

**Huyton Cricket Club
Knowsley**

Breck Homes

**Landscape and Ecological
Management Plan**



tba
landscape architects

Landscape Architecture

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Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Landscape Management Plan relates to all areas of landscape within the proposed development at the Huyton Cricket Club, Knowsley. It sets out the management intentions and the necessary operations required to enable the management company to satisfactorily look after the site once the landscape works are implemented. Torus Housing association are responsible for installing the landscape and for managing the maintenance of the site.
- 1.2 The management plan is intended to enable the management company to satisfactorily look after the site. The management plan should be reviewed every 5 years to ensure that the management continues to be appropriate for the site.
- 1.3 Management of areas included in the BNG matrix need to be maintained and managed for a period of 30 years, this includes replacement of all dead, diseased and damaged plants.

2.0 LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

- 2.1 The following landscape elements will be present on the site:

- Existing trees and hedges
- Tree planting
- Native shrub planting
- Hedge planting
- Ornamental shrub planting
- Grass close mown – Turf and Seed Mix
- Wildflower meadow – Seed Mix
- Wildflower turf – suds

3.0 DRAWINGS AND REPORTS

- 3.1 The works shall be carried out to the landscaped areas in accordance with the following:
- 7691.01D Landscape Proposal May'26
 - 7691.02D Landscape Proposal May'26
- 3.2 Other information to be read in conjunction with this management plan
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment by Tree Solutions
 - Ecological Appraisal by UES
- 3.3 For details concerning the existing habitat features and retained trees refer to recommendations by Tree Solutions and UES.

4.0 MANAGEMENT INTENTIONS

- 4.1 The principal aim of landscape management is to maintain the elements in the form, disposition and groupings which serve the design intention and the requirements of all users. In this instance, the aim will be to keep the landscape elements in a state of health and vigour. Trees and shrubs that die in the first five years of planting shall be replaced. Replacement planting shall be carried out during the next available planting season. Trees and shrubs are to be replaced with the same variety and size as originally planted.
- 4.2 Existing trees and hedges will have minimal intervention with the intention that they mature naturally.
- 4.3 Individual trees, once established, will have their stakes and ties checked.
- 4.4 The management of the native shrubs will also focus on two stages of development. The first stage is their establishment to form vigorous communities able to contribute to the design objectives of

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screening, amenity and nature conservation interest. Once establishment is secured, the principal activity will be the selection of some specimens for long-term development, weed control and pruning.

- 4.5 Once established, the hedges will be maintained by regular pruning and dead-wooding to give a neat and tidy appearance.
- 4.6 The management of the ornamental shrub areas will focus on two stages of development. The first stage is the establishment of the shrubs to form robust communities able to contribute to the design objectives of amenity and screening. Once establishment is secured, the main activities will be weed control and pruning.
- 4.7 Areas of close mown grass and wildflower meadow will be maintained to give a neat and tidy appearance.
- 4.8 Areas of wildflower turf will be maintained to give a neat and tidy appearance.
- 4.9 The management of the suds area will be maintained to give a neat and tidy appearance and ensure that it continues to satisfactorily hold water when necessary.
- 4.10 Litter picking and debris removal will ensure that a neat and tidy general appearance is sustained throughout the landscape areas.

MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

5.0 EXISTING TREES AND HEDGES

- 5.1 Before any tree works are carried out the contractor must confirm with the LPA as to whether any trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.
- 5.2 All the trees on the site have been subject to a tree survey. Refer to the tree survey report, arboricultural impact assessment and method statement for the protection of trees and associated drawings produced by Tree Solutions. All recommendations in these documents should be followed. All tree works shall be carried out in accordance with BS3998 *Recommendations for Tree Works*. No works to trees to be carried out in the bird nesting season that is March to August.
- 5.3 A formal inspection of all trees on site will be undertaken every two years. A visual inspection will be undertaken following a severe weather event (storm, heavy snow fall or drought). A reactive inspection will occur after a complaint or report of failure.

