

## **Bolton on Dearne Station**

# **LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Prepared on behalf of:



**Railway Infrastructure Services**

**DRAFT**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Landscape Management Plan has been prepared to support a planning application by Network Rail to develop DDA compliant access facilities at Bolton on Dearne railway station. The scheme will impact upon a small area of tree planting adjacent to the station and as a result this area will be re-landscaped as part of the project.
- 1.2 *Section 2.0 of this document sets out the main design objectives behind the proposed planting scheme and includes detailed objectives relating to proposed and existing site planting. Section 3.0 outlines the management activities to be undertaken during proposed works and refers to Management Schedules provided within Section 4.0. Section 5.0 identifies how ongoing site monitoring and review is proposed to be undertaken.*

## 2.0 DESIGN OBJECTIVES

2.1 The main design objectives behind the proposed habitat creation scheme are as follows:

- To mitigate for the loss of existing trees that fall within the proposed development footprint.
- To enhance the ecological and nature conservation value of the site.
- To improve the amenity value of the site

2.2 The following detailed objectives supporting the above have assisted in the preparation of this Management Plan:

### *Existing planting*

- Existing trees that are unaffected by the proposals will be retained in good condition.
- Following completion of construction works, existing vegetation will be managed proactively to enhance its longevity and/or nature conservation value.

### *Proposed planting*

- Proposed planting will be appropriate to the local landscape setting.
- Planting will increase the diversity of native plant species
- Planting will increase amenity value through introduction of seasonal flowering
- Planting will be low maintenance

2.3 The existing trees to be retained & the proposed planting are illustrated on drawing B50034 - 901.

### 3.0 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

3.1 Management activities required during the site preparation, demolition, construction, post-construction and aftercare phases relating to the proposed development are outlined in Table 1.0 below.

**TABLE 1.0**

WORK PHASE	TIMING	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
1) Site preparation	<p>Before works commence on site.</p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is an offence to disturb a nesting bird under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. Tree works should take place between mid August and mid February, outside the bird-nesting season. Works outside of this period need to be subject to prior inspection by an ecologist to establish the absence of active nest sites.</li> <li>2. Development within the vicinity of trees with potential value for roosting bats should not be undertaken during the main bat breeding season, June to end of July.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree felling and scrub removal.</li> <li>• Retain stumps and larger boles / branches on site as dead-wood features / wood piles in locations as directed by landscape architect / ecologist. Chip some cut timber to provide wood-chip piles for the benefit of invertebrates.</li> <li>• Remove any significant dead wood and other debris in retained trees</li> <li>• Tree protection fencing in accordance with recommendations in BS5837:2005 to be erected prior to commencement of works. All works within protected area to be undertaken with hand tools only</li> </ul>
2) Demolition		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arboricultural site briefing to be undertaken with all contractors prior to any work commencing on site</li> <li>• Tree protection fencing to be maintained throughout the project</li> </ul>
3) Construction		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arboricultural site briefing undertaken with all contractors prior to any work commencing on site.</li> <li>• Tree protection fencing to be maintained throughout the project</li> </ul>
4) Post-construction and aftercare		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following all construction works, remove tree protection fencing.</li> <li>• Implement proposed landscape scheme including tree and shrub planting and bulb planting as drawing B50034 - 901</li> <li>• Undertake ongoing management operations and progressive monitoring as detailed in sections 4.0 and 5.0 of this report</li> </ul>

- 3.2 For management activities following implementation of proposed planting, refer to Management Schedules within Section 4.0.
- 3.3 Consultants likely to be involved in the implementation of management activities provided within this Plan include;
- Landscape Architect / Manager to inspect and approve tree protection fencing installation and habitat creation works and to monitor and review the implementation of this Management Plan annually.
  - Suitably competent contractor to undertake landscape works and habitat management activities.
  - Qualified Arboriculturalist to inspect tree works and tree condition.
  - Suitably qualified Bat Surveyor to check trees for bats prior to tree works should tree felling and surgery works be necessary during the bat-breeding season.
  - Qualified Ecologist to conduct pre-start inspections should tree felling and surgery works be necessary during the bird-nesting season (mid February to mid August).
- 3.5 The above consultants would be appointed by Network Rail and would be required to report on site management activities on a regular basis, and following annual inspections referred to in Section 5.0.

#### **4.0 MANAGEMENT SCHEDULES**

- 4.1 Schedules summarising management activities following completion of the works and the implementation of proposed planting are included overleaf, in Tables 2.0 to 9.0. These schedules outline management of existing and new planting for each year from Year 1 to Year 15. Management from Year 15 onwards has then been summarised according to a yearly and a 5 yearly time period.
- 4.2 Schedules do not constitute a specification or contract document for the works but are indicative of the activities required to achieve the objectives set out previously. Monitoring and review of establishment and growth on site will determine the actual timing of management activities.

