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LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Land off Fullwood Drive, Golcar, West Yorkshire

Report Reference: BG20.296.3

November 2021





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This report has been prepared in accordance with the CIEEM (2017) **Guidance on Ecological Report Writing**. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Brindle & Green Ecological Consultants Ltd were commissioned by Acumen Designers and Architects to compile a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) in relation to the planning application to support the proposed development of nine residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping, on the site known as Land off Fullwood Drive, Golcar, West Yorkshire.
- 1.2 This document seeks to assess the impacts and provide management measures to safeguard protected and priority species
The content of the LEMP shall include the following:
- a) Description and evaluation of features to be managed.
 - b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.
 - c) Aims and objectives of management.
 - d) Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.
 - e) Prescriptions for management actions.
 - f) Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five-year period).
 - g) Details of the body or organization responsible for implementation of the plan.
 - h) Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures
- 1.3 This document refers to the findings of the Ecological Impact Assessment (BG20.296.1, November 2021) and the accompanying Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BG20.296.2, November 2021) to provide an indicative timescale for implementation of the mitigation and compensation measures to be undertaken prior to the commencement of works onsite (Table 1), during construction and ongoing post construction management relating to habitat management.
- 1.4 This document should inform the management of retained and enhanced habitats within the site ownership, inform supplementary planting within the site ownership and inform the planting plan for the soft landscaping scheme within the Red line boundary. The planting proposals onsite should support species-rich, low maintenance grassland with coppiced native woody shrubs and scattered trees to provide year-round interest by incorporating a mixture of shrub sizes, leaf structures and foliage colours representative of the surrounding habitats and landscape. Species-rich, native hedgerows will be incorporated across the scheme to increase the overall connective value of the site.

- 1.5 Deviation from the design plans detailed within Appendix 1 may necessitate amendments to this document at a later stage. If construction has not commenced within one year of the date of this report, the document may require reviewing and/or updating.

- 1.6 It should be noted that the proposals will result in an overall loss of 0.49 biodiversity units, as such additional offsite enhancements or compensation have been recommended (BG20.296.2).

2 Description and Evaluation of Features to be managed

- 2.1 The site was the subject of an extended phase one habitat survey and further protected species surveys undertaken by Brindle and Green during May – September 2021, the results of which are reported within the Ecological Impact Assessment (BG20.296.1, November 2021).
- 2.2 The application site is approximately 0.4 hectares in extent and pertains to an area of permeable bare ground which supports colonising tall ruderal herbs, scrub and scattered trees which will largely be removed to facilitate the development. Species-poor, native hedgerows define the northern and eastern boundaries which are to be retained and managed as part of the scheme. Species-rich native hedgerows will additionally be planted across the northern and western boundaries to enhance connectivity within a local context, namely for foraging and commuting bats.
- 2.3 The site is located within the village of Golcar, within the western outskirts of the town of Huddersfield. The northern, north-western and north-eastern boundaries of the site are bordered by residential development, which dominates the wider landscape. However, mixed, semi-natural woodland lies immediately to the south-east and south-west of the site respectively, beyond which lies agricultural land. Connectivity between these areas will be retained with the inclusion of an enhanced woodland buffer along the southern edge of the site which will provide a connective corridor for terrestrial species dispersal.
- 2.4 The habitats on site have been evaluated as having up to Site value in relation to the immediate surroundings and a regional context. The area to be cleared to facilitate development is primarily tall ruderal herbs and scrub which are of low ecological value. Invasive species, namely Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), variegated yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and *Monbretia sp.* were recorded on site and have since been removed and disposed of accordingly.
- 2.5 The site was found to support local value for protected species. Key management targets have been identified to enhance and maintain the ecological value of the

site, targeted at ensuring connectivity within the locality is retained, as summarised within Table 1 below.

Table 1: Ecological Receptors, the impact associated to the development and the proposed mitigation / Enhancements.

