



Ecological Design Strategy

Yew Tree Road, Birchencliffe (West)

Newett Homes.

Report Reference: ER-5871-01A

20/03/2025



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The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. This report does not constitute legal advice.

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Introduction

The following Ecological Design Strategy ('the Plan') has been produced for North Park Homes Ltd. to aid in the discharge of Conditions 25 of the granted Outline Planning Permission (2018/60/90151/W) at the Site adjacent to 208 Yew Tree Road, Birchencliffe, Huddersfield, HD2 2EQ.

The exact wording of this condition is repeated opposite.

The Plan is produced in accordance with Chapter 11 of British Standard 42020.

Background Information

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report was produced by Brooks Ecological in February 2017, to support the Outline Planning Application.

At this time the Site was occupied by species-poor marshy grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, scrub and plantation woodland; all habitats which are ubiquitous and of low diversity and ecological importance.

It was concluded in the report that the marshy grassland habitat was of more interest; however, as the Site is surrounded by plantation woodland and improved pasture, this habitat is so fragmented, and of such limited scale, that its ecological value must also be considered to be low and not worthy of retention.

However, the following recommendations were put forward, in an effort to deliver ecological enhancements.

- Given the Site's damp acidic conditions, landscaping within Public Open Space could include areas of species-rich marshy grassland, or a permanent water body with a wide belt of marginal vegetation.
- Although a relatively large number of trees are present on Site, these are mostly non-native conifers of low wildlife value. Landscaping could aim to replace these with higher value native tree and shrub planting.
- A range of faunal boxes, aimed at declining garden birds and crevice dwelling bat species could be incorporated into a number of the new builds.

Scope of Plan

This plan relates only to land within the Site's Red Line Boundary (RLB); see figure opposite.

25. Details of 'layout' and 'landscaping' submitted pursuant to condition 2 shall include an ecological design strategy (EDS) addressing compensation for the loss of the marshy grassland/rush pasture habitats as identified in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, as well as general ecological enhancement. The EDS shall include the following:

- Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed works, including but not limited to the creation of a permanent water body or marshy grassland habitat within open space.
- Review of site potential and constraints informed by up-to-date (within 12 months of the date of submission) ecological survey and assessment.
- Detailed design(s) and/or working method(s) to achieve stated objectives.
- Extent and location/area of proposed works on appropriate scale maps and plans.
- Type and source of materials to be used where appropriate, e.g. native species of local provenance.
- Timetable for implementation demonstrating that works are aligned with the proposed phasing of development.
- Persons responsible for implementing the works.
- Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance.
- Details for monitoring and remedial measures.

The EDS shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and all features shall be retained as such thereafter.

Reason: To provide ecological mitigation and enhancement in accordance with Policy PLP30 of the Publication Draft Local Plan and guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Delivering the Plan

The Developer is responsible for the creation and establishment works for a five-year period.

After year five, this plan will be the responsibility of a Site Management Company whence it will be implemented in perpetuity.



Opportunities and Themes



Diverse Hedgerows

Creating diverse, species-rich hedgerows provides a source of food and shelter for a wide range of faunal groups, including birds and invertebrates.



Homes for declining birds & bats

New builds often fail to provide opportunities for nesting birds and roosting bats, with the eaves and verges being well sealed.

A wide range of designs are now available on the market which can either be fixed to the masonry, or built discretely into the fabric of new walls.



Food and cover for wintering birds

Birds on passage are often attracted to dense cover where they can recuperate away from predators. Landscaping can include areas which will allow for the creation and long term maintenance of thickets which will also provide winter food sources (berries).



Maintaining connectivity for Hedgehog

Hedgehog have seen significant declines over the last few decades, with one of the major factors being habitat loss and fragmentation. Gardens provide excellent hedgehog habitat and by simply providing a means of access into these, new gardens can very quickly once again become home to this enigmatic species.



Shrub planting (planting)

Rationale

New scrub planting and management of existing habitat to create a diverse ecotone habitat between woodland and development.

Specification

Soil: N/A.

Weeds: No herbicide to be used. Strim and rake out planting stations in areas to be gapped up immediately prior to planting

Seeding: N/A

Planting: Ornamental shrub and herbaceous planting; to be detailed in the Landscape Masterplan.

A preference will be made for species with a recognizable value to wildlife, i.e. nectar/ pollen rich, long flowering period, bearing seeds, nuts, berries or fruit. Examples for differing soil conditions are provided below.

Ornamental planting

Shrubs				
Number	Abbreviation	Species	Specification	Density
5 -	LAVANHI	Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'	Bushy :C	4/m ²

Prairie mix 1						
Number	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
2 -	Aster macrophyllus		3L	C	4/m ²	3%
6 -	Calamagrostis brachytricha		3L	Full Pot	5/m ²	10%
2 -	Digitalis ferruginea		3L	C	5/m ²	3%
3 -	Echinacea purpurea		3L	C	5/m ²	5%
5 -	Eragrostis curvula		3L	Full Pot	4/m ²	10%
2 -	Eupatorium cannabinum		3L	C	4/m ²	3%
2 -	Filipendula ulmaria 'Variegata'		3L	C	4/m ²	3%
3 -	Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus		3L	C	4/m ²	5%
4 -	Miscanthus sinensis 'Kleine Fontane'		3L	Full Pot	3/m ²	10%
5 -	Molinia caerulea arundinacea 'Transparent'		3L	Full Pot	4/m ²	10%
2 -	Monarda 'Prairie Night'		3L	C	4/m ²	3%
5 -	Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'		3L	Full Pot	4/m ²	10%
5 -	Pennisetum alopecuroides		3L	Full Pot	4/m ²	10%
3 -	Rudbeckia laciniata		3L	C	5/m ²	5%
4 -	Stipa calamagrostis		3L	Full Pot	3/m ²	10%
Total :53 -						

