

JOHN COTTON

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY
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PWP 754 100 | Revision 02

This document has been prepared by PWP Design Ltd to support of a full application submission to Kirklees Council, for the development of commercial industrial unit on a disused part of the Cooper Bridge Waste Water Treatment Works in Batteyford, Mirfield, West Yorkshire.

The proposed site intends to deliver an innovative manufacturing employment site that extends the existing John Cotton Group textiles factory.

Revision	Purpose	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Date
DR	Draft for review	CP	LW	SH	13/07/23
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1.0 SITE CONTEXT

The proposed site is located on the western edge of the village of Batteyford to the west of the town of Mirfield, a civil parish in Kirklees that lies in the Valley of the River Calder. It is situated on the roundabout junction of the A644 Leeds Road/Wakefield Road and Cooper Bridge Road, approximately 4.5 miles to the north-east of Huddersfield, 3 miles south-east of Brighouse and 5 miles west of Dewsbury. The proposed development site formed part of the wider Cooper Bridge Waste Water Treatment Works, with this part of the plant taken out of operation, as part of Yorkshire Waters plans to modernise their water treatment infrastructure.

In the immediate context the site boundaries are defined by the main vehicular road network of the A633 and Cooper Bridge Road to the north, the Northern Line train line that runs between Brighouse and Mirfield to the south-west and the River Calder to the east. The local area is dominated primarily by industry, with Nunbrook Mills providing a buffer between the proposed development site and the Village of Batteyford to the north-east. The Cooper Bridge Waste Water Treatment Works lie in close proximity, across various sites to the south and the west.

The overall ownership site measures 6.1 Ha (15.1 Acres), with the developable area measuring 2.8 Ha (6.9 Acres).

The site is identified in the Kirklees Local Plan as an allocated area for employment under policy ES9, this allocation incorporates landscape focussed considerations including: The Wildlife Habitat Network, UK BAP Priority habitat, air quality issues, landscape buffers, contaminated land and flood zones.

See the Design and Access Statement by KPP Architects for further details.



1.1 LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS



1. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The proposed development site is surrounded by blocks of green infrastructure. These form a network of high level wildlife corridors both within the red line development boundary and the local area. There is scope to improve the connectivity within and between these corridors as part of the proposed development, to enhance and strengthen these important wildlife corridors.

2. WILDLIFE HABITAT NETWORK

Part of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network runs through the proposed development site, along the north eastern boundary of the proposed development site. This connectivity must be retained, so any loss of habitat must be replaced with mitigation planting.

3. CORE OF THE SITE

The central open core of the proposed development site is bare unmade ground, consisting primarily of rubble and concrete. This space has little or no landscape or ecological value.

4. RETAINED FILTER BEDS

The existing filter beds to the east are to be retained, along with access for vehicles and maintenance.

5. MOVEMENT CORRIDORS

The site is bound to the north and west by the A644 Huddersfield Road, to the south by the Northern Rail Train Line and to the west by the River Calder and The Calder & Hebble Navigation Cut.

6. STRONG GREEN FRONTAGE

The frontage to the proposed development benefits from existing trees and groups of planting providing screening and a high level, established green infrastructure corridor.

7. ENHANCED HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

There is the opportunity to incorporate improved connectivity across the proposed development between existing areas of green infrastructure. This includes areas of native tree planting, hedgerows, scrub and meadow seeding to provide a structurally diverse and valuable habitat.

1.2 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY & DESIGN PRINCIPLES



LANDSCAPE KEY

-  Existing trees & vegetation retained
-  Existing trees & vegetation removed
-  Proposed trees
-  Proposed scrub planting
-  Proposed mixed species native hedge
-  Proposed wildflower meadow

The following landscape strategy captures the overarching design principles for the proposed development. These have been developed collaboratively between PWP Design, KPP Architects and Envirotech, to ensure there is a holistic, habitat focussed design approach:

