### 2.2.4 Tree Report

Ecological Assessments

Environmental Statements (Biodiversity)

Species Surveys

Phase I Habitat Survey

National Vegetation Classification

Planning Guidance

Habitat Regulation Assessment

Protected Species Licensing

42020 CEMP: Biodiversity

BREEAM LE01 - 05

# Landscape & Ecology Management Plan

## Unit 2 Newsprint Avenue, Kent ME20 7DL


the ecology Practice

Consultant Report on behalf of winvic

**Cover Photo:** Site location

## REPORT STATUS

| Issue/revision | DRAFT | FINAL I | FINAL II |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Project Location** | **Unit 2 Newsprint Avenue** | | |
| **Project No.** | **235-34** | | |
| **Subject** | **LEMP** | | |
| **Report Ref.** | 23534-LEMP_A | | |
| **Date** | 19/01/24 | | |
| **Prepared by** | PR | | |
| Signature | | | |
| **Reviewed by** | MM | | |
| Signature | | | |

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# FIGURES



# TABLES

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1 The following report has been prepared on behalf of Winvic and provides a Landscape & Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) for works to be undertaken on a plot of land at Newsprint Avenue, Kent, ME20 7DL ('The Site'). This document has been prepared following the British Standard 42020:2013[1].

### Location

1.1.2 The Site is a 36.59 ha irregularly shaped parcel of land, within an industrial estate located adjacent to the River Medway and the M20 motorway on the north-western fringes of Aylesford, Kent.

### Site Description

1.1.3 The Site was an irregularly shaped parcel of land within an industrial estate, measuring 36.59 ha in size. It is understood that the site was occupied by Aylesford Newsprint Ltd up until February 2015. The Site is dominated by bare ground with the occasional industrial building, areas of scattered trees, open semi-improved grassland and introduced shrubs.

[1] **The British Standards Institution 2013** BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity - Code of practice for planning and development. Published by BSI Standards Limited 2013. ISBN 978 0 580 77917 6

## 1.2 PROPOSALS

1.2.1 The proposals comprise a Hybrid planning application for the following development:

- Outline planning permission (all matters reserved) for the erection of flexible B1c/B2/B8 use class buildings and associated access servicing, parking, landscaping, drainage and earthworks; and
- Full planning permission for the Bellingham Way Link Road, north/south road and the erection of 2no units for flexible B1c/B2/B8 floorspace with associated access, parking, service yards, infrastructure, earth works, works to the embankment of Ditton Stream and landscaping.

## 1.3 ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Current Ecologist

1.3.1 Phil Roskell is the Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) assigned to the project. The role of the SQE includes checking the landscape and enhancements provided, monitoring the ecological value of the Site, revisions of the Biodiversity Management Plan and ensuring the project adheres to current environmental regulations and best practices. Phil Roskell will also actively promote ecological considerations throughout the planning and construction phases.

### Landscape Architect

1.3.2 Barton Willmore were appointed as the landscape architects and produced the most current landscape proposals for the Site, which were submitted as part of the planning application.

