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## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN

0151-GLA-XX-XX-RP-L-0001\_P03

Project: Cross Farm, Colethrop, Haresfield

Client: Mr R. Ferneyhough

Produced By: EG

Checked By: AG

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## PREAMBLE

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following landscape management plan describes the long-term design objectives and management responsibilities for the landscape areas associated with Cross Farm, Colethrop, Haresfield.

The site will be managed to ensure its existing assets are protected, and the designed landscape elements are allowed to mature providing an environment that is rich in ecological diversity for the benefit of all stakeholders.

This management plan is intended as a life document to be updated as required for the duration of the plan.

This document should be read in conjunction with the following landscape plans:

Planting Plan	0151-GLA-SI-GF-DR-L-0030
Section A-A	0151-GLA-SI-GF-DR-L-0050
Section B-B	0151-GLA-SI-GF-DR-L-0051

## 1.1 LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

A series of long-term objectives, management operations and timescales have been defined to enable the realisation of the landscape strategy for the site.

The long-term objectives are described below;

- To enhance ecological diversity and create new habitats for local wildlife.
- To mitigate the loss of previously existing hedgerows, removed to facilitate installation of the new drainage pipe.
- To ensure the sustainability of the new landscape by proposing mixed native hedgerow planting, specimen tree planting, and wildflower meadow that will require minimum maintenance.
- To provide an aesthetically pleasing landscape that is functional and complements the rural environment and the existing character of the site.

In addition to the objectives outlined above, the landscape has been divided into a series of management types requiring different maintenance and management operations, which are described in the following sections.

## 2.0 MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS - GENERAL

### 2.1 General maintenance

Maintenance visits to be made as frequently as required to keep the area tidy.

Remove litter, leaves and other debris

In all instances a suitably competent person should carry out all of the above works. Consideration should be given to the health and safety of all cleaning methods, precautions taken and COSHH guidelines adhered to.

## 3.0 MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS –SOFTWARES

Any plants which die, fail to flourish or are removed within a period of 10 years from the substantial completion of the landscaping scheme shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species. Replacements will be subject to the same conditions.

### Perpetual/Routine Maintenance Items

Maintenance visits will be made monthly during the growing season and as necessary thereafter to fulfil the requirements of this specification:

- Keep all beds clear of weeds by cultivating and use of approved herbicides.
- Keep all beds clear of litter and rubbish.
- Ensure all plants have sufficient water to establish and thrive.

### 3.1 Existing Vegetation

Ongoing Management and Maintenance Actions.

Continued monitoring and assessment of tree conditions with risk management valuations to ensure potential hazards are removed.

### 3.2 Wildflower Grass and Wildflower Turf

- Proposed seed mix: EM2 –Standard general purpose meadow mixture.

- Manufacturer: Emorsgate Seeds

- Sowing rate: 4g/m<sup>2</sup>

- The proposed mixtures all contain a wide range of flower species useful for adding diversity to a site where conditions vary across it, or where precise soil and site characteristics have not been established before sowing.

- Ground preparation for the grass seed (as advised by manufacturer): Prepare the ground for sowing in late summer by cutting very hard and create gaps either with harrows or by raking (aiming to create around 50% bare soil).

- Sowing (of the wildflower seed): Sow in the autumn using a wild flower mixture. Bulk up the seed with an inert carrier such as sand to make distribution easier. The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. Rolling is not usually necessary.

#### Wildflower Meadow - first year management

After sowing continue mowing or grazing as needed aiming to keep the grass short (30-50mm). Continue mowing/grazing through winter and early spring as needed. Stop mowing/grazing in April and leave until July/August at which time you can manage the sowing as you would established grassland as described below.

Wildflower areas should be monitored annually. If unsuccessful within the first year plug plants of wildflowers should be planted and sow Yellow rattle to reduce vigorous grasses. If the grassland is still not successful, it may be best to re-sow.

## Wildflower Meadow - management once established

Established grassland can be managed in a number of ways which, in association with soil fertility, will determine its character. The best results are usually obtained by traditional meadow management based around a main summer hay cut in combination with autumn, and possibly spring, mowing or grazing.

Meadow grassland is not cut from spring through to late July/August to give sown species an opportunity to flower.

After flowering in July or August take a 'hay cut': cut back with a scythe, petrol strimmer or tractor mower to c 50mm. Leave the 'hay' to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days then remove from site.

Mow the re-growth through to late autumn/winter to c 50mm and again in spring if needed.

