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ES10 Goldthorpe Roundabout, Barnsley

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PWP 694 Goldthorpe Roundabout
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CONTENTS	PAGE
1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
2.0 DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	4
3.0 MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS	5
3.1 Site Inspections	5
3.2 Proposed Soft Landscape Management	6
3.3 Pruning	11
3.4 Ecological Enhancements & Management	11
3.5 Monitoring	12
3.6 Health & Safety and Legislation	12
3.7 Replacement Strategy	12

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Landscape Management Plan has been produced in order to satisfy relevant planning conditions for the development of the new Goldthorpe Roundabout on the A635.

This document has been prepared to coordinate with the soft landscape proposals and is to be read in conjunction with the latest drawings produced by PWP Design Ltd:

- PWP 694 001 Outline Landscape Plan
- PWP 694 010 Planting Plan and Schedules
- PWP 694 200 Typical Soft Landscape Details
- PWP 694 501 Schedule and Specification for Landscape Maintenance

It covers soft landscape maintenance within the site. The key features that require maintenance are:

- New tree planting
- Wildflower seeding
- Ornamental Planting including: Ornamental Grasses, Shrubs and Herbaceous

The Landscape Management Plan provides guidelines for the first 5 years of management, in respect of landscape areas within the site.

At the end of year 5, this management plan is to be reviewed, and a new plan prepared if required in consideration of current conditions/needs. This review will be in conjunction with the client, Landscape Architect, Maintenance Provider/Estates team and, if required additional advice will be gained from an Arboriculturist and Ecologist.

2.0 DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

SECURING MANAGEMENT IN PERPETUITY

The Landscape Management Plan is to be used as a basis for guiding the long-term management of the soft landscape associated with the new Goldthorpe Roundabout to ensure that a holistic approach is achieved, and that delivery is consistent. The following vision, aims and objectives set out a framework for guiding the management operations of the development.

2.1 Management Plan Aims & Objectives

Aim 1: To enhance the aesthetic quality of the landscape

Management & Design Objectives:

- To maintain a high level of visual amenity appropriate to the site
- To demonstrate a high level of horticultural awareness that considers the qualities of the specific plant species used, timing works in accordance with their growth and flowering cycles.
- To understand the specific needs of the various planting conditions included within the scheme.
- To maintain an appropriate density of plant species, dividing/thinning as required so as to create good ground cover and a healthy level of competition encouraging strong growth and form.

Aim 2: To be sensitive to the setting and create an attractive environment

Management & Design Objectives:

- To maintain a high-quality landscape setting that relates to and screens the wider environment and close proximity to the Carr Dike.
- To maintain a high quality, visually attractive setting.

Aim 3: To manage the site in an ecologically sensitive and sustainable manner (Refer to 'A635 ES10 Construction Ecological Management Plan' for full details)

Management & Design Objectives:

- To consider bio-diversity in the long term.
- To maximize the sustainability of site maintenance through efficient use of resources, coordinated planning of operations and minimising the environmental impact of maintenance operations.
- To promote a cost-effective management strategy
- To comply with all statutory duties and demonstrate use of best practice.
- To promote an ecological based best practice management approach.
- To ensure that undesirable invasive and dominating plant species are prevented from establishing in the newly designed landscape.

2.2 Maintenance Responsibilities

The soft landscape contractor will be responsible for maintenance for the first two years. Following this an appropriate maintenance provider/estates management team is to be employed by Barnsley Council (or direct responsibility by Barnsley Council's in house maintenance team) to ensure the long-term management and maintenance of site landscape as defined in section 1.

3.0 MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

The following section provides an overview of detailed management prescriptions required for the ongoing management of the site.

3.1 Site Cleansing and Inspections

3.1.1 Cleansing Operations

Litter and debris lodged in planting, wildflower areas, paths and tracks should be removed as part of regular cleansing operations throughout the year. This is to ensure a tidy, clean appearance. Any litter collected is to be carted off-site during each maintenance visit and is to be disposed of in accordance with current and relevant Waste Management Regulations.

3.1.2 Fly Tipping

Fly tipping may occur and it is important this is reported to the client/local authority and removed as soon as possible in order to discourage further incidences and for health and safety reasons.