## Principal Contractor

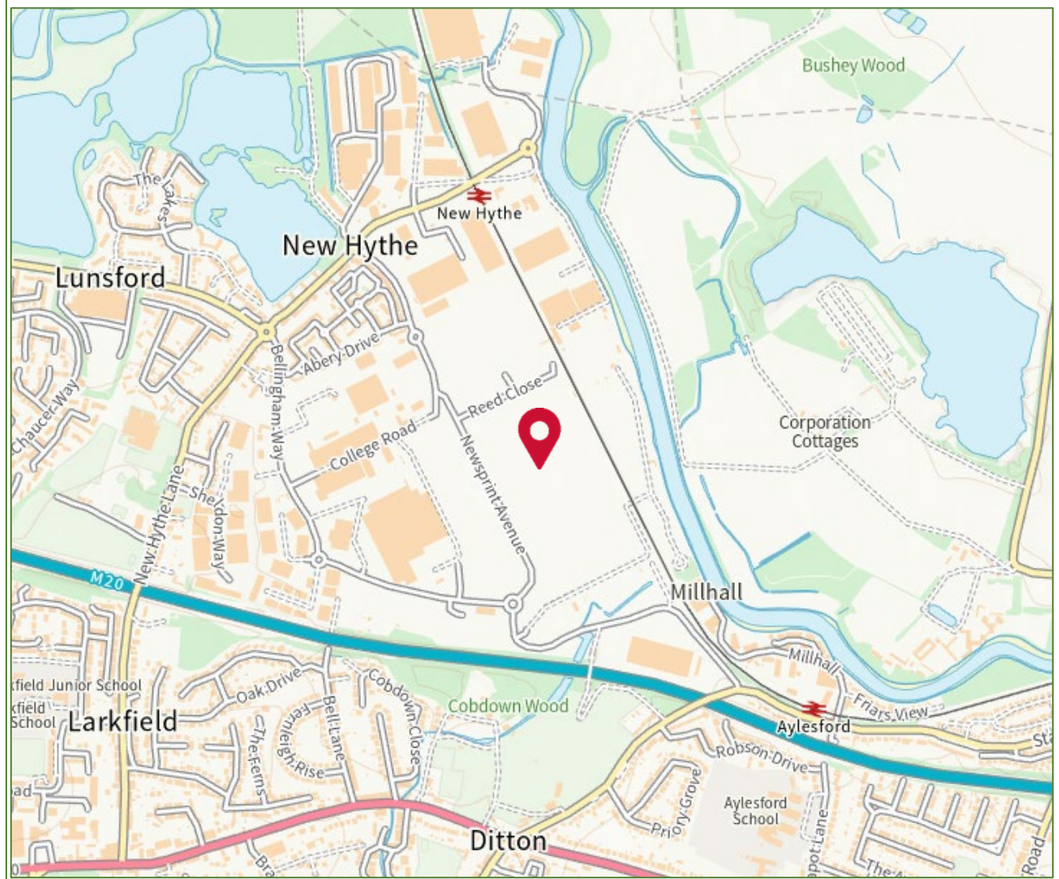
1.3.3 Winvic are the principal contractors, with their responsibilities including planning, managing, monitoring, and coordinating the entire construction phase.

