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Land at Park Road,
Hadfield,
Glossop,
Derbyshire,
SK13 1EP

Landscape Management & Maintenance Plan

Prepared on behalf of Sara Barnes and Neil Cradock

by Leigh Ecology Ltd

Created September 2025

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1.0 Introduction and General Description

This report has been compiled on behalf of Sara Barnes and Neil Cradock to provide information for the habitat and landscape maintenance and management requirements for the public open space, landscape buffer zone habitat areas within and around the proposed dog exercise field at Park Road, Hadfield.

This plan has been prepared to discharge landscape planning conditions and ensure that the landscape is maintained in a manner which protects and enhances existing wildlife habitats and promotes the biodiversity value of the site. The landscape will also play an important role in promoting recreational activities and will contribute to the visual amenity of the local area and successfulness of the development.

The soft landscaped areas comprise amenity grass, and areas of native hedgerow and shrub planting. These have been planted to create a pleasant environment to exercise dog and to screen the area from any potential nesting birds or other wildlife. Such areas also provide foraging habitat for a variety of wildlife such as birds and bats, therefore, to further maximise the sites potential to provide wildlife habitats.

The plan aims to be a reviewable document that will be informed by the ecological monitoring carried out by Leigh Ecology Ltd. The monitoring will seek to inform the management to ensure practices are modified as required.

Contact details of the author and consultant ecologist are as follows.

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2.0 Proposals and Objectives

The overall objective of this report is to provide a practicable document that can be referred to by relevant contractors, site managers and residents that will promote a successful landscape to enhance the environment for the benefit of wildlife, species diversity, local landscape character and visual amenity. This management plan will look to ensure that the landscaping is implemented, established and maintained as the design intended and will provide 30-year maintenance objectives for all landscaped elements within the scheme as a whole.

The landowners and people or companies responsible for maintaining the landscape will also be responsible for carrying out a review of the landscape management plan after a 1-, 2-, 5-, 10-, 20- and 30-year period, to ascertain any changes on site and to provide updated maintenance regimes as the landscape matures.

The different areas and habitat types which are included in the landscape management plan can be divided up as follows.

- Current hedgerow, ensuring that the feature is controlled to 1.5m high and 1.5 m wide.

- Tussocky /Wildflower grassland - *Predominantly Yorkshire Fog species grassland, local wildflower seed mix*

The main objectives for the maintenance of the landscape include the following:

- Maintain existing vegetation around the site to preserve the character of the landscape and local wildlife habitat.
- Establish species rich grassland, wet grassland and wildflowers for the benefit of the local wildlife and habitat and species diversity.
- Provide a pleasant and safe environment in which to live to encourage formal and informal recreation and provide a valuable resource for the local community.

2.1 Health and Safety

The following potential hazards have been identified during the maintenance operations within and around the proposed dog exercise field.

- Contractors working on the site should make themselves aware of the location of any underground or overground services and cables.
- Working on an undulating surface, the contractor must be aware of the danger using machinery on uneven surfaces and implement the necessary precautions when carrying out maintenance operations.
- Working in areas close to roads and houses, including local residents and the general public; consideration must be given to vehicular and pedestrian users Working in areas

used by the residents who may be disabled or visually impaired, ensuring surrounding roads and paths are kept clear at all times, and ensuring potentially dangerous tools or machinery is not left lying around causing a trip hazard.

- The use of chemicals known to be hazardous to humans and animals; the contractor must also be aware of the limitations using of certain chemicals close to a water course, ensuring they compile with Environment Agency (EA) recommendations.
- Lifting heavy objects and working with heavy machinery
- The possibility that hazardous material may be deposited in or inadvertently left in areas requiring clearing i.e. needles, dog faeces and fly tipping

Methods for reducing the potential site risks are well established and are common practice for competent contractors. The contractor is expected to identify all hazards associated with any maintenance operations proposed, together with an assessment of the risks involved and methods for reducing the risks.

A copy of the Risk Assessment should be recorded and retained at the back of this report for reference by all contractors working on site. This assessment should be reviewed annually to respond to any changes on site.

