

Nationwide Produce plc



Landscape Biodiversity Management Plan Cowpers Gate (South) Station Road Long Sutton Spalding

889-8CC LBMP fv GP

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town planning



landscape architecture



architecture

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Landscape Biodiversity Management Plan has been prepared by the Robert Doughty Consultancy Limited, on behalf of Nationwide Produce plc, to satisfy condition 6 of Detailed Planning Permission (Application Ref No. H11-1084-23) dated 2nd July 2024.
- 1.2. The purpose of this document, which should be read in conjunction with Drawing No. 889-8_CC_PP01, is to set out the arrangements for landscape management, monitoring and responsibilities for all landscaped areas, inclusive of trees, hedges, shrub planting and grassland areas within private ownership of the site. A schedule of species is provided at **Appendix A**. The plan sets out the required management regimes, operations and works necessary for the satisfactory management of the landscape in perpetuity. It is not intended to be a full specification or provide specific details of those responsible for undertaking such works.
- 1.3. The plan sets out the management aims and objectives for the site along with the specific management objectives for each landscape component and the associated works required on an annual and occasional basis. The annual works are those required each and every year, such as watering, feeding, pruning, mowing and tidying. The occasional works are those required on an irregular or cyclical basis, such as repairs and renewals.
- 1.4. This document deals with the proposed soft landscaping associated with the proposed development at Nationwide Produce plc, Cowpers Gate (South) Station Road, Long Sutton.
- 1.5. This document is not intended to be a detailed planting specification. All plants must, however, conform to the following:

Plants Generally

- 1.6. All plants are to be guaranteed home grown or shall have been lined out for no less than one growing season if imported. Full details of origin of stock shall be supplied to the Contract Administrator.
- 1.7. Plants shall be free from pests and disease or damage of any kind, and to the following British Standards: -

- B.S. 4428 1989 General Landscape Operations. (Part 1:1991) where applicable.
- B.S. 3936: Part 1 1992, Part 2 (1990) and Part 4 (2007) Specification for Trees & Shrubs.
- All container grown material shall conform to the "Specification of Standards for British Container Grown Stock", unless specified otherwise, prepared by British Container Growers and published by the Horticultural Trades Association.
- All bare root plant material shall be supplied and planted whilst dormant, and any plants which have burst buds will be rejected.

2. LANDSCAPE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. The main aims of this Landscape Biodiversity Management Plan are to secure a coordinated and high standard of management and maintenance within the site over the lifetime of the facility and to outline how the landscaped areas will be created and managed to ensure the intended condition and characteristics of the proposed habitat types is achieved. The establishment and future success of the external landscape spaces is largely dependent on the implementation of the correct type of management and the standard and frequency of the regimes it receives along with appropriate monitoring of the activities and the habitat type.
- 2.2. The main aims and objectives of the plan are:
- To achieve rapid establishment of the plant material with resultant total ground cover where required, thereby suppressing weed growth and reducing maintenance requirements.
 - To retain the natural growth form and maximise the seasonal potential of the individual species by the pruning methods adopted, thereby optimising the enjoyment of the landscape by residents.
 - To manage the landscape in a manner which is also convivial with the safety of site users, such as maintaining visibility splays and access to easements etc..
 - To maintain and enhance biodiversity, to protect and enhance the nature conservation interest in both existing and new habitats and to ensure the adoption of management practices that enhance the biodiversity value of the site and in particular that of the required landscape areas along the eastern boundary adjacent the existing IDB drainage channel.
 - To provide a mechanism for monitoring and review, in order to ensure that maintenance practices are monitored and where necessary reviewed on an annual basis in accordance with changing site circumstances.

3. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1. Parties Involved and Intended Arrangements

- **The Client.** Responsible for the construction of the development. The client will be responsible for the protection and management of existing landscape components through the construction phase and the implementation of the soft landscape works in accordance with the planning drawings, including any contractual management period associated with these works.
- **The Landscape Management Company.** All soft landscape areas within the site boundary excluding the drainage ditch and associated banks to the east which remain the contractual responsibility of the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) will be maintained by an appointed Landscape Management Company (Landscape Contractor) from the point of implementation in perpetuity or until agreed otherwise. During this period, all defects shall be rectified by the Landscape Management Company (Landscape Contractor) responsible for the site. Specific arrangements for the provision of landscape management and maintenance on the development shall be agreed between the Client and the appointed Landscape Management Company (Landscape Contractor).

