



Land at The Mill, Stradbroke, Suffolk

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Instruction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by Liz Lord following instruction by Hollins Architects to address condition 5 of planning permission DC/22/02971 relating to land to the west of The Mill, Stradbroke, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5HL.
- 1.2 Full planning permission has been granted for the erection of an extension to the existing factory.
- 1.3 Condition 5 of DC/22/02971 states:

“Prior to works above slab level, a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for protected and Priority species shall be submitted to and have been 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 to achieve stated objectives;*
- c) locations of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate maps and plans;*
- d) timetable for implementation demonstrating that works are aligned with the proposed phasing of development;*
- e) persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures;*
- f) 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.

Reason - To enhance protected and Priority species & habitats and allow the Local Planning Authority to discharge its duties under the s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species).”

Relevant Documents

- 1.4 This report refers to and incorporates information presented in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report dated 27th May 2022 by Liz Lord.



Site Description

- 1.5 In 2022 the site comprised an arable field with variable boundary hedging, an area of existing concrete and gravel standing, large piles of recently created earth spoil, and small areas of recently established grass and ruderal vegetation. Further detailed habitat descriptions and images are provided in the PEA report (Lord, 2022).
- 1.6 The site lies on the north eastern outskirts of Stradbroke, approximately 10km to the south east of Diss. It is bounded to the north, south and west by arable fields, with the existing factory to the east and residential properties beyond here.
- 1.7 An aerial location plan is provided below.



Fig 1: Aerial plan, with approximate site boundary outlined in red. Aerial photograph sourced from Google Earth Pro



2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The aim of the enhancement strategy is to increase the value of the site to protected and priority species, in a way which is appropriate to the scale and nature of the use of the site and which relates to the recommendations of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report.
- 2.2 No features of significant ecological value were recorded onsite.
- 2.3 Negligible impacts upon foraging and commuting bats were predicted as part of the development proposals, subject to best practice measures relating to lighting, which will be implemented in accordance with planning condition 6 (addressed by a separate Wildlife Sensitive Lighting Design Scheme).
- 2.4 This report details the measures necessary to enhance the site for a range of protected and Priority species; with target species comprising all local bat species, all Suffolk amphibian species, house sparrow, dunnock, song thrush, yellowhammer and hedgehog.

Conservation Objectives

- 2.5 The conservation objectives will be to:
1. Enhance the value of the site to foraging and sheltering amphibians;
 2. Enhance the value of the site to foraging bats;
 3. Enhance the value of the site to foraging and sheltering hedgehogs; and
 4. Enhance the value of the site to nesting and foraging house sparrows, song thrush, dunnock and yellowhammer.

Enhancements

- 2.6 The enhancement features will focus on the creation and enhancement of new woody habitat features i.e. hedgerows and woodland belts.



3.0 ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

- 3.1 The habitat features to be created are detailed below.
- 3.2 For exact locations of all enhancement features refer to Appendix 1.

SuDS Wildflower Mix

- 3.3 The SuDS area (attenuation basin) will be sown with a SuDS wildflower mix which meets the requirements of Suffolk County Council i.e. a fescue or bent grass dominated mix with 80% or more grasses, and 20% or less wildflowers). The mix will be sown as per the supplier's recommendations, and rolled / pressed to provide contact with the soil.
- 3.4 The SuDS area will be cut in spring and autumn i.e. twice a year, with all arisings collected and removed from the site.

Native woodland planting belt

- 3.5 The woodland belts will be planted in a manner which achieves a 'stepped / staggered' edge effect, to maximise value to wildlife in a similar manner to that provided by woodland glades and rides, as shown in Figure 2, below.

