

10-year Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan

Proposed Extension to Poultry Unit
Hollins Lane,
Woodseaves, Market Drayton

April 2023

Ref: T1051-LMP

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan has been prepared by Terrain Landscape Consultants for an extension to a poultry unit near Hollins Lane, Woodseaves, on behalf of Berrys. This document covers a minimum management and maintenance period of 10 years from planting/seeding but may be used beyond the minimum period if appropriate.
- 1.1.2. This document is to be read in conjunction with Mitigation Planting Plan 3049-001 by Lingard Farrow Styles and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Turnstone Ecology (TT2268-Land at Hollins Lane, Market Drayton-R01).

2. Site Description

- 2.1.1. The Site is located south of Market Drayton, to the east of Hollins Lane and covers an area of ~8.5 ha, the majority of which is located within a single field although part of the Site (proposed planting area only) extends into an adjoining field to the north. Two ponds are located within the site, in the northern part of the main the field and the other in the southern part of main field.
- 2.1.2. The western boundary of the Site is adjacent to the existing poultry buildings. The southern boundary of the Site is marked by a hedgerow featuring a number of mature trees including a small copse. The eastern boundary of the Site is marked by dense trees and shrubs that are part of the ~100m wide wooded belt along the Shropshire Union Canal (the canal itself is deep in a cutting ~30-50m east of the Site Boundary). The northern boundary of the Site is open to the remainder of the northern field.

3. Proposed Development

- 3.1.1. The proposed development includes poultry sheds in the west of the Site, associated with similar existing units to the immediate west.
- 3.1.2. The Mitigation Planting Plan (3049-001) includes
 - ~3.2ha of vegetative buffer planting of trees and shrubs in the eastern and southern parts of the Site. The buffer planting extent and mixes have been specified as part of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Turnstone Ecology. The principal aim of the buffer planting is to capture airborne ammonia and act as a buffer to the Tyrley Banks Local Wildlife Site east of the Site. The mixes include native and non-native species, selected for their effectiveness in capturing airborne ammonia. However,

the selected species also provide a mix of qualities that include relatively fast growth, dense growth, ever greens, habitat and food for wildlife (e.g. berryed species) and longevity. The vegetative buffer is broken down into four zones (as per the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal), namely 'intake zone' closest to the poultry units, the 'recapture zone', the 'backstop zone' in the east, and native woodland mix that includes species of the adjacent Local Wildlife Site.

- Linear reed bed planting, specified as part of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Turnstone Ecology.
- Grass and wildflower seeding as required.

4. Management Objectives

4.1.1. The principal objectives for the Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan are:

- Management and maintenance of the planting identified in Mitigation Planting Plan 3049-001 by Lingard Farrow Styles over a 10 year period.
- The establishment, through exemplary horticultural and contractual practices, of a high quality and functional vegetative buffer and grass/wildflower sward.
- The conservation, protection, and enhancement of all retained natural features including protected habitats and existing trees and hedgerows.
- To ensure that plant bio-security principles are embedded in both the implementation and management of all new landscaping.
- To provide achievable landscape management specifications for general implementation by the stakeholders. For the purpose of the document all maintenance operations either by the stakeholder or by an appointed Landscape Management Company is described by the abbreviation LMC.

5. Landscape Operations

5.1. Litter Collection and Removal

- The landscape management contractor (LMC) will ensure that the site is kept free of litter and other debris (including fly tipping) through a regular programme of monitoring, collection, and disposal. Visits will be at least monthly and will coincide with visits to inspect the grass and planting areas. Where litter may be seen as a particular problem in high intensity use areas litter removal will be more frequent than in the more informal areas.
- To understand what resources should be deployed and when, accurate and systematic monitoring will be undertaken by the LMC to identify when and where the greatest litter problems are likely to occur, and to put into place procedures to ensure that these do not build up and that acceptable standards are maintained.
- Removal of litter will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (DEFRA, modified 2019). The emphasis of the Code is on the consistent and appropriate management of an area to keep it clean, not on how often it is cleaned.
- Care will be taken to remove broken bottles, glass, tins, and sharp objects likely to constitute a hazard to the public. Where practicable litter will be sorted into materials which can be recycled at an appropriate Community Recycling Centre.
- All operatives of the LMC will have the appropriate training in the safe handling, collection and disposal of sharp materials and wear PPE when handling sharp objects.
- Any fly tipped rubbish will be removed as soon as the LMC is made aware of the issue by the stakeholder, or it is discovered during routine inspections of the landscape area.
- Litter will be disposed off-site to an appropriate waste handling facility and any costs or permitting requirements of disposal will be met by the LMC. The Waste Disposal Authority is Shropshire Council.

5.2. Grass and Wildflower Areas

- The areas of grassland which have been established using a wildflower seed mix will be managed by cutting once a year when the majority of the plants have flowered and set seed. The traditional time for an annual cut is in late July or early August according to seasonal variations in the weather.
- The selected grass and wildflower mix allows for more intensive cutting and ~1m wide strips may be more regularly mown to 75mm height once per fortnight during the growing season where adjacent to hard surfaces and structures, if required.
- The arisings will be removed. If necessary, a litter pick across the area will be undertaken by the LMC before and after the cutting operations.
- In smaller areas of seeding, the grass will be cut using a walk behind mower, strimmer or brush cutter and the grass will be raked up and collected by hand to either be removed from site or piled up in the margins or naturalized areas to create habitat piles.
- If the autumn and winter periods are particularly mild, and grass growth is over productive and profuse, an early spring cut in February/March may be required to keep the growth in check. Arisings from this mowing will also be removed from site.
- In order to increase the species diversity of the wildflower grassland the LMC may introduce additional native plant species through the technique of green hay strewing, plug planting or bulb planting if the opportunity arises after establishment.