4. GENERAL MANAGEMENT AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

General Management and Monitoring Principles

- 4.1. Any tree surgery works shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified arboricultural contractor.
- 4.2. All tree surgery works shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of BS 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.
- 4.3. All pruning/removal works to existing vegetation, including trees, will be undertaken outside of the bird-nesting season to ensure nesting birds are not disturbed. For clarification, the bird nesting season is taken to be March to August inclusive. Where this is not possible, an ecologist will need to check for nesting birds prior to commencement of works.
- 4.4. All trees/hedges and any dense scrub/shrub areas shown to be retained are to be protected throughout the duration of the construction works.
- 4.5. Where tree surgery is planned as part of this management plan or in the situation where an approved tree surgeon has recommended remedial work for health and safety reasons, the potential for bats to be present must be considered before work is carried out.
- 4.6. All new planting will be maintained in accordance with good horticultural practice to ensure the thriving of individual species.
- 4.7. All new replacement planting will be undertaken into well prepared ground and follow good horticultural practice. All new replacement native transplants will be protected with proprietary rabbit guards or shrub shelters.
- 4.8. Sufficient watering will be undertaken by the contractor to establish and maintain healthy plant growth and continued until prevented by statutory water restrictions.
- 4.9. Peat-based compost products will not be permitted.
- 4.10. All plants will be maintained in a disease and pest free state. In most instances, 'natural' methods of pest control are to be undertaken prior to any chemical application. In the event that natural methods of eradication are unsuccessful, plants will be treated through the application of a suitable proprietary herbicide/pesticide.
- 4.11. All tree pits associated with proposed tree planting shall have been implemented in compliance with BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to

independence in the landscape – Recommendations. Tree Pit requirements are included on the soft landscape layout. Modifications to the tree pit/backfill/staking are only to be made to individual pits in response to site specific conditions and constraints.

- 4.12. Trees are to be staked as shown on Drg No. 889-8_CC_PP01 including the requirements of the Summary Specification until such support is deemed to be unnecessary.
- 4.13. All trees and shrubs will be monitored during each maintenance and management visit for any sign of defects or poor health or after severe weather. Any signs of ill health or damage will be noted, and remedial action taken when required.
- 4.14. Tree shelters, stakes, ties and guards will be checked every six months for adjustment and/or replacement/removal as required.
- 4.15. Areas of shrub/tree planting with a bark mulch layer will be topped up annually in the spring to retain moisture and limit weed growth, to a nominal depth of 50mm.
- 4.16. Any hard surfacing adjacent to management areas is to be protected from damage by machinery including mowers, with surface debris swept after each visit.
- 4.17. Monitoring of habitat types on site and the associated management regimes will be proportionate and undertaken at regular intervals. The number of monitoring assessments will depend on the habitat types and extent. It is envisaged that monitoring statements will be completed for years: 2 and 5, and at 5 year intervals thereafter a review of such intervals being included in the monitoring process itself and timescales adjusted as considered appropriate.
- 4.18. As a minimum, statements should include a summary of habitat type, extent and condition, with a comparison against the expected condition identified in this Management Plan. Records of monitoring are to be kept in one location and copies are to be made available for inspection by the Local Planning Authority as requested.
- 4.19. Each habitat type is to be assessed and reviewed by a competent person to ensure management regimes are aligned with the intended habitat target condition and objectives are being achieved. Where adjustments to management regimes are considered necessary and appropriate,

management operations will be adjusted accordingly. All such monitoring and recommendations will be recorded and a summary statement outlining the adjustments to be made and the justification for such provided as part of the monitoring records.

5. MANAGEMENT TO INDIVIDUAL LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Modified Grass Areas

- 5.1. On the basis of aiming to achieve 'moderate' condition the grassland will show:
- A minimum of 6 plant species per square metre achieved by,
 - sowing a diverse grassland seed mix that includes a range of native grasses and wildflowers, or enhancing existing grasslands areas
 - choosing a mix with 100% native species
 - choosing species that can tolerate a variety of soil conditions and mowing.
 - Less than 20% scrub encroachment will be allowed.
 - No invasive non-native plant species as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) will be allowed.
- 5.2. Grass shall be cut by means of a pedestrian guided rotary motor mower or a ride-on rotary mower as appropriate. Any arisings produced shall be removed from the site.
- 5.3. Establish and maintain all modified grassland areas to a height of between 25mm and 35mm by cutting as necessary through the growing season. In practice, cuts every 1 – 2 weeks are likely to be required
- 5.4. Where appropriate a varied sward height shall be maintained with at least 20% of the grass area shorter than 7 cm and at least 20% taller than 7 cm..
- 5.5. Where grass areas have become worn or have failed to establish, areas will be over-seeded with amenity grass seed.
- 5.6. All footpaths and hard areas will be swept to remove any grass cuttings after each grass cut.

