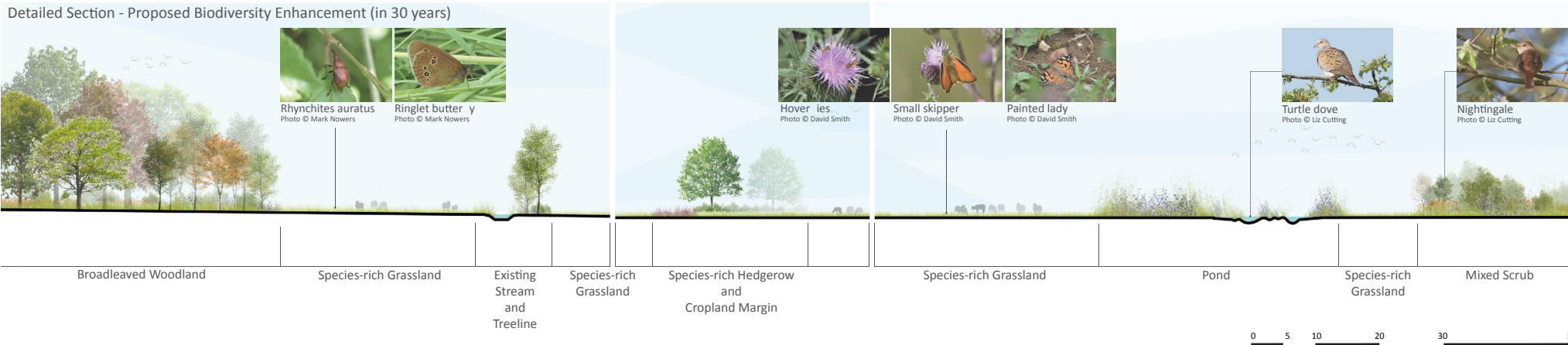
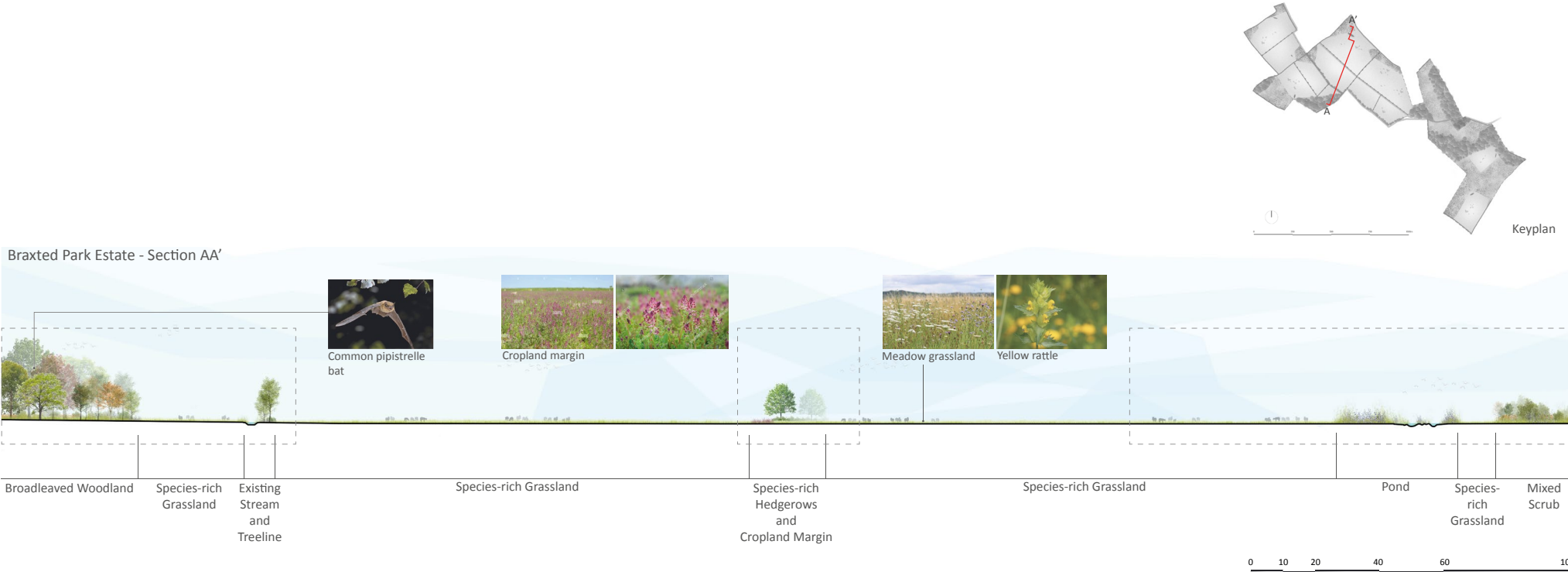
Pollinators

Photo © Mark Nowers



Grazing

Section illustrating proposed habitats



BIDWELLS



Developers with off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements can contribute to the creation and management of habitats within this BNG scheme through the purchase of biodiversity units.

Method and terms of sale

Biodiversity units which meet developer compensation requirements in terms of habitat types and extents can be purchased 'off-the-shelf'.

A sale agreement will be provided for developments satisfying the BNG condition in their planning consent. For developments in the planning process, an option for the purchase of biodiversity units will be granted to purchasers.

Environmental outcomes

This innovative habitat creation scheme is part of a wider estate environmental strategy and will not only benefit nature but also contribute to a range of other ecosystem services including:

- Expansion of wildlife corridors
- Provision of turtle dove and nightingale habitats
- Improved air and water quality
- Natural flood attenuation
- Carbon sequestration

Scheme benefits

There are huge advantages in delivering BNG requirements through this scheme including:

- Providing significant contributions to recognised local ecological priorities
- Surety of where offsets are being delivered
- Contribute to landscape scale enhancements
- Greater confidence in the security of long-term sustainable management beyond the requisite contractual 30-year period

The scheme aligns with the Lower Blackwater and wider Essex Living Landscape vision to restore, recreate and reconnect local wildlife habitats, and has the support of key stakeholders including the RSPB and Operation Turtle Dove.

The scheme will become a showcase for the effective delivery of BNG, demonstrating how offsetting development through habitat creation on a landscape scale is most efficient, cost-effective and maximises environmental outcomes.

The provision of biodiversity units 'off-the-shelf' reduces the risks and delays to developers in seeking credible solutions to satisfy offsite BNG requirements.

Project website

Further information about this scheme can be found at the following dedicated web address:

bidwells.co.uk/properties/braxted-park-estate



Get in touch with our experts

**Please contact our Natural
Capital team to enquire about
securing biodiversity units:**

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