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THE OVAL, ROCKINGHAM ROUNDABOUT, BIRDWELL

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

EV Waddington Ltd are proposing the erection of 7 – E/B2/B8 units, including car parking, cycle stores and associated landscaping. Planning application 2020/1011 has been approved in September 2020 subject to a number of conditions. Condition 11 states:

“A landscape and ecology management plan, including long term design objectives, management responsibilities and maintenance schedules for all landscape areas and ecological mitigations shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the occupation of the development or any part thereof, whichever is the sooner, for its permitted use. The landscape and ecology management plan shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plan”

Weddle Landscape Design have been asked to prepare a 5 Year Landscape and Ecological Management Plan for the ongoing good management of the site landscape.

1.2 Site Description

The site is located on the western side of Hoyland and to the south-east of Birdwell, South Yorkshire. The site is located on roundabout formed by Sheffield Road (A61).

To the north and west of the site is an arable field are light industrial, warehouse and retail units. To the east lies a further roundabout, agricultural fields and recreation open space. To the south is the M1 and A61 junction and a small woodland block.



Figure 1 Aerial photograph with site boundary

1.3 Landscape and Ecological Baseline

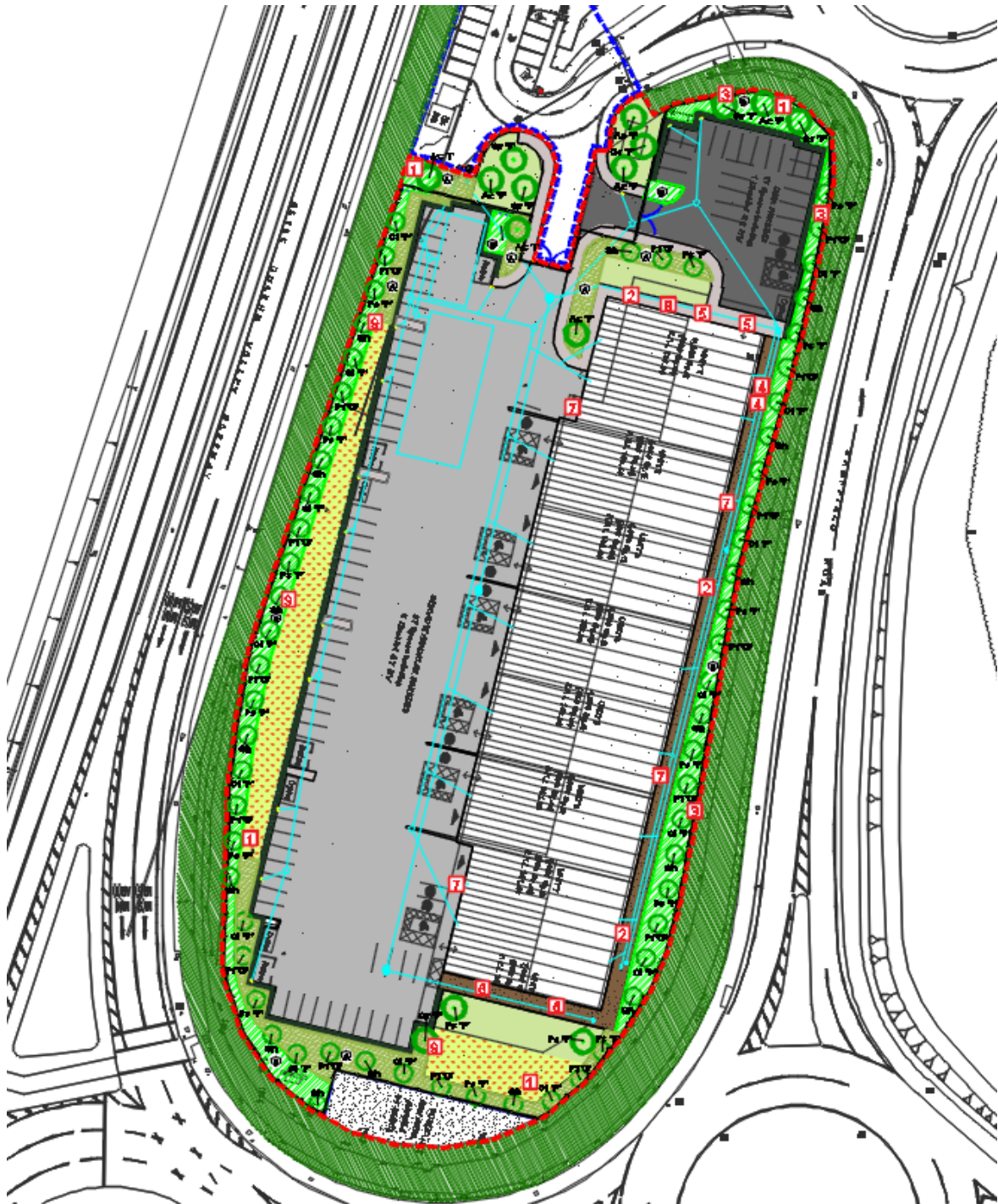
The site is mainly neutral grassland, with small areas of open mosaic and bare ground. The habitats on site are common and widespread and are of limited ecological value due to the sites isolated location.

