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ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

At

Huyton Cricket Club

Huyton Lane

Huyton

Liverpool

L36 7XD

NGR: SJ 44443 91320

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Approved by: Toby Hart, UES Managing Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toby Hart', is positioned below the 'Approved by:' line.

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Author and qualifications	3
1.2 Proposed development.....	3
1.3 Objectives and scope	3
2 LANDSCAPING AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT	4
2.1 Hedgerows	4
2.2 Scattered trees	5
2.3 Wildflower meadow	5
2.4 Native scrub	7
2.5 Amenity gardens and ornamental planting.....	8
3 PROTECTED SPECIES	9
3.1 Bats	9
3.2 Birds	9
3.3 Hedgehogs	10
4 CONCLUSION.....	11
APPENDICES.....	12
Appendix 1 – Proposed landscaping plan.....	12
Appendix 2 – Ecological enhancement plan	13



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Author and qualifications

This report is compiled and written by Ysobella Cox BSc MBiol, Ecologist for United Environmental Services Ltd (UES). Ysobella holds a level 3 Botanical Society for Britain and Ireland (BSBI) field identification skills certificate (FISC), which certifies her as competent to undertake phase 1 habitat and UKHab surveys. Ysobella is licensed by Natural England to survey all species of bats by observation using an artificial light under licence number 2024-12344-CL17-BAT (level 1).

1.2 Proposed development

The proposed development is a housing scheme and will include the construction of numerous residential dwellings with associated access road and landscaping.

1.3 Objectives and scope

This ecological enhancement plan (EEP) has been produced for Huyton Cricket Club, Huyton. It provides further details on the proposed habitat creation and enhancement measures to be implemented on site to maximise the habitat available for wildlife.

This document should be read in conjunction with appendices 1 and 2, which include visual representations and further details on the proposed ecological enhancements.

2 LANDSCAPING AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

A detailed landscaping plan has been produced by Trevor Bridge Associates Ltd in June 2025 (Drawing number 7691.01; Rev - and 7691.02; Rev -), which is shown at Appendix 1 – Proposed development plan.

2.1 Hedgerows

To increase biodiversity on site the landscaping scheme includes areas of native hedgerow planting. A native, species-rich hedgerow will be planted within the northern section of the development site, which will comprise:

- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*
- Dog rose *Rosa canina*
- Field rose *Rosa arvensis*
- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*
- Hazel *Corylus avellana*
- Holly *Ilex aquifolium*

Ornamental beech *Fagus sylvatica* hedgerows will also be planted within areas of public open space throughout the development site.

The provision of hedgerow planting would ensure that foraging opportunities (for both larval stages and adult pollinators) are available for a greater diversity of invertebrate species, which will in turn benefit other faunal species that will predate these invertebrates, such as bats and birds. In addition, the hedgerows and shrub will provide increased nesting opportunities for birds and sheltered commuting opportunities for amphibians and mammals, in addition to providing berries and seeds for birds and small mammals.

Planting and maintenance

During the first growing season the newly planted hedge must be well watered particularly during dry periods. A similar effort of weed suppression as detailed in section 2.1.2 should be carried out at the base of newly planted hedgerows during the first two growing seasons. The newly planted hedgerows must have an initial prune within the second year after planting to encourage dense, bushy growth. This should be undertaken in late winter (January to February), when birds are not nesting and so that the fruits have been left as a food source for birds over the majority of winter.

After the initial prune, trimming must be undertaken every 3 years (January to February). The flowers and fruits on the most common hedgerow species develop on 2-3 year old wood and therefore trimming more frequently than this will reduce the wildlife value. Growth should not be left untrimmed for longer than 3 years however, as the woody growth will become too thick to be cleanly trimmed. A tall thick hedge with good growth at the base is optimal for wildlife (e.g. 2-3 metres tall by 2 metres wide).

The ongoing management / trimming of hedgerows should be avoided during the nesting bird season (avoid during March to August inclusive), or alternatively a check for nesting birds can be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately prior to the works.



