

TAYLOR WIMPEY  
BARRATT HOMES  
BOVIS HOMES

MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT  
LONGFORD PARK, BANBURY

Application No. 05/01337/OUT

Planning Condition 20:  
**Habitat Creation & Management Plan**

 aspect  
ecology

 aspect  
landscape planning

November 2015  
5205.HCMP.006a

## COPYRIGHT

The copyright of this document remains with  
Aspect Landscape Planning Ltd and Aspect Ecology Ltd.  
The contents of this document therefore must not  
be copied or reproduced in whole or in part  
for any purpose without the written consent of  
the authoring companies.



West Court, Hardwick Business Park  
Noral Way, Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX16 2AF

t 01295 276066

f 01295 265072

info@aspect-landscape.com  
info@aspect-ecology.com

web: [www.aspectlp.co.uk](http://www.aspectlp.co.uk)

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES, AIMS &amp; OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>THE MASTERPLAN PROPOSALS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>MONITORING &amp; REVIEW</b>	<b>27</b>

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1	Character Areas
APPENDIX 2	Habitat Management Masterplan
APPENDIX 3	Ecological Features Plan
APPENDIX 4	Landscape Management Schedule
APPENDIX 5	Protection of Ecological Resources



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Aspect Landscape Planning Ltd and Aspect Ecology Ltd have been appointed by Barratt Homes, Bovis Homes and Taylor Wimpey (the 'Consortium') to produce a Habitat Creation Management Plan (HCMP) to provide management and maintenance guidelines for the managing body and in turn to discharge Condition 20 of outline consent 05/01337/OUT for the mixed-use development at Longford Park, Banbury. The condition is as follows:

***Condition 20: Habitat Creation & Management Plan***

*A habitat creation and management plan shall be produced, following consultation with the Local Planning Authority and wildlife organisations, and submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to any development on the site. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plan to ensure that measures identified in the Environmental Statement and the nature conservation value of compensatory and retained habitats is enhanced or maintained both during works on site and in the long term.*

- 1.2. The long term intention is that Cherwell District Council (CDC) will adopt all public open space and habitat creation areas within the development. As such, this document has been produced in consultation with CDC to ensure a cooperative approach between the Consortium and the Council.
- 1.3. This visionary document aims to set out the overarching habitat creation aspirations and landscape framework for the development. As a strategic document, it seeks to define the habitats to be retained and created and the subsequent management principles to ensure a long term sustainable landscape asset designed to maximise biodiversity benefits.
- 1.4. It is anticipated that each Reserved Matters Approval will contain conditions requiring more detailed information, e.g. landscape scheme to cover planting specifications, protected species mitigation strategies, arboricultural method statements, etc.

1.5. The HCMP takes the following format:

- Background Information;
- Opportunities, Aims & Objectives;
- The Masterplan Proposals;
- Management Principles;
- Monitoring and Review.

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Context

- 2.1. The development site is located within Bodicote, immediately to the south of Banbury and is bound by Oxford Road to the west, Bankside to the north, and fields to the east extending to the Oxford Canal. The site area comprises c.78 hectares of intensive agricultural land, with outline planning permission for mixed use development and the provision of a Community Park to maintain separation between Bodicote and Banbury.
- 2.2. The original village centre lies along Church Street in the west of Bodicote, and modern development has occurred along the routes through the historic core including East Street / Weeping Cross and Broad Gap, and extending south as typical late twentieth century housing with a number of cul-de-sacs. To the east of Oxford Road, ribbon development is present in the form of bungalows and semi-detached properties set back behind private roads and grass verges up to Canal Lane, beyond which lies the main extent of the development site.
- 2.3. The urban edge of Banbury lies to the north at Bankside, with an extensive network of roads, modern housing and incidental open space. The topography of the area is part of the Cherwell Valley, with dramatic views to the east across the valley which the M40 runs through north-south.

### Site description

- 2.4. The development site is made up of large scale arable fields with hedgerow boundaries and individual trees. The Oxford Canal is visible within the valley, with a series of draw bridges and the tow path on the eastern side linking Banbury with the wider network of public rights of way.

- 2.5. The ES provides full details on the ecological and landscape baseline situation of the site as a whole. For convenience, a summary of the main existing ecology and landscape elements is provided below. Refer also to the Ecological Features Plan at Appendix 3, which illustrates the locations and distribution of habitats across the site.

#### *Flora*

- 2.6. The site is dominated by intensive arable farmland with small areas of unmanaged grassland, typically bordered by hedgerows of varying structure and management. As a consequence there is overall a relatively low existing floristic diversity. Several ditches / streams are associated with boundary hedgerows, and a single ephemeral pond is situated adjacent to the canal.
- 2.7. The main grassland type within the site was improved neutral grassland, which was horse grazed at the time of the original survey and dominated by Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*.
- 2.8. Hedgerows form the majority of field boundaries within the site. The management of hedgerows is variable with those associated with arable field compartments heavily managed. Woody species diversity is generally high and includes local species such as Midland Hawthorn *Crataegus levigata* and those of generally more calcicolous habitat such as Buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus*, Wayfaring-tree *Viburnum lantana*, Spindle *Euonymus europaea* and Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*. Mature standard trees are relatively infrequent with Oak *Quercus robur* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* present occasionally.
- 2.9. Mature trees are scattered throughout the site and are generally found in association with hedgerows as standards or along the northern section of the Oxford Canal adjacent to the site boundary. Hedgerow standards are predominantly mature Ash or Oak. Mature trees associated with the canal are confined to Crack willow *Salix fragilis* with occasional Osier *Salix viminalis* or Goat willow *Salix caprea* scrub also present.

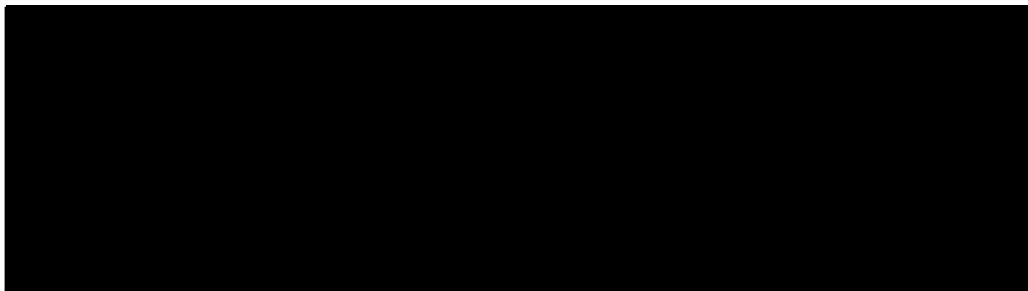


- 2.10. The Oxford Canal supports only a limited diversity of species due to the structure of the canal (being predominantly deep, vertically sided and containing only limited marginal vegetation) and is heavily used by boat traffic. Nonetheless the Oxford Canal is included within the Oxfordshire Wetlands Habitat Action Plan and Cherwell Aquatic Habitats Action Plan.

#### *Fauna*

- 2.11. In terms of fauna, the site supports a range of species and species groups, including Badger, Otter, bats, reptiles, invertebrates and birds.

2.12.



- 2.13. The nearby River Cherwell is known to be used by Otter, however, the Oxford Canal at the northern boundary of the site is not known to be used by Otter, albeit given the proximity of the River Cherwell it is possible that Otter may pass through the canal on occasion.
- 2.14. Bat surveys confirmed the presence of Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* foraging along the canal.
- 2.15. Anecdotal evidence suggests the possible presence of Grass Snake in grassland to the north of the site.
- 2.16. Invertebrate surveys of the Oxford Canal observed a total of five nymph species and three species of Odonata.
- 2.17. A total of 17 species of bird were identified within the site which represents early breeding species and residents. Areas of greatest relative bird diversity include the improved grassland fields and associated hedgerows and tall less heavily managed hedgerows.