6.0 TREE PLANTING

- 6.1 Trees should be planted to BS 8545:2014 Trees from Nursery to Independence in the landscape.
- 6.2 Individual trees whether planted as specimens or within groups, will be inspected twice annually.
- 6.3 The individual trees in grass should be surrounded by a vegetation-free circle of 600mm diameter to improve the rate of establishment by removing competition at the root-zone. This will be achieved by the use of mulch/mulch mats as described in section 18 and hand weeding around the base of the tree as described in 17.
- 6.4 Stakes and ties will be checked, adjusted and replaced as necessary twice per year until the trees are established. After year 4 the stakes and ties should be removed.
- 6.5 All pruning shall be carried out to the highest horticultural standard and shall be carried out using secateurs and hand saws only. Stems to be removed shall be pruned back flush to an outward pointing bud or the nearest junction with another branch, while maintaining the natural shape of the tree. Pruning shall include:
 - The removal of dead, diseased and dying vegetation, secondary leader shoots, duplicated branches and potentially weak or tight forks

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- The removal of side growth and suckers back to the trunk or root with a minimum disturbance of the roots
- The removal of vegetation growing onto footpaths, car parks, road, signs, sightlines and any other location where it presents a hazard to the users of the site
- The removal of vegetation growing over windows and lights where it presents a security hazard
- Inspection of trees for pests and diseases
- No works to trees to be carried out in the bird nesting season that is March to August unless the trees have been inspected by an Ecologist for any signs of nesting birds.

6.6 Watering of new tree planting:

Trees should be watered using a can with a rose attachment on the end or a sprinkler that will administer water slowly and at a low pressure, mimicking rainfall. Water should be applied to the base of the tree, evenly distributed over the entirety of the root ball to encourage even development. A newly planted tree should be watered when planted and at the point of bud burst in the spring and this should be continued throughout the spring and summer months until the leaves have fallen in the autumn (deciduous trees). Watering should be carried out for the first two summers after planting. Watering of evergreen trees may be needed in the winter if it is particularly dry weather. During the height of summer water should be applied at a rate of 2 domestic buckets full (or 20 litres) of water every other day. Watering can begin to be reduced as autumn approaches. Trees still need additional water even if it has been raining. Ensure that the water is draining well away after 10 minutes of application of the water to make sure that the water gets to the tree and is not just sitting on the surface.

7.0 NATIVE SHRUB PLANTING**7.1 Weed Control**

7.1.1 Newly planted shrub areas will be kept weed free as grasses and herbs are strong competitors for moisture and nutrients. Young plants in a grass sward often show classic stress symptoms: sparse small leaves, shoot dieback and a yellowing or browning of leaves caused by nitrogen deficiency and water stress respectively. Mowing or cutting is an ineffective means of controlling weeds. It has been demonstrated that mowing increases the vigour of a grass sward, thereby increasing soil moisture defects and decreasing plant vigour.

7.1.2 The careful use of herbicides is an effective method of weed control and therefore herbicide will be applied for a period of three years until the woodland canopy has sufficiently developed to suppress weeds naturally.

7.2 Beating Up

7.2.1 Some losses after planting are almost inevitable and therefore beating up (the process of replacing shrubs that have died soon after planting) will be undertaken. This will be carried out in the season immediately following the planting operation and for a period of 10 years whilst the area establishes.

7.3 Thinning

7.3.1 During the establishment phase of the planting, as it is randomly planted, the plantation will consist of individual plants under stress from the substrate and climatic factors, and from any physical damage or inherent weakness to the plant. As the plants grow, interaction between individuals creates an active process of competition which has a tendency to have an advantageous effect on some species at the expense of others. Problems brought about by suppression due to differential growth rates of different species occur as early as the third year after planting. In order to preserve the slower growing species, it will be necessarily critical to time the thinning correctly. As slower growing species are spread randomly throughout the plantation, they will probably be suppressed at the same time, therefore if the thinning operation is left too late their wholesale loss could result.

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7.4 Coppicing

- 7.4.1 To achieve structural diversity at an early stage selective group-coppicing of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) in groups of 5-10m² covering one third of the total area of the plantation will be undertaken.
- 7.4.2 To achieve age diversity, small clearings will be made to encourage natural regeneration. Small scale planting of slower species could also take place within the clearings to further increase age diversity.