2.2 Scattered trees

To increase biodiversity on site the planting scheme includes areas of tree planting along the access roads, parking courts and within areas of public open space. The landscaping plan indicates that the following species will be planted:

- Callery pear *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'
- Field maple *Acer campestre*
- Streetwise Field Maple *Acer campestre* 'Street Wise'
- Silver birch *Betula pendula*
- West Himalayan birch *Betula utilis jacquemontii*
- Common hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*
- Flowering cherry *Prunus* 'Pandora'
- Wild cherry *Prunus avium*
- Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*
- Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*

As with the areas of hedgerow planting, the proposed tree planting will also provide nesting opportunities for birds and an array of foraging opportunities for invertebrates, which will in turn provide increased foraging opportunities for other faunal species. In addition, the proposed planting of fruit trees will ensure the further provision of foraging opportunities for birds and mammals.

Planting and maintenance:

Newly planted trees should be staked to aid growth and they should then be protected from squirrel or rabbit damage using biodegradable tree spirals or guards. For the first growing season following planting, vegetation within a one metre diameter of the base of each tree should be treated by the application of a glyphosate-based herbicide by knapsack sprayer, by an operative holding PA1 and PA6 licences, in order to reduce competition from weeds and grasses. This should first be carried out in April and throughout the following summer in response to new weed growth. Care must be taken to avoid spray drift onto the leaves or bark of the newly planted tree. Alternatively, a mulch material such as chippings or bark can be laid around the base of the tree within a one metre diameter.

Once established, trees will require little management in the future, unless specifically addressing problems or damage to individual specimens. Branches should be removed only when they pose a risk to the health and safety of people or a property. If any pruning is to be undertaken, it should be avoided during the nesting bird season (avoid during March to August inclusive), or alternatively a check for nesting birds can be undertaken immediately prior to the works by a suitably qualified ecologist. If any specialist works are required, then an approved arboriculturist should be appointed.

2.3 Wildflower meadow

A species-rich wildflower meadow will be created within the northwestern section of the proposed development site by sowing the Emorsgate EM2 standard general purpose meadow mixture. The composition of the Emorsgate EM2 mixture is detailed below:

Wildflowers

- Betony *Betonica officinalis*
- Bladder campion *Silene vulgaris*
- Bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*



- Common knapweed *Centurea nigra*
- Common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*
- Cowslip *Primula veris*
- Lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*
- Meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*
- Meadow cranesbill *Geranium pratense*
- Oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*
- Ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*
- Salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba ssp sanguisorba*
- Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*
- Wild carrot *Daucus carota*
- Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*

Grasses

- Common bent *Agrostis capillaris*
- Crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*
- Red fescue *Festuca rubra*
- Smaller cat's-tail *Phleum bertolonii*
- Smooth-stalked meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*

A wildflower grassland will also be created along the northeastern boundary of the proposed development site, adjacent to the offsite treeline, by sowing with Emorsgate EH1 hedgerow mixture. The composition of the hedgerow mixture is detailed below:

Wildflowers

- Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*
- Bladder campion
- Common knapweed
- Common sorrel
- Cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*
- Cowslip
- Crosswort *Cruciata laevipes*
- Garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolate*
- Hedge bedstraw *Galium album*
- Lesser burdock *Arctiu, minus*
- Meadow cranesbill
- Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*
- Moon daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*
- Musk mallow *Malva moschata*
- Narrow-leaved everlasting-pea *Lathyrus sylvestris*
- Red campion *Silene dioica*
- Ribwort plantain
- Rough chervil *Chaerophyllum temulum*
- Tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*
- Wild carrot
- Wild marjoram *Origanum vulgare*
- Wild teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*
- Wood avens *Geum urbanum*

Grasses

- Common bent
- Crested dog's-tail
- False brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*
- Red fescue
- Sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*
- Tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*
- Wood meadow-grass *Poa nemoralis*

Alternative wildflower grassland mixtures could be used; however, these will be agreed with the project ecologist to ensure they contain similar and appropriate native species.