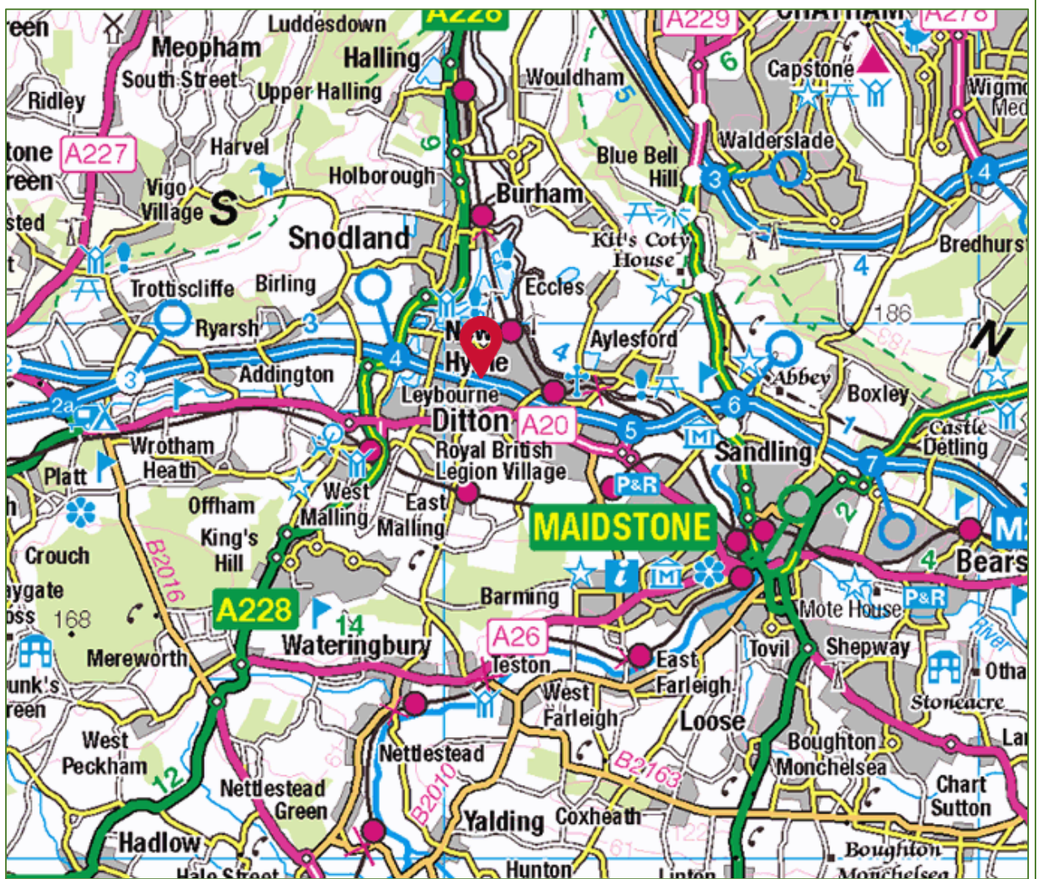
1.3.4 The principal contractor must ensure that the LEMP's actions and recommendations are integrated into the construction process and implemented effectively.

## End User

1.3.5 The designated end user will be the owner/client who have a crucial role in maintaining and managing the site post-construction to ensure ongoing adherence to the LEMP.

# Figure 1
# Location


N

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Application Site

Client

winvic

| Project title | Project ID |
|---|---|
| Unit 2 Newsprint Avenue | 235-34 |

Subject

Landscape & Ecology Management Plan

Drawing number

**23534-01LEMP_A**

| Drawing date | 19/01/24 | Version | A |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drawn by | PR | | |


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# 2 ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

## 2.1 EXISTING FEATURES RETAINED/ENHANCED

2.1.1 Most of the habitats on Site are of low ecological value will be lost to the development. A small area of the urban habitats including amenity grassland, vacant/derelict land/bare ground and developed land sealed surface will be retained, and some of the sparsely vegetated land and introduced shrubs around Ditton Stream will be retained.

2.1.2 A small section of neutral grassland habitat and pond non-priority habitat will be enhanced.

## 2.2 POST CONSTRUCTION FEATURES CREATED

2.2.1 The sections below describe the proposed habitats on site as shown on the Outline Landscape Plan[2], and entered into the Metric 2.0 calculation[3].

2.2.2 The landscape strategy includes creation of a variety of species-rich habitats including neutral grassland wildflower grassland in addition to scattered urban trees alongside ornamental and amenity planting.

### Grassland

2.2.3 Neutral grassland and wildflower grasslands will be created around the southwest corner of the Site associated with amenity grass verges and scattered trees.

[2] **Barton Wilmore 2020** Outline Landscape Plan
[3] **Middlemarch Environmental 2020** Framework Ecological Mitigation Strategy RT-MME-151819-08 Rev B