- Create a strong green frontage to the site through the retention and enhancement of the existing established tree buffer along the A644 Leeds Road. Tree line to be enhanced with additional native tree scrub and tree planting, as well as meadow/wildflower verges to:
 - Provide structural and species diversity.
 - Future-proof the canopy layer and tree line.
 - Strengthen and enhance habitat value.
 - Improve Green Infrastructure provision.
 - Create a strong boundary line that screens the proposed development from adjacent and close proximity residential areas.
 - Improve habitat corridors and connectivity in the local and wider context.
- Incorporate a unified planting approach to create a green setting that maximises habitat connectivity and value potential across the proposed development site. Proposed native hedgerows, scrub planting and trees compliment existing retained vegetation, as well as the introduction of new areas of meadow/wildflower verges. There is opportunity for this approach to extend throughout the site forming a series of green connections to the perimeter of the proposed commercial development.
- Create a strong green boundary between the proposed development site and the adjacent residential dwellings with the introduction of a proposed native landscape buffer (in accordance with policy allocation ES9). Planting to screen the proposed development, whilst still providing a valuable habitat connectivity corridor.
- Introduce a palette of native planting into the proposed development site, that compliments the existing species present within the immediate and local context. Planting to diversify retained vegetation to maximise habitat and biodiversity value, provide benefits to air quality through species selection and also provide new habitat areas for wildlife in the area that are currently not present on site. Planting typology to consider long term value, including climate change, long life species and habitat development.

1.3 INDICATIVE PLANTING PALETTE

The palette for the soft landscape within the proposed development performs the vital role of connecting the proposed development with the wider landscape. A native palette is to be utilised to ensure new habitat creation, enhancement of the existing vegetation on site and to create important screening. Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network crosses through the site and is subject to partial removal to facilitate the development. Replacement planting is proposed to ensure this green corridor is not lost. New planting includes native tree and scrub to provide an enhanced value and high level habitat connection.

NATIVE TREES



Proposed mix of native tree species to be planted across the site to provide screening, wildlife habitat value and to extend and enhance the existing green infrastructure network. Size and form native trees to vary to ensure there is structural diversity within planting, e.g. smaller species such as Crab Apple and larger stature trees such as Oak.

The proposed native tree planting strengthens and extends the existing tree planting on site. Consideration should be given to planting trees with long life spans and climate change, species planted on site now should be better suited to the climate in 100-150 years when they mature, such as Sweet chestnut, Elm and Hornbeam, could be incorporated into the mix to future proof long term tree cover.

Suggested Tree Species:

- Birch (*Betula pendula*)
- Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
- Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
- Elm (*Ulmus glabra*)
- Crab Apple (*Malus sp*)
- Oak (*Quercus Sp*)
- Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)

NATIVE HEDGEROWS



Proposed mixed native species hedgerows provides a connective habitat corridor and green edge to the development. The diversity of species creates a valuable habitat and important food source for local wildlife. The proposed mixes should include night flowering species which would be beneficial to foraging bats.

Hedge(s) to be managed to maintain height and width, without disturbing wildlife or reducing it's habitat value.

Opportunity to undersow shade tolerant native wildflowers/bulbs such as bluebell, Garlic Mustard, Ramsons & Wood Avens.

Suggested Hedgerow Species:

- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
- Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)
- Common Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*)

NATIVE SCRUB PLANTING



Proposed mixed native species scrub planting defines boundaries, helps screen and provides important habitat value. By underplanting the tree canopy with scrub planting, it further enhances the habitat value by providing multiple layers of planting types and heights. This can be further enhanced by undersowing a wildflower meadow layer where suitable.

The proposed mixes should include night flowering species which would be beneficial to foraging bats.

Suggested Scrub Species:

- Common Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)
- Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*)

MEADOW & WILDFLOWER SEEDS



Wildflower seeding enhances the ecological value of the site and improves continuity between the site and the wider area. Mixes to incorporate night flowering species where possible to provide a food source for moths and a foraging habitat for nocturnal mammals and bats, e.g. Bladder/White Campion and Evening Primrose.

Wildflower seeding to be sown along the verges, embankment and under newly planted areas of trees/scrub/hedgerow.

Suggested Meadow Seed Mixes:

- 80/20% Meadow seed and wildflower mix
- Hedgerow Edge Mix
- Shade Tolerant Woodland Mix
- Flowering lawn mix (for areas requiring shorter height meadow seeding)