Receptor	Source of Impact	Un mitigated Impact	Proposed Working Method	Risk with Mitigation	Timing of proposed works
Habitats	Loss of low value habitats, namely tall ruderal herbs and scrub.	No significant impact at the local level	Post construction enhancements of open areas, planting of native scrub, scattered trees and hedgerows.	Neutral (Not Significant)	
	Impacts to root protection of existing trees and vegetation		Appropriate buffer and exclusion (BG20.296.1, EclA).		
Badger	Potential harm to individuals within the local area during construction works.	Potential significant negative impact at the local level	Reasonable Avoidance Measures during site clearance and construction (BG20.296.1, EclA).	Neutral (Not Significant)	
	Loss of foraging and commuting pathways		Post construction enhancement of retained habitats		
Breeding birds	Potential disturbance, loss or harm to nesting birds, their nests, eggs and young	Potential significant negative impact at the site level	Vegetation clearance undertaken outside of breeding season.	Neutral (Not Significant)	
	Loss of foraging resources		Post construction enhancement (see habitat creation areas below)		
	Loss of nesting habitat				
Bats	Impacts during and post construction from artificial lighting	Potential minor significant negative impact at the local level	Sensitive lighting scheme to be implemented during and post construction	Neutral (Not Significant)	
			Post construction enhancement (see habitat creation areas below)		
Herptiles	Direct or indirect harm to individuals during ground clearance phase of development	Potential minor significant negative impact at the site level	Reasonable Avoidance Measures during site clearance and construction (BG20.296.1, EclA).	Neutral (Not Significant)	
Hedgehog	Disturbance and loss of suitable habitat	No significant impact at the local level	RAMS during site clearance	Neutral (Not Significant)	
Invasive Species	Potential spread of Schedule 9 invasive species	Likely significant negative impact at the local level	Clearance by certified contractors to prevent spread into native habitats.	Neutral (Not Significant)	

3 Aims and Objectives of Management

3.1 The Landscape Management Plan seeks to secure long term enhancement prescriptions and their long-term management to conserve and enhance the ecological and landscape value of the site and adjacent habitat through safeguarding and enhancing the ecological and physical integrity.

3.2 **Objective 1:** *Maintain and Protect existing conservation value of retained features*

Retained scattered trees and hedgerows along the southern, eastern and north-eastern boundaries of the site respectively to be protected during site clearance and construction works. The existing poor condition woodland to the south of the site will be enhanced to create a terrestrial buffer for native protected species, ensuring the retention of connectivity between areas of optimal woodland habitat to the east and west of the application boundary.

3.3 **Objective 2:** *Creation of new habitats to safeguard local protected species populations.*

Species-rich native hedgerow to be planted along the western and north-western boundaries of the site to increase the connective and foraging value of the site for protected species, namely foraging and commuting bats within the locality. This will target to provide an additional connective pathway between the proposed enhanced woodland to the south and maintain terrestrial connectivity between optimal habitats to the east and west of the site. Species-rich grassland will also be incorporated within open areas across scheme to provide foraging resources for native fauna and invertebrates.

3.4 **Objective 3:** *Monitor and review the success of the implemented strategy.*

Maintain a flexible management approach which responds to the changing needs of the landscape and ecology of the site. The success of habitat management should be monitored annually for 5 years and rolled over a 30-year period, in line with net gain requirements.

3.5 Enhancement and management prescriptions are influenced by the results of the Ecological Impact Assessment and seek post construction planting and management to safeguard the ecological function of habitats and protected species. Subsequent recommendations for the site are focused towards

improving the biological diversity within the retained woodland, and where possible within the scheme footprint.

4 Appropriate Management options for Achieving Aims and Objectives

Table 2: Management Prescriptions for ecological management and Enhancement for the proposed Development.

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
Objective 1: Maintain and Protect existing conservation value of retained features		
<p>Retained Hedgerows</p> <p><i>Species-poor hedgerows along the eastern and north-eastern boundaries of the site to be protected during construction works and enhanced under long-term management plan.</i></p>	<p>Bats, Birds, Hedgehog, Invertebrates.</p>	<p>Species-poor, native hedgerows define the eastern and northern-eastern boundaries of the site. They are to be retained and protected during construction works with a suitably erected Heras fence which will delineate the root protection areas and permitted construction footprint. No construction plant or material is to be stored within this area, which is to be affixed with suitable signage.</p> <p>The hedgerows are currently species-poor, dominated by leylandii cypress and garden privet with occasional standard trees interspersed along their length. The hedgerows will be subject to a management strategy, cut on a two-to-three-year rotation to allow fruiting (Table 3). Cutting should allow for an 'A line' profile at the top, increasing the cutting height by 10cm each rotation to avoid a knuckle forming. Leave standard trees within the hedgerow to provide additional foraging and nesting habitat for bat and bird species. Any gaps that appear within the hedge, before, during or after management will be filled with native species as per the accompanying soft landscape scheme.</p>
Objective 2: Creation of new habitat		
<p>Scattered Scrub</p> <p><i>To improve the structural diversity across open spaces and provide a connective corridor between areas of woodland to the east and west of the site for native, terrestrial species.</i></p>	<p>Bats, Birds, Badgers, Hedgehogs</p>	<p>Native, fruit-bearing shrub species will be planted within the enhancement buffer along the southern boundary of the site as per the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BG20.296.2, November 2021). Specimens should be planted in accordance with the accompanying soft landscaping scheme with species including native, low-lying woody species interspersed between standard native trees to create a diverse woodland understorey habitat.</p> <p>Recommended species include annually fruiting stock such as coppiced hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), dog rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i></p>