#### *Landscape Considerations*

- 2.18. The existing local landscape is already influenced by the context of Banbury's urban fringe with features of Cherwell Heights, Oxford Road, and beyond within the valley: the M40 motorway and Grimsbury Industrial Estate.
- 2.19. The site is not covered by any formal landscape designation. The important views across the valley were identified in the ES as a principal site feature that requires consideration in the development of the proposals. The landscape character and visual integrity of the Cherwell Valley is worthy of protection and enhancement. In particular, the eastern rising flanks of the valley are attractive in their own right, and provide panoramic views across the open valley where public access exists.
- 2.20. The development masterplan ensures that built development areas are located away from the more sensitive valley slopes. The new development will respect the slopes of the Cherwell Valley with the provision of the Community Park and will create an appropriate transition between a new urban environment and an enhanced river valley landscape character area.
- 2.21. The proposed new landscape framework will include the retention and reinforcement of these existing features together with substantial areas of new hedgerow, tree and woodland planting, which will provide a significant enhancement of the local landscape character. Conserving the existing vegetation, respecting the valley slopes and Oxford Canal will provide a positive contribution to the local landscape and the Cherwell Valley.

### 3. OPPORTUNITIES, AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The site's current use, predominantly intensively managed agricultural land, offers limited biodiversity interest or community benefits at present. The proposals are for a sustainable development offering new housing, community facilities and a Community Park at the heart of the project. The associated extensive public amenity is led by landscape and ecologically focused design with robust green infrastructure that offers large areas of usable and accessible open space and affords substantial opportunities to increase the ecological value of the area.
- 3.2. The existing habitats of relative ecological interest are the hedgerows and trees, and these will be largely retained and bolstered as part of the development proposals. The remaining intensive agricultural land provides a relatively blank canvas upon which extensive habitat creation is proposed. A variety of habitats will be created to both provide for the wildlife currently utilising the site and encourage new species to colonise. Both retained and newly created habitats will be managed according to ecological principles in order to provide a long term landscape and ecological asset.
- 3.3. The ES set out (paragraph 6.94) the key new habitat types to be created as part of the development, as follows:
- New native hedgerow, broadleaved woodland and tree planting;
  - Areas of semi-natural grassland of varying management regimes within the Community Park;
  - Wetland areas adjacent to the canal, including areas of open water and marsh to provide areas of lower disturbance than the canal;
  - Vegetated swales and periodically wet detention basins providing habitats for wildlife.
- 3.4. The key objectives of the habitat creation and landscape strategy are:
- Exploit the natural views to and from the site;
  - Create a network of pedestrian and cycle linkages;
  - Enhance existing habitats and landscape structure;

- Habitat creation to increase biodiversity value;
- Generate new and attractive areas of public amenity and open space;
- Embrace the canal-side relationship.

## 4. THE MASTERPLAN PROPOSALS

### Development Vision

- 4.1. The vision for Longford Park is stated and the principles detailed within Longford Park, Banbury Masterplan and Design Code, July 2012. This document provides the foundations from which the proposed scheme has been developed.
- 4.2. The vision within the Design Code is that Longford Park will be a place with a distinct character, which has well laid out streets and buildings, and is responsive to the local landscape and architectural setting. Longford Park will provide a wide range of important local amenities such as shops, offices, a school, and civic uses clustered in the core of the development, as well as the Community Park and play spaces in the wider masterplan area.
- 4.3. There are two main neighbourhood groups; the Plateau is located to the north-eastern side of the Oxford Road and Haynesbridge is located to the south western side of the Oxford Union Canal. Each of these areas contains specific landscape features such as mature trees, hedgerows and lanes, all of which have been designed into the urban areas in a way that respects and enhances their setting.
- 4.4. The proposals have evolved from the principles and illustrative masterplan outlined within the Design Code. The design and components of the community park have been developed in response to the Section 106 Bankside/ College Fields - Brief for Valley Side Community Park, together with the requirements outlined within the Environmental Statement, in particular the habitat creation measures (see paragraph 3.3 above).
- 4.5. A Character Area plan has been produced at Appendix 1 to illustrate the various character zones proposed across the site. In addition, Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the character zones outlining the distinguishing features, the quality and character of each zone as well as the associated purpose within the masterplan.

**Table 1: Landscape Character Zones**

Character Zone	Features	Character	Purpose
<b>Community Park</b>			
Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sculptural gateway feature</li> <li>▪ Framed views out across Cherwell Valley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parkland quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emergency/ maintenance access</li> </ul>
Woodland glade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wildflower meadow glade with mown paths within woodland setting</li> <li>▪ Large open expanse of space with steep topography</li> <li>▪ Panoramic views across Cherwell Valley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exposed, expansive, large scale</li> <li>▪ Wild and windy</li> <li>▪ Steep descent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for grazing</li> <li>▪ Habitat creation</li> </ul>
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meandering informal footpath through trees</li> <li>▪ Swathes of Bluebells</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enclosed, sheltered</li> <li>▪ Steep descent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Habitat creation</li> </ul>
Lower wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ecological focus</li> <li>▪ Visual interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permanent water</li> <li>▪ Limited access</li> <li>▪ Relationship with canal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SUDs</li> <li>▪ Habitat creation</li> </ul>
Events space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LEAP</li> <li>▪ Picnic benches</li> <li>▪ Amphitheatre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Formal avenues of trees</li> <li>▪ Relationship with adjacent residential area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parking</li> <li>▪ Outdoor events space</li> <li>▪ Toilets and services</li> </ul>
Embankment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Central zig-zag path</li> <li>▪ Land art; swathes of wildflower, bulbs and ornamental shrubs</li> <li>▪ Visual/ seasonal interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expansive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Habitat creation</li> <li>▪ Focal interest for onlooking residents</li> <li>▪ Backdrop to events space</li> </ul>
Sports pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Football pitches</li> <li>▪ Play; MUGA &amp; NEAP</li> <li>▪ Bulbs and formal hedgerows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Formal avenues of trees</li> <li>▪ Functional amenity grass</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recreational/ sports facilities</li> <li>▪ Access to residential development</li> <li>▪ Parking</li> <li>▪ Toilets &amp; facilities</li> </ul>
Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copses and groups of individual trees</li> <li>▪ Swathes of wildflower to the borders and beneath trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parkland quality</li> <li>▪ Sheltered but spacious and open</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recreational space</li> <li>▪ Habitat creation</li> </ul>
Linear Park inc. community orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Variety of fruit trees under planted with wildflower meadow</li> <li>▪ Mown paths</li> <li>▪ Visual/ seasonal interest</li> <li>▪ Play; LEAP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sheltered, enclosed</li> <li>▪ More intimate, small scale</li> <li>▪ Strong relationship with on looking residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Connectivity/ link to wider residential development</li> <li>▪ Habitat creation</li> </ul>
Upper wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ephemeral ponds</li> <li>▪ Board walk</li> <li>▪ Lookout tower</li> <li>▪ Informal play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High point</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SUDs</li> <li>▪ Habitat creation</li> </ul>

Character Zone	Features	Character	Purpose
<b>Development Areas</b>			
The Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Key hedgerows along field boundaries</li> <li>▪ Linear park along Oxford Road frontage</li> <li>▪ Retain hedgerow to Canal Lane</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Village character</li> <li>▪ Parkland edges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High quality development</li> <li>▪ Access to Country Park</li> </ul>
Haynesbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Close to Canal</li> <li>▪ Rural setting with parks to all sides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Canalside character</li> <li>▪ Urban/rural transition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High quality development</li> <li>▪ Access to Country Park</li> <li>▪ Sustainable location</li> </ul>

### *The Community Park*

4.6. The Community Park forms the heart of Longford Park. It provides a variety of environments including formal play, the canal basin setting and informal open space that offers natural slopes with long views across the Cherwell Valley. The Community Park will be the focus of the habitat creation as part of the overall masterplan. It will be a place that offers a different experience all year round. The majority of the area is made up of grasslands, hedgerows and woodland planting. There will also be wetland areas that provide additional ecological enhancement to the park.

4.7. The Community Park Design Principles within the Design Code document are as follows:

- Fully protect the sensitive 'valley slopes' as illustrated on the Concept Masterplan;
- Demonstrate enhanced biodiversity and habitat creation by using the species listed in the landscape masterplan;
- Provide a restoration of the landscape with new hedgerows and woodland areas;
- Seek to replicate the traditional landscape character of the Cherwell Valley;
- Provide large areas of informal open space;

- Provide a robust structural planting framework assimilating the development into the broader landscape;
- Improve and increase accessibility with a new footway-cycleway route connecting the Haynesbridge and Plateau areas as informal routes across the Park;
- Provide areas of active play and formal sport provision in line with the Section 106 agreement;
- Protect existing hedgerows and semi-mature hedgerow trees.