3.1.3 Narcotics, Solvents, etc.

Narcotic substances, solvents and associated equipment found in landscaped areas are to be removed and disposed of in accordance with current and relevant Hazardous Waste Regulations. Incidents are to be reported to the police or the relevant local authority department.

3.1.3 Cleaning/maintaining furniture & boundary treatments

Site furniture and fittings such as signs are to be cleaned every 2 months or as and when flagged up by the client or at a site inspection. Equipment is to be cleaned with soapy water or low-pressure jet wash in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to keep the surfaces free of dirt and marks. Any graffiti is to be removed with a proprietary cleaning agent in accordance with the furniture manufacturer's recommendations.

If any item requires necessary repair, the appointed Landscape Management Company is to be informed and approval sought from the client/developer.

3.1.5 Maintenance vehicle area / footpaths

Footpaths shall be inspected on a regular basis (3 monthly) to ensure they are kept litter free. Litter removal shall include all rubbish, leaves dust and accumulated grit. Any stains (e.g. Oil spills, graffiti etc.) shall be removed by suitable means avoiding the use of chemicals unless they have environmentally sound credentials.

Ensure surfaces are maintained in a good state of repair, free from potholes and ruts or low areas which hold water. Repair as necessary ensuring that repairs are made using material to match the existing surface.

3.1.6 Site Inspections

A high standard of site management is crucial to the success of the site as a whole, and close co-operation within the management team is essential to fulfil the aims and objective of the management plan. The landscape maintenance provider will be encouraged to be pro-active in managing the site with regular reports provided to the client. These reports should explain current works which may be underway and give deadlines for completion along with identification of any additional works required as detailed. Where required or where there are

significant cost implications for repairs, a dated photo should accompany the report. The scope of this plan does not include litter picking or cleansing of paving/furniture (to be carried out by others), however the landscape site inspections provide an opportunity to highlight any related issues to the client.

3.2 Proposed Soft Landscape Management

3.2.1 Trees generally

The overriding aim is to maintain the healthy appearance of all trees, appropriate to the form and growth habit of the species concerned. Any failed trees should be replaced with like for like species. (Refer to Section 3.7).

At a minimum the following specifications should be considered for all arboricultural works onsite:

An appropriately qualified operative such as Arboriculturalist or Tree Surgeon should be consulted prior to undertaking any major tree works onsite. All work carried out to proposed of existing trees and vegetation is to be to BS 5837:2012 & BS 3998:2010 where appropriate.

- a. Formative tree works are to be undertaken during the winter months, preferably January and February and outside of the bird-breeding season (1st March - 31st July).
- b. Where bat roosts may be present, tree works must be authorised and supervised by an appropriately qualified Ecologist.
- c. Wood under 250 mm diameter collected from thinning, brashing, or coppicing should, wherever possible, be chipped and used on site for mulching, either by blowing directly back into planting areas or by storing on site for future use.
- d. Epicormic growth following works to the crown should be removed where considered to be visually inappropriate.
- e. Watering should be carried out to ensure proper establishment. Additional watering of young trees may be required during periods of drought and should be assessed through site inspections. Particular care should be taken during such periods to ensure sufficient watering is carried out to facilitate healthy growth. Operations are to cease during times of local water restrictions.
- f. Where tree works are required on trees with either bird or bat habitat boxes mounted upon them, all work must be carried out outside bird breeding and bat breeding season and advice must be sought from an appropriately qualified ecologist.

3.2.2 Specimen trees

The mulch layer should be topped up during the first five years of management as required to maintain a minimum depth of 50mm. Between April and September undesirable weeds should be removed by hand weeding. Young trees will require formative pruning to maintain a desirable shape as well as to maintain health and vigour. Where required evenly spread a slow-release fertiliser to enhance tree growth, in accordance with manufactures instructions.

Crown pruning will be required occasionally to ensure the canopy is not too low to injure people or encourage vandalism of low-lying branches. Dead or severely damaged trees should be felled and replaced accordingly.

Watering should be carried out to ensure proper establishment. Regular watering (**Minimum twice per week during the first two years of establishment and monthly thereafter**). Additional watering of young trees may be required during hot spells and periods of drought and should be assessed through site inspections. Particular care should be taken during such periods to ensure sufficient watering is carried out to facilitate healthy growth. Operations are to cease during times of local water restrictions and proposals are to be submitted for an alternative source of water.