2.2 Site Operations

All operations described within this document relate to the landscaped areas (outside of private curtilage and highways) that fall under the responsibility of the owners, which will be set up as part of the approved development. This includes the areas of landscaped public open space in the South of the development and site perimeter buffer zone to the rear of the field fencing.

Ms Barnes and Mr. Cradock are responsible for employing suitably qualified Landscape Maintenance Contractors or undertaking the maintenance themselves, to carry out all operations as listed in this report and obtaining advice from a suitably qualified ecologist, if necessary, in matters relating to ecology/wildlife/habitats.

All operations on site are to be carried out by qualified operatives with appropriate safety clothing. The appointed Landscape Maintenance Contractor and any sub-contractors are to adhere to the latest guidance on safe working practice, including information from the recognised industry body, the Local Authority and the government Health and Safety Executive.

The maintenance contractor is to carry out all operations with regards to the safety and welfare of the general public, private and public property, domestic and native flora and fauna and statutory services including the Environment Agency and Natural England.

2.3 Implementation of the Management Plan

This plan sets out a framework for the management of the public open space, wildlife habitats and boundary vegetation. It includes detailed prescriptions of all maintenance requirements over the next 5 years with annual work schedules which look to quantify the frequencies and timings of these works. It also provides important information on the protection of wildlife and provides a structure in place for the proactive management and preservation of the landscape and wildlife habitats.

Ms Barnes and Mr. Cradock will take on all maintenance and monitoring responsibilities once the site has been handed over at the end of the development.

After 5 years the plan would be reviewed by Ms. Barnes and Leigh Ecology Ltd, and the maintenance requirements and work schedules would be updated to respond to any changes on site.

As an example, works may include; Provision of new planting if hedge planting does not take, creation of new paths where desired lines have been created or installing new fences and gates, creation of more habitat areas for local wildlife.

With regards to the ecological interest at the site the following monitoring activities have been recommended and included in the maintenance schedules as provided later in this document.

The habitats onsite will continue to be managed in order to maximise wildlife interest for the duration of the management plan, for example through the maintenance of the grassland mowing regimes to encourage species diversity and through careful timing of pruning and scrub management works to avoid nesting bird season.

2.4 Disposal of materials from site

All, rubbish, leaves, grass and general arisings removed from the site are to be deposited at a licensed tip in the relevant waste area. Rubbish or arising that have stood for a period of time must be shook before being removed from site to ensure amphibians are not taking refuge and inadvertently removed from site.

In some cases, arisings and materials from tree maintenance works can be used to create habitat for wildlife for example creating log piles within the wildlife zones.

3.0 Landscape Maintenance Softworks

Pruning of young trees should not generally be required unless they have dead or diseases branches. In such cases the tree branch should be pruned back (using a sharp clean knife) to an outward facing bud whilst maintaining the natural shape of the tree.

In line with comments from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, the maximum height of the hedge should not exceed 1.5m so it cannot be used as a foraging perch by predatory birds.

The reviews undertaken in 1,2,5,20 and 30 years should assess the health of the hedgerow ensure that the growth is in line with age, contain no decay or disease.

If any remedial works are required as highlighted by the review, a further review should be undertaken following the completion of the works.

3.1 Maintenance of Wildflower and Tussocky Grassland

Objectives

Regularly mown grassland will provide opportunities for informal recreation and a transition between the more formal landscape and the naturalistic habitats around the site. It is therefore important that the grass is well maintained and not patchy or overgrown.

The plan to create a meadow is initially to sow meadow seed mixes these can be sown in early to mid-spring (March/April) or early autumn (September), but supplier information for detailed information. On lighter soil, autumn-sown seeds generally germinate and establish quickly, although some won't come up until the following spring.

It is proposed to undertake sowing operation for several years, or until the meadow takes and

The wildflower meadow and tussocky grassland buffer alongside the hedge. Will be sown and managed to promote growth and minimise the colonization of scrub or ruderal vegetation.

Inspections

The Landscape Contractor should inspect the grassed areas during general maintenance operations and carry out remedial works within the scope of the maintenance operations as listed below.