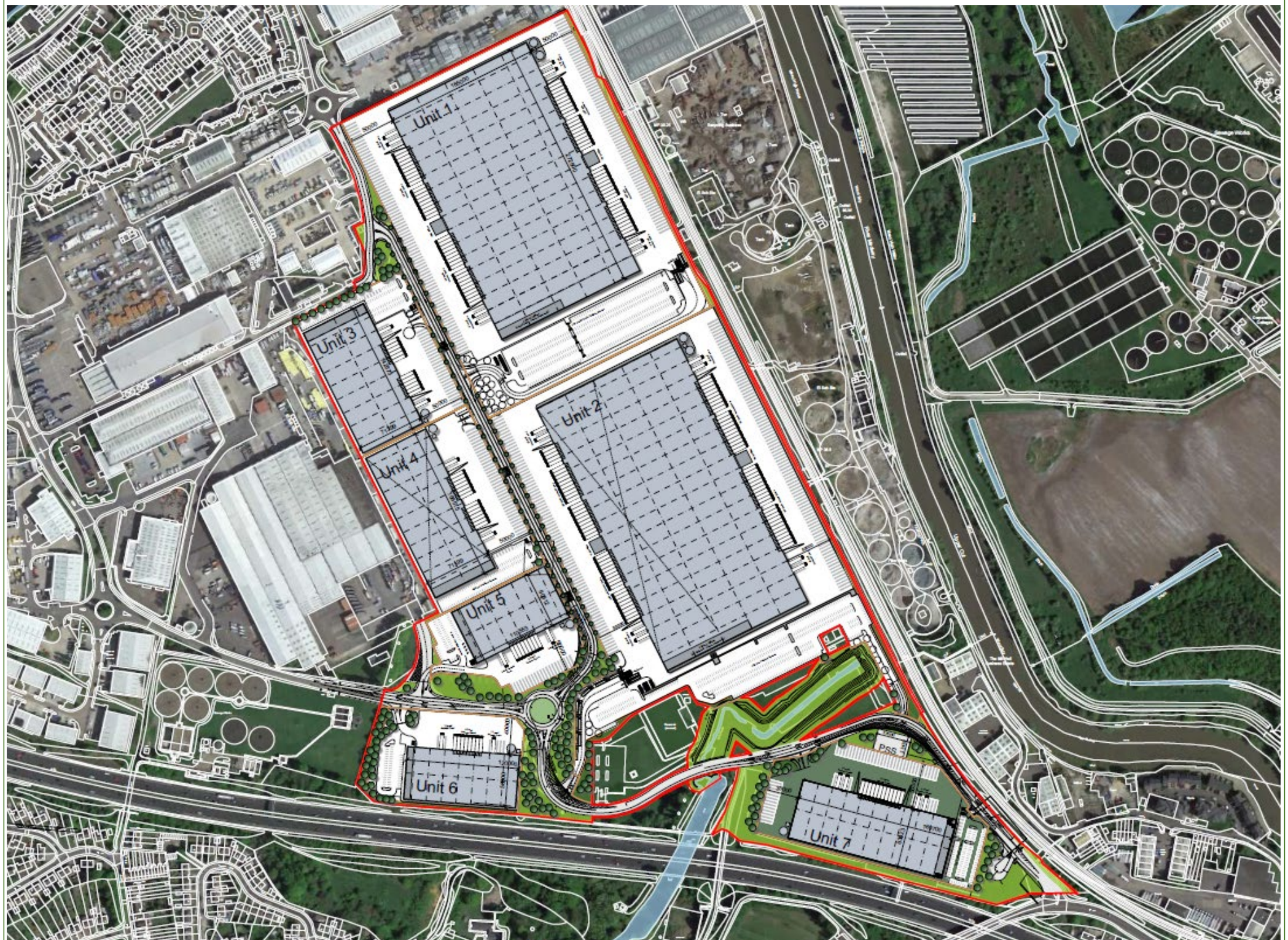
## Shrub Planting

2.2.4 Introduced shrub as well as ground level planters will be planted around the boundaries of the Site. Periodic management of the vegetation is required to maintain a diverse structure and prevent succession into woodland.

## New Specimen Tree Planting

2.2.5 A mixture of young urban trees will be planted across the site, largely associated with areas of grass verges.

# Figure 2
# Landscape Proposals

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Client

winvic

| Project title | Project ID |
|---|---|
| Unit 2 Newsprint Avenue | 235-34 |

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# 3 LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT

## 3.1 ECOLOGICAL TRENDS

3.1.1 The LEMP is designed to help the local authority achieve its Biodiversity Duty through the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, which also drives protection of Priority Habitats and Species.

