



Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

**Former Car Showroom
Duddery Hill
Haverhill
Suffolk**

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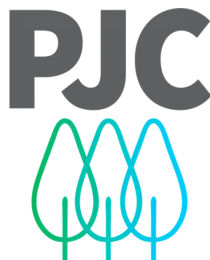
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

1.1.1 PJC Consultancy Ltd was commissioned by UK Storage Consultancy to provide a biodiversity enhancement strategy which includes a framework for the enhancement of biodiversity on a parcel of land at Duddery Hill, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 8DR (hereafter referred to as the 'Site').

1.2 Documents and Information Provided

1.2.1 This strategy has therefore been developed in conjunction with the following documents:

- Preliminary Ecological Assessment, document reference: 4969E/22/01 (PJC Consultancy, 2022);
- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report, document reference 4970E/22/01 (PJC Consultancy, 2022); and
- Planting Plans and Plant Schedule & Horticultural notes (Drawing no: 3198-APA-ZZ-XX-P0P-L-2001) (Allen Pyke, 2023).

1.3 Background Information

1.3.1 The current proposal is for the demolition of the existing car showroom and construction of a large multi-storey commercial facility.

1.4 Document Objectives

1.4.1 The primary object of this Ecological Enhancement Strategy serves to discharge condition 12 of the aforementioned decision notice (application number: DC/22/1719/FUL), which states:

“Prior to first use a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for habitats, protected and Priority species shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The content of the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy shall include the following:

- a) Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed enhancement measures;*
- b) detailed designs or product descriptions to achieve stated objectives;*
- c) locations, orientations, and heights of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate maps and plans;*
- d) persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures ; and*
- e) details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (where relevant).*

The works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to occupation and shall be retained in that manner thereafter.”

1.4.2 The purpose of this Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy is to therefore provide a single comprehensive point of reference for all mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures proposed as part of the proposed development, to avoid potentially adverse effects on protected and notable species, and to ensure an overall net increase in the ecological value of the Site post-development.

1.4.3 It should be noted that the design intention of the proposed soft landscape and ecological enhancements are designed to increase biodiversity through the introduction of a species-rich hedge, native tree planting and wildflower meadow planting to further increase biodiversity and net gain.

1.4.4 This Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy sets out a strategy for the first five years following the development. It is recommended that after five years, the objectives and prescriptions set out in the plan are reviewed and amended where necessary to ensure the objectives are achieved in the long term. Beyond the initial five-year strategy, any prescriptions amended or carried forwards will be managed and maintained in perpetuity.



- 1.4.5 It is the responsibility of UK Storage Consultancy (or their appointed contractor) to arrange for the work outlined in this document to be undertaken and to ensure all prescriptions are fulfilled during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development. Any contractors hired to carry out the relevant landscaping/habitat creation and long-term maintenance and management operations will be appropriately experienced.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The purpose of this report is to set out a comprehensive strategy which details all necessary biodiversity enhancement measures which will be incorporated within the Site, post-development.

1.6 Site Description and Baseline Conditions

- 1.6.1 The Site is located immediately south of Duddery Hill, centrally located within the town of Haverhill, West Suffolk (OS Grid Reference: TL 67137 45039). The Site is located within a relatively urban environment surrounded on all aspects by residential and commercial development. The location of the Site within its environs is presented in Appendix I.
- 1.6.2 Given that the Site comprised hardstanding and buildings for the majority, with small parcels of introduced poor semi-improved grassland and a hedge with trees, and is located within a relatively urbanised environment, the Site was considered to provide limited opportunities for protected and notable species.
- 1.6.3 Enhancements for the Site and its management will be aimed at sympathetically enhancing the ecological value of the Site in reference to the surrounding area, by providing habitats of ecological value within the development scheme.



2 ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

2.1.1 The enhancement measures detailed below shall be implemented prior to the building becoming operational, in order to provide additional foraging, commuting, shelter and breeding opportunities for a variety of protected and notable species. The location of the enhancements can be seen in document: Planting Plans and Plant Schedule & Horticultural notes (Drawing no: 3198-APA-ZZ-XX-P0P-L-2001) (Allen Pyke, 2023).

2.2 Ecological Landscaping

2.3 Species Rich Flowering Meadow Grass

2.3.1 Multiple wildflower grassland strips with a minimum width of 1m, will be planted around the northern, western and southern boundaries. Plant species to be included within the wildflower seed mix should be locally sourced and include species of local provenance suitable for the soil conditions, for example EM2 Standard General Purpose Meadow mixture by Emorsgate or similar.

2.3.2 The area shall be retained for the benefit of wildlife. Some wildflower and grass species examples include:

- Common bent *Agrostis capillaris*;
- Crested dogstail *Cynosurus cistatus*;
- Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*;
- Common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*
- Oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*; and
- Yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*.