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
		<p><i>monogyne</i>), spindle (<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>), elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>), flowering currant (<i>Ribes Sanguineum</i>) and blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>).</p> <p>Planting should be conducted in late autumn or early winter where possible and spaced in same species groups of up to three stands to replicate a naturally regenerating structure, set approximately 1m apart between interspersed trees.</p> <p>Specimens that fail in the first five years will be replaced that planting season.</p> <p>Due to the sensitive nature of the area, maintenance should be minimal. Prune annually to prevent woodiness during establishment, remove dead branches and promote a dense bushy structure. Shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn and dogwood are suitable for coppicing which will increase their ecological value over time. Once established, maintenance can be relaxed and cut on a rotation when necessary, every 3-5 years, to prevent scrub dominance, however it is anticipated foraging small mammal, badger or fox activity will naturally control scrub density, and as such maintenance may not be required.</p> <p>To achieve target condition, low value scrub species such as bramble should not account for more than 20% of the total area and may require selective management.</p>
<p>Proposed specimen trees</p> <p><i>Tree planting undertaken along the eastern boundary to enhance structural diversity, connectivity and foraging resources for target species.</i></p>	<p>Bats, Birds, and Badgers</p>	<p>Scattered native trees of differing ages and sizes should be planted following the areas labelled within the LEMP enhancement plan (Appendix 2).</p> <p>Fruit bearing, native species would be recommended along the southern boundaries and extending from the proposed species rich hedgerow to provide foraging and commuting sources for target species, such as apple, field maple, hazel, rowan, hawthorn or silver birch.</p> <p>Any dead or dying plants should be removed and replaced during the next available planting season</p> <p>Formative prune during winter where necessary to establish a strong central leader on trees. Trees should be assessed annually during years 3 – 5 removing and reducing side shoots. This work should be ongoing until the tree is considered to be established then steps outlined as per Table 3.</p>

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
<p>Proposed Species-Rich Hedgerow</p> <p><i>Planting of species-rich hedgerow extending from the southern scrub buffer to extent north along the western boundary of the site to increase the overall connectivity of the site and offer suitable refuge and foraging habitat for target species.</i></p>	<p>Bats, Birds, Hedgehog, Invertebrates.</p>	<p><i>Hedgerow planting</i></p> <p>Species rich hedgerow shall be planted along the western and north-western boundaries of the site, as per recommendations outlined within the accompanying BIA (BG20.296.2, November 2021). Species will be native and annually blooming and fruit bearing, to include a mix of hazel, holly, hawthorn, blackthorn, wild privet, elder and field maple.</p> <p>A staggered double row of whips will be planted. These shall consist of a feathered whip (circa 1.2m tall) every 2m and whips (circa 0.6-0.9m tall). Interspersed between these feathered whips will be 5-6 containerised (2litre pot) 2-year-old trees (circa 0.6m) high.</p> <p>This general pattern would be subject to local variation to reflect conditions. It has been conceived in order to generate a multi-layered functional hedge to achieve a planting specification that is expected to have a reasonably high survival rate. The smaller containerised trees will provide low level cover and are likely to have a better survival rate and to grow more rapidly following establishment. The larger trees will provide immediate height but will grow more slowly following establishment.</p> <p>The whips will be, as far as is reasonably possible, locally sourced and of appropriate local provenance (as defined by Forestry Commission Practice Note [1999] Using Local Stock for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs) [Local Provenance Regions 304 or 403 - regions ordered by preference, most preferable – least preferable].</p> <p>Tree stakes should be used to support newly planted whips, boarded by biodegradable tree guards to protect during establishment.</p> <p><i>Protection Measures</i></p> <p>Feathered whips will be protected by a mulch mat, e.g. c.1m² Hemcore Biomats (or similar). Biomats are fully biodegradable and will reduce the need for post restoration watering and weed control.</p> <p>Tubex (or equivalent) tree shelters will be used to protect trees from rodent and rabbit damage and held in place by a bamboo stake.</p> <p><i>Management</i></p> <p>Sufficient manual watering and tie checks will be conducted at regular intervals to promote establishment until year 3 (Table 3). Newly planted</p>