TABLE 2.0: YEAR 1

TIMING	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
<b>Existing planting</b>	
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect retained trees and mature woodland for damage, disease, and infestation.</li> </ul>
<b>New planting</b>	
Late Spring / Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check general health of new planting and review need for control of pests, diseases and the application of fertiliser.</li> <li>Maintain planted areas weed free using a combination of hand pulling/hoeing and an appropriate non-residual herbicide (glyphosate).</li> <li>Water planted areas to field capacity as necessary during dry conditions to ensure continued growth and good health. Clean water source.</li> <li>Check and firm up all trees and shrubs as necessary.</li> <li>Check and tidy bark mulch as necessary.</li> <li>Check, re-fix and replace rabbit guards as necessary.</li> <li>Check, re-fix and replace tree stakes and ties as necessary.</li> </ul>
Autumn / Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify plant failures and review reason for failure. Remove dead plants and replace as necessary.</li> </ul>
Each visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check for fly tipping and vandalism and report. Remove litter.</li> </ul>

TABLE 3.0: YEAR 2

TIMING	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
<b>Existing planting</b>	
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect retained trees and mature woodland for damage, disease, and infestation.</li> </ul>
<b>New planting</b>	
Late Spring / Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check general health of new planting and review need for control of pests, diseases, or the application of fertiliser.</li> <li>Maintain planted areas weed free using a combination of hand pulling/hoeing and an appropriate non-residual herbicide (glyphosate).</li> <li>Water to field capacity as necessary during dry conditions to ensure continued growth and good health. Clean water only.</li> <li>Check and firm up all trees and shrubs as necessary.</li> <li>Check and tidy bark mulch as necessary.</li> <li>Check, re-fix and replace rabbit guards as necessary.</li> <li>Check, re-fix and replace tree stakes and ties as necessary.</li> </ul>
Autumn / Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut wildflower grassland in October and remove arisings offsite.</li> <li>Identify plant failures and review reason for failure. Remove and replace as necessary.</li> <li>Winter prune as necessary to ensure continued growth and good health.</li> </ul>
Each visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check for fly tipping and vandalism. Remove litter.</li> </ul>

TABLE 4.0: YEAR 3 &amp; 4

TIMING	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
<b>Existing planting</b>	
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect retained trees and mature woodland for damage, disease, and infestation.</li> </ul>
<b>New planting</b>	
Late Spring / Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check general health of new planting and review need for control of pests, diseases, or the application of fertiliser.</li> <li>Maintain planted areas weed free using a combination of hand pulling/hoeing and an appropriate non-residual herbicide (glyphosate). Wildflower seeded areas to be kept free of pernicious weeds (docks, thistles etc).</li> <li>Water to field capacity as necessary during dry conditions to ensure continued growth and good health. Clean water only.</li> <li>Check and firm up all trees and shrubs as necessary.</li> <li>Review ongoing requirement for bark mulch. (Canopy closure should be achieved by this point).</li> <li>Review requirement for rabbit guards.</li> <li>Review requirement for tree stakes and ties.</li> </ul>
Autumn / Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut wildflower area in October and remove arisings offsite.</li> <li>Identify plant failures and review reason for failure. Remove and replace as necessary.</li> <li>Winter prune as necessary to ensure continued growth and good health.</li> </ul>
Each visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check for fly tipping and vandalism. Remove litter.</li> </ul>

TABLE 5.0: YEAR 5 &amp; 6

TIMING	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
<b>Existing planting</b>	
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect retained trees and mature woodland for damage, disease, and infestation.</li> </ul>
<b>New planting</b>	
Late Spring / Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check general health of new planting and review need for control of pests, diseases, or the application of fertiliser.</li> <li>Planted areas should by now have achieved or be approaching a closed canopy and weed competition should be reducing as a significant factor – in which case weed control can stop.</li> <li>Watering should no longer be necessary assuming that planting is well established</li> <li>Remove any remaining tree stakes / ties where trees are sufficiently established.</li> <li>Review need for crown management / thinning.</li> </ul>
Autumn / Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut wildflower grass in October and remove arisings offsite.</li> <li>Winter prune as necessary to ensure continued growth and good health.</li> <li>Undertake crown management / thinning as identified in summer months.</li> <li>Clear excessive leaf fall from new ponds if required</li> </ul>
Each visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check for fly tipping and vandalism. Remove litter.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 6.0: YEAR 7**

TIMING	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
<b>Existing planting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat management activities as Year 5 &amp; 6, as necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>New planting</b>	
Spring / Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review potential to coppice Hazel.</li> <li>Repeat management activities as Year 5 &amp; 6, as necessary.</li> </ul>
Autumn / Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat management activities as Year 5 &amp; 6, as necessary.</li> </ul>
Each visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check for fly tipping and vandalism. Remove litter.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 7.0: YEAR 8**

TIMING	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
<b>Existing planting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat management activities as Year 5 &amp; 6, as necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>New planting</b>	
Spring - Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat management activities as Year 5 &amp; 6, as necessary.</li> </ul>
Late Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coppice Hazel if confirmed action in Summer Year 7</li> </ul>
Each visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check for fly tipping and vandalism. Remove litter.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 8.0: YEAR 9-15**

TIMING	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
<b>Existing planting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat management activities as Year 5 &amp; 6, as necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>New planting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat management activities as Year 5 &amp; 6, as necessary.</li> </ul>
Each visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check for fly tipping and vandalism. Remove litter.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 9.0: MANAGEMENT FOR YEAR 15 ONWARDS**

TIMING	MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
Every year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat management activities as Year 5 &amp; 6 as appropriate for existing and new planting.</li> </ul>
<b>New planting</b>	
Every 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coppice 1/3 of Hazel in March / April every 5 years, on a 15 year cycle.</li> </ul>

**5.0 ONGOING MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- 5.1 A site inspection will be undertaken every year during the summer to identify management successes / failures and to make changes to this management plan as necessary. Representatives from Network Rail and the Planning Authority would be invited to attend annual inspections. Any modifications to the management plan would be made in agreement with the Planning Authority.