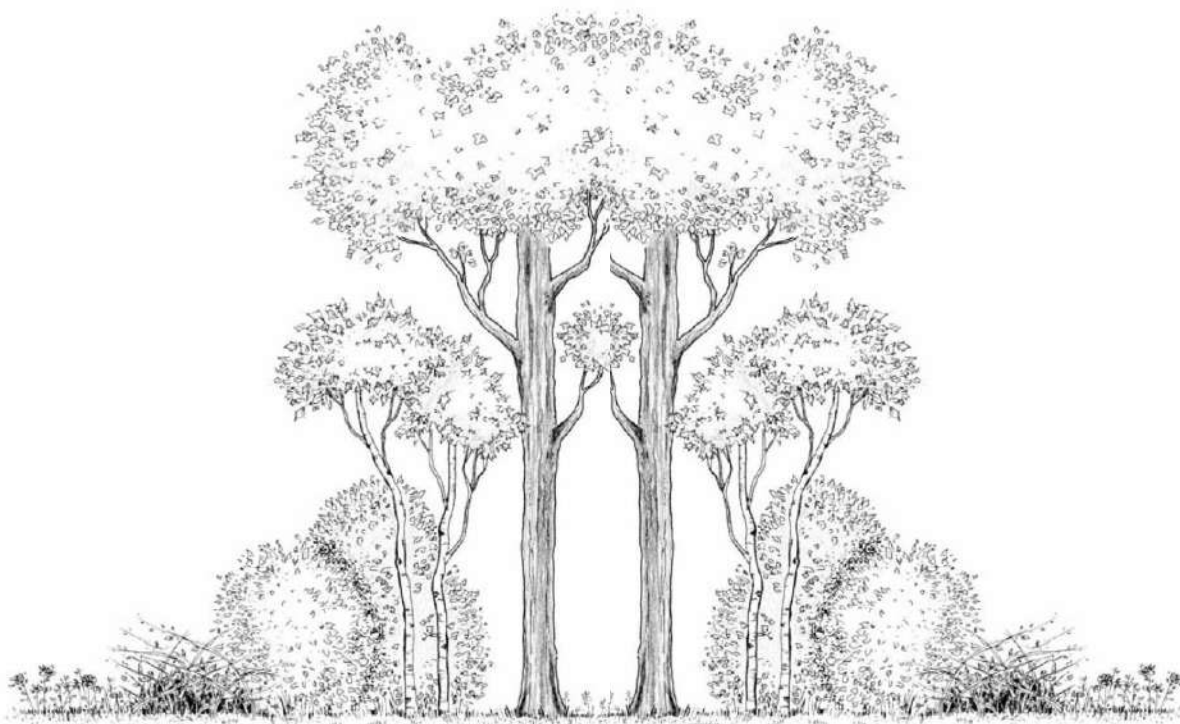


Fig 2: Profile of a structurally diverse, graduated woodland edge typically found along glades and rides. (Adapted from Blakesley, D & Buckley, GP. 2010 – Managing your woodland for wildlife. Pisces Publications, Newbury)



3.6 All of the woodland planting areas will consist a central strip of tree planting, with outer margins of shrub planting, as follows:

1) A row of trees / double staggered row of trees planted in the centre of the belt, 2-3m apart, consisting of the following species :

- oak *Quercus robur*
- alder *Alnus glutinosa*
- field maple *Acer campestre*
- silver birch *Betula pendula*
- wayfaring trees *Viburnum lanata*
- wild cherry *Prunus avium*
- rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*

2) Two outer double / triple staggered rows of at least five native shrub species taken from the list below, planted 1m apart to allow for significant establishment of individual shrubs. These shrubs will be planted at the outer edges of the woodland tree strips, on both sides wherever space allows. The shrubs can be managed as a hedge in the long term if necessary where space is restricted e.g. surrounding the attenuation basin.

- hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*
- blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*
- dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*
- hazel *Corylus avellana*
- guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*
- holly *Ilex aquifolium*
- spindle *Euonymus europaeus*
- elder *Sambucus nigra*

3.7 All plants will be fitted with tree guards / spirals to prevent damage from browsing deer, hares and rabbits. Trees and shrubs will be mulched with 75mm of woodchip, and excessive grass / weed growth at the base of trees and shrubs will be sprayed off annually.