#### Development Areas

- 4.8. The detailed design for each development phase including perimeter planting and play areas and open space will be determined with the Local Authority through the Reserved Matters process. The development areas of Longford Park are divided into two character areas due to the key differences in location, environment and topography. The two separate character areas are called the Plateau and Haynesbridge.

##### *The Plateau*

- 4.9. The Plateau will take the form of a village with a local centre, residential streets and a housing perimeter that will look out onto parkland. The main street will be defined by key buildings and higher occurrence of red brick dwellings will define the route. At the local centre building heights will be higher to create a sense of enclosure to the civic space. Towards the development edges building heights and densities will be reduced creating a village edge character. Hedgerows will create an important character within the Plateau area and careful consideration has been given to retain key hedgerows.

##### *Haynesbridge*

- 4.10. The Haynesbridge area is located between Bankside Park and the Community Park and is close walking distance to the town centre. Its form and setting will reinforce the character of a relatively separate community as it is almost completely surrounded by parks and



countryside. The canal side character will not be that typically associated with wharfs and tow paths. It will be a type of character that illustrates the transition from rural to urban. It will be valued for its quiet canal side living environment. The residential planting bordering the boundaries of this residential parcel will bleed out into the surrounding community park and canal-side reinforcing the urban to rural transition as outlined in the design code.

#### Habitat Creation Rationale and Proposals

- 4.11. As described previously, the approach to habitat creation at the development site has been centred on retaining and integrating the existing hedgerow and tree network, and providing a suite of additional habitats to provide enhancements.
- 4.12. The habitat types proposed have been selected based on the commitments set out in the ES, along with providing locally appropriate habitats compatible with those naturally occurring in the area and based on those likely to be sustained. The habitat types selected have also been informed by the aims identified at the national level in accordance with Priority Habitats listed on the S41 list under the NERC Act 2006 and at the regional level in line with the Cherwell and Oxfordshire LBAP Habitat Targets. These habitats will provide a substantial increase in diversity and quantum of habitat types, which will also provide an increase in foraging, commuting, breeding, nesting and shelter habitat for a wide range of fauna.
- 4.13. The creation of a wide range of habitats will contribute towards local provision of accessible open space with varied experiences and habitats to explore, benefiting both the local community and the local wildlife. This rich tapestry of habitats which both embrace and enhance the setting of the proposals, will present a high degree of biodiversity and community importance.
- 4.14. The key habitat creation measures proposed are described below.

### *Woodland*

- 4.15. The existing site and immediate surroundings contain very little woodland habitat, with Cherwell as a whole being lightly wooded (c.3.5%). Lowland deciduous woodland is a national and local priority habitat type. Accordingly, the proposals include extensive native woodland creation at the site, including large blocks of woodland and smaller woodland copses. This will bolster the existing small area of woodland adjacent the eastern boundary and provide stepping stone habitat across the Community Park.
- 4.16. A variety of different woodland types are proposed, based on the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) types known to occur in Oxfordshire. This will provide a number of different woodland communities, which in turn will support a diversity of flora and fauna. The NVC communities have been used to select typical canopy and understorey species, and it is also proposed to plug-plant the field layer with representative herbs, grasses and ferns. In addition, a proportion of the woodland edges will be sown with a mix of shade-tolerant herbs, whilst the remainder will be left to natural colonisation.

### *Hedgerow and Tree Planting*

- 4.17. To facilitate access to and within the development, several areas of hedgerow are to be lost. To compensate for this habitat loss, new hedgerow planting will be incorporated into the development, which, along with enhancement of retained hedgerows, will provide wildlife corridors throughout the site.
- 4.18. Such new habitat will ensure connectivity between the site and wider landscape is maintained, such that wildlife may safely move through the site while providing a net gain in biodiversity overall. Hedgerows will comprise locally native species. A number of existing hedgerows will also be extended / bolstered with new native planting to increase species diversity and extend existing wildlife corridors.

### *Orchard*

- 4.19. Traditional orchards in England have declined by more than 60% over the last 50 years and are a national conservation priority. The proposals will assist in addressing this decline by including the creation of two orchards within the Community Park.

### *Native Shrub Planting*

- 4.20. New landscape planting will be incorporated throughout the Community Park, including areas of locally native shrub planting. Such planting will provide new opportunities for wildlife, including invertebrates, birds and small mammals. The variety of fruit and nut bearing species in particular will provide a seasonal food resource for these species groups.

### *Wildflower Grassland*

- 4.21. The existing site contains agriculturally improved grassland, which supports a relatively low diversity of plants and provides limited opportunities for wildlife. The proposed development will deliver a significant enhancement through the creation of a number of areas of wildflower meadow grassland. Lowland meadow is a national and local conservation priority habitat type.
- 4.22. Several different grassland communities are proposed, with dry and damp grasslands to suit the likely prevailing ground conditions, for example areas within and adjacent surface water attenuation features will be sown with a wet grassland seed mix. The soils are understood to be generally of neutral pH and hence the grassland communities targeted are neutral in nature.
- 4.23. The existing land is currently likely to be high in nutrients and will no doubt have a residual seed bank of pernicious weeds. Accordingly, in order to prepare the land for reversion to grassland it will first be necessary to reduce the weed burden through the application of herbicides. The proposed management of the grassland will reduce the

soil nutrient levels over time. If practicable, spare subsoil from the construction works could be used to further reduce the soil nutrient levels.

- 4.24. The proposals will also allow for a degree of natural grassland establishment, for example the main run of the proposed ditch along hedgerow H5 will be left to natural colonisation and existing hedgerows will also have a habitat buffer that will be allowed to develop naturally rather than being seeded.

*Wetland Habitat (Balancing Ponds and Ditch)*

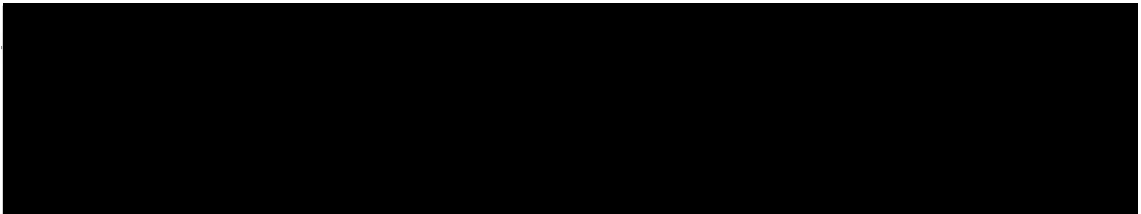
- 4.25. The surface water drainage strategy for the development involves the creation of four balancing ponds (two that are likely to hold water for part of the year and two that will be largely ephemeral). The ponds will provide new wetland habitat at the site and will complement the adjacent canal-side habitat, providing a backdrop of less disturbed habitat compared to the existing canal.
- 4.26. In addition, a ditch is to be created parallel with hedgerow H5, which will partly feed the balancing ponds. Rocks will be strategically placed within the channel of the ditch to introduce morphological variation and provide varied flow conditions. The ditch channel and banks will be left to natural colonisation.
- 4.27. The ephemeral ponds will be dominated by wet grassland but will also include Reedbeds, which will introduce yet another habitat type to the site; thereby providing additional ecological interest.
- 4.28. The new wetland habitat will provide opportunities for a range of amphibian and invertebrate species, along with foraging habitat and water supply for mammals and birds.

*Fauna-specific Enhancements*

- 4.29. A number of scrapes will be created along the line of the new ditch. The scrapes will comprise shallow, gently sloping depressions that will hold

water periodically. The wet muddy edges of the scrapes will be particularly beneficially to feeding birds, such as waders, and will also provide habitat for a range of invertebrates, including beetles, bugs and molluscs.

- 4.30. The spoil arising from the scrape creation will be used to create adjacent bee banks. The banks can also be used to incorporate any excess aggregates or spoil arising from the development works. The banks will include south-facing, relatively steep slopes that will provide habitat for thermophilic ground nesting invertebrates, such as solitary bees, solitary wasps, beetles and spiders.
- 4.31. A number of bat and bird boxes are also to be incorporated within the proposed development so as to provide new roosting and nesting opportunities for these faunal groups. The boxes will be installed on suitable existing trees and/or incorporated within a proportion of the new build as integrated features. The precise numbers and locations will be determined as part of the detailed design of each relevant phase.



