

Huddersfield Southern Corridors – Longroyd Lane

**Details of ecological enhancements to be incorporated
within the landscape scheme**

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1. INTRODUCTION

LANDSCAPING PLANNING CONDITION

- 1.1 The Huddersfield Southern Corridors scheme (HSC) at Longroyd Lane is a capital funded highway improvement project seeking to deliver a junction improvement, highway widening, and improved active travel facilities, in addition to hard and soft landscaping enhancements at the site.
- 1.2 As the scheme involves a widening of the highway cross section into formerly non-highway land, planning permission was sought, and was conditionally granted on 20th May 2022, referenced **2020/62/93107/W**.
- 1.3 This soft landscaping note has been prepared to support the Discharge of condition 6 (Hard and Soft Landscaping) which in its entirety reads:

“6. Prior to the commencement of any landscape works associated with the approved scheme, full details of both hard and soft landscape works, including an implementation programme, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Hard landscape works shall include:

- *Details of the proposed boundary wall including materials (natural stone) and height; and*
- *Details of surface materials.*

Soft landscape works shall include:

- *Planting plans;*
- *Written specifications (including soil depths, cultivation and other operations associated with plant and grass establishment);*
- *Schedules of plants noting species, planting sizes and proposed numbers/densities, to include the provision of native species; and*
- *Details of ecological enhancements to be incorporated within the landscape scheme to include (but not exclusively limited to) bird and bat boxes, hedgehog ‘hotels’ and ‘insect hotels’.*

All hard and soft landscaping works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and approved implementation programme. The developer shall complete the approved landscaping works and confirm this in writing to the Local Planning Authority prior to the date agreed in the implementation programme.”

INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS PREPARED TO SUPPORT DISCHARGE

- 1.4 This note deals solely with the soft landscaping elements of the planning condition. The planning condition requirements for hard landscaping will be provided by design drawings separate to this note.

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- 1.5 Similarly, the soft landscaping planting plans and written specifications will be provided in the form of landscaping construction drawings for the scheme, and landscaping specifications to be included in the contract tendered for construction of the scheme.
- 1.6 The planning condition requirement for details of soft landscaping ecological enhancements are provided in the next section.

2. DETAILS OF SOFT LANDSCAPING ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

- 2.1 This section should be read in conjunction with the soft landscaping construction drawings.
- 2.2 The main ecological enhancements associated with the scheme are built into the overall design itself.
- 2.3 The inclusion of a mixed native species hedge will provide cover and food for both insects and a variety of birds. The species selected for the mix are based on those naturally found within the prevailing woodland types according to the National Vegetation Classification, and also provide a range of berries as food sources for birds and flowers offering nectar and pollen for insects.
- 2.4 Similarly, the trees have been chosen to not only be of a suitable size and other characteristics for their location, but to offer habitat and food opportunities as well as visual interest and through blossom, berries, autumn colour etc.
- 2.5 Instead of seeding the verges with an amenity grass seed mix, the design includes a grass free 'wildflower lawn' seed mix which is carefully blended to provide a range of low growing wildflower species that will tolerate a degree of foot traffic and also regular mowing throughout the growing season. They will offer a long flowering period with the associated benefits to pollinating insects and other species.
- 2.6 The predominantly ground level nature of the scheme doesn't lend itself to features such as bird boxes, although as it matures its value to birds will increase, and there will be potential in future to include bird boxes in the trees once they've grown larger.
- 2.7 With bat boxes, its location next to a busy and well-lit highway is far from ideal and similarly with hedgehog houses, encouraging them to live and forage adjacent to a busy highway seems unwise, especially as if they manage to successfully cross the road they would then meet the canal wall with no refuge from the traffic until crossing back again. Having said that though, the provision of the rain gardens will periodically introduce small areas of standing water which will be of potential benefit to a number of animals, and the planting itself again offers further diversity.

3. DETAILS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The hard landscaping will be constructed by the contractor appointed by the council's highways service to deliver the main highway scheme on site. It will be delivered within the construction phase over a 5-month period, in accordance with the relevant planning conditions, and drawing **2563511-KC-HGN-LL-DR-CH-015** and is otherwise not part of this note.
- 3.2 The soft landscaping will similarly be delivered by the same contractor within the construction phase mentioned in the previous point, in accordance with the relevant planning conditions, and drawings:
- **2563511-KC-LAD-LL-DR-LA-001-02**
 - **2563511-KC-LAD-LL-DR-LA-002-02**
 - **2563511-KC-LAD-LL-DR-LA-003-02**
 - **2563511-KC-LAD-LL-DR-LA-004**
- 3.3 Tree and hedge planting will be done as per the planting schedule show in **2563511-KC-LAD-LL-DR-LA-001-02**.
- 3.4 Seeding and other planting will be done as detailed in **2563511-KC-LAD-LL-DR-LA-003-02**