3.8 Remaining grassy vegetation surrounding the trees and shrubs will be left uncut in order to establish a dense, tussocky understorey. This combination of habitat levels – ground, mid and high – will create a habitat of significant value to a wide range of birds, amphibians and mammals.

Native hedging

3.9 The south western and north western boundaries will be delineated with native hedging, comprising at least five of the species listed below, planted in double staggered rows of 3-5 plants per metre, and mulched with 75mm of woodchip.

- hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*
- blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*
- dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*
- hazel *Corylus avellana*
- guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*
- holly *Ilex aquifolium*
- spindle *Euonymus europaeus*
- elder *Sambucus nigra*

3.10 The north western hedge will also be interspersed with at least six native trees, and an existing hedge to the south will be planted with at least six new trees. The tree species will be taken from the woodland tree planting list provided above.

Location

3.11 The location of all new planting areas are shown in Appendix 1.

Implementation

3.12 The site manager(s) at Roger Skinner Ltd will be responsible for overseeing the purchase / creation / implementation of all of the features detailed above.

3.13 Ground preparation and planting will be overseen by, and be the ultimate responsibility of, Roger Skinner Ltd, who may employ a subcontractor to undertake the works.



3.14 The woodland and hedgerows will be planted in the nearest bare root planting season (November – March) to the completion all building and hard landscaping works. The SUDS grassland would ideally be seeded in Sept / Oct following completion of the attenuation basin, but could be seeded in April if necessary.

Management

3.15 Roger Skinner Ltd will be responsible for overseeing the installation and maintenance of the soft landscaping until handover (where applicable) to a grounds maintenance team. This document details the landscape management tasks necessary to successfully establish and maintain the new areas of planting, and is to be provided to the landscape contractors and management company (where applicable), upon completion of the soft landscaping works.

3.16 It is the responsibility of the management company, instructed by Roger Skinner Ltd, to ensure the ongoing ecological functionality of all features listed above by carrying out all works in accordance with this document. The defined roles and responsibilities for deliverance of this management plan are detailed above and in the Management Table on page 11.



4.0 MANAGEMENT

Hedgerows

- 4.1 New hedging will be trimmed annually by one third in the first three years to encourage dense and bushy growth. The base of the hedges will be topped up with mulch where necessary to prevent competitive weed growth.
- 4.2 In the long term the hedges will be trimmed annually – or, preferably – every other year, and only outside of the bird nesting season. Wherever possible hedges will be cut at the end of winter when wildlife has had an opportunity to use the berries.

SUDS Wildflower meadow

- 4.3 The wildflower areas within and surrounding the SUDS attenuation basin will be mown to a height of c.50mm twice per year - once in April and once in September / October, with cuttings removed from site. Where possible, cuttings should be allowed to sit on the turf for 7-10 days before removing, to allow seeds to drop.
- 4.4 Where necessary, thistles and similar pernicious weeds will be spot sprayed with Glyphosate or similar.

Native woodland planting belt

- 4.5 The base of the trees and shrubs will be topped up with mulch for the first three years to retain moisture and prevent competitive weed growth. Where excessive vegetation growth is present at the base of the trees / shrubs, a herbicide may be used for a 0.5m radius around the trees / shrubs.
- 4.6 The remaining grassland surrounding the trees will be uncut to create a dense, grassy understorey. The long term establishment of the tree and shrub canopy cover will ultimately serve as adequate control for any areas of brambles which may establish as a result.
- 4.7 For the first five years of establishment, dead / dying trees and shrubs will be removed and replaced like for like.
- 4.8 A summary of the management works required is provided in a table format overleaf.