Watering to be directly into reservoir around the trees up to the limit of the reservoir. Soil to be checked on a minimum monthly basis to ensure the soil is not fully dry. Soil surrounding the tree many need to be watered more regularly during hot spells and periods of drought.

3.2.3 Wildflower planting

Seeds sown in Autumn tend to show higher diversity of germination in the first Spring, as the harder seed shells are softened throughout Winter by the regular freeze/defrost action. Spring-sown mixes will have a lower germination in the first Year, but after the first Winter, more species should start to germinate (see above).

Everybody involved should be aware that to achieve the best results, the newly sown Wildflower area will need to be cut back every 3 to 4 weeks to around 75-100mm in Year 1, in order to keep grasses under control and to give wildflower the opportunity to concentrate on strong root growth, rather than trying to achieve a flowering bloom when the plants are immature and not strong enough to compete with the more vigorous grasses.

By adhering to the Year 1 maintenance plan, the client should expect little or no flowering for the first Year, but Year 2 and subsequent years will show much better results and be all the better for it.

YEAR 1 – MAINTENANCE

The whole sward should be cut back to around 75mm-100mm every 3 or 4 weeks for the first growing season. Arisings should be collected and removed after each cut, to stop them from mulching down and enriching the soil, as the aim is to gradually reduce fertility of the soil, if possible – this will help to create an environment suitable for growing wildflowers, but with enough to keep grasses going, without giving them too much to grow on.

In September / October, a final cut should be made and the arisings removed. If any wildflowers have flowered and developed seed heads at this stage, the clippings should be left in situ for a few days in order to allow seeds to drop, to facilitate the establishment and enhance future year's wildflowers on the site. Leaving the clippings will also allow any wildlife to clear the area before being taken away.

YEAR 2 (& SUBSEQUENT YEARS) – MAINTENANCE

From Year 2 onwards, the sward can be allowed to grow unchecked throughout the growing season, except in the 1metre wide mowing strip shown on drawing PWP 694 Planting Plan and Schedules as the wildflowers should now be strong enough to cope with some competition from grasses. The mowing strip should be mown at least once per week in the growing season. If the client prefers, a 'tidying' cut may be carried out in early-Spring before the start of the proper growing season, in order just to 'tidy' things up a little, but this isn't a necessary action.

After flowering and after seed heads have dispersed, a final cut of the year should be undertaken to a height of 100mm, usually once in September/October.

Leave arisings for a few days before collecting, to allow any final seeds to dry and fall.

Repeat.

3.2.3.1 Reinstatement to wildflower areas

In order to maintain a pleasant environment, all damaged wildflower seeding areas should be reinstated. This should involve grading out to existing levels and removing large stones, raking to obtain tilth suitable for seed sowing, applying wildflower seed evenly by hand and lightly raking in. The surface is then be consolidated by use of a light roller. Wildflower seed specification is to match the schedule on drawing number PWP 694 010 Planting Plan and Schedules

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Care and consideration towards visiting members of public shall be taken whilst carrying out the grass cutting operation. Care shall be taken whilst working near parked cars. Whilst the above operation is taking place, appropriate signage should be in place to ensure members of the public are aware of the operation taking place.

All necessary preliminary inspections of the areas should be undertaken prior to each cutting operation, removing isolated items of obstruction which might damage machines or create a possible hazard to persons or property and carry out a litter picking operation prior to each cut. Litter, debris and stones larger than 25mm in any dimension and all rubbish to be removed before mowing.

Any bramble and ivy growth will be monitored, and excessive growth is to be removed as necessary to prevent stifling of the ground flora.

Reinstate all damaged and worn areas to original specification, with soil levels being tied to existing levels and then re-seeded/wildflower plug planted.

Provide protection and watering as necessary to promote successful establishment. Plug planting of replacement plants if dead plants create significant gaps in planted area. Spot treat undesirable weed growth (such as docks and thistles) in all grassed areas. Weed control should be generally managed by hand weeding ensuring the weed and roots are entirely removed. Spot treatment with glyphosate to minimise encroachment if necessary.