Maintenance Operations

Carry out a litter pick before each cut.

As the area is predominantly clay soil, over maintenance can be detrimental to the condition of the field. The current mowing regime includes a minimum once a month cut, between April and September, using a tractor and flail. The grass is left in situ to decompose.

The edges should be cut at the same time as the main cut along paths, kerb edges and soft landscaped areas to create a neat finish. Avoid using strimmer's around the base of trees and close to shrubs.

Once a year in the spring reform the grass edges along paths, shrub beds and trees to create a neat edge removing any turf which has encroached onto hard standing areas and reforming a straight edge to the soft landscaped areas.

Other maintenance applications which will be required from time to time include top dressing, over seeding, scarifying, spiking etc. to alleviate common problems such as thatch, compaction, poor drainage, malnourishment and worn areas, particular around the dog walking paths.

Reviews undertaken in 1,2,5,10 20 and 30 years should assess the health of the hedge, ensure that the growth is in line with the age, contain no decay or disease. Following the review, a report should be forwarded to the LPA and to the management group.

If any remedial works are required as highlighted by the review, a further review should be undertaken following the completion of the works. The findings will be reported to the LPA and management group as previously.

3.2 Ecological Monitoring

No vegetation clearance works will be undertaken during the bird nesting season.

Ecological monitoring will be carried out to ensure all enhanced or created habitats remain in a favourable condition for the support of existing wildlife (e.g. bats, breeding birds, amphibians) and the attraction of additional biodiversity.

The results of the monitoring will be used to update and inform the management plan and work schedules. As detailed below a mechanism is available to ensure aspects of the proposed management and maintenance such as the frequency, scope, timing and method of works can be revised and updated dependent on the results of the ecological monitoring.

A summary of the scope of monitoring is detailed below.

<u>Monitoring of the Establishment of Enhanced and Created Habitats</u>

An annual inspection of the habitats that have been enhanced and created as part of the residential development will be carried out at an optimal time of year (June/July).

The inspection will involve a general walkover survey and record of the following: -

- Plant species composition of the areas of seeded wildflower grassland and comparison to inform rate/frequency of mowing;
- Ensuring the hedgerow quality and height to 1.5m, removing self-seeded trees within the hedge and buffer zone;
- Recording the establishment of the introduced plants; maintaining the maximum hedge height of 1.5m;
- Inspection for the presence or growth of invasive species.

Reporting of Ecological Monitoring

Reviews undertaken in 1,2,5,10 20and 30 years should assess the health of the trees, ensure that the growth is in line with the age, contain no decay or disease. Following the review, a report may be forwarded to the LPA if requested.

4.0 Landscape Maintenance Hard Works

4.1 Proposed Paths

Objectives
Pedestrian movement across the buffer area should be avoided to protect the local wildlife underfoot.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES

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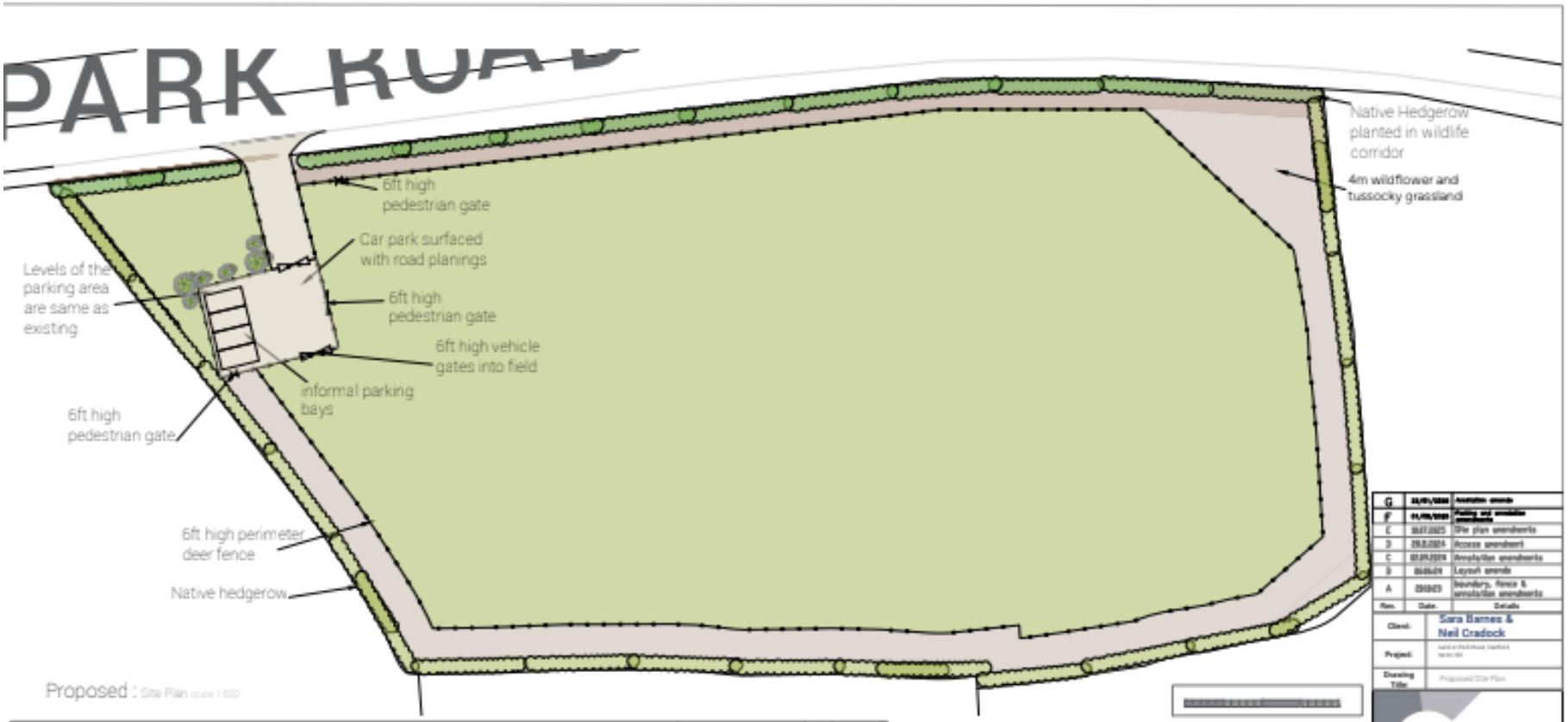
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Years (1-20)	Responsibility	Comments/Notes/Prerequisites
PROPOSED Hedgerow															
Annual inspection to check shrubs and bushes						1							1-30	Landowner/ Appointed contractor	Record defects requiring remedial works.
Topping up of mulch and weed control around base of t				1									1-5,10,30		Avoid use of herbicides.
Pruning													1-30	Landowner/ Appointed contractor	Should not be required during the first few years, after which as required avoiding bird breeding season and frosts. Sharp clean knife to be used.
Bush replacements											1		1-30	Landowner/ Appointed contractor	As required plant Nov-Mar.
Pest and disease control													1-30	Landowner/ Appointed contractor	As required throughout year, avoiding chemical methods, otherwise seek advice from ecologist.
Slow-release fertiliser				1									1-5,10,30	Landowner/ Appointed contractor	Once in late spring only if showing poor signs of growth.
Annual inspection to check shrubs/Trees						1							1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Record defects requiring remedial works.
Trimming Controlling Height and Width			1										1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	1.5m High and 1.5m Wide
Check Plants			1						1				1-5,10,30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Check plants, if they are loose or uprooted then heal them back in
Weeding			1		1		1		1				1,5,7,10,15,20,30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	During establishment period only weed beds and maintain a weed suppressing mulch around the shrubs, or spot treat any prolific weeds (any herbicides used to be approved by the ecologist)

