

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STATEMENT

LINK LOGISTICS PARK

North Road
Ellesmere Port
Cheshire

FIRETHORN DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED



Barry Chinn Associated Limited
Harbury Road, Deppers Bridge
Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 2SZ

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This landscape design statement is to be read in conjunction with the latest revisions of Barry Chinn Associates drawings 2120-21-01 Landscape Concept and 2120-21-02 Landscape Sections.

2.0 EXISTING LANDSCAPE

- 2.1 The application site was previously occupied by the Bridgewater Paper Company, which closed in 2010. Following the demolition of the paper mill buildings, the majority of the site has remained as hard standing. However, along the southern boundary with North Road there are remnants of hedgerow and ornamental shrubs, plus standard trees, left unmaintained since the closure of the mill. In addition to this earlier planting, self-set scrub species including Silver Birch and Goat Willow are encroaching in to the site from this boundary.
- 2.2 Along the western boundary with Rivacre Brook, small pockets of vegetation and individual trees have established, beyond where the hardstanding finishes. These are mainly self-set tree species originating from the dense woodland along the brook valley.

3.0 PROPOSED LANDSCAPE

North Road Frontage & Site Entrance – Southern Boundary

- 3.1 A site entrance feature will be created with the planting of two circles of trees, one on either side of the main entrance road, to frame the park access. Each circle will be created with eight fastigate trees, chosen for their striking upright / columnar habit. Running along the North Road frontage is a disused railway track, sitting with unmaintained grassland and scrub vegetation. To the right of the proposed main site entrance, the route of the disused railway line will become a shared foot / cycle way, surfaced with self-bound gravel. Between the foot / cycle way and North Road, the verge will be sown with a native grass and wildflower seed mix, to establish species-rich grassland. Blocks of woodland edge structure planting will further frame the site entrance area and provide screening around the sub-station. The woodland edge planting is comprised of large shrubs / small tree, planted on a one metre grid and using native species.
- 3.2 Where Unit 3 fronts on to North Road, the boundary treatment changes to a more open, business park character. Two rows of trees planted at regular intervals and set within a clipped Beech hedge; allow filtered views through to the office elevation. The parallel Beech hedges provide spatial definition between North Road, the recreational route and Unit 3.

- 3.3 The recreational route is a self-bound gravel path, which runs along the whole length of the southern and western site boundaries. The feature has been designed in to the landscape to provide a walking / jogging route for park employees to use during break times, for exercise and a breath of fresh air. For the majority of its route, the path is set within an avenue of trees, including Wild Cherry, selected for its white blossom which hangs in clusters all over the branches during April to May. As the recreational route follow the site access road, the row of trees between the path and road also forms a second avenue running along the park road.
- 3.4 Between the car parks of Unit 2 and Unit 3, an amenity space has been incorporated in to the site layout. This is a flexible area which could be used for a five-a-side football pitch and other outdoor events. The amenity space is framed by a row of trees around its boundary and is open to the park road footway, to allow easy access and create village green character.

Attenuation Pond – Western Boundary

- 3.5 As the recreational route passes the Unit 1 gatehouse, the landscape character changes to become less formal and more naturalistic. The path continues north where it opens up in to a space centred on the attenuation basin and has been design as a quieter, wildlife area.
- 3.6 The linear recreational route becomes a circular path around the pond, along which exercise stations will be located. At each station pieces of trim trail equipment will be installed, for use by park employees. Benches and picnic tables will also be placed around the pond to provide a quite area for use at break and lunch times.
- 3.7 Around the boundary of the attenuation pond area, there is proposed blocks of woodland edge structure planting. In two places this structure planting has been pulled back along the site boundary, to allow views out towards the Rivacre Brook valley and Ship Canal. Within the woodland edge grid, standard trees will also be planted using native species, to encourage age diversity within the woodland. Between the woodland and attenuation pond, the area will be sown with a seed mix to promote the establishment of species rich grassland. The banks and base of the attenuation pond will also be sown with a wet grassland seed mix. In order to create a permeant pool of water in the base of the attenuation pond, a wildlife pond will be excavated below the attenuation level. Around the edge of the pond, both in and out of the water, pockets of marginal and emergent aquatic plant species, including Yellow Iris and Marsh Marigold will be planted.

Plot Landscape – Internal Areas

- 3.8 Around the office entrances to the three units, seating areas are proposed to provide both an attractive approach to the building and an outdoor space for use by employees. These staff break-out spaces are located within close proximity to the building, to allow them to be easily used during break and lunch times. The seating is arranged to provide a variety of aspects,

from more secluded benches to spaces suitable for groups. The planting and paving in these areas will be chosen to relate to a more human scale, compared to the larger scale used elsewhere within the park.

- 3.9 Space within the layouts for the three plots has been provided to accommodate tree pits. This has allowed the planting of rows of native trees between plots, to help define space and provide a degree of separation.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed landscape scheme for Link Logistics Park has ensured that early space allocation for green infrastructure has been allowed for within the park layout, providing planting and landscape features along boundaries, roads and within individual plots. These proposals include a comprehensive tree planting strategy, which will ensure that the landscape proposals are of an appropriate scale to relate to the proposed built-form. The use of species rich grass seed mixes, native hedgerows and woodland edge planting will add to the bio-diversity value of the site. Space and features for walking, seating and exercise have been designed in to the landscape, to provide an attractive place to work and support the health and wellbeing of employees.

5.0 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- 5.1 The following BCA documents and drawings are submitted in support of the landscape proposals for Link Logistics Park:

Drawings:

Drawing No.	Drawing Title	Rev
2120-21-01	Landscape Concept	C
2120-21-02	Landscape Cross Sections	B
2120-21-03	Staff Gardens	A

Documents:

Document No.	Document Title	Rev
2120-21-RP03	Soft Landscape Works Maintenance And Management Proposals - 10 Years	-