### 3.3 Specimen trees

- Newly planted trees across the site will need to be watered regularly by hand during the establishment period i.e. for 5 years after planting.
- Soil around the base of trees in grass will be kept clear of weeds.
- Stakes/ties/guys will be inspected and maintained in good order, adjusted and repaired where necessary to prevent rubbing of bark and removed when no longer required.
- Trees will be visually inspected on routine maintenance visits for damage, general safety and security issues. Damaged branches will be removed from both trees and ground promptly to minimise damage to the tree and danger/obstruction to users of the site.
- For newly planted trees formative pruning work will be carried out as required and as appropriate for the species to remove branches overhanging or obstructing access and to maintain the form and health of the tree. All pruning to be carried out by a Member of the Arboricultural Association and in accordance with BS7370 'Grounds maintenance, Recommendations for maintenance of soft landscape'.

#### Actions (0-5 years)

- Ensure ground preparation is carried out in advance. The planting site will have a soil texture and structure that will retain and release moisture and nutrients to the plant. Ensure free drainage of the tree pit before planting.
- After initial planting, any damaged, dead, diseased or crossing branches shall be removed. Water regularly to ensure successful establishment
- In subsequent years remove and replace any tree to be found dead, dying, diseased or affected by vandalism
- Within the early stages (2 years) of a tree's growth, the stakes, canes, rabbit and tree guards should be monitored and repaired if damaged. Loosen tree ties or remove stakes if trees have become sufficiently established
- Years 4-5 check trees for abrasions and chaffing with tree stakes, guards and ties or each other. Loosen tree ties or remove stakes if trees have become sufficiently established. Trees found to be rubbing against each other should have their crossing over limbs removed, to limit the possibility of disease in the future
- Replace bark mulch around the base of trees yearly as required to ensure the base remains weed free
- Ensure plants have adequate supply of water

#### Actions (6-10 years)

- If any of the trees are found to be dead, diseased or dangerous they should be removed and replaced with a specimen to the original specification. Only replant after investigating the reasons for failure and taking remedial action
- Any tree stakes still in position should be removed
- Prune branches as required to keep the desired shape of the tree and also limit its growth within the streetscape
- Ensure plants have an adequate supply of water

#### Actions (11-20 years)

- Monitor the condition of the trees and prune as required to keep the desired shape of the tree

### 3.4 Proposed Hedge Planting

Design character;

Hedge planting is proposed that will:

- Provide visual amenity.
- Provide habitats for a number of species of wildlife and insects.
- Provide boundary treatments to fields.

#### Actions (0-5 years)

- Ensure ground preparation is carried out in advance of planting season.
- Plant from late October to late March. Container-grown plants can be planted all year round in favourable weather conditions.
- Within the early stages (2 years) of a shrub's growth, the stakes, canes and rabbit guards should be monitored and repaired if damaged. Loosen ties or remove stakes if shrubs have become sufficiently established.
- Ensure plants have an adequate supply of water.
- Keep the area clear of litter and rubbish.
- If any of the shrubs is found to be dead, diseased or dangerous they should be removed and replaced with a specimen to the original specification.

#### Actions (6-10 years)

- If any of the shrubs are found to be dead, diseased, or dangerous they should be removed and replaced with a specimen to the original specification. Only replant after first investigating the reason for failure and taking any remedial action that may be required.
- Trim annually to keep their desired form.
- Ensure plants have an adequate supply of water.
- Keep the area clear of litter and rubbish.

#### Actions (11-20 years)

- Continued annual monitoring, if any of the shrubs are found to be dead, dying, diseased or dangerous they should be removed in safe and legal manner.
- Trim annually to keep their desired form.
- Keep area clear of litter and rubbish.

## 4.0 PRUNING WORKS

### Pruning Work - Generally

- Pruning of damaged, dead, or diseased wood is required, as is the necessity to identify opportunities for pruning that would be beneficial to growth form, plant health, cosmetic or safety reasons.
- Any work will be subject to being undertaken outside the recognised breeding and bird nesting season.

### Pruning Work - Hedges

- During the establishment period plants are to be watered if deemed necessary.
- Hedge cutting will be required to maintain a neat formal shape and should be carried out in late Winter in order to avoid the bird nesting period and retain berries as a food source for birds.

## 5.0 SUMMARY

The Landscape Management Plan as specified above would meet the criteria to conserve and enhance the new planting within the site whilst providing the desired framework of habitats. The proposed scheme will increase the local habitats and aims to tie into the district resource to further the local biodiversity.

The management proposals have been developed to allow for the proposed planting to establish and develop increasing the setting and identity of the site.

This report has been prepared by Gant Landscape Architects Ltd with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Mr R. Ferneyhough relating to Cross Farm, Colethrop, Haresfield - no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from Gant Landscape Architects Ltd.

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