#### Habitat Creation Summary

- 4.33. Table 2 below provides a summary of the proposed habitat creation within the Community Park. This will guide detail that will be required as part of future Reserved Matters Approvals. Detailed species lists and ratios will be provided as part of the consenting process at the appropriate stage. However, the key species targeted within the newly created and retained habitats are highlighted within Table 2. The table should be read in conjunction with the Habitat Management Masterplan – see Appendix 2.

**Table 2: Habitat Types Created and Retained and Associated Flora and Fauna**

Habitat Type (Possible NVC Category)	Cherwell and Oxfordshire BAP and Priority Habitat Types	Key Target Species	
		Flora	Fauna
Woodland: Alder (W7), Field Maple (W8), Oak – Birch (W10) Beech (W12), Oak (W16)	Lowland Beech Woodland, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland	<p><b>W7-</b> Alder, Silver Birch, Grey Willow, Hazel, Hawthorn, Meadowsweet, Lady-fern</p> <p><b>W8-</b> Field Maple, Hornbeam, Hazel, Blackthorn, Dogwood, Privet, Spindle, Tufted Hair-grass, Wood-sedge, Bluebell</p> <p><b>W10-</b> Oak, Silver Birch, Small-leaved Lime, Hornbeam, Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly, Guelder-rose, Bluebell, Honeysuckle, Wood Melick, Male-fern</p> <p><b>W12-</b> Beech, Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly, Field Maple, Primrose, Dog's mercury, Ramsons, Wood Melick</p> <p><b>W16-</b> Oak, Silver Birch, Rowan, Alder, Buckthorn, Elder, Hairy Wood-rush, Broad Buckler-fern, Wood Sage</p>	Badger, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Marsh Tit, Soprano Pipistrelle, Hedgehog
Broad leaf copse: W8 (Field Maple)	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Field Maple, Hornbeam, Hazel, Blackthorn, Dogwood, Privet, Spindle, Tufted Hair-grass, Wood-sedge, Bluebell	Hawfinch, Linnet, Small mammals
Hedgerow trees	-	Oak, Field Maple, Beech	Bullfinch, Bats
Existing trees	-	Oak, Willow	Birds, Bats, Invertebrate
Standard Trees	-	Oak, Field Maple, Beech	Birds, Bats, Invertebrates
Orchard	Traditional Orchard	Cherry, Apple, Pear, Walnut, Hazel, Plum	Birds, Hedgehog, Badger
Existing hedgerows	Hedgerows	Hazel, Rowan, Elder, Dog-rose, Holly, Beech	Yellowhammer, Bats, Small Mammals, Badger,

Habitat Type (Possible NVC Category)	Cherwell and Oxfordshire BAP and Priority Habitat Types	Key Target Species	
		Flora	Fauna
			Reptiles, Invertebrates
Proposed hedgerow	Hedgerows	Hazel, Rowan, Elder, Dog-rose, Holly, Wild Privet, English Elm <sup>1</sup>	Birds, Myotis Bat sp., Small Mammals, Badger, Slow-worm, White Letter-hairstreak
Shrubs	-	Hazel, Rowan, Elder, Dog-rose, Wild Privet	Birds and Invertebrates
Neutral wildflower grassland (MG5)	Lowland Meadow	Crested Dog's-tail, Red Fescue, Common Knapweed, Oxeye Daisy, Bird's-foot Trefoil	Common Lizard, Badger, Birds, Bats, Harvest Mouse
Wet grassland (MG4, MG8)	Lowland Meadow	Great Burnet, Meadow Sweet, Marsh Bedstraw, Soft Rush, Sedge sp., Marsh- marigold	Grass snake, Common Toad, Invertebrates, Birds
Amenity grassland: (Emorsgate seed mix - EL1, EN1, EM1, EG22)	-	Bird's-foot Trefoil, Selfheal, Crested Dog's Tail, Common Bent, Salad Burnet	Invertebrates, Birds
Attenuation pond	Ponds	Sedges, Rushes, Yellow Iris, Brooklime, Peppermint, Purple- loosestrife	Amphibians, Odonata, Birds, Daubenton Bat
Ephemeral ponds (MG4, MG8)	Ponds	Sedges, Rushes, Marsh Bedstraw,	Reptiles, Amphibians, Invertebrates, Birds

<sup>1</sup> Only the strain resistant to Dutch Elm disease.

## 5. MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

### Operational Management

- 5.1. As identified previously, the masterplan provides a range of habitats to enhance the landscape setting and increase biodiversity for future generations. In order for the biodiversity and landscape benefits to be realised, an appropriate management strategy will be implemented. Fully detailed maintenance and management regimes for each habitat type are included in the Landscape Management Schedules at Appendix 4, which has been informed by Cherwell DC's standard landscape Technical Specifications. The relevant habitat-specific management operations are described below.

### *Woodland*

- 5.2. Initial management of the new woodland areas will be focused on checking the establishment of the plants and replacing any failures. As the woodland develops, a longer-term management regime will be established based on the traditional system of coppice with standards. This will involve a coppicing regime in 5 year cycles, as described below, with the main objective being to develop a multi-layered woodland structure, comprising canopy trees, understorey and a rich ground flora.
- 5.3. The woodland management shall be undertaken sensitively, guided by ecological principles which include minimising the use of herbicides / pesticides, etc., avoiding the use of heavy machinery which may cause soil compaction and ensuring that relevant works are undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (i.e. outside March to August inclusive). The woodland management will follow the CDC technical specifications for 'Woodland / Tree Maintenance' and 'Arboricultural Operations'.
- 5.4. The canopy trees will be inspected for the health of the main trunk and limbs and their overall structural integrity. This would occur during the coppicing of the understorey as described below.



- 5.5. A coppicing regime of the understorey will be undertaken in minimum 5 year cycles on rotation. Different woodland compartments will be coppiced at each 5 year interval, so as to allow reasonable recovery time for each compartment whilst also providing sufficient disturbance / variation in light levels for the ground flora to fully develop. The coppicing should be undertaken between January to February or mid-September till the end of November.
- 5.6. At least once a year, a proportion of any overly-dominant scrub growth (e.g. Bramble) will be thinned and any re-occurring invasive species will be removed. Any litter within the woodland will also be removed.
- 5.7. Over time, the woodland management will seek to continually build up the deadwood resource within the woodlands by retention and stacking of arisings.

#### *Hedgerows*

- 5.8. In the first spring following planting, the new hedgerows will be pruned to a height of 45 – 60cm above ground level to encourage dense, bushy growth. The new hedgerows will then be pruned incrementally higher and wider on an annual basis until they reach the desired size and shape, which will ideally be at least 2m tall by 1.5m wide with an 'A'-shape or chamfered profile to provide a wide base beneficial as cover for wildlife.
- 5.9. Once established, most likely after years 4-5, the hedgerows will be cut every other year so as to achieve the desired dense hedgerow structure and also to maximise berry production of fruit-bearing shrub species. The hedgerow bases will essentially be managed as wildflower grassland (see below)
- 5.10. The retained hedgerows will be managed from the outset as per 5.9 above, i.e. every other year.

### *Trees*

- 5.11. New tree planting will initially be managed as detailed in the Landscape Management Schedules so as to control weeds and promote the development of good specimens. Longer term management will continue to focus on the development of good specimens with no specific management operations required in terms of ecological interest.
- 5.12. Retained trees will be subject to ongoing management, with tree works carried out as and when required in accordance with arboricultural best practice to maintain health and vigour.

### *Orchard*

- 5.13. Management of individual orchard trees will initially be as described above for the new tree planting. Over time, as the trees mature, the management regime will seek to retain trees for as long as possible so as ultimately to provide standing deadwood. Any deadwood that is not safe to retain standing shall be removed and stacked up nearby.
- 5.14. Management of the underlying grassland will be as for the wildflower grassland across the site (see below). The use of pesticides will be avoided.