2.4 Native Species-Rich Hedgerow Planting

2.4.1 To enhance the existing hedgerow network, a new native species-rich hedgerow at least 142m in length, 2m wide and 3m in height will be planted along the northern, western and southern-eastern Site boundaries. The hedgerow will comprise at least five native species per metre of hedgerow. Woody species planted could include some of the following species:

- Hazel *Corylus spp.*;
- Common dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*;
- European spindle *Eunoymus europaeus*;
- Holly *Ilex aquifolium*;
- Elder *Sambucus nigra*;
- Honeysuckle *Lonicera spp.*;
- Field maple *Acer campestre*;
- Wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*;
- Dog rose *Rosa canina*; and
- Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*.

2.5 Trees Planting

2.5.1 Newly established planting will be planted on the northern, western and southern Site boundaries. All areas will be managed to ensure the plants develop and remain healthy. Some examples of tree species to be planted include:



- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*;
- Sweet cherry *Purpus avium*;
- English oak *Quercus robur*;
- Common whitebeam *Sorbus aria*;
- Small- leaved lime *Tilia cordata*;
- Wild cherry *Prunus avium*; and
- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.



3 HABITAT CREATION AND/OR MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATION

3.1.1 The establishment and management prescriptions for the enhancement measures presented below are detailed in Table 1. Each task is provided with an appropriate timescale for implementation.

3.2 Ecological Landscaping

3.3 Species Rich Flowering Meadow Grass

3.3.1 On the existing grassland areas, the sward should be prepared by removing weeds and scarifying the surface. A wildflower seed mixture will then be sown on the site in March, April or September. Once established, the grassland margins should be maintained via annual seed cutting in the autumn or winter, following seed setting. The cut height should be varied annually with some areas left to be cut lower the following year, ensuring that at least one of the piles is provided with a buffer zone at all times. Pesticides, fertilizers or other chemicals should not be used.

3.3.2 If the wildflower areas are to be cut during the hibernation period (November to March inclusive), a 30cm buffer zone will also be left around the log piles to ensure that any animals over-wintering within the log piles have habitat cover once they emerge from hibernation. This buffer zone should not be cut less than 150mm in height.

3.4 Native Species-rich Hedgerow Planting

3.4.1 Planted in triple staggered rows, once established, the hedgerow shall be managed on annual rotation, whereby only half of the hedge shall be cut each year to encourage a dense and diverse hedgerow structure.

3.4.2 The hedgerow will also be rejuvenated with additional species when it becomes sparse at the base.

3.5 Trees Planting

3.5.1 Trees planted according with the plant schedule will follow a two part managements plan; year 1 – 3 newly planted trees will be inspected twice a year (spring and autumn) to ensure healthy development, carry out adjustments and pruning works as necessary, and make any necessary repairs/adjustments to the stakes and ties and top up bark mulch if required. Management beyond year 3; Newly planted trees will be inspected just once a year to ensure healthy development, carry out adjustments and pruning works as necessary, and make any necessary repairs/adjustments to the stakes and ties and top up bark mulch if required. Any failed trees shall be replaced on a like-for-like basis.



Table 1: Habitat Creation, Management and Biodiversity Strategy.

Item	Task: Management/Maintenance	Year					Timing and Responsibility
		1	2	3	4	5	
Wildflower Species Rich Flowering Meadow Grass	On the existing grassland areas, the sward should be prepared by removing weeds and scarifying the surface. A wildflower seed mixture will then be sown. Once established, the grassland margins should be maintained via annual seed cutting. The cut height should be varied annually with some areas left to be cut lower the following year. Pesticides, fertilizers or other chemicals shall not be used.	X	X	X	X	X	Wildflower seeds shall be sown by the contractor (or relevant landowner) in March, April or September. Seed cutting shall be undertaken by the contractor (or relevant landowner) in the autumn or winter and the arisings removed from Site.
Native Species-rich Hedgerow	Planted in triple staggered rows, once established, the hedgerow shall be managed on annual rotation, whereby only half of the hedge shall be cut each year to encourage a dense and diverse hedgerow structure. Any failed specimens shall be replaced on a like-for-like basis.	X	X	X	X	X	Undertaken by the contractor or relevant landowner.
New Tree Planting	<p>Management Year 1 – 3 Newly planted trees will be inspected twice a year (spring and autumn) to ensure healthy development, carry out adjustments and pruning works as necessary, and make any necessary repairs/adjustments to the stakes and ties and top up bark mulch if required.</p> <p>Any failed trees shall be replaced on a like-for-like basis.</p> <p>Management beyond Year 3 Newly planted trees will be inspected just once a year to ensure healthy development, carry out adjustments and pruning works as necessary, and make any necessary repairs/adjustments to the stakes and ties and top up bark mulch if required.</p> <p>Any failed trees shall be replaced on a like-for-like basis.</p>	2X	2X	2X	X	X	<p>Undertaken by the contractor or relevant landowner.</p> <p>March to May and September to November.</p> <p>March - May or September - November.</p>

4 REFERENCES

British Standards Institution (2013). Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development: 42020. BSI, London.



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