

Landscaping Buxton Fire Station

Existing Site

The Tree Assessment Report and Ecological Appraisal identify the site as two grassy field compartments – one to the western edge of the site adjacent to the A515 Ashbourne to Buxton road and the larger one to the eastern side adjacent to Staden Lane.

The development is to be confined to the eastern field area which enables the entire western compartment to be retained. This provides a valuable landscape screen to the new Fire Station, is visually prominent as part of the local environment and retains the higher quality trees in terms of species diversity.

It is proposed that some trees within this remaining group be removed due to their identification in the Tree Assessment Report as dead, disfigured or of low quality. All remaining trees are to be re-assessed once work on site commences and appropriate tree works are to be carried out to remove all dead, diseased wood, rubbing or broken limbs, epicormic growth and basal suckers in accordance with BS 3998: 1989 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.

The building footprint has been positioned to retain as many trees as possible within the eastern compartment. The majority of the avenue of trees along Staden Lane has been retained and additional planting proposed to reinforce this. This provides a local corridor for wildlife movement and to provide nesting and foraging habitats.

In addition to this a number of good mature trees will also be retained within the eastern compartment providing instant softening to the built structure and retaining specie diversity.

Proposed Landscaping

The existing access and visibility splay off Staden Lane is not suited to access for heavy vehicles and the existing boundary wall and footway will be rebuilt to comply with DCC Highway requirements. To minimise the impact on existing trees it is proposed to erect only steel 'estate style' fencing instead of part of the wall with no need for deep foundations.

Pedestrian access is needed along the side of the building adjacent to Staden Lane for access to the kitchen and for window cleaning. This lies within the root protection zones of the retained trees. It is therefore proposed that the footpath be constructed using the no-dig method so as to avoid disturbance to tree roots. The method and detail is to be agreed with the Planning Department.

Grassland

The western area of grassland is to be maintained and the species mix enhanced by seed transfer from the eastern field prior to excavation or by

over seeding with a herb rich seed mix. Also by transplanting wildflowers of value such as Common Spotted Orchid.

It is proposed to maintain the grass as a spring flowering meadow being cut twice a year.

Trees

In compensation for loss of trees and to maintain the long-term nature of the western landscaped area additional new tree planting is proposed using mainly native species. These will serve to gap up bare areas, screen the Fire Station from the road and encourage specie diversity.

New specimen tree planting is also proposed as part of the construction site at the entrance and car parking areas.

Due to the necessity to undertake works within root protection zones it is suggested that, notwithstanding all reasonable protection measures and the specification of a no-dig footpath, the retained trees in close proximity to the works, are made the subject of a legal agreement wherein their replacement will be required if they perish within say a 5 year period from completion of the works.

Shrubs

Ornamental shrubs are to be planted to create a more formal and welcoming entrance to the Fire Station around the car park areas.

Ground cover shrub planting suited to dry shade is proposed beneath the existing trees along Staden Lane. Planting pockets are to be prepared by hand within root protection zones to prevent damage to tree roots.

Refer to landscaping proposals as shown on drawing number 3792 / 009 and Appendix 6 – Ecological Appraisal and Appendix 7 – Tree Assessment Report.