

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

COPLOE HILL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CHEFFINS

The Site

Positioned 10 miles south of Cambridge, this 31 hectare (76 acre) scheme is strategically located adjacent to existing sites of ecological significance to provide an opportunity for wildlife to thrive over a large-scale whilst vastly reducing the detrimental impact of habitat fragmentation.

A swathe of preserved Medieval cultivation terraces, Coploe Hill Strip Lynchets, will be central to the scheme which is designed to buffer and extend this valuable nature corridor on all sides. Additionally, the creation of new wildlife habitat adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) will provide vital space and a stepping-stone for its distinctive chalkland species.

Biodiversity units available:

Units to create or enhance the following habitat types:

- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Other neutral grassland
- Native species-rich hedgerow
- Pond (non-priority)

Local Planning Authority:

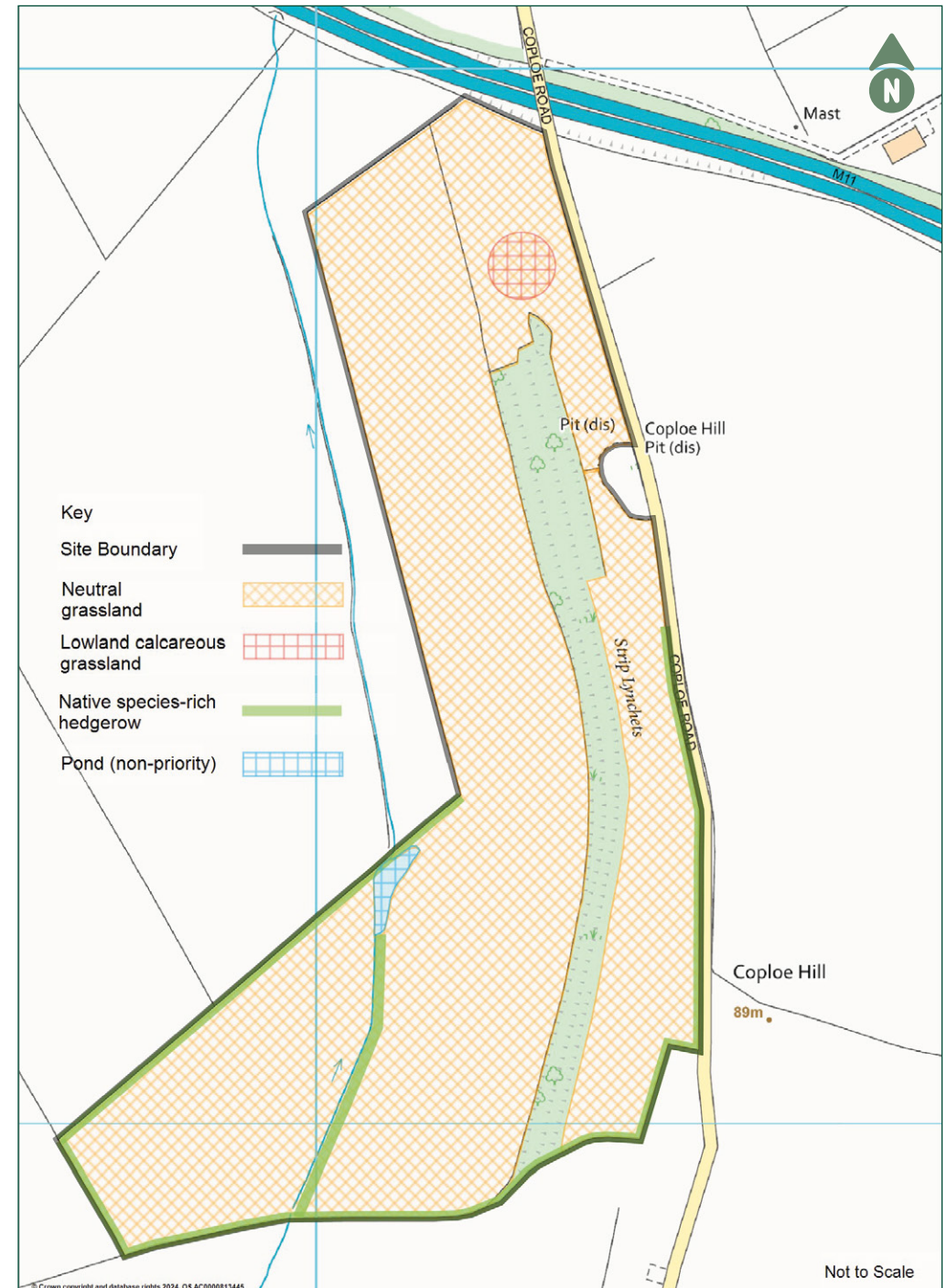
South Cambridgeshire

National Character Area:

East Anglian Chalk

Site Area:

31 hectares (76 acres)



The Vision

Connection

Our vision is about building resilience for the future and helping to facilitate the positive impact that can be secured for future generations through Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Our plan incorporates both habitat creation and enhancement focused around two sites of historical and ecological significance.