3.2.3.2 Edging to Grassed Areas

The margins of wildflower areas should be trimmed with a half-moon edging iron, or mechanical equivalent, to clean straight lines or smooth curves. Regular checks to timber edging to be carried out twice per year. Any damaged timber (edging or fixing stakes) to be replaced with similar specification materials. Refer to drawing PWP 694 200 Typical Soft Landscape Details for further information.

Where this operation is required to the paved margins of grass areas, the soil should not be drawn back as this operation is merely to redefine the hard edge. All arisings, including any soil and vegetation growing on the hard surface should be removed.

3.2.4 Ornamental grasses

For the management of the ornamental grass beds, the approach should focus on maintaining a neat and tidy appearance, which will also encourage 'free form' (naturalistic) plant growth. Any failed plants should be replaced as necessary using like for like species as specified. In the first year this will be the responsibility of the incumbent contractor.

Within the first three to five years of establishment, mulch should be laid around the base of all young plants and be maintained to a minimum depth of 50mm. Between April and

September frequent inspections of these areas should be undertaken, removing weeds wherever necessary by hand pulling to assist the successful establishment of plants. Herbicides **should not** be used to control weed/plant growth.

Ornamental Grasses – **Deciduous**. Throughout winter months, comb through by hand to remove any loose dead foliage, preserving the leaves and seed heads for visual interest. Gloves should be worn as leaves can be sharp. In early March cut back by hand any individual dead foliage and old flowered stems to 10-15cm from the ground, avoiding cutting any new green growth.

Ornamental Grasses – **Evergreen**. Prune as necessary to retain desired form. In Feb/March carefully hand rake old foliage / seed heads. If plant is looking messy with mostly dead foliage cut back to 10cm from soil.

General Operations – If mostly dead foliage or plants are beginning to look messy, cut them back in late winter (Jan / Feb) to 10cm from soil. Avoid cutting any new season growth. All arisings to be collected and removed from site.

Whilst carrying out pruning works, care should be taken to ensure members of the public are aware of the operation taking place. Warning signs and cones shall be placed to protect members of the public gaining entry into the working area.

Watering should be carried out to ensure proper establishment. New planting shall be watered regularly for the first three (3) years during June, July, August and September as necessary, on agreement with the Landscape Architect and Client. Additional watering of planting might be required during hot spells and periods of drought. Particular care should be taken during such periods to ensure sufficient watering is carried out to facilitate healthy growth. It is recommended that each planting bed is watered [until the full depth of topsoil is wet] weekly for the first year of establishment during the growing season.

Replace all failures in accordance with clause 3.7.

3.2.5 Herbaceous Plant Material

Herbaceous – **Deciduous**. Early March (or when conditions are optimal – No later than mid April) cut back to ground level, avoiding any new green shoots. Can be cut back earlier in winter / late autumn if form is becoming untidy. Apply generous mulch to base of plant following cut back.

Remove arisings from site.

Herbaceous – **Evergreen**. Prune as required to maintain a good shape and health. Cut back old and damaged foliage in early March before flowers and new foliage appear. Apply generous mulch to base of plant following cut back.

General Operations-- If mostly dead foliage or plants are beginning to look messy, cut them back in late winter (Jan / Feb) to 5-10cm from soil. Avoid cutting any new season growth. All arisings to be collected and removed from site.

Whilst carrying out pruning works, care should be taken to ensure members of the public are aware of the operation taking place. Warning signs and cones shall be placed to protect members of the public gaining entry into the working area.

Watering should be carried out to ensure proper establishment. New planting shall be watered regularly for the first three (3) years during June, July, August and September as necessary, on agreement with the Landscape Architect and Client. Additional watering of

planting might be required during hot spells and periods of drought. Particular care should be taken during such periods to ensure sufficient watering is carried out to facilitate healthy growth. It is recommended that each planting bed is watered [until the full depth of topsoil is wet] weekly for the first year of establishment during the growing season.

Replace all failures in accordance with clause 3.7

3.2.6 Shrub Planting

Shrubs – **Deciduous**. Prune as required to maintain a good shape and health. With exception for *Cornus* species as below.