7.5 Stakes and Ties

- 7.5.1 During the establishment period, any stakes will be checked for stability and effectiveness. All ties will be adjusted as they become too tight so as not to cause damage to plants.

7.6 Watering

- 7.6.1 Shrub beds shall receive sufficient water whilst establishing (first two planting seasons) and in periods of dry weather as described at section 15.

7.7 From Completion of Planting to Year Three

- 7.7.1 For a period of three years immediately following completion of planting the whole of the native shrub planting shall be kept weed free by the application of Glyphosate to both grass and broadleaved weeds during periods of active growth. During the first year a minimum of four applications shall be undertaken followed by a minimum of two applications per year for the second and third year.
- 7.7.2 Every precaution shall be taken to avoid herbicide contact with desired species. Damaged shrubs shall be replaced.
- 7.7.3 The Contractor shall comply in all respects with the current requirements of the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, amended 1997, drawn up under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985.
- 7.7.4 All chemical herbicides are to be applied in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The contractor shall provide and make available for inspection containers for measuring quantities of herbicides. Spray equipment shall be fitted with a guard to prevent drift onto neighbouring plants, a pressure regulated device, and approved nozzles. Equipment shall be free of leaks and shall be cleaned thoroughly before and after use.
- 7.7.5 Any plants or grass areas damaged during spraying operations shall be made good as directed by the landscape architect to his entire satisfaction.
- 7.7.6 The contractor shall determine appropriate concentration of active ingredients and rates of application in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and the contractor's own experience. Any areas of weed surviving due to being missed during spraying, or inclement weather shall be re-treated by the contractor at no expense to the contract.
- 7.7.7 Wetting agent shall be added to all herbicide solutions in accordance with recommended conditions of use.

8.8 From Completion of Planting to Year Three

- 8.8.1 Once yearly all stakes shall be checked for stability and effectiveness. They shall be re-firmed if they have become loose and they shall be removed once they are no longer required for support of the plant. Ties shall be checked at the same time and adjusted if they have become too tight or if rubbing of the plants on the stake is occurring.

8.9 First Year Following Completion of Planting

- 8.9.1 During the first planting season following completion of planting, all dead, dying, damaged or diseased plants shall be replaced by the same variety and size as that originally planted.

8.10 Third Year Following Completion of Planting

- 8.10.1 During the winter months, three years following completion of the first planting of the first planting operation thinning, by complete removal of plants and their roots, shall be carried out.
- 8.10.2 At the same time as the thinning operation, coppicing of Hazel shall be carried out.
- 8.10.3 The thinning and coppicing operations shall be carried out to the instructions of the landscape architect.

9.0 HEDGE PLANTING

- 9.1 Hedges to the road frontage shall be maintained the following maximum heights; Beech 1.2 metres high and Hebe 0.5 metres high. Hedges adjacent to boundaries to be maintained to a height of 1.8 metres (Native Hedge Mix). Pruning is to be carried out to the highest horticultural standard and by hand using mechanical secateurs, mechanical hedge cutters and hand saws only. Broad leaved evergreen hedges shall only be pruned using secateurs. Dead foliage and branches are to be removed by cutting back to an outward pointing bud, or as directed. Suckers are to be removed by cutting back their source on the roots of the affected shrubs. Growth is to be reduced to encourage the hedge to thicken up and so as to remove any growth encroaching onto paths, roads, signs, sightlines and lights. Pruning cuts shall be made at the source of the branch to be removed, within the shrub so that the position of the cut is not visible in the outward appearance of the shrub.
- 9.2 All plants shall be firmed in by treading after frost lift or wind rock.
- 9.3 No hedge cutting shall take place during the bird nesting season, that is March to August.
- 9.4 Hedges shall receive sufficient water as described at section 15 (6 buckets per linear metre of hedge (1 bucket = 14 litres/3 gallons) every 5 days.
- 9.5 Hedges shall be litter picked as described at section 16.
- 9.6 Hedges shall be kept weed free as described at section 17.
- 9.7 All hedges to have a layer of mulch that shall be maintained as described in 18.