Enhancement

The scheme builds upon wildlife enhancements already undertaken to create new habitat areas at Coploe Hill which have resulted in increased numbers of species such as corn bunting, grey partridge, linnet, yellowhammer and brown hare. BNG units are available for the enhancement of grassland located between the eastern edge of the Strip Lynchets and Coploe Hill Pit LWS.

Creation

A major focus of the scheme will be on the creation of neutral grassland along the western flanks of the Strip Lynchets,. Set on a ridge at the very end of the Chilterns, the thin chalk soils are intrinsically suited to grassland creation to support the wildflowers, birds and insects typical of this rolling landscape.

A detailed management and monitoring plan will ensure the required methodologies are implemented for both the enhancement and creation aspects of the scheme.



The Wider Context

Coploe Hill forms part of Rectory Farm, owned by the Wombwell family since 1926. The family ethos is steeped in the appreciation of the symbiotic relationship between the farmed and the natural environment, and their BNG scheme forms part of a wider strategy for nature recovery.

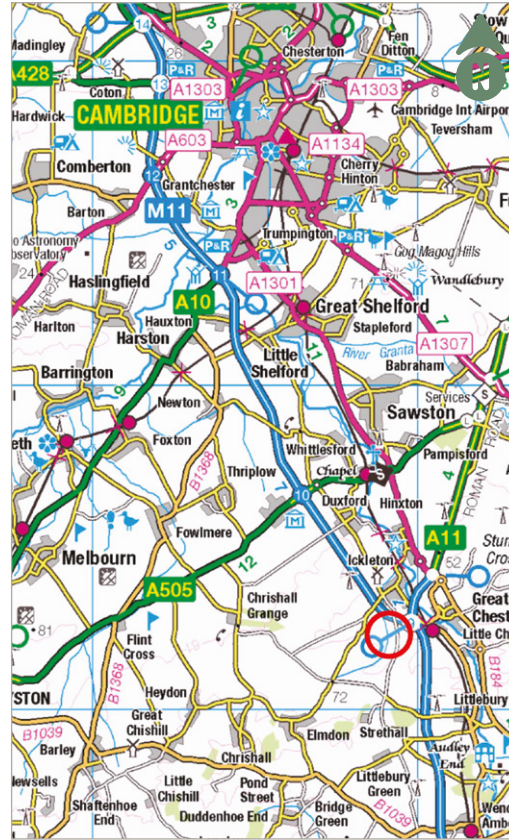
Rectory Farm has participated in environmental schemes over several decades with comprehensive measures in place to provide space for nature to co-exist within the agricultural landscape. This patchwork of areas already given over to nature will feed into the wider benefit of this scheme, allowing species to spread out across the farm and expand their range as the BNG habitats become established.

The marginal areas of Coploe Hill have already undergone a ten-year programme of grassland creation adjacent to Coploe Pit LWS coupled with scrub clearance on the Strip Lynchets to prevent root damage to the historic terraces.





"At the heart of this family farm there is a real appreciation of the symbiotic relationship between the farmed and the natural environment"



Your Biodiversity Net Gain Partner

Our habitat creation and enhancement scheme will be closely monitored to achieve the desired outcomes. With expertise in quality habitat creation and with its own herd of native breed cattle for conservation grazing management, the Rectory Farm management team is well placed to provide successful ecological outcomes.

With a clear strategy in place for achieving BNG, Coploe Hill can provide a secure, long-term space for your biodiversity offset requirements.



Purchasing Biodiversity Units

Habitat will be created or enhanced to meet the requirements of a development upon the sale of biodiversity units. The landowner will be legally responsible for undertaking the management to achieve target condition for a period of at least 30 years as secured under a s106 agreement with the local planning authority.

We can discuss the terms of an option agreement where developers require the flexibility to secure BNG units prior to securing planning consent.

To discuss the purchase of BNG units please contact either

Jonathan Purkiss

E jonathan.purkiss@cheffins.co.uk | T 01223 271991

Katie Hilton

E katie.hilton@cheffins.co.uk | T 01223 271959



"Coploe Hill, a special site steeped in ecological and cultural significance"



Further information

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Cheffins Rural, Clifton House,
1-2 Clifton Road Cambridge CB1 7EA

cheffins.co.uk