
PROJECT: **Land at Butts Batch, Wrington**
CLIENT: **Strongvox Homes**
DATE: **8th September 2021**
TITLE: **Landscape - DAS Addendum**

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Introduction

This Addendum provides additional information to supplement the Design and Access Statement (DAS) published to inform an outline planning application for the development of land to the west of Butts Batch, Wrington, North Somerset. It provides a landscape management strategy for the scheme, outlining the principal management aims and objectives together with an outline implementation programme and maintenance guidelines.

Background and Purpose of Strategy

This strategy has been written to direct the future management and maintenance at Butts Batch, Wrington. The strategy is intended to inform the management criteria for the external spaces for a period of five years.

The intention is for the council to adopt the primary streets and maintain these in perpetuity. The open spaces will be the responsibility of Strongvox Ltd followed its successor in title in the form of a Management Company. The southern habitat area and portion of retained agricultural land will be retained by the landowner, with the ongoing management covered by a Section 106 agreement.

A breakdown of the areas is shown in the diagram opposite.



BUTTS BATCH, WRINGTON

Landscape Management Strategy
Rev A

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Aims and Objectives

Aims:

To deliver the landscape design intent, ensuring the appropriate landscape and ecological enhancement and mitigation is provided, whilst continually evaluating the success of such proposals.

Overall objectives:

The landscape, ecological enhancement and mitigation objectives will be:

- Maintain and enhance, through appropriate management, the development area, site boundary and the retained vegetation;
- To maintain all landscape areas to a satisfactory level in order to maintain public access and ensure planting establishes in accordance with the design intent;
- To provide an attractive environment that enhances biodiversity; and
- To implement a management programme for Public Open Space (POS) and play areas including hard surfaces and street furniture.

Key objectives for specific landscape/ biodiversity features:

The following outlines the key objectives for each of the landscape/ biodiversity features incorporated within the scheme:

- New trees and structure planting: New trees and structure planting will be maintained to create a strong landscape framework to the site and define the public realm. Trees to the south and west edges of the site are to be maintained to provide initial height and structure, providing screening and integrating the development into its surroundings. The planting of fruit trees in the south of the site will enhance the site for foraging badgers and trees across the site are to provide a valuable wildlife habitat through the planting of indigenous species.
- New and existing hedgerows: Hedgerows are to be allowed to grow to/be managed at a minimum of 3.0 in height to provide robust wildlife corridors. Establish rotational management of hedgerows by coppicing or trimming to thicken up and prevent hedgerows becoming overgrown. Provide a wildlife habitat through the use of a range of native species and maintain and enhance hedgerows as wildlife corridors for invertebrates, birds, dormice, bats and other mammals.
- Ornamental and semi-ornamental planting: Include species that are of value for wildlife, such as berry, nectar and nut-bearing plants. Maintain Ornamental and semi-ornamental planting to ensure that plants have dead, dying and diseased wood removed to promote longevity; and allow plants to achieve a natural form without pruning into formalised shapes.
- Grass: Areas within the built development are to have a neat, tidy appearance. Within POS and habitat areas, a range of grass cutting regimes will be adopted to reduced maintenance costs and provide habitat for invertebrates, birds, reptiles and mammals.
- Wildflowers: Maintain and enhance the value of the wildflower areas for butterflies and other terrestrial invertebrates, through inclusion of appropriate species. Maintain and enhance the value of the site for small mammals through cutting no lower than 150mm.
- Attenuation basins, scrapes and swales: Encourage establishment of wetland vegetation and provide marsh habitats of value to birds, bats, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates and small mammals.

Implementation Programme

Pre-Construction Works:

To preserve existing trees and hedgerows bordering the site, temporary fencing will be erected to protect root protection zones determined by the arboriculturalist.

Construction Works:

A series of measures are to be put in place during the construction period to facilitate the future enhancement and mitigation of landscape and ecological features.

These measures are as follows:

- Continue to maintain the installed tree protection fencing to preserve trees and hedgerows identified for retention, to include areas of advanced planting.
- Following land contouring works and laying of topsoil, in the first available planting season carry out planting in accordance with the approved soft landscape details. This will incorporate the proposed native and ornamental planting, together with grass seeding and bulb planting.
- Install temporary protection fencing such as chestnut pale to newly planted beds which may be vulnerable to trampling.
- Carry out initial maintenance activities on all planted areas to ensure successful establishment.
- Replace any failed plants with equivalent specimens.
- For a period of 2 months following completion of these works, monthly monitoring visits by a landscape architect will be undertaken to ensure the successful establishment of these works.

Post Construction Works:

Following completion of the construction works, maintenance will commence and the site will be cleared of construction related items.

- Remove the tree protection fencing and assess the existing hedgerow and tree stock, to include any areas of advanced planting. Carry out any required pruning which may be required to help ensure the long-term viability of the hedgerows and trees.
- As plants become established, remove any temporary protective fencing and loosen tree ties as necessary. Replace any dead diseased or dying species. Top up mulch to all plant beds and weed as required.
- Carry out maintenance of all planted areas.
- Continue monitoring as outlined later in this document.

Outline Maintenance Guidelines

Maintenance and Component Operation		Timing
Existing vegetation	Prune hedgerows to 3 m high and 2 m wide biennially.	Feb/ March
	Prune trees to promote healthy growth and natural shape. Monitor mature trees and undertake essential safety works if required.	
	Any deadwood will be retained on site and used to create log piles beneath the hedgerows and around the attenuation basin.	
	Existing hedgerows will be enhanced with additional planting and new native hedgerows will be species rich.	
Mitigation and enhancement planting	Water new planting (trees and hedgerows) during prolonged dry spells to prevent plant failures (during first 2 years following planting, the advanced planting during period of construction + 2 years following planting).	As required
	Annual weeding.	July/August
	Check stakes, shelter and ties and adjust if needed, in summer and winter. Remove stakes, ties and shelters when no longer required (i.e. after 3 years). Prune dead, damaged or dying branches.	Feb/ March
	Inspect & record dead or dying plants and replace in the next winter planting season.	Feb/ March
	Application of slow release fertiliser.	Feb/ March
	Formative pruning and trimming back from roads and footpaths if required.	Nov/ Dec
Species-rich grassland and tussocky grass mix	Cut twice a year, remove arisings.	Apr & Oct
	Wear and tear, bald patches or wheel ruts will be reinstated by means of recultivation and reseeding.	Apr
	Cut, remove arisings.	October
	Monitor and manage the encroachment of undesirable weeds (e.g. nettle, dock, thistle sp., willowherb sp. and bramble).	July
Attenuation basins	Species-rich grass above the waterline will be cut as set out above. Reseeding will not take place where grass/wildflowers have died out due to regular water inundation.	Apr & Oct
Hard surfaces and street furniture.	Check self-binding gravel paths, top up and maintain to designed depth with even finish.	Year round
	Rubbish, invasive vegetation and fallen timber will be removed.	Year round
	Check safety of benches/ bins & play equipment and arrange RoSPA inspections on a regular basis during the plan period.	Year round

Monitoring

Monitoring of the site is crucial to ensure that the development will result in valuable long-term benefits to wildlife and to measure the success of the proposed landscape and ecological enhancements. This initial iteration covers the first five years of operation.

The following monitoring is proposed:

- Post construction monitoring checks to be undertaken in years 1, 3 and 5 to ensure the mitigation measures are operational.
- Provide a brief annual report to the site owner/operator summarising actions undertaken as part of this Plan and any recommendations arising from monitoring.

Upon completion of this period, the success of the management regime is to be assessed and reviewed by a Landscape Architect, with management prescriptions revised, as necessary.