Neutral Grassland - General Purpose Meadow Mixture with Wildflowers (Emorsgate EM1 or similar approved)

- 5.7. On the basis of aiming to achieve 'moderate' condition the grassland will show:
- A minimum of 9 native plant species (grasses, sedges and wildflowers) per square metre on average, created or enhanced through,

- Sowing a species-rich, native grassland seed mix with wildflowers as specified,
 - Wildflowers (and may include sedges) growing over at least 20% of the habitat area.
 - Less than 30% of grassland covered by perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* and white clover *Trifolium pratense* combined.
 - A diverse range of native grasses and wildflower species managed to prevent the more dominant 'species to avoid' taking over the grassland.
 - Less than 5% scrub and less than 20% bracken cover.
 - No invasive non-native plant species as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).
 - Protection from physical damage so that bare ground and other signs of damage (e.g. excessive littering) covers below 5% of the total area.
- 5.8. Most of the sown meadow species are perennial and are slow to establish. Soon after sowing there will be a flush of annual weeds, arising from the soil seed bank. These weeds can look unsightly, but they will offer shelter to the sown seedlings, are beneficial to invertebrates, and they will die before the year is out.
- 5.9. Resist cutting the annual weeds until mid to late summer, especially if the mixture contains Yellow Rattle, or has been sown with a nurse of cornfield annuals. Then cut, remove and compost. Early August is the preferred time. This will reveal the young meadow, which can then be kept short by mowing through to the end of March of the following year. Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks.
- 5.10. Once Established in the second and subsequent years EM1 sowings can be managed in a number of ways which, in association with soil fertility, will determine the character of the grassland. The best results are usually obtained by traditional meadow management based around a main summer hay cut in combination with autumn and possibly spring mowing. Meadow grassland should not be cut or grazed from spring through to late July/August to give the sown species an opportunity to flower. After flowering in July or August take a 'hay cut': cut back with a petrol strimmer or tractor mower to c 50mm. Leave the 'hay' to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days then remove from site. Mow the re-growth through to late autumn/winter to c 50mm and again in spring if needed.

- 5.11. Where grass areas have become worn or have failed to establish, areas will be over-seeded with wildflower meadow mix.

Native Hedgerow with Trees

- 5.12. On the basis of aiming to achieve 'moderate' condition the hedgerow will show:

- At least 80% native woody species, including trees along its length. Some of the trees' canopies are taller than the general hedgerow canopy height. The trees' canopy edges are spaced no more than 20m apart.
- At least 1.5m wide or 1.5m tall (ideally both). If width and height options are restricted due to the hedgerow's location, there will be undisturbed ground along the hedgerow's length on one or both sides. This is to allow grasses and wildflowers to grow. The strip must be at least 1 metre in width, measured from the edge of the hedgerow growth, not the middle.
- No damage caused by human activities, such as inappropriate management or vandalism. If more than 10% of the hedgerow shows damage, there is relevant management put in place to stop the damage continuing. This adjustment is to maintain the hedgerow in the condition required in the management plan. It could include additional planting to replace any damaged hedgerow plants.
- A continuous, dense natural boundary feature with no gaps in the canopy or lower parts of the hedgerow.
- It is free from invasive non-native species (INNS) listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended).
- Where trees are present in the hedgerow:
 - At least 95% are in healthy condition, with little evidence of adverse impact on tree health from animals, pests, diseases, or human activity.

- 5.13. During and after the establishment of planting, ensure that sufficient water is applied to maintain healthy growth as required. To do this ensure that the full depth of topsoil is saturated. A watering programme will be monitored to ensure that, at times of water shortage (e.g. drought) or when restricted by statutory regulations, sufficient water is applied to meet conditions.

- 5.14. During establishment Keep all hedge planting clear of weeds by cultivating and only as absolutely necessary the use of approved herbicides. Fork-over/hoe beds as necessary to keep soil loose, disposing of arisings off-site. Any arisings produced shall be removed from the site.
- 5.15. A mulch layer to a depth of 50mm should be added to the bed, this is to be topped up annually.

Trees

- 5.16. In this management plan with the aim of achieving 'moderate' condition tree planting proposals will show:
- Native tree species.
 - Protected from damage caused by human activities, such as inappropriate management or vandalism.
 - The tree can grow to at least 75% of its expected canopy area in relation to its age, height and species, because it is in an area where there is enough space to grow, and it is not pruned regularly.
- 5.17. New trees shall be inspected monthly for signs of physical damage or disease. All the dead, diseased or damaged wood is to be pruned to below the level of affected growth. The pruning operations will be carried out to leave each tree safe, well-balanced and in a natural shape. All the arisings produced are to be removed from site.
- 5.18. All ties and stakes are to be checked monthly. The ties should be adjusted so that the tree stem remains unaffected, and the stakes firmed or removed as required. The stakes shall only be removed when the tree is capable of being self-supporting.
- 5.19. The base of each tree to be kept free of weeds, grass and debris, 50mm depth of bark mulch to be maintained to weed free area during establishment.
- 5.20. Replacement of trees, which have died or become diseased shall take place during the planting season following their demise, and they should be replaced by trees of the same size species particularly in the case of the orchard. Formative pruning of young trees will be undertaken to remove any dead branches and reduce selected side branches, ensuring development of a single strong leader and good overall form.