The provision of wildflower grassland will provide immediate benefits for wildlife in the form of foraging, breeding and sheltering opportunities. In the longer term, the grassland will also be colonised naturally by additional native plant species.

Planting and maintenance:

The initial sowing and ground works should be carried out by a suitably experienced contractor under ecological supervision, and may take place between April and October. In the first year, the likely flush of weeds should not be cut until mid-late summer. The first cut should be undertaken from early August; mown vegetation should be left in situ for 48 hours, before being collected and disposed of at a licensed tip. The cuttings must not be left, as this will increase the level of nutrients within the soil and prohibit the establishment of the wildflower grassland. The grassland can then be mown regularly until late March, with competitive weeds removed as needed over this period.

From the second year onwards, the grassland can be subject to a summer hay cut in August, following which cuttings should be left to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days before being removed. The grassland can then be mown regularly as considered necessary until spring, from which time no cutting or grazing should occur until the August hay cut.

Any litter or debris should be removed from the area prior to cutting and underneath these materials should be checked for sheltering wildlife.

2.4 Native scrub

The proposed landscaping plan incorporates native scrub planting within an area of public open space in the northern section of the site. The scrub will comprise:

- Blackthorn
- Broom *Cytisus scoparius*
- Dog rose
- Elder *Sambucus nigra*
- European gorse *Ulex europaeus*
- Field rose
- Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Holly

The provision of scrub planting will ensure that foraging opportunities (for both larval stages and adult pollinators) are available for a greater diversity of invertebrate species, which will in turn benefit other faunal species that will predate these invertebrates, such as bats and birds. In addition, the scrub will provide increased nesting opportunities for birds and sheltered commuting opportunities for amphibians and mammals.

Planting and maintenance:

Scrub planting will be undertaken in the winter when shrubs are dormant as this will help to reduce damage and increase establishment rates. The shrubs will be planted between November and March (inclusive). Newly planted shrubs will be staked to aid growth, and they will be protected from deer, squirrel or rabbit damage using biodegradable spirals or guards.

Once established, areas of planted scrub will require little management in the future and will be left unmanaged to allow natural processes to occur. However, some level of management



will be required to ensure that scrub does not encroach into the adjacent grassland and to ensure that a range of age classes and structures are maintained onsite. This may require selective scrub control throughout site undertaken on a rotational basis; works should be undertaken by a suitably qualified contractor.

All pruning should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season and should be avoided from March to August inclusive. If any specialist works are required, an approved arboriculturist should be appointed.

2.5 Amenity gardens and ornamental planting

The proposed development is for a housing scheme and as such, amenity areas will be created throughout the site comprising closely mown amenity grassland, ornamental shrubs and bulb planting.

Additional planting will occur within the amenity gardens of the residential properties.



3 PROTECTED SPECIES

3.1 Bats

The newly planted hedgerow and retained treelines will provide commuting opportunities for bats, whilst the wildflower meadow and native scrub will provide foraging opportunities. Roosting opportunities will also be available within potential roosting features (PRFs) present on retained trees and the pavilion building. The provision of bat boxes as part of the development proposals will increase the roosting opportunities for bats on site, securing suitable habitat for roosting bats in the long term.

Fourteen bat boxes will be installed on buildings on site, along with one bat box on semi-mature / mature trees, the precise locations of which are shown at Appendix 2 – Ecological enhancement plan. The following type of bat boxes will be installed onsite:

- 14x Vivara Pro Build-in WoodStone Bat Box – integrated within the external wall of the newly constructed buildings, and positioned close to the eaves on a southerly aspect to expose the box to high levels of sunlight.
- 1x Schwegler 2F bat box – fitted to a mature tree which is due to be retained within the proposed development site. The box will be placed at a height of 4-6m and on a south-facing aspect.

It should be noted that once inhabited by a bat, boxes may only be inspected by a licenced bat ecologist.