### *Wildflower Grassland*

- 5.15. New areas of wildflower grassland are to be created, comprising drier areas within open space and at the base of hedgerows, and wetter areas associated with the surface water attenuation features, which will be periodically inundated. Management for both types of grassland will essentially be the same and will follow the CDC technical specifications for maintenance of wild flora areas, with the wildflower grassland managed as a Combination Meadow ('E Cut').
- 5.16. Management will be designed to encourage floristic diversity by regular cutting to control ranker grasses and weeds, whilst also controlling

scrub encroachment and reducing nutrient levels. The cutting will also be timed to allow wildflowers to set seed. A proportion of the grassland areas will also be left uncut for longer periods (2-3 years at a time) to encourage tussock formation and therefore structural heterogeneity amongst the sward.

#### *Amenity Grassland*

- 5.17. New areas of amenity grassland are to be managed as appropriate following the CDC technical specifications for maintenance of General Amenity / Verge Areas ('B Cut').

#### *Wetland*

- 5.18. The ponds holding water periodically will undergo a relatively relaxed management regime based on non-intervention so as to allow semi-natural plant communities to develop and to minimise disturbance to wildlife (based on the CDC technical specifications for maintenance of aquatic areas). Periodic control of any overly dominant or invasive plant species will be carried out as appropriate.
- 5.19. The more ephemeral attenuation features will be managed as per the wildflower grassland above with the exception of reedbed areas, which will not be managed.

#### *Bat and Bird Boxes*

- 5.20. The proposed bat bricks and boxes are rot proof and extremely long lasting. They are effectively self-cleaning and therefore no particular maintenance or management is required.
- 5.21. Annual visual inspections from the ground will be undertaken of the bat and bird boxes within areas of open space to ensure they remain in good condition and as such do not pose a health and safety risk, whilst continuing to offer suitable opportunities for bats and birds.

- 5.22. Where boxes have become dislodged or unsafe, these will be re-secured, ideally during the late autumn months (ideally October) when they are less likely to be in use. Any damaged boxes will be replaced.

#### *Legislation*

- 5.23. *Birds.* All wild birds and their nests receive protection under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect of killing and injury, and their nests, whilst being built or in use, cannot be taken, damaged or destroyed.
- 5.24. All pruning works are to be undertaken outside of the bird-nesting season (i.e. not between 1st March and 31st August inclusive), where practicable. Should this not be practicable, a nesting bird check survey should first be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist. Any active nests identified should be cordoned off and protected until the end of the nesting season or until the nests are no longer active.
- 5.25. Should any bird boxes require replacement this should take place outside the bird-nesting season (i.e. not between 1st March and 31st August inclusive).
- 5.26. *Bats.* All British bats are classed as European Protected Species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and are also listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As such, both bats and their roosts (breeding sites and resting places) receive full protection under the legislation.
- 5.27. Accordingly, bat boxes will not be cleared out, repaired or replaced unless by personnel carrying the appropriate licence from Natural England or under the direct supervision of such personnel, as appropriate.

### Summary

5.28. The detailed management schedules for each habitat are found at Appendix 4. Table 3 below summarises the key management principles and objectives for each habitat type.

**Table 3: Habitat Management Principles and Objectives**

Item	Habitat	Management Principle/Objective
1	Woodland	Rotational coppicing of understorey and occasional felling of mature trees (felled / dead wood to be left <i>in situ</i> ) followed by re-planting where appropriate, to create a multi-layered structure incorporating mature trees forming a closed canopy, young trees / shrubs and open rides supporting a botanically rich ground flora.
2	Broadleaf Woodland Copse	See 'Woodland' above.
3	Hedgerow trees	Minimal management where necessary to maintain healthy trees. Retain dead wood <i>in situ</i> wherever practicable.
4	Existing trees	See 'Hedgerow trees' above.
5	Proposed trees	See 'Hedgerow trees' above.
6	Community Orchard	The orchard will bolster an existing hedgerow, and will be managed to provide a balance between fruit production for the community and ecological benefit. Dead wood will be left <i>in situ</i> wherever practicable.
7	Existing hedgerows	Hedgerows should be regularly trimmed every 2 to 3 years in late winter and allowed to incrementally increase in height. Any gaps will be re-planted. This should provide dense, well-structured and healthy hedgerows.
8	Proposed hedgerows	Once established, hedgerows should be trimmed as described in 'existing hedgerows' above to provide dense, well-structured and healthy hedgerows.
9	Shrubs	Shrubs will be managed as appropriate outside the bird nesting season (i.e. outside 1 <sup>st</sup> March to 31 <sup>st</sup> August inclusive) to maintain their health and vitality.
10	Wildflower grassland	Wildflower grassland should be subject to a rotational management regime with some areas left long in any given year whilst others are cut, in order to maximise biodiversity. Cutting should normally take place based on one main cut a year in autumn with the arisings left <i>in situ</i> for several days before being raked off and removed from site. Additional cuts will be undertaken over winter and in spring as necessary. Herbicides and fertilisers should be avoided entirely if practicable. This will allow wildflowers to flower and set seed, and will discourage rank growth.

Item	Habitat	Management Principle/Objective
11	Wet grassland	See 'wildflower grassland' above.
12	Amenity grassland	Amenity grassland should be maintained at 25mm – 75mm to provide a neat sward, and all arising removed and composted to prevent rank growth.
13	Attenuation pond	This pond will be created with sinuous margins and a long, shallow draw-down zone to maximise wildlife value. Native species should be encouraged to colonise, and invasive non-native plants should be removed. Overly dominating species can be controlled in autumn to encourage greater biodiversity of aquatic species. Waterside vegetation should be left undisturbed wherever practicable, and any vegetation clearance carried out during winter months only.
14	Ephemeral ponds	These ponds will be sown with a wet wildflower mixture (see management in 'wildflower grassland' above) and will be allowed to sporadically fill with water to provide ephemeral aquatic habitat.

#### Management during Construction

- 5.29. The planning condition requires that retained habitats are maintained during site works. Accordingly, a number of best practice safeguards will be required. A summary of the safeguards required during works is provided in Appendix 5. The measures will need to be kept under review and informed by updated ecological surveys, where necessary, as each Reserved Matters Application comes forward. Appropriate conditions to secure details of mitigation measures relevant to each phase will likely be imposed on each Reserved Matters approval.

## 6. MONITORING & REVIEW

### Monitoring

- 6.1. Monitoring is an essential part of habitat management. It enables assessment of whether the management has led to successful development of habitat that supports the anticipated flora and fauna. In the event that monitoring reveals that the habitats are not in a condition that is beneficial to biodiversity then it will be necessary to modify the management practises or to take remedial action. It may be that the aims of the habitat management have to be altered to take account of the final conditions on the site.
- 6.2. Monitoring is to be carried out by suitably qualified persons; most likely the Consortium's arboricultural, ecological and landscape advisors in conjunction with relevant Council officers.

### Review

- 6.3. In order to assess whether the management aims are being met, the management activities should be subject to regular review. The management plan should be reviewed annually for the first five years of management activity, to ensure that the broad aims and objectives are being met. Following this, it is suggested that the plan is reviewed in years seven, 10, 12, 15 and 20 for the duration of the management plan (considered to be 20 years minimum). The habitats within the site will need to be managed for the life of the development, thus new plans will be produced on a fifteen year cycle.
- 6.4. The mechanism for review should involve a survey of the relevant phases / landscape / habitat areas at each milestone to assess performance against the management objectives, which would be carried out by consultants appointed by the Consortium or alternatively by relevant CDC officers, if preferred. An internal review with the consortium would then take place involving the relevant landscape contractor(s), where appropriate. Finally, a formal review with CDC would follow, with subsequent reporting on the actions arising.

- 6.5. The HCMP is a 'live' document and should be revised if necessary following the findings of each review. The responsibility for the reviews and any required revisions to the HCMP will lie with the Consortium until the end of the defects liability period or such time as the relevant areas of open space are transferred to Cherwell District Council / Banbury Town Council. Thereafter the responsibility for the reviews will lie with Cherwell District Council / Banbury Town Council.