Native Tree/Shrub Planting

- 5.21. In this management plan with the aim of achieving 'moderate' condition the mixed native scrub will show:
- A canopy dominated by native shrub species less than 5m tall, with any scattered trees above this height recorded as individual trees.
 - At least 3 native woody species included. No single species dominates more than 75% of the total area.
 - Native species only or, where non-native species are present, they make up less than 20% of the total canopy area.
 - Signs of new seedlings, saplings and young shrubs growing naturally alongside more mature shrubs and with management maintaining this mix of age ranges.
 - No invasive non-native species as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
 - Cover of non-native ground cover 'species to avoid' less than 5% cover.
- 5.22. During and after the establishment of planting, ensure that sufficient water is applied to maintain healthy growth as required. To do this, ensure that the full depth of topsoil is saturated. A watering programme will be monitored to ensure that, at times of water shortage (e.g. drought) or when restricted by statutory regulations, sufficient water is applied to meet conditions.
- 5.23. Remove dead or dying wood in order to promote healthy growth and create an attractive form.
- 5.24. During establishment keep all the beds clear of weeds by cultivating and only where deemed absolutely necessary the use of approved herbicides. Fork-over/hoe the beds as necessary to keep soil loose, disposing of the arising off site.
- 5.25. Regularly check for plantings which have been loosened by wind or frost and re-firm any loose plants back into the ground.
- 5.26. Monitor and replace failed planting with new equivalent plants during the planting season following their demise. All plants will be maintained in a disease and pest free state.
- 5.27. The planting comprises species which will reflect the existing range of tree and shrub species in the locality. The species selected will ensure a

mixture of canopy levels, and will ultimately afford a high level of screening, and will also introduce structural diversity providing enhanced ecological interest.

- 5.28. The aim of the planting design is to provide an environment with ecological value and biodiversity net gain. The planting will also provide additional screening from the surrounding areas and roads.
- 5.29. In addition to providing a screening function and assist in the developments integration into the wider setting the planting itself will also assist in the assimilation of the development into the surrounding landscape in terms of any possible views into the site.
- 5.30. The planting pattern should take the form of random, interlocking, single species groups.
- 5.31. Individual tree and shrub species are to be caned and protected by biodegradable tree/shrub guards, such as Bio Tube/Netlon mesh guards or similar as appropriate.
- 5.32. The plants are to be strong, well rooted British nursery stock, evenly developed with a single well-defined leader. The main stems shall be straight and will be furnished with lateral shoots or buds where appropriate.
- 5.33. To aid establishment all the planting stations are to be mulched with 50mm consolidated depth of bark mulch collar as outlined in the Summary specification.

Litter

- 5.34. All planted and grassed areas will be litter picked on a monthly basis.

Appendix A

Schedule of Trees, Shrubs and Grass Mixtures

Trees

Acer campestris
Prunus avium
Quercus Robur

Native Shrub Planting

5% Acer campestris
35% Crataegus monogyna
10% Cronus sanguinea
15% Corylus avellana
5% Ilex auditorium
5% Prunus avium
15% Prunus Spinosa
5% Quercus Robur
5% Viburnum opelus

Native Hedge Planting

10% Acer campestris
40% Crataegus monogyna
20% Cronus sanguinea
15% Corylus avellana
10% Ilex auditorium
5% Viburnum opelus

BASIC GENERAL PURPOSE MEADOW MIXTURE WITH WILDFLOWERS (EM1) – Moorgate Seeds

Wild Flowers

1.5%	Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed
0.6%	Daucus carota	Wild Carrot
0.5%	Gallium verum	Ladys Bedstraw
1.5%	Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy
1.5%	Malva Moscato	Musk Mallow
1.9%	Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
1.5%	Poterium sanguisorba	Salad Burnet
0.5%	Rhinanthus minor	Yellow Rattle
1.5%	Silene dioic	Red Campion

10.0%

Grasses

9%	Agrostis capillaries	Common Bent
31.5%	Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dogstail
27%	Festuca rubra	Red Fescue
4.5%	Phleum Bartolini	Smaller Cats-tail
18%	Poa pratensis	Smooth-Stalked Meadow Grass

90.0%

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