***Cornus alba Sibirica* and *Cornus sanguinea* ‘Midwinter Fire’**

Cornus species to be allowed to grow to a healthy optimum height of 1.2-1.5m for two full growing seasons. Thereafter plants should be pruned in to allow the stems to show. Prune from late March to mid-April, just as the new growth is developing.

- In the second or third spring, cut back to 60cm from the ground
- Pinch or thin out sideshoots to encourage further branching
- In subsequent years, cut back every two years to the previous stubs

Shrubs – **Evergreen**. Prune as required to maintain a good shape and health.

General Operations-- If mostly dead foliage or if plants are beginning to look misshapen, cut them back in late winter (Jan / Feb) See clause 3.3.

Whilst carrying out pruning works, care should be taken to ensure members of the public are aware of the operation taking place. Warning signs and cones shall be placed to protect members of the public gaining entry into the working area.

Watering should be carried out to ensure proper establishment. New planting shall be watered regularly for the first three (3) years during June, July, August and September as necessary, on agreement with the Landscape Architect and Client. Additional watering of planting might be required during hot spells and periods of drought. Particular care should be taken during such periods to ensure sufficient watering is carried out to facilitate healthy growth. It is recommended that each planting bed is watered [until the full depth of topsoil is wet] weekly for the first year of establishment during the growing season.

3.3 Pruning

All pruning work, whether on newly planted material or existing vegetation, shall be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 where applicable and appropriate permission sought from the LPA. Pruning and removal of branches shall be carried out using sharp, clean implements to give a clean cut with one flat face. Resultant wounds, over 20mm in diameter, shall be treated with approved fungicidal sealant.

All pruning of trees shall be carried out between November and March inclusive, where the following operations shall be carried out:

- All diseased tissues and any dieback shall be pruned to the nearest bud with clean wood.
- The removal of unsightly 'water shoots' and epicormic growth from standard, selected standard, heavy standard and extra heavy standard trees.
- Formative pruning to remove branches that cross, are damaged or have malformed shoots, to maintain a balanced tree crown.

Broken and vandalised branches shall be cut back to the next joint, removing splinter wood, and treated with an approved sealant. If the tree, in the opinion of the Landscape Architect, is beyond pruning, it shall be removed by the Contractor and the ground made good.

Suitable logs / brash arising from tree pruning operations shall be retained on site in habitat piles in suitable locations as agreed with the consultant Landscape Architect / LPA, ecologist or Client. Where agreed with the aforementioned, arisings from pruning work may be chipped on site and the resultant chippings used as mulch in the areas of new tree and shrub planting.

3.4 Ecological Enhancements & Management

(Refer to A635 ES10 Construction Ecological Management Plan by Wildscapes for further detail)

3.4.1 Objectives

To protect, maintain, and enhance the ecological value of the site as set out in section 2.1 and 2.2.

3.4.2 Planting

Wildflower planting

Meadow planting to be subject to reduced/relaxed maintenance in accordance with 3.2.3 Care to be taken to ensure protected species are not present when maintenance is carried out.

Trees, Shrubs & Herbaceous planting

In order to comply with UK legislation in regard to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), any tree or vegetation removal and/or management must take place outside of the bird nesting season (March to September inclusive). Where this cannot be achieved, nesting bird checks must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist within 24 hours of the works.

Cut vegetation to be immediately removed following maintenance and not left piled up which would create further refugia for these species. Some of this material can be used elsewhere in the creation of the habitat homes.

3.5 Monitoring

Simple monitoring reports against key measures should be submitted by the incumbent landscape maintenance provider to the client on an annual basis, together with relevant financial information.

The client should look to make periodic inspections of this site as follows:

- An annual site meeting and review with the management team.
- Formal site inspections with the management team
- Ad hoc unannounced inspections to be made as frequently as possible to review condition of landscape.

The results of all of the above should be documented and any issues raised in writing.

3.6 Health & Safety and Legislation

For all landscape management activities that take place, a risk and method statement shall be produced. Copies of these shall be readily available in each team's vehicle attending site. COSHH assessments shall be completed for all herbicides, fertilisers. Copies shall be again submitted to the Maintenance surveyor. High visibility waistcoats shall be worn