Shade Mix 1						
Number	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
9 -	Dryopteris filix-mas		3L	Full Pot	4/m ²	20%
5 -	Hebe brachysiphon	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m ²	10%
5 -	Hebe ochracea	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m ²	10%
5 -	Pulmonaria angustifolia		3L	C	4/m ²	10%
5 -	Ruscus aculeatus	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m ²	10%
5 -	Sarcococca confusa	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m ²	10%
5 -	Sarcococca hookerana digy. 'Purple Stem'	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m ²	10%
5 -	Skimmia japonica 'Fragrans'	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m ²	10%
5 -	Vinca minor	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m ²	10%
Total :49 -						

Management

Standard Landscape establishment and management works.

Monitoring

Not required. Much of this habitat will be within private ownership.



Wildflower grassland

Rationale

Areas otherwise specified as amenity 'lawns' will be seeded with mixtures that include flowering plants to benefit invertebrates and in turn, larger fauna that will prey upon these.

Specification

Preparation

The areas marked for grassland creation are located on former farmland. To reduce nutrient levels and maximise the chances of target grassland communities establishing, no more than 5cm of topsoil will be spread over the subsoil profile in these areas. This will be loose tipped and spread with back actor to avoid compaction, and harrowed to a fine tilth ready for seeding.

Seeding

Emorsgate Seeds mix EM2—Standard Meadow Mix will be sown in the areas indicated opposite.

Seeds will be sown according to supplier's instructions. If soils have been spread before September, any weed growth that has established in the meantime will be sprayed off with glyphosate and a seedbed be re-prepared.

Seed will either be broadcast by hand or by approved lightweight machinery at c. 40Kg /Ha. Following seeding the area will be lightly rolled to incorporate the seed with the growing substrate.

Management

Year 1

Five cuts, collect arisings and remove from site. Use a weed wipe three times in year 1 to kill off weeds - Spear thistle, creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock, clustered dock, wood dock, curled dock, nettle, ragwort and others according to ECoW recommendations. Operative must be proven competent in identifying these in their early stages to prevent killing off sown wildflowers.

Year two onwards

annual cut in late August/ early September. Arising collected and removed from Site.

Monitoring

Year 2 & 5 Ecologist survey to record relative cover values according to objectives.

Remedial actions

Localised weed control or over sowing with wildflower seed under the instructions of the ECoW.



Bird boxes

Rationale

Ready made nesting boxes can be incorporated into developments to provide shelter and breeding sites of declining garden birds, such as swift and house sparrow.

Specification

Box Type	No.	Plan ref.
Mansthorpe swift box	12*	Orange dots 

Although designed to attract swift, Mansthorpe boxes have been shown to also be used by house sparrow.

Location Notes

* Installed in groups of 3 boxes. 1 dot on the plan opposite denotes 3 boxes on that elevation.

Sited as high as possible on new build, ideally directly below the eaves or verges.

Boxes will not be positioned directly above windows, to prevent potential conflict with new homeowners.

Installed

During construction.



Bat boxes

Rationale

Ready made roosting boxes can be incorporated into developments to provide shelter and breeding sites of crevice dwelling bats, such as pipistrelles.

Specification

Box Type	No.	Plan ref.
Integrated Eco Bat Box	5	Blue dots 

Location Notes

Sited as high as possible on new build, ideally directly below the eaves or verges.

Boxes will not be positioned directly above windows, to prevent potential conflict with new homeowners.

A range of elevations have been selected, so as to provide a variety of potential roost environments.

Where possible, boxes have been positioned so as to face onto retained boundary hedgerows or new rear gardens. This fronts them onto favourable habitat and enables boxes to be discrete. Front elevations, or elevations fronting onto new roads have been avoided, to avoid illumination from street lights.

Installed

During construction.



Hedgehog Provision

Rationale

Hedgehog have seen significant declines over the last few decades, with one of the major factors being loss of habitat. This species is listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) as a 'Species of Principle Importance'. New gardens provide excellent hedgehog habitat and whereas previously, these gardens were accessible to this species by virtue of hedgerow planting, a shift in industry practice to hard borders (fences and walls) has inadvertently excluded hedgehog from this extensive foraging resource. Simply providing a means of access into and between these new gardens can very easily and cheaply increase the amount of habitat available to hedgehog.

Hedgehog access holes

At least one hedgehog access hole (measuring at least **13cm x 13cm**) will be installed in each new fence line along the line of the blue arrow shown in the figure opposite.

This will be done by contractors during the fence's installation. These will be either purpose made panels such as those supplied by Jackson Fencing or be cut into standard fences, by contractors, during installation. Where concrete gravel boards are used, either purpose built ramps to access holes in the fence panels or underpasses beneath the boards will be made.

All holes will be simply labelled 'Hedgehog Highway' (see photos below) so home owners know why there are there. This will reduce the risk of holes being sealed.