5.3. Repair of Grass and Wildflower Areas

- Areas of wildflower grassland which have been damaged due to excessive wear, desire lines or vehicle damage will be reported by the LMC for scheduled improvement works
- Where improvement works area required the soil level will be brought to an even tilth and firmed prior to new seeding.
- Prior to overseeding the LMC will lightly fork the surface to relieve compaction and to depth and finish appropriate to the quality of the surrounding area.

5.4. Trees in Vegetative Buffer (A, B and D)

- Newly planted trees will be inspected by the LMC at each routine every three months during the growing season inspection visit to check condition. Any tree stakes will be checked, and ties adjusted if required. Any formative pruning or pruning of dead, diseased or damaged branches will be undertaken with reference to BS8545:2014 and BS3998:2010.

- Where individual plants have died due to circumstances outside of the LMC's control losses will be reported to the appointing company to enable replanting to take place.
- The LMC will maintain levels of mulch material required to suppress weed growth at a depth of 50mm, if necessary, topping up levels on an annual basis.
- Once the specimen trees have become sufficiently established and self-supporting, any tree stakes will be removed.
- An annual tree safety inspection will be implemented when trees have become mature enough (years 5-10 depending on species and growth rates).

5.5. Shrubs in Vegetative Buffer (A-D)

- During the establishment phase – years 1 to 5, the shrub planted areas will be inspected three times per year (September, March and June) to check tree and shrub growth. Any formative pruning or pruning of dead, diseased or damaged branches will be undertaken with reference to BS8545:2014 and BS3998:2010.
- If required, the plants will be firmed back into the ground when roots have been lifted by wind.
- These areas will be included in the routine litter picking inspection and any litter removed and disposed of according to the litter picking schedule.
- Any damaged, weak, dead or diseased shoots or branches will be removed through light pruning operations as required and all areas will be monitored for significant outbreaks of disease. This will include all suckers and reverted growth.
- Pruning as required to prevent encroachment onto adjacent paths, roads, car parks, signs, lights, sightlines, fences and neighbouring property.
- Where individual plants have died, losses will be recorded to enable replanting to take place.
- The levels of mulch material required to suppress weed growth in the early stages of plant establishment is 50mm depth. If necessary, top-up levels on an annual basis.
- Weed control method for pernicious weeds is to be with site operator approval only.
- The planted areas will be regularly assessed for damage by pests such as rabbits and guards fitted if necessary.
- Limited coppicing of some species such as Hazel will be required.

5.6. Reedbeds

- Check for blockages in inlet and outlet structures once per month, remove blockages if safe to do so, as per litter removal. Report all blockages of control structures or drying out of reed beds to the appointing company.
- Hand weeding to maintain reed-dominated vegetation with no scrub and no trees.
- Weeding during first 2 years of establishment is important and will be undertaken in March, April, May, June and September.
- Weeding after 2 years of establishment will be as required based upon visual inspections undertaken in April and September.
- Up to 1/4 of reedbed area per year may be cut using appropriate mower/reed cutter after 2nd year of establishment. This cut will be rotational to control succession while allowing establishment of areas of mature reed beds of habitat value. Arisings are to be removed from site and disposed by the LMC.
- Cutting of the reedbeds, if required, is to be in November if weather and ground conditions permit or otherwise outside the bird nesting season and growing season (February-October).
- No fertilisers, manures are to be applied.
- No pesticides or herbicides are to be used.
- The planted areas will be regularly assessed for damage by pests such as rabbits and appropriate protective fencing fitted, if necessary, during establishment but removed following establishment (i.e. 2 years).
- Where areas of planting greater than 1m² have died, losses will be recorded to enable replanting to take.

6. Annual Landscape Maintenance Operations

Matrix – 10 years

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1. Litter Collection and Removal												
Litter Pick & disposal in all areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Grass and Wildflower Areas												
Mowing once per growing season								✓				
Optional fortnightly mowing of ~1m wide strip adjacent to hard surfaces and structures			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Top-up cut outside growing season if required	✓	✓									✓	✓
Grass and wildflower seeding repairs				✓					✓			
3. Trees in Vegetative Buffer (A, B and D)												
Visual check of tree growth during the first years of establishment			✓			✓			✓			
Topping up of mulch		✓										
Tree safety inspection of mature trees											✓	
Replacement of plants		✓									✓	
4. Shrubs in Vegetative Buffer (A-D)												
Inspection to check growth and condition			✓			✓			✓			
Topping up of mulch		✓										
Replacement of plants		✓									✓	
Selective pruning			✓			✓	✓			✓		
Weed control			✓			✓			✓			
5. Reedbeds												
Check, clear, and report blockages to inlet and control structures.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hand weeding during first 2 years of establishment			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Hand weeding after 2 years of establishment. As required.				✓					✓			
Replacement of plants						✓						
Cutting of up to ¼ of reed area per year after 2 nd year of establishment. On rotational basis. (November preferred).	✓	✓									✓	✓