3.1.2 The LEMP assists the proposals to realising a biodiversity net gain as defined by the Part 6 of the Environment Act 2021, especially through habitat creation and long-term management.

## 3.2 ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS

3.2.1 There are no designations or priority habitats within the site boundary or that would be affected by the proposals.

## 3.3 AIMS & OBJECTIVE OF MANAGEMENT

3.3.1 Aims are centred around maintaining those features of ecological value that remain following construction and those that are to be created. Objectives then provide the mechanism to achieve these aims, and they define the content of the Project Management Register. Refer to Table 1.

**Table 1: Aims and objectives.**

| Aim | Objective |
|---|---|
| **Aim 1** Improve the biodiversity value of created grassland habitat | G1 Rotational Mowing |
| | G2 Remove invasion |
| | G3 Water seeded areas in drought |
| | G4 Control invasive species |
| **Aim 2** Increase the biodiversity value of created Woodland Planting | WH1 Seed redistribution |
| | WH2 Replace failed plantings |
| | WH3 Water planted areas in drought |
| | WH4 Rotational hedge trimming |
| | WH5 Rotational edge cut back |

# 4 MANAGEMENT PROJECT REGISTER

## 4.1 AIM 1: CREATED GRASSLAND HABITAT (G)

**Table 2: Created grassland objectives**

| Objectives | Tasks |
|---|---|
| **G1 Rotational Mowing** | a.) Mowing of bank and bank top vegetation on an annual rotational and compartment basis. In the first year, grassland areas should be cut (between 4-7cm) in October. In subsequent years cuts shall take place in March and September of each year to a height of between 10 and 15cm with localised mowing of tall, invasive ruderals in late-September and March. |
| | b.) Wildflower areas should not be mown from early April to late July, August or early September. Cutting time is to be varied each year to prevent certain plants becoming dominant. If cutting takes place in July, uncut refuge should be left for invertebrates. |
| | c.) All arisings from any cut are to be removed or placed in a designated compost pile under the individual trees in SW corner of the Site. |
| | d.) It may be appropriate to designate non-intervention areas of grassland, where there is no cutting and long grass/scrub is allowed to establish. |
| **G2 Scrub and tree invasion** | a.) Remove occasional overhanging branches, thin to remove weaker specimens ensuring that scrub and trees do not invade access routes. |
| | b.) New scrub/tree growth in areas of grassland and pond habitat to be removed by hand, pulling roots out at the same time |
| **G3 Watering** | a.) Areas of seeded grassland require watering in times of drought. |
| | b.) Where areas of grassland die or fail to establish, they should be reseeded and watered until established. |
| **G4 Invasive Species** | a.) Regular Grassland surveys (at least every 3 years) to identify the presence and spread of any invasive species present on the site. |
| | b.) Method statement will be drawn up to ensure there is no future spread within or outside the site. |