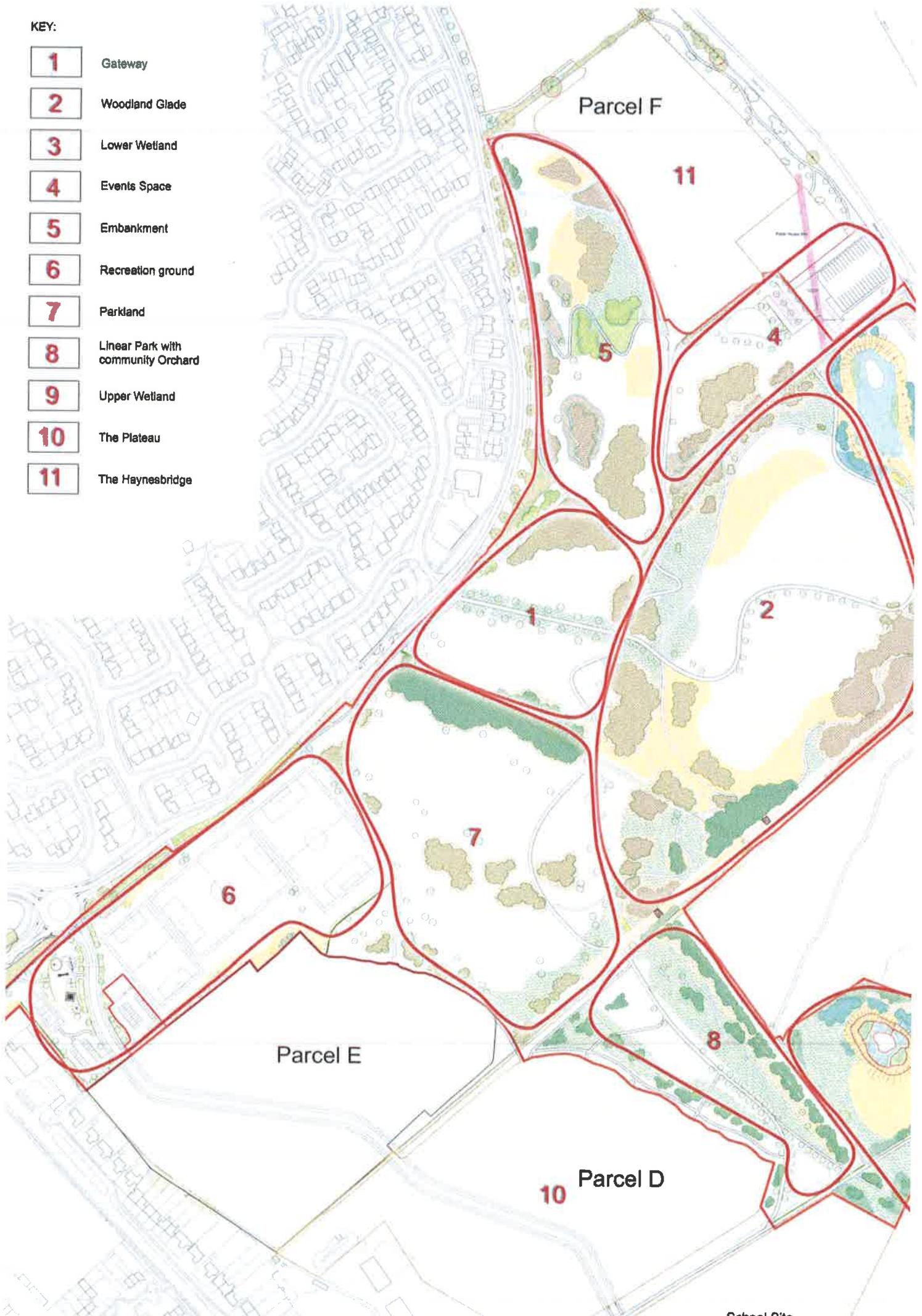


## **APPENDIX 1**

Character Areas

KEY:







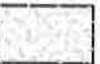

- 1** Gateway
- 2** Woodland Glade
- 3** Lower Wetland
- 4** Events Space
- 5** Embankment
- 6** Recreation ground
- 7** Parkland
- 8** Linear Park with community Orchard
- 9** Upper Wetland
- 10** The Plateau
- 11** The Haynesbridge



## **APPENDIX 2**

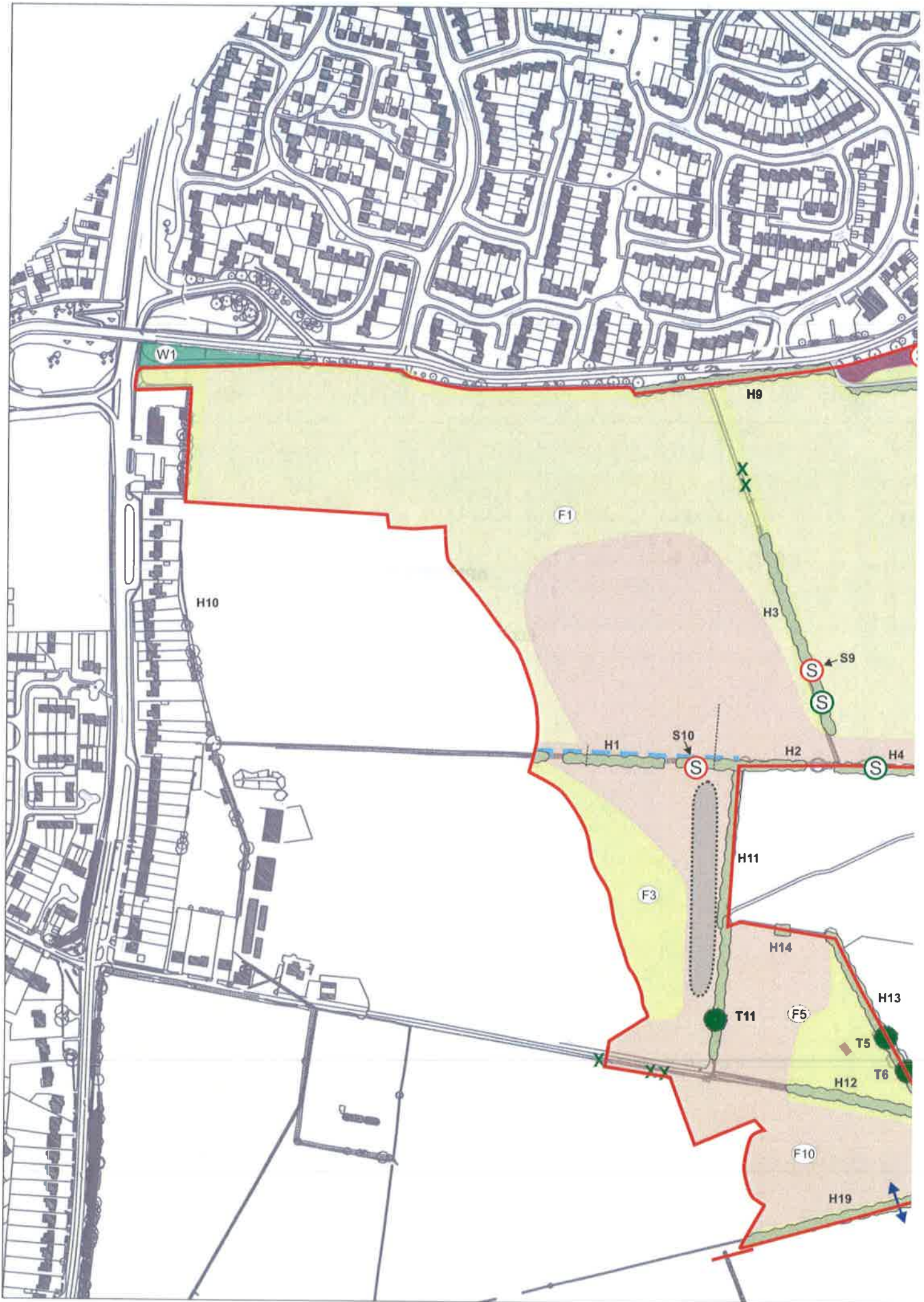
### **Habitat Management Masterplan**

**KEY:**

-  W7 Woodland- Alder, Silver Birch, Grey Willow, Hazel, Hawthorn, Meadowsweet, Lady-fern
-  W8 Woodland- Field Maple, Hornbeam, Hazel, Blackthorn, Dogwood, Privet, Spindle, Tufted Hair-grass, Wood-sedge, Bluebell
-  W10 Woodland- Oak, Silver Birch, Small-leaved Lime, Hornbeam, Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly, Guelder-rose, Bluebell, Honeysuckle, Wood Melick, Male-fern
-  W12 Woodland- Beech, Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly, Field Maple, Primrose, Dog's mercury, Ramsons, Wood Melick
-  W16 Woodland- Oak, Silver Birch, Rowan, Alder Buckthorn, Elder, Hairy Wood-rush, Broad Buckler-fern, Wood Sage
-  HEDGEROW- Trees of Oak, Field Maple, Beech, Shurb Hazel, Rowan, Elder Sambucus nigra, Dog-rose, Holly, Wild Privet Ligustrum vulgare, English Elm Ulmus procera.
-  MG5 Wildflower Grassland - Crested dog's-tail Cynosurus cristatus - Black Knapweed Centaurea nigra grassland  
Also includes:  
Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*)  
Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)  
Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)  
Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*)  
Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*)  
Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*)  
Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*)  
Common Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)  
Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)  
Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*)  
White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)
-  MG4 Wet Grassland- meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* - Great Burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*  
Also includes:  
Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*)  
Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*)  
Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*)  
Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)  
Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*)  
Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*)  
Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*)  
Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*)