1.4 The Proposals

The new building and hardstanding have a footprint of approximately 9,455m². Further areas of Tree and Shrub planting, hedging, meadow and amenity grassland total approximately 3,846m².

As part of The Oval development a number of Landscape and Ecological Enhancements are proposed;

- Native plant species or cultivars of native species will be used where possible to provide pollen, nectar and cover for a wide range of fauna species
- Plant stock to be of local provenance where possible
- Meadow areas incorporated into the landscape (species rich grasslands)
- Invertebrate soil habitat will be improved through an initial layer of composted bark mulch
- Bird and Bat boxes to be provided and fitted externally to the building
- Insect habitat boxes and 'Dead wood pile' provided to create habitat for invertebrates
- Where possible external lighting will be positioned and angled to point downwards to reduce light impact



Extract of drawing 'TOB01 –Landscape Masterplan and Ecological Enhancements'

1.5 Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The development of the site will support The Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan 2009 (second edition);

- The installation of bat boxes will directly support the Bat Species Action Plan (SAP2).
- The installation of bird boxes will directly support SAP12 and range of bird species identified as Local Priority Species in Barnsley.

- The installation of 'dead wood piles' and insect boxes on the development will directly support a range of invertebrate SAPS
- Additional boundary tree and shrub planting will directly support the Hedgerow Priority Habitat.

1.6 Responsibility and Review

After completion EV Waddington Ltd will manage the site. The site will be managed under the Facilities Management Specification, and the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan will form a supporting document.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

A	Provide a practical framework for landscape maintenance and management.
B	Appropriate management of all planting for amenity and increased biodiversity value.
C	To ensure that site is healthy, safe and secure.
D	To maintain a commercial landscape of high quality.
E	Maintain landscape characteristics of the site.

2.2 Strategies

A: Provide a practical framework for landscape maintenance and management.

- Review and audit the Landscape Management Plan.
- Review efficiency and quality of work produced annually.
- Amendment and adjustments to the Management Plan based on annual review.
- Maintenance Schedule included as Section 4 of this Landscape Management Plan.
- Regular inspections to review overall appearance and maintenance.

B: Appropriate management of all planting for amenity and increased biodiversity value.

- Review future revisions of The Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan
- Establishment and monitoring of tree and shrub planting.
- Establishment of planting providing pollen and nectar
- Low maintenance regime for tree and shrub planting

C: To ensure that site is healthy, safe and secure.

- Prune shrubs back from pathways.
- All access routes kept clear.
- Ensure that there is adequate access for emergency and maintenance vehicles.
- Maintain pathways by removing debris, leaf litter, moss, algae etc to prevent accidents.
- Grit pathways when required to prevent ice.
- Paving and fencing defects to be repaired as soon as possible.
- Monitor and review Health and Safety Policy
- Identify health and safety issues within the site by regular review and Maintenance Attendance Report submitted at least once monthly.

D: To maintain a commercial landscape of high quality.

- Regularly prune and maintain the shrubs to keep them tidy.
- Maintain shrubs to prevent them growing too large for their locations, thin and replace as necessary, using best horticultural practices.
- Prune back shrubs from all signage, lighting and paths
- Ensure all weeds are removed regularly by hand/approved herbicides.
- Top up of mulch annually until planting closes canopy

- Remove dead plants and replace within following planting season.
- Remove leaf litter
- Repair any damage that may have occurred
- Maintain paths non-slippery, clear of moss, algae and loose gravel

E: Maintain landscape characteristics of the site.

- Replace any dead trees which become apparent within the following planting season (November – March)
- Inspect trees annually and carry out maintenance operations as required to keep trees in safe and healthy condition
- Replace or repair damaged fencing
- Remove litter and debris
- Ensure hard paved areas are kept clean and tidy, contributing to a neat streetscape

3 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1 Introduction

The implementation of the strategies will be carried out over two phases. The first phase will be implemented during the construction program by the contractor. The second phase will be implemented once the development has been completed and the site handed over to EV Waddington Ltd.

3.2 Phase 1: Construction Works

3.2.1 Boundary Protection

- Erect construction site fencing and maintain.
- Remove construction site fencing on completion of all building and hard landscape works.