10.0 ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS

- 10.1 The management of the ornamental shrub areas will focus on weed control and pruning.
- 10.2 Replacement of dead and diseased plants will be carried out in the first season after planting. Apart from the replacements and weed control, during establishment (approximately the first 5 years), the new planting should require little maintenance. The plants should be checked for frost-heave and wind-rock and firmed in as necessary. They should also be monitored for any signs of pests or disease, and appropriate control measures taken.
- 10.3 Beds shall be maintained in a weed free condition. Beds will be hoed and hand weeded once a month during the growing season and if weed growth is dense, treated as described in section 17 use of herbicides.
- 10.4 Shrub beds shall receive sufficient water whilst establishing (first two planting seasons) and in periods of dry weather as described at section 15 (1 bucket per shrub (1 bucket = 14 litres/3 gallons) every 5 days.
- 10.5 All beds to have a layer of mulch that shall be maintained as described in 18.
- 10.6 Beds shall be litter picked as described at section 16.

11.0 CLOSE MOWN GRASS

Turf and A22 seed mix

- 11.1 Regular maintenance of the close mown turf and seeded areas throughout the growing season, approximately March to September, will maintain a neat and tidy appearance. A minimum of fortnightly cuts will be undertaken unless weather conditions alter the frequency. If weather conditions prevent cutting then an intermediate cut will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity lifting the risings to ensure a neat appearance. The initial cut should be to a height of approximately 50-60mm, with the cuttings dispersed. Subsequent cuts should be to a height of approximately 40mm, with the cuttings dispersed.
- 11.2 The cutting of all grass around obstacles including trees in grass will be carried out with particular care, using 'strimmers' fitted with guards so as to protect obstacles from damage. All grass cuttings arising from strimming operations will be removed from site.
- 11.3 Ensure sufficient irrigation during establishment and during dry periods see 15.

12.0 WILDFLOWER MEADOW (EMORSGATE EM2, EH1 AND EM8 SEED MIX)

First year management

- 12.1 Areas seeded in August to September shall be cut lightly in March using a flail mower, or strimmer. The meadow should be cut again in September when flowering is over. In both cases all cuttings shall be raked up and removed from site.
- 12.2 After year one all the wildflower meadow areas on the site should be cut twice annually once in March and once in September when flowering is over, using a flail mower or strimmer. In both cases all the cuttings shall be raked and removed from site. This prevents nutrients building up in the soil which encourage weed species and discourage wildflowers. The timing of the cuts should be as above but will be dependent on the presence of any wildflowers in the sward; cutting should not take place until after the desirable species have set and dispersed seed.
- 12.3 Cutting twice per year should be sufficient to control any tree seedlings or brambles in the grassland. Cutting twice per year will not however prevent the growth of 'noxious' weeds, such as Nettles, Dock, Thistle, Dandelion, Ragwort and Rosebay Willowherb. These are termed 'noxious weeds' since they are persistent and aggressive plant species, which can quickly colonise areas, preventing the growth of most other species and lessening the biological diversity of grassland.
- 12.4 Carefully dig out or spot treat any 'noxious' weeds as described above. Refer to weed control section 17.
- 12.5 If the wildflower meadow fails in year 1 then the failed areas shall be overseeded, in accordance with the details in the specification shown on the landscape drawings. Overseeding shall then be undertaken annually until the local authority are happy that the meadow has fully established.

13.0 WILDFLOWER TURF (www.wildflowerturf.co.uk)

- 13.1 All maintenance to be carried out immediately from the date of turf being laid to ensure successful establishment.

First cut of wildflower turf

- 13.2 Once established, carry out a cut in March using a flail mower, or strimmer. The meadow should be cut again in September when flowering is over. In both cases all cuttings shall be raked up and removed from site.