If the proposed model of bat box is not available due to stock shortages, an alternative model can be used instead. However, all proposed changes must be discussed and agreed with the project ecologist to ensure that they provide similar roosting opportunities. The use of woodcrete or woodstone boxes will be prioritised due to their durability and longevity.

Bat boxes can be installed any time of year. External lighting will be designed and directed to avoid overspill on all bat boxes, in order to minimise disturbance and increase the likelihood of occupancy. Where necessary, this may require the use of cowling or the relocation of light sources or bat boxes if necessary.

3.2 Birds

The retained and newly planted trees, hedgerows and native scrub will provide nesting opportunities for birds. The inclusion of bird box provisions will provide an enhancement in the availability of nesting opportunities. Twelve bird boxes will be affixed to the newly constructed residential dwellings, the precise locations of which are shown at Appendix 2 – Ecological enhancement plan. The bird boxes installed will provide nesting opportunities for a wide range of bird species that have the potential to be present onsite and are likely to be present within the local area. The following bird boxes will be provided as part of the development:

- 6x Vivara Pro WoodStone Swift Nest Box – sited close to the eaves, on the northern or eastern aspect of the building, whilst ensuring unobstructed access for birds entering and leaving by having a clear distance (drop) below the box of preferably 5m or more. It will be installed within an external wall (maximum depth is 17cm in order to prevent the underneath entrance hole being blocked) or attached to the surface of an external wall (or within render or an external insulation layer) with the use of a fixing bracket.



- 6x Vivara Pro WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Box – affixed to the external wall of the building close to the eaves, and should be positioned on the northern or eastern aspect of the building, thus avoiding the strongest sunlight and wettest winds.

If the proposed model of bird box is not available due to stock shortages, an alternative model can be used instead. However, all proposed changes must be discussed and agreed with the project ecologist to ensure that they provide similar nesting opportunities. The use of woodcrete or woodstone boxes will be prioritised due to their durability and longevity.

Bird boxes can be installed any time of year. External lighting will be directed away from the entrance of all bird boxes in order to minimise disturbance and increase the likelihood of occupancy.

3.3 Hedgehogs

Ecological enhancement features provided onsite will include the facilitation of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* movement. To allow continued use of the site by hedgehog and to ensure commuting routes are not blocked, fences installed on site will be designed to allow passage of hedgehogs. This will either be through the choice of material e.g. choosing a fence style that naturally contains suitable sized holes at the base, or through the inclusion of hedgehog highways. Hedgehog highways are small 13cm x 13cm holes at the base of fences.



4 CONCLUSION

Once implemented, the landscaping and habitat enhancements will provide a biologically diverse landscape. The bottom-up approach to improving the biodiversity on site will ensure that the habitats on site can support a range of invertebrate species and provide other food sources, which will then in turn benefit fauna further up the food chain.

In addition, the proposed ecological enhancements onsite, including bat and bird boxes, will provide roosting and nesting opportunities for bats and birds.

The inclusion of hedgehog highways will also ensure there is no fragmentation of habitats or severance of commuting corridors onsite.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed landscaping plan

	ORNAMENTAL SHRUB PLANTING	The habitat features shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer recommendation, as set out in the Ecological Appraisal. Nesting boxes shall be oriented north and east and sited at 3-5 metres in height, within the fabric of new dwellings or secured to existing trees
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Plant Schedule						
Trees	Abbreviation	Species	Height	Grth	Specifcation	Pot Size/Number of Plants
PCC	PC	<i>Prunus californica</i> 'Chanticleer'	300-350cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	6 -
AC	AC	<i>Amelanchier</i>	350-425cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	6 -
ACST	AC	<i>Amel carpestris</i> 'Street Wise'	350-425cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	13 -
ABT	AB	<i>Betula pendula</i>	350-425cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	9 -
ABJ	AB	<i>Betula utilis</i> 'jacquemontii'	350-425cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	9 -
CB	CB	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	350-425cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	3 -
FPA	FP	<i>Prunus 'Pandora'</i>	350-425cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	8 -
PA	PA	<i>Prunus avium</i>	350-425cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	8 -
SAR	SAR	<i>Sorbus arda</i>	350-425cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	4 -
TC	TC	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	350-425cm	12-14cm	Heavy Standard 3x B	13 -
						Total 80 -