## 4.2 AIM 2: CREATED WOODLAND & SCRUB PLANTING (WH)

**Table 3: Planting & Hedgerows Objectives**

| Objective | Tasks |
|---|---|
| **WH1 Seeding** | a.) An ecologist to collect seed from hedgerows and woodland on the Site from the retained trees on Site. |
| | b.) Store seeds in the appropriate manner (see https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/seed-storage/) |
| | c.) Sow seeds into new planting areas in the first year of planting |
| **WH2 Replace plantings** | a.) Failed saplings to be replaced with like for like plants as soon as reasonably possible (see landscape maintenance schedule in Table 4) |
| **WH3 Watering** | a.) In cases of drought, trees will require watering every day with freshwater for as long as the drought continues. |
| | b.) Newly planted hedgerows will require regular watering and monitoring |
| **WH4 Rotational trimming (hedges)** | a.) Hedgerows are to be trimmed every 3rd year, on an annual 15m length rotation, trimming towards an A-shaped section and approximately 2-3m minimum bottom width, allowing the shrubs to produce more flowers and berries. |
| | b.) Annual maintenance actions will include the selective spraying/streaming of weeds along all hedgerows, being careful of damaging any hedgerow or tree roots. |
| | c.) All hedgerow maintenance actions to take place as late as possible in the autumn, to allow fruit and berries to be available for foraging birds. |
| **WH5 Rotational trimming (woodland edge)** | a.) Woodland edges are to be trimmed every 5th year, on an annual 15m length rotation, allowing the ecotone shrubs to produce more flowers and berries. |
| | b.) Annual maintenance actions will include the selective spraying/streaming of weeds along all edges, being careful to avoid damaging any tree roots. |
| | c.) All maintenance actions to take place as late as possible in the autumn, to allow fruit and berries to be available for foraging birds. |
| | d.) Woodland edges are to be trimmed every 5th year, on an annual 15m length rotation, allowing the ecotone shrubs to produce more flowers and berries. |

# 5 FIVE-YEAR WORK SCHEDULE

## 5.1 MANAGEMENT PERIOD

5.1.1 The management and annual work plan detailing works for all features can be found in Table 4 and are valid for 5-years.

## 5.2 MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

5.2.1 The implementation of the management plan will be the responsibility of the occupiers, or their agents funded through a service charge. This will account for the funding and legal mechanisms required for the long-term implementation of this biodiversity management plan.

5.2.2 Any transference of responsibility of this plan should be done so with the appropriate appointment of a competent organisation capable of delivering the measures outlined within this document.

## 5.3 MONITORING

5.3.1 Opportunities for ongoing alignment with activities beyond the development project have been identified within the aims, monitoring is to be undertaken to ensure that the appropriate management actions prescribed in this Biodiversity Management Plan are delivering the proposed ecological objectives. Successful delivery of this Biodiversity Management Plan will require the ability to modify management actions in response to monitoring outcomes.

5.3.2 Monitoring aims to check the success and progress against the aims and objectives and, if required, will provide strategies for implementing remedial measures to address previously unforeseen impacts, to be agreed and implemented by the landowner.

### Table 4: Scheduling of Tasks

| Objective | Task | Activity | Years | | | | | Months | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| **G1 - Mowing** | a | Mowing | | As required | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | |
| | b | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | * | | | |
| | c | Arisings | | As required | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | d | Margins | | As required | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | |
| **G2 - Scrub and tree invasion** | a | Remove overhangs | | | | | + | * | * | | | | | | | | * | * | * |
| | b | Remove new growth | | | | | + | * | * | | | | | | | | * | * | * |
| **G3 - Watering** | a | Water dry areas | As required | | | | | | | | | As required | | | | | | | |
| | b | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **G4 – Invasives** | a | Invasive Survey | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | b | Method Statement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WH1 - Seeding** | a | Collection | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | * | | |
| | b | Seed Storage | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | * |
| | c | Sowing | | * | | | | * | * | | | | | | | | | * | * |
| **WH2 - Replace Plants** | a | Replacement | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | | | | | | | | * | * | * |
| **WH3 - Watering** | a | Daily Watering | As required | | | | | | | | | As required | | | | | | | |
| | b | Watering Hedgerows | As required | | | | | | | | | As required | | | | | | | |

| Objective | Task | Activity | Years | | | | | Months | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| **WH4 - Hedge Trimming** | a | Trimming | As req. | | + | | * | * | * | | | | | | | | * | * | * |
| | b/c | Maintenance | As required | | | | | * | * | | | | | | | | * | * | * |
| **WH5 - Edge Trimming** | a | Trimming | | | | | + | * | * | | | | | | | | * | * | * |
| | b/c | Maintenance | As required | | | | | * | * | | | | | | | | * | * | * |

+ - denotes a follow on is likely in the forthcoming 5 years during the Plan review (refer to 24)

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