Subsequent cuts

- 13.3 Hereafter cutting shall be undertaken, once in March and then again in September, with a flail mower or strimmer, when flowering is over. All cuttings shall be raked up and removed. The timing of the cuts should be as above but will be dependent on the presence of any wildflowers in the sward; cutting should not take place until after the desirable species have set and dispersed seed.
- 13.4 Cutting twice per year should be sufficient to control any tree seedlings or brambles in the grassland. Cutting twice per year will not however prevent the growth of 'noxious' weeds, such as Nettles, Dock, Thistle, Dandelion, Ragwort and Rosebay Willowherb. These are termed 'noxious weeds' since they are persistent and aggressive plant species, which can quickly colonise areas, preventing the growth of most other species and lessening the biological diversity of grassland.
- 13.5 Carefully dig out or spot treat any 'noxious' weeds as described above. Refer to weed control section 17.
- 13.6 Checks shall be undertaken during visits to ensure that the Suds area remains able to satisfactorily hold water when necessary.

14.0 BULB MIX

- 14.1 New bulb planting is within grass areas. Particular care should be taken when mowing within areas containing bulbs and should not be mown until after the leaves have browned.
- 14.2 Essential weed control should only be carried out as described in 17.

15.0 WATERING (to be read on conjunction with watering details above)

- 15.1 The appointed management company shall ensure sufficient irrigation during establishment and during dry periods to maintain healthy growth of all soft landscape areas. Watering to be carried out by an experienced and suitably qualified landscape contractor, at agreed intervals.
- 15.2 Sprinklers or oscillating sprays only shall be used to prevent washout or puddling of the soil.
- 15.3 Drought or local non-availability of water shall not release the management company from their obligation to obtain water and comply with this clause. Supply as appropriate, temporary storage tanks, connections, hoses, sprinklers, sprays, bowsers and pay all charges and costs.
- 15.4 When water provision is restricted by legislation, e.g. Drought Order, then the management company shall inform the developer of the cost of second class water and await instruction.

16.0 LITTER PICKING AND DEBRIS REMOVAL

- 16.1 The whole site must be inspected monthly. The removal of larger debris and/or fly tipping must be carried out as soon as practically possible and vandalism and graffiti must be reported immediately, and repairs arranged within 5 working days.

17.0 WEED CONTROL AND USE OF HERBICIDES

- 17.1 Landscape areas shall be kept weed free by removing, by hand, entire weeds, including roots, by forking, digging or hoeing. If the weed growth is dense beds/hedges shall be treated with a glyphosate based herbicide. Herbicide may be applied by spraying, spot treatment or by use of weed wipes. Herbicides should not be used close to watercourses.
- 17.2 The contractor shall comply in all respects with the current requirements of the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, revised 1997, drawn up under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985.
- 17.3 The contractor shall determine appropriate concentration of active ingredients and rates of application in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and the contractor's own experience. The contractor shall provide and make available for inspection containers for measuring quantities of

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herbicides. Spray equipment shall be fitted with a guard to prevent drift onto neighbouring plants, a pressure regulated device, and approved nozzles. Equipment shall be free of leaks and shall be cleaned thoroughly before and after use.

- 17.4 Every precaution shall be taken to avoid herbicide contact with desired species. Any plants or grass areas damaged during spraying operations shall be replaced.
- 17.5 Any areas of weed surviving due to being missed during spraying, or inclement weather shall be re-treated by the contractor at no expense to the contract.

18.0 MULCH

- 18.1 A 75mm compacted layer of medium grade pulverised bark, with a particle size of not more than 100mm and containing no more than 10% fines, shall be spread to form a continuous layer covering the whole of the bed/length of the hedge, or in the case of standard trees within grass shall be in the form of a circle of 600mm diameter around the base of the tree. Whips and transplants shall be mulched in the form of a 300mm diameter circle around the base of the tree. Where trees are planted within grass a circular hemp mulch mat is required beneath the layer of mulch at the diameters stated above, secured with fixing pegs. The tree pit surface shall be as big as possible.

19.0 HABITAT FEATURES

- 19.1 Bird boxes shall be emptied annually during autumn. Nesting birds shall not be disturbed.
- 19.2 Bat boxes shall be inspected and cleaned by a licensed ecologist as required.

20.0 MANAGED AREAS

- 20.1 The extract below shows unhatched areas that shall be maintained by the management company. The areas within the orange hatch are private and will be managed by the homeowners.



Appendix A – Landscape maintenance schedule

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Appendix B – Landscape drawings