Native Shrub Planting Mix						
Abbreviation	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
CORAV	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	60-80cm	B	Transplant 1' x 1'm ²	20%	20
RANCA	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	60-100cm	B	Transplant 1' x 1'm ²	15%	15
CYTSC	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	60-80cm	B	Transplant 1' x 1'm ²	5%	45
ILEA	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	60-80cm	5L	Container 1'm ² /10m ²	10%	30
PRUSP	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	60-80cm	B	Transplant 1' x 1'm ²	15%	30
ROSAH	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	60-80cm	B	Transplant 1' x 1'm ²	10%	30
ROSCA	<i>Rosa canina</i>	60-80cm	B	Transplant 1' x 1'm ²	10%	30
SAMNI	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	60-80cm	B	Transplant 1' x 1'm ²	5%	15
ULEU	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	60-80cm	B	Transplant 1' x 1'm ²	5%	15
VIBOP	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	60-80cm	B	Transplant 1' x 1'm ²	10%	30
						Total 300

Native Hedge Mix - Double Staggered row								
Abbreviation	Hedge Species	Specification	Height	Pot Size	Density	Mix Species Contribution	Number	
ILEA	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Container	60-80cm	5L	6/m	10%	44	-
ROSAR	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Transplant 1+	60-80cm	B	6/m	10%	44	-
ROSCA	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Transplant 1+	60-80cm	B	6/m	10%	44	-
CORAV	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Transplant 1+	60-80cm	B	6/m	20%	87	-
PRUSP	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Transplant 1+	60-80cm	B	6/m	20%	87	-
CRAMON	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Transplant 1+	60-80cm	B	6/m	20%	131	-
						Total 100%	Total 437	-

Bulb Mix	Abbreviation	Species	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution	Number
	CROCHBP	Crocus chrysanthus 'Blue Pearl'		20/m ²	20%	101 -
	CROCHCB	Crocus chrysanthus 'Cream Beauty'		20/m ²	10%	51 -
	CROCHSB	Crocus chrysanthus 'Snow Bunting'		20/m ²	30%	151 -
	NARTT	Narcissus 'Tete a Tete'		20/m ²	40%	201 -
						Total - 504 -

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Abbreviation	Species	Pot Size	Specification	Height	Density	Number of Plants
FS	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	B	Double staggered row	60-80cm	6/m	3333 -
						Total :3333 -