3.2.2 Landscaping

- Implement Landscape Masterplan. This must be done by the first planting and seeding seasons following the occupation of the buildings or the completion of the development, whichever is the sooner
- Install bird and bat boxes, insect boxes and 'dead wood piles'

3.3 Phase 2: 5 Year Management Plan Schedule

Maintenance Operation	Frequency	Seasonal
HARDSCAPE / GENERAL SITE		
1. Remove litter and tidy up all planting areas and hard surfaces.	Each Visit	
2. Written Maintenance Attendance Report and recommendations for necessary remedial works (include Health and Safety reports/issues).	Each Visit	
3. Rake-up / sweep fallen leaf litter; remove from site, as required.	As required	Sept-Dec
4. Clear snow from access and emergency routes and grit as necessary during winter.	As required	Nov-Apr
5. Inspect security fencing and gates and repair as necessary.	Annual	
6. Inspect other fencing and gates and repair as necessary.	Annual	
7. inspect pathways / hard surfaces for patch / worn areas; make good.	Annual	
8. Check for graffiti; remove or remediate.	Annual	
9. Inspect external lighting and repair/replace as necessary.	Biannual	
10. Apply folia acting / residual herbicide to hard surfaces to prevent ingress of weed and algae growth.	Annual	Sept-Oct
11. Inspect all site furniture and repair/ adjust any loose fittings as necessary.	Annual	
PLANTING / HEDGES		
12. Remove arisings from maintenance operations.	Each Visit	

Maintenance Operation	Frequency	Seasonal
13.Ensure all planted areas are kept weed free; no weed cover to exceed greater than 5% in area or 300mm in height.	Each Visit	
14.Trim vegetation back from paths, signage and vehicle sightlines.	As required	May-Sept
15.Monitor site for invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan balsam, Bramble and control as necessary.	As required	May-Sept
16.Dead head flowering shrubs following flowering period.	As required	July-Sept
17.Edge up planting beds to maintain soil level below adjacent hard surfaces.	Quarterly	
18.Undertake watering to ensure healthy establishment of all plant stock.	As required	Mar-Nov
19.Re-cultivate around base of shrubs/ hedge transplants by light hoe to relieve soil compaction.	4 times, (year 1-3)	Apr-Oct
20.Replace any dead, seriously damaged or diseased plants with of a similar size and species in following planting season, until canopies close	As required	Nov-Mar
21.Top up mulch layer to all planting beds; depth 75mm.	Annual	Mar
22.Supply & apply slow release fertiliser to planting areas; 60g/m2.	Annual (year 1-3 only)	Mar/Apr
23.Remove any dead, seriously damaged or diseased plants.	Annual	Sept-Oct
24.Undertake pruning of hedges, to encourage growth, promote good form and achieve desired height/width.	Annual (year 1- lateral growth only)	Sept-Oct
25.Undertake formative pruning of shrubs, to encourage growth and promote good form, as required.	Annual	Sept-Oct
26.Management of dense shrub and hedgerow <u>must</u> be outside of bird nesting season	As required	Sept-Feb
AMENITY GRASS		
27.Apply slow release lawn fertiliser:- Spring: 35g/m2 Autumn: 50g/m2.	Bi-annual	Mar-Apr & Oct- Nov
28.Maintain amenity grass at height of 25mm and trim / re-form edges.	As required	May-Sept
29.Spiking to all amenity grassed areas; to a depth of 75mm.	Bi-annual	Mar-Apr & Oct- Nov
30.Over-seed patchy grass areas.	Annual	Sept-Oct
31.Supply & apply selective herbicide to manufactures recommendations; to all grassed areas.	Annual	Sept-Oct
32.Carry out autumn scarification of all amenity grassed areas; depth 15mm.	Annual	Oct/Nov
MEADOW		
33.Cut meadow grass to 70mm after flowering. Carried out on warm dry days to allow any species to disperse. Remove cuttings.	Annual	Mid-July-End Sept

Maintenance Operation	Frequency	Seasonal
34.Second cut to meadow grass to 70mm if re-growth exceeds 100mm. Remove cuttings.	Annual	December
TREES		
35.Inspect trees for health and hazards, and implement any recommended works	Quarterly	
36.Management of trees <u>must</u> be outside of bird nesting season	As required	Sept-Feb
37.Inspect tree stakes / ties / guards and replace/remove as required.	Quarterly	
38.Following strong winds, re-firm base and check tree stakes for stability.	As required	
39.Top of mulch layer at base of tree; 1.2m diam. x 75mm depth.	Annual	Mar
40.Supply & apply slow release fertiliser to base of each tree; 50g per new tree.	Annual	Mar-Apr
41.Undertake formative pruning of young trees to encourage good growth and shape, if required.	Biennial (year 1,3,5 only)	Oct-Nov
ECOLOGY		
42.Lost / damaged bird /bat /insect boxes should be replaced as necessary (by a suitably qualified individual)	Annual	Sept-Feb
43.Inspect bird boxes installed onto trees to ensure vegetation has not grown over box. Clean of old nesting material and remove un-hatched eggs and throw away. (by suitably competent person)	Biennial (year 2,4 only)	1 Aug-31 January
44.Inspect insect boxes installed onto trees to ensure vegetation has not grown over box.	Biennial (year 2,4 only)	Sept-Feb
45.Top up of log piles and hibernacula (by suitably competent person)	As required	Sept-Feb