**APPENDIX 3**

Ecological Features Plan



## **APPENDIX 4**

### **Landscape Management Schedules**

## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE – YEARS 1-5

(Schedule to be reviewed every five years between the client and the management firm to review management scheme)

Area	Management Objective	Operation	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Amenity Grass Areas	To maintain high standard of appearance and ensure all amenity grassed areas are not overgrown and are suitable for use at all times.	CDC B Cut. Grass cutting fortnightly and edged to a height of no less than 25mm; arisings spread on site if suitable. Length of grass not to exceed 75mm.			2	2	2
Wildflower Grass Areas	To maintain high standard of appearance and ensure all wildflower grassed areas offer floral and structural diversity.	CDC Combination Meadow E Cut. Grass cutting/trimming to height of 100mm in June. Further cut in late September. Leave c.25% of grassland uncut each year or maintained at no less than 200-300mm every 2-3 years. Cuttings to be removed 1-7 days following cut.					
Proposed Tree Planting	To ensure success of scheme and to promote healthy future growth and keep all footpaths and routes clear from obstructions	Check all trees. Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees & pruning as required. Replacement with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.	1	1	1	1	1
	To provide planting with the greatest opportunity for success	Repair/replace/reinstate all stakes, guards and ties as required.	1	1	1	1	1
	To minimise competition from surrounding weed/grass growth	Spray off 1200mm radius around the base of each tree				1	
Existing Retained Trees	To promote healthy future growth and keep all footpaths and routes clear from obstructions	Check all trees. Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees & pruning as required.	1	1	1	1	1
	To maintain tree specimens with regard to nesting season.	Tree pruning outside of bird nesting season.		1			
Existing Retained Hedges	To maintain hedges to promote healthy growth.	Prune hedges to remove half of new extension growth following original flail cut in February or October.		1			
	To maintain hedges with regard to nesting season.	Hedge pruning outside of bird nesting season. Every other year in February or October.		1			
Proposed Hedges	To ensure success of scheme and to promote healthy future growth and robust hedgerow is created.	Check all plants. Removal of dead, dying or diseased plants & pruning as required. Replacement with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.	1	1	1	1	1
	To provide planting with the greatest opportunity for success.	Repair/replace/reinstate all stakes, guards and ties as required.	1	1	1	1	1
	To maintain hedges with regard to nesting season.	Hedge pruning outside of bird nesting season. Annually in February or October until established.		1			
Shrub Planting	To ensure success of scheme and to promote healthy future growth and keep all footpaths and routes clear from obstructions	Check all plants. Removal of dead, dying or diseased plants & pruning as required. Replacement with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.	1	1	1	1	1
	To provide planting with the greatest opportunity for success	Repair/replace/reinstate all stakes, guards and ties as required.	1	1	1	1	1



Area	Management Objective	Operation	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Surface Water Attenuation Features / Ponds	Ensure attenuation features and ponds are maintained for ecological value.	Remove non-native species from attenuation features and ponds. Cleared vegetation should be left adjacent to the attenuation feature / pond for 24hrs before removal from the site.					
	Ensure attenuation features and ponds are maintained for ecological value.	CDC Combination Meadow E Cut as above for grass margins associated with attenuation features and ponds.					
	Ensure attenuation features and ponds are maintained for ecological value.	All debris and litter to be removed with specific attention paid to any inlet or outlet structures to ensure good working order.	1	1			
	Prevent excessive shading of attenuation features and ponds.	Selective removal of over-hanging shrubs / branches / trees.	1	1			
Bird / Bat Boxes	To ensure Bird and Bat boxes remain in good condition, and as such do not pose a health and safety risk.	Annual visual inspections of bird and bat boxes. If any items dislodged or unsafe to be re-secured.		1			
Woodland	Ensure structural diversity development including canopy trees and well developed understorey and ground flora.	Check all trees. Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees & pruning as required. Removal of invasive or over-dominant understorey species. Replacement with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.	1	1	1	1	1
Orchard trees	Establishment of trees. Underlying grassland managed as per wildflower grassland. No pesticides to be used.	Check all trees. Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees & pruning as required. Replacement with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.	1	1	1	1	1

## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE – YEARS 6-10

(Schedule to be reviewed every five years between the client and the management firm to review management scheme)

Area	Management Objective	Operation	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Amenity Grass Areas	To maintain high standard of appearance and ensure all amenity grassed areas are not overgrown and are suitable for use at all times.	CDC B Cut. Grass cutting fortnightly and edged to a height of no less than 25mm; arisings spread on site if suitable. Length of grass not to exceed 75mm.			2	2	2	2
Wildflower Grass Areas	To maintain high standard of appearance and ensure all wildflower grassed areas offer floral and structural diversity.	CDC Combination Meadow E Cut. Grass cutting/strimming to height of 100mm in June. Further cut in late September. Leave c.25% of grassland uncut each year or maintained at no less than 200-300mm every 2-3 years. Cuttings to be removed 1-7 days following cut.						1
All Trees	To ensure success of scheme and to promote healthy future growth and keep all footpaths and routes clear from obstructions	Check all trees. Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees & pruning as required. Replacement trees reviewed with the client, if required to maintain landscape structure should be replaced with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.		1				
	To maintain tree specimens with regard to nesting season.	Tree pruning where required outside of bird nesting season.		1				
All Hedges	To maintain hedges to promote healthy growth.	Prune hedges to remove half of new extension growth following original flail cut every other year in February or October		1				
	To maintain hedges with regard to nesting season.	Hedge pruning outside of bird nesting season. Every other year in February or October.		1				
	To ensure success of scheme and to promote healthy future growth and robust hedgerow is created.	Check all hedges. Removal of dead, dying or diseased hedges & pruning as required. Replacement hedge reviewed with the client, if required to maintain landscape structure should be replaced with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.		1				
Shrub Planting	To ensure success of scheme and to promote healthy future growth and keep all footpaths and routes clear from obstructions	Check all shrubs. Removal of dead, dying or diseased shrubs & pruning as required. Replacement shrubs reviewed with the client, if required to maintain landscape structure should be replaced with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.		1				1

Area	Management Objective	Operation	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Surface Water Attenuation Features / Ponds	Ensure attenuation features and ponds are maintained for ecological value.	Remove non-native species from attenuation features and ponds. Cleared vegetation should be left adjacent to the attenuation feature / pond for 24hrs before removal from the site.						
	Ensure attenuation features and ponds are maintained for ecological value.	CDC Combination Meadow E Cut as above for grass margins associated with attenuation features and ponds.						1
	Ensure attenuation features and ponds are maintained for ecological value.	All debris and litter to be removed with specific attention paid to any inlet or outlet structures to ensure good working order.	1	1				
	Prevent excessive shading of attenuation features and ponds.	Selective removal of over-hanging shrubs / branches / trees.	1	1				
Bird / Bat Boxes	To ensure Bird and Bat boxes remain in good condition, and as such do not pose a health and safety risk.	Annual visual inspections of bird and bat boxes. If any items dislodged or unsafe to be re-secured.		1				
Woodland	Ensure structural diversity development including canopy trees and well developed understorey and ground flora.	Check all trees. Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees & pruning as required (thinning of Bramble and the understorey as appropriate). Removal of invasive or over-dominant understorey species. Replacement with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.	1	1				
Orchard trees	Establishment of trees. Underlying grassland managed as per wildflower grassland. No pesticides to be used.	Check all trees. Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees & pruning as required. Replacement with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.	1	1				

## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE – YEARS 11- 20

(Schedule to be reviewed ten years between the client and the management firm to review management scheme)

Area	Management Objective	Operation	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JU
Amenity Grass Areas	To maintain high standard of appearance and ensure all amenity grassed areas are not overgrown and are suitable for use at all times.	CDC B Cut. Grass cutting fortnightly and edged to a height of no less than 25mm; arisings spread on site if suitable. Length of grass not to exceed 75mm.			2	2	2	2
Wildflower Grass Areas	To maintain high standard of appearance and ensure all wildflower grassed areas offer floral and structural diversity.	CDC Combination Meadow E Cut. Grass cutting/trimming to height of 100mm in June. Further cut in late September. Leave c.25% of grassland uncut each year or maintained at no less than 200-300mm every 2-3 years. Cuttings to be removed 1-7 days following cut.						1
All Trees	To ensure success of scheme and to promote healthy future growth and keep all footpaths and routes clear from obstructions	Check all trees. Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees & pruning as required. Replacement trees reviewed with the client, if required to maintain landscape structure should be replaced with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.		1				
	To maintain tree specimens with regard to nesting season.	Tree pruning outside of bird nesting season.		1				
All Hedges	To maintain hedges to promote healthy growth.	Prune hedges to remove half of new extension growth following original flail cut every other year in February or October		1				
	To maintain hedges with regard to nesting season.	Hedge pruning outside of bird nesting season. Every other year in February or October.		1				
	To ensure success of scheme and to promote healthy future growth and robust hedgerow is created.	Check all hedges. Removal of dead, dying or diseased hedge & pruning as required. Replacement hedge reviewed with the client, if required to maintain landscape structure should be replaced with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.		1				
Shrub Planting	To ensure success of scheme and to promote healthy future growth and keep all footpaths and routes clear from obstructions	Check all shrubs. Removal of dead, dying or diseased shrubs & pruning as required. Replacement shrubs reviewed with the client, if required to maintain landscape structure should be replaced with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.		1				1
Surface Water Attenuation Features / Ponds	Ensure attenuation features and ponds are maintained for ecological value.	Remove non-native species from attenuation features and ponds. Cleared vegetation should be left adjacent to the attenuation feature / pond for 24hrs before removal from the site.						
	Ensure attenuation features and ponds are maintained for ecological value.	CDC Combination Meadow E Cut as above for grass margins associated with attenuation features and ponds.						1
	Ensure attenuation features and ponds are maintained for ecological value.	All debris and litter to be removed with specific attention paid to any inlet or outlet structures to ensure good working order.	1	1				
	Prevent excessive shading of attenuation features and ponds.	Selective removal of over-hanging shrubs / branches / trees.	1	1				
Bird / Bat Boxes	To ensure Bird and Bat boxes remain in good condition, and as such do not pose a health and safety risk.	Annual visual inspections of bird and bat boxes. If any items dislodged or unsafe to be re-secured.		1				

Area	Management Objective	Operation	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Woodland	Ensure structural diversity development including canopy trees and well developed understorey and ground flora.	Control of invasive or over-dominant understorey. Coppicing regime of understorey will be undertaken once between October and February in year 11 and every 5 years thereafter (thinning of Bramble and the understorey as appropriate). Canopy trees inspected for general health during coppicing regime.	1	1				
Orchard trees	Establishment of trees. Underlying grassland managed as per wildflower grassland. No pesticides to be used.	Check all trees. Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees & pruning as required. Replacement with same or an approved substitution if unavailable.	1	1				

## **APPENDIX 5**

### **Protection of Ecological Resources**

# Longford Park, Banbury - Protection of Ecological Resources during Works

## 1. General Construction Safeguards

- 1.1 All chemicals, oils, fuels and other potential contaminants shall be stored in bunded tanks or structures in order to minimise the risk of a pollution event occurring.
- 1.2 A surface water management scheme will be implemented where appropriate to ensure that soil, ground water and water courses are not degraded.
- 1.3 Dust monitoring will be undertaken during construction. If a rise in dust above background levels is detected then immediate dust suppression measures will be implemented.
- 1.4 Noise control and abatement measures will be implemented, which will include the restriction of noisy construction activities during night time hours.

## 2. Trees and Hedgerows

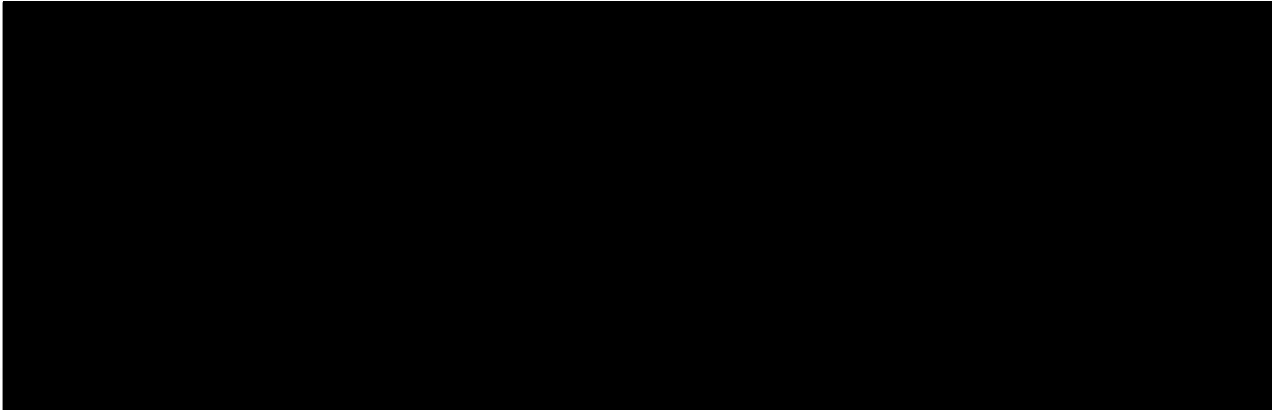
- 2.1 Trees and hedgerows identified for retention will be protected using standard working practices, such as protective fencing, in line with relevant specifications stated in arboricultural best practice guidelines (BS5837:2012), consistent with the Arboricultural Method Statement applicable to each phase.

## 3. Canal

- 3.1 The Canal will be safeguarded in line with the measures set out in section 5 of Aspect Ecology's 'River Corridor Survey Report' dated April 2013. This will include the following key measures:
  - Prior to the commencement of any works to the canal, including any associated vegetation clearance, a suitably qualified ecologist will conduct a checking survey in respect of Otter and Water Vole.
  - Any removal of bankside vegetation will be undertaken by strimming under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist.
  - Environment Agency guidelines for working practices near watercourses will be adhered to.
  - Pollution control and abatement measures listed in the 'General Construction Safeguards' section above will also serve to protect the canal habitat.

#### **4. Canal Lane**

- 4.1 The hedgerow spanning the length of the lane will be protectively fenced prior to works in accordance with relevant arboricultural best practice safeguards.



#### **6. Nesting Birds**

- 6.1 Any trees or hedgerows to be removed/pruned in bird nesting season (March-August inclusive) will be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to felling/pruning, in order to safeguard nesting birds. Any active nests found will be protected until the nest is no longer in use.

#### **7. Reptiles**

- 7.1 Prior to and during construction, areas of habitat at risk of becoming more suitable to reptiles (e.g. grassland and hedgerow margins) will be appropriately managed, where practicable. This will involve regular mowing/strimming to a low height (<150mm) which will keep the areas at a low suitability for reptiles.

#### **8. Bats**

- 8.1 Should it prove necessary to remove/prune any trees identified as having potential for roosting bats, works will need to take place in accordance with the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist, which may require particular safeguards and working practices to be implemented, e.g. soft-felling.



landscape planning • ecology • arboriculture

aspect

Aspect Landscape Planning Ltd  
West Court  
Hardwick Business Park  
Noral Way  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire OX16 2AF

T: 01295 276066  
F: 01295 265072  
E: [info@aspect-landscape.com](mailto:info@aspect-landscape.com)  
W: [www.aspect-landscape.com](http://www.aspect-landscape.com)