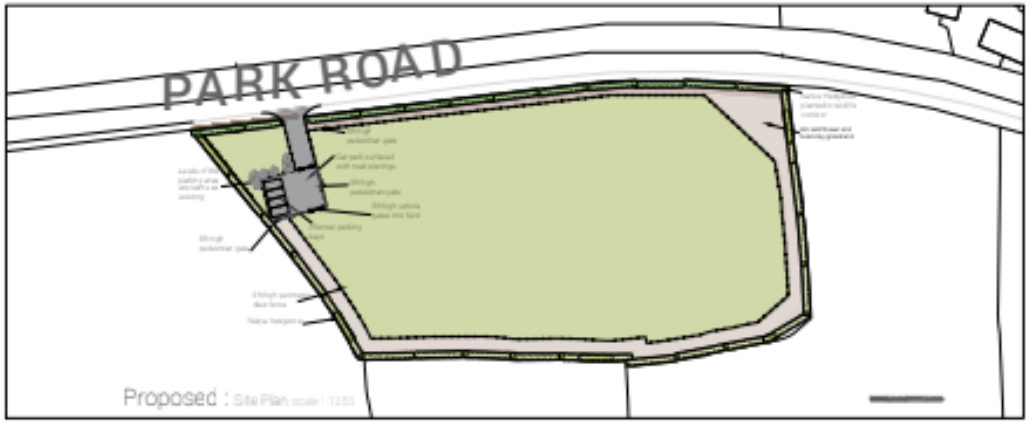
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Years (1-20)	Responsibility	Comments/Notes/Prerequisites
PROPOSED ROUGH GRASS AND WILDFLOWER PLANTING															
Sowiing wildflower seeds								1	1	1	1	1	1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Prior to cutting and once a month. Check debris for wildlife then dispose of in a licensed tip.
Cut grass	1									1	1	1	1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Light Cut remove all arisings – longer sward 30cm
Dog Walking area cutting	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Remove turf that has overgrown onto paths.
Strim grass (areas of grass at the back of the development site and under existing trees			1							1			1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Strim no shorter than 150mm high to encourage formation of tussock type sward. Vegetation to be left in-situ for 1-2 days then removal all arisings.
Remove arisings from site							1		1				1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Dispose arising in a licensed tip
Remove self-seeded trees and shrubs from grassland									1				1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Dispose of appropriately.
Watering													1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	As required in periods of drought during the first year of establishment
PATHS															

Inspection of path and carry out the repairs as necessary.		1						1					1,5,7,10,15,20, 30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Inspect path and repair as required. Residents will also be able to report any damage to the relevant Landcare company.
Weed control					1			1					1-30	Landowner/Appointed contractor	Control weeds on the path by spot treatment or spraying with a non-residual based herbicide (to be approved by the ecologists).

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Years (1-30)	Responsibility	Comments/Notes/Prerequisites
Litter pick	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1-30		Remove litter or debris that has collected on the path and dispose of in a licensed tip.
REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT PLAN															
Management plan to be reviewed and updated/revised as required following ecological monitoring by the ecologist.												1	1,3,5,7,10, 15,20,30	Ecologist and Management Company	

APPENDIX 1 : PLANTING PROPOSALS





Rev.	Date	Details
G	[illegible]	[illegible]
F	[illegible]	[illegible]
E	[illegible]	Site plan amendments
D	[illegible]	Access amendment
C	[illegible]	Annotation amendments
B	[illegible]	Layout amends
A	[illegible]	Boundary, fence & annotation amendments

Client: Sara Barnes & Neil Cradock

Project: [illegible]

Drawing Title: Proposed Site Plan

FISHER GERMAN

Fisher German LLP, The Estates Office, Norman Court, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2UZ

Scale Bar: 1:500 / 1:1250 | North

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APPENDIX 2: RELEVANT WILDLIFE LEGISLATION

Breeding Birds

All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) while they are breeding.

It is mandatory that management and maintenance actions that involve the pruning or removal of trees, shrubs, Ivy cover, Bramble scrub or other suitable breeding bird habitat are only carried out outside the bird breeding season, unless it can be adequately demonstrated by an ecologist that no breeding birds, active nests, eggs or fledglings are present in the area to be cleared.

The bird breeding season typically extends between March to August inclusive.