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
		saplings will be pruned annually until establishment to encourage a thick base at which point they will be managed as existing hedgerows.
<p>Proposed Species-Rich Grassland</p> <p><i>Planting of species-rich meadow grassland within areas of open space to the north-west of the site to increase the baseline value of the site and offer additional foraging opportunities for target species.</i></p>	<p>Bats, Birds, badgers, hedgehogs, invertebrates</p>	<p><i>Meadow Grassland – EM3</i></p> <p>The areas of open space on site as outlined within the accompanying BIA (BG20.296.2, November 2021) will be seeded with EM3 Species Purpose Meadow Mix (Wildseed.co.uk) or similar approved. This mix comprises a diverse assemblage of grass and herb species which can tolerate a range of climatic conditions and management practices. Seed will be applied following the manufacturer’s guidelines (Wildseed.co.uk) is best sown in the autumn or spring.</p> <p>Remove pernicious weeds through repeat cultivation and rake to produce a medium tilth. Scarify the ground in Autumn and further prepare the seedbed in Spring. Spread by hand with an even distribution and tread in. Mow plant growth regularly to 40-60mm throughout the first growing season to prevent dominating weeds, remove cuttings if dense.</p> <p>The grassland will be spot treated for unwanted perennial weeds (docks, thistles etc) and will be managed as required, recommended to be annually subject to a hay cut during late summer (Autumn/September). Leave arisings to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days then remove from site. Additional spring cuts to a height of 50mm will also be conducted in combination with this traditional method. The verges of the wildflower areas will be cut on a regular basis for aesthetic purposes – approx. 1m margins.</p>
<p>Habitat Creation Areas.</p> <p><i>Placement of artificial refuges to enhance breeding habitat for protected species and ensure connectivity within the landscape.</i></p>	<p>Bats, Birds and Hedgehog</p>	<p>The scheme shall provide artificial refuge for Hedgehog, bats, and bird species. All artificial refugia should be installed under the supervision of a suitably experienced ecologist</p> <p><i>Bats:</i></p> <p>During construction 4 x Habitat integrated bat boxes, or similar approved will be integrated to the southern and eastern elevations of the proposed</p>

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
		<p>buildings. The boxes should be placed as close to the eaves as possible, as per the enhancement plan (Appendix 2)</p> <p><i>Birds:</i></p> <p>During construction, x4 1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terraces will be integrated into the northern and eastern elevations of buildings, as close to the eaves as possible, as per the enhancement plan (Appendix 2).</p> <p>Five x 1B Schwegler bird boxes in the following sizes: 2 x 26mm Hole, 2 x 32mm Hole, 1 x Oval Hole will be positioned on suitable trees within site ownership (Appendix 2). Entrance holes should be directed towards the north and east to avoid strong sunlight and driving rain. The Bird boxes should be positioned at a height of between 2 and 4 metres</p> <p><i>Hedgehogs:</i></p> <p>A natural brash refugia, or hedgehog house such as a Schwegler Hedgehog dome or similar approved will be positioned within the proposed buffer to the south of the site. Additionally, Hedgehog highways will be incorporated across the site to ensure connectivity within the locality is retained, notably between the southern buffer and adjacent woodland. This will comprise a gap approximately 15cm² at the base of the boundary fences to allow terrestrial dispersal across site.</p>
Sensitive lighting Scheme	Foraging and commuting bats	<p>Artificial lighting should be limited on the western and eastern boundaries of the site to ensure the adjacent woodland habitat is not impacted as a result of the development. Additionally, illumination of the boundary hedgerows and southern scrub buffer should be avoided.</p> <p>If security lighting on the buildings is required as part of the scheme, the lighting must be faced in a downward direction away from boundary features, with light overspill less than 1lux.</p> <p>Low level bollard lighting could be used if required along the access pathway, supporting low or high-pressure Sodium lamps instead of Mercury or metal halide. LED's can be used, however; white or blue light spectrums should be</p>