Table 1: Management works, frequencies and timings

Habitat	Action required	Year	Timing
Woodland belts & hedge trees	Replace dead / dying trees and shrubs like for like	1-5	November - March
	Top up base with bark mulch to retain moisture and prevent competitive grass growth. Spray with herbicide if absolutely necessary	1-3	All year
Native hedging	Trim by one third annually	1-3	October to February
	Top up base with bark mulch	1-3	All year
	Trim annually, or every other year where possible	4-30	October to February
SuDS wildflowers	Mow the establishing wildflower areas every 8-10 weeks to a height of 40-60mm Spot spray thistles and similar pernicious weeds with Glyphosate or similar, and remove all arisings from site	1	All year as required
	Cut once in April and once in September / October to c.50m height and remove all arisings. Where possible allow cuttings to remain insitu for 7-10 days before removing Continue spot spraying if necessary to control pernicious weeds	2-30	September to October

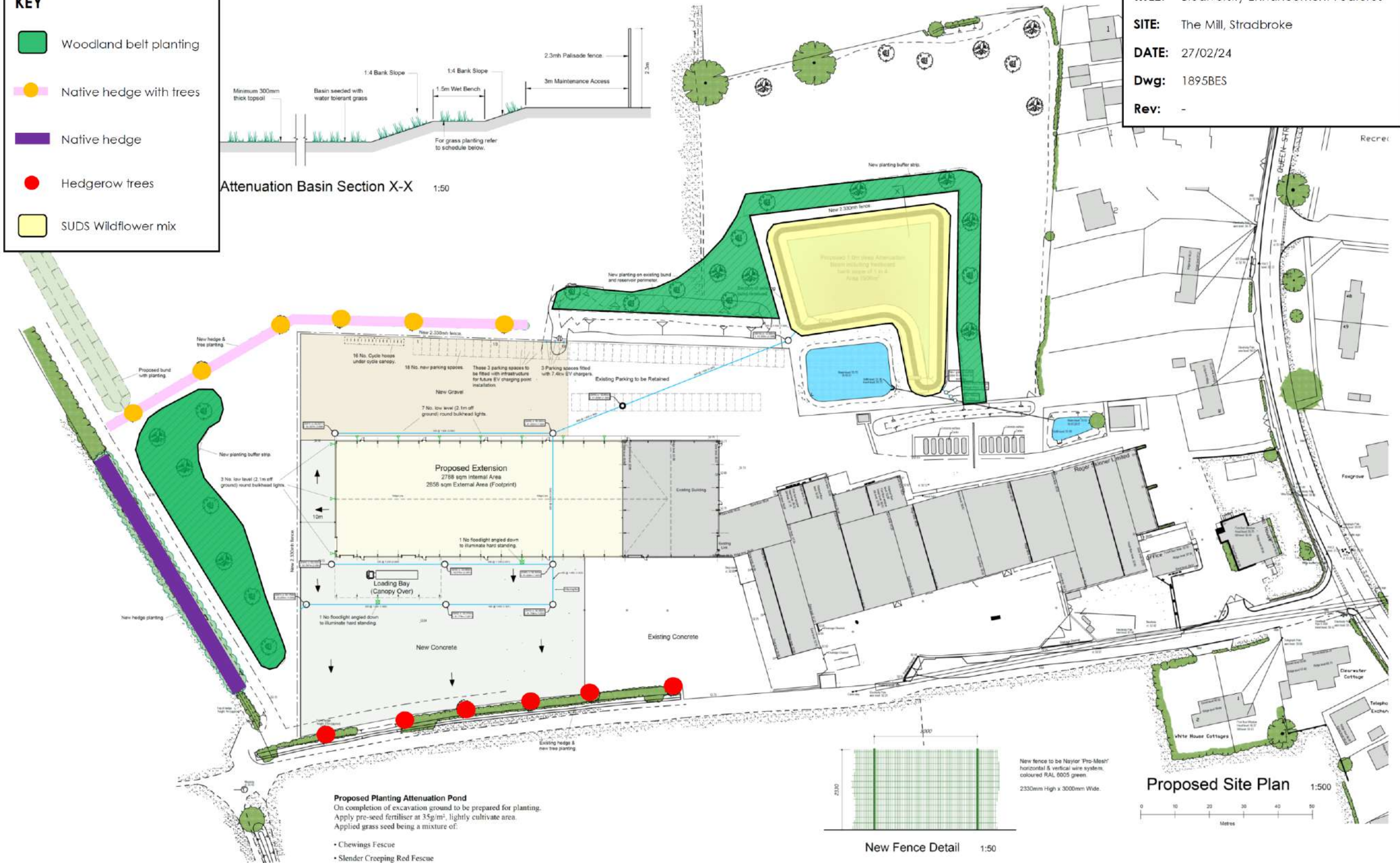
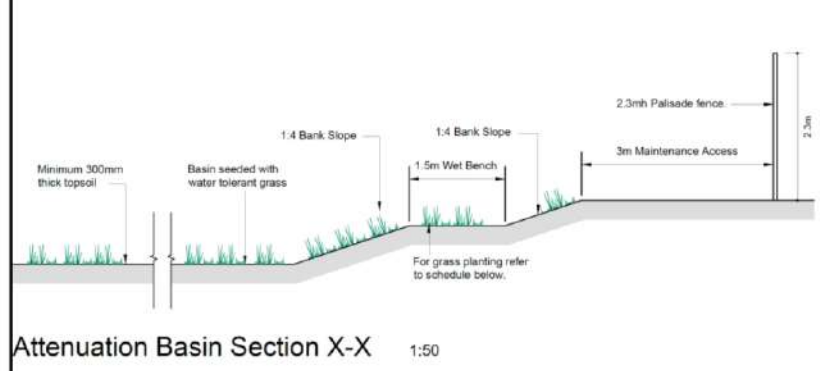