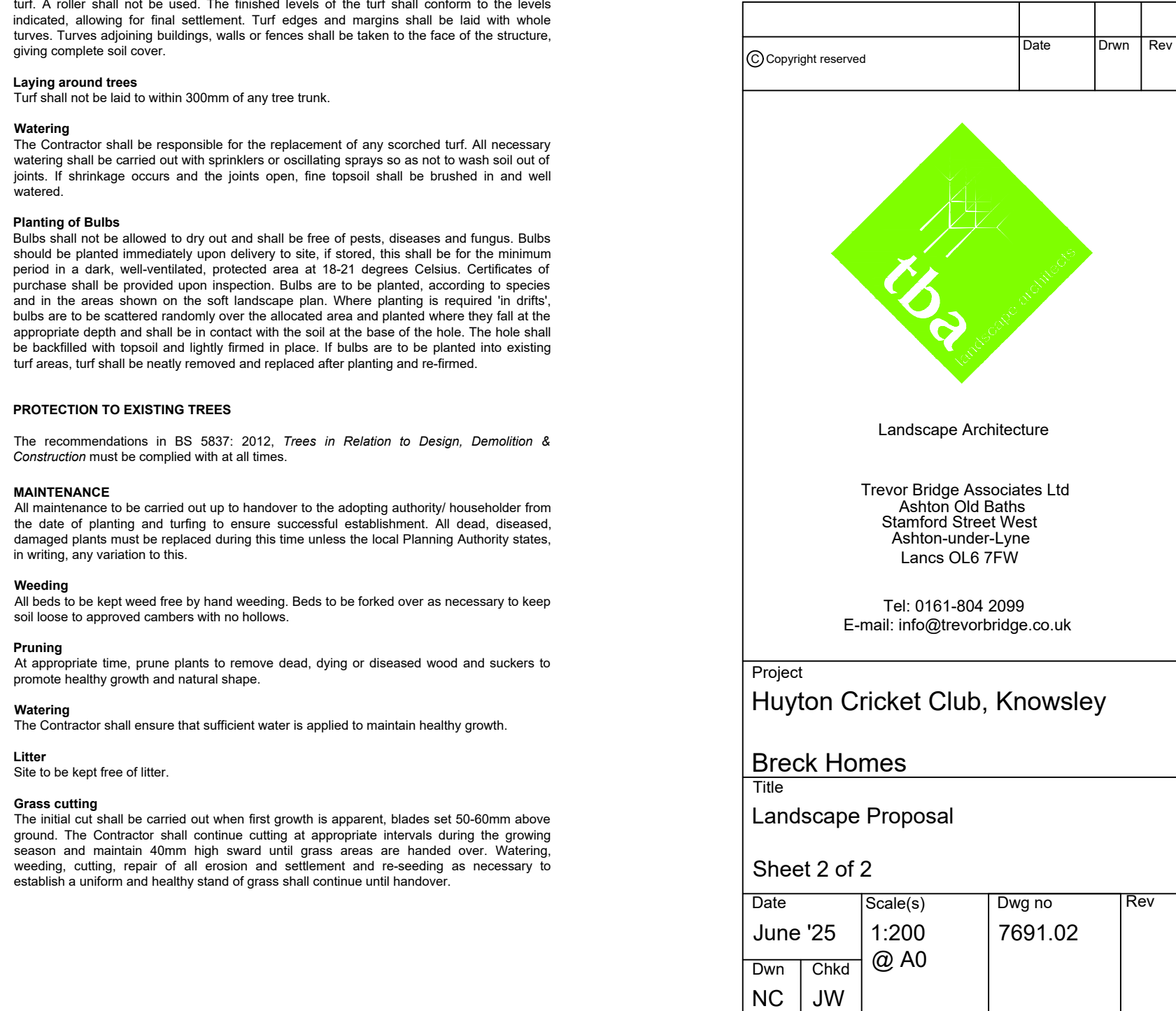
WILDFLOWER SEED MIXES - To be sown at a rate of 4g/m².

EM2 - Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture.
wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/standard-general-purpose-meadow-mixture

EH1 - Hedgerow Mixture.
wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/hedgerow-mixture

Available from Emorsgate Seeds. Tel: 01553 829 028 or similar approved.
All wildflower areas to have 1M wide close mown grass edge adjacent roads and footpaths. Seeded with grass mix A22.

AMENITY GRASS SEED MIX - To be sown at a rate of 50g/M².
A22 - Hard Wearing, Low Maintenance.
germinalamenity.com/a22-low-maintenance
Available from Germinal GB Ltd. Tel: 01522 868714 (or similar approved)



AMENITY GRASS SEED MIX - To be sown at a rate of 50g/M².
A22 - Hard Wearing, Low Maintenance.
germinalamenity.com/a22-low-maintenance
Available from Germinal GB Ltd. Tel: 01522 868714 (or similar approved)





Appendix 2 – Ecological enhancement plan

Huyton Cricket Club, Huyton

Ecological Enhancement Plan

-  Development boundary
-  Vivara Pro Build-in WoodStone Bat Box
-  Schwegler 2F Bat Box
-  Vivara Pro WoodStone Swift Nest
-  Vivara Pro WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Box