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
		avoided. It would be recommended that these should be set to a timer or on a motion sensor to reduce impacts to local wildlife.
Objective 3: Monitor retained and created habitats. Review management Strategy		
Management Plan Review	N/A	The plan should be reviewed at 5 years, with the production of a new plan, incorporating revisions following the review of the results of the monitoring of created habitats as described below.
<p>Newly Planted trees, scrub and hedgerows</p> <p>Scrub habitats will be managed to achieve ‘Good’ condition following net gain requirements.</p>	N/A	<p>Monitored annually until established, approximately Year 5 when a review will be undertaken by an ecologist and arboriculturist to ensure objectives have been met and the management continues to enhance the habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>To achieve ‘Good’ condition, the scrub is required to meet all 5 of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Representative of UKHab criteria. At least 3 woody species present with no one species accounting for more than 75% of the habitat. – A range of scrub maturity from seedling to mature scrub. – Absence of invasive species and undesirable species such as creeping thistle, cherry laurel, common nettle, snowberry, buddleia and cotoneaster accounting for less than 5% of the area. – The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland providing a transition into the adjacent habitat. – Clearings or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.
<p>Grassland</p> <p>Grassland Habitats within areas of open space will be managed to achieve ‘Moderate’ condition as per Net Gain requirements.</p>		<p>The ecological buffer zone should be monitored annual to determine success of seeded areas.</p> <p>If the herb to grass ratio is less than 20%, or wildflower seeding has not been successful (less than 50% of expected germination), reseeding with an appropriate 100% flower mixture should be undertaken (EM3F).</p>

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
		<p>To achieve 'Moderate' condition, the grassland requires 3/4 of the 5 following criteria to be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Absence of invasive, non-native species and undesirable species such as broad-leaved dock, white clover, creeping buttercup and spear thistle to account for less than 5% of the sward. – A varied sward height, at least 20% of the sward is less 7cm and at least 20% if greater than 7cm to create microclimates. – Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species prevalent throughout the sward. – Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%. – Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub less than 5%.
<p>Woodland</p> <p>The woodland buffer along the southern extent of the site will be managed to achieve 'Poor' condition as per Net Gain requirements.</p>		<p>To achieve 'Poor' condition, the following factors need to be address to provide a diverse woodland structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A diverse structure of woodland trees present, ranging from young to mature standards, comprising at least 5 or more native shrub and tree species. Evidence of regeneration. – Invasive species irradiated where possible, aiming to maintain a cover of less than 10% of undesirable species such as cherry laurel and snowberry. – A canopy cover of at least 50% supporting a diverse shrub cover comprising native species. Ground level indicator species and diverse floral understorey present where possible. – No more than 40% of the woodland left bare, with vast areas of open space. – No more than 25% tree mortality and/or crown dieback with will tolerated. Diseased stands will be managed and removed.
<p>Invasive Species</p>	<p>Japanese knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>),</p>	<p>The presence of invasive species will be monitored annually in conjunction with habitat condition assessments. Any evidence of regeneration of these</p>

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
	Himalayan balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>), variegated yellow archangel (<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>) and <i>Monbretia sp.</i>	species on site will be addressed immediately to ensure the spread of these species does not encroach into adjacent woodland habitat.

6 Details of the Organisation responsible for the implementation of the plan.

6.1 *Implementation:*

6.1.1 The Developer will be responsible for implementing the management associated with this condition up to the point of site occupation.

6.1.2 Any transference of responsibility of this plan should be undertaken with the appropriate appointment of a competent organisation capable of delivering the detailed measures within this document. The organisation implementing this plan will be undertaken by a management company with the necessary certificates of competence to implement landscape management operation on site. The management organisation will ensure that management complies with best practice standards and all relevant health and safety procedures, protection of the environment, avoidance of pollution and protection of protected species and habitats.

6.2 *Management period:*

The management period of this plan is ten years. In order to ensure that the plan continues to remain appropriate, applicable and effective, a review will be undertaken by both the landowner, and the controlling authority, to ensure that all information contained within the document remains relevant. This review will be undertaken once every 5 years. Should it be determined that the conservation aims of the management plan are not being met, remedial action will then be identified, agreed and implemented so that the development still delivers the fully functioning biodiversity objectives of the originally approved scheme.

6.3 *Controlling Authority*

The controlling authority are Kirklees District Council, who should be consulted on any matters relating to the existing trees and the approved proposals for the scheme.

Appendix 1: Design plan



Appendix 2: Enhancement / Management Plan



Date Created: 11/01/2022