Appendix 1:
Habitat Creation Locations

KEY

- Woodland belt planting
- Native hedge with trees
- Native hedge
- Hedgerow trees
- SUDS Wildflower mix

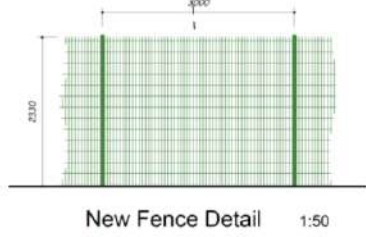
TITLE: Biodiversity Enhancement Features
SITE: The Mill, Stradbroke
DATE: 27/02/24
Dwg: 1895BES
Rev: -



Proposed Planting Attenuation Pond
 On completion of excavation ground to be prepared for planting.
 Apply pre-seed fertiliser at 35g/m². Lightly cultivate area.
 Applied grass seed being a mixture of:

- Chewings Fescue
- Slender Creeping Red Fescue
- Strong Creeping Red Fescue
- Hard Fescue
- Browntop Bent

Sowing rate 20-30g/m²
 In addition sow wild flower seed mix 5-10g/m².
 During the establishment period any bare areas to be reseeded.
 Once established areas to be mown twice a year mowing height 25-50mm.



New fence to be Navier 'Pro-Mesh' horizontal & vertical wire system, coloured RAL 6005 green.
 2330mm High x 3000mm Wide.

No.	Date	Revisions
A	Apr 23	Concrete, new lagoon, bund & planting strip revised. New fence added.
B	May 23	Existing parking aspect.
C	Jun 23	Attenuation Pond notes added.
D	Jul 23	Attenuation pond updated and surface water drains added. Bund removed.
E	Sep 23	Attenuation basin section added.
F	Dec 23	Planting revised as Landscape Architect proposals.
G	Nov 23	External lighting added. Fence detail added. New car parking (with EV spaces) & cycle storage added.

Project NEW EXTENSION TO REAR OF FACTORY	Site THE MILL STRADBROKE
Client ROGER SKINNER LTD	Details PROPOSED SITE PLAN

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Scale: 1:500 1:50 @ A1
 Date: MARCH 2022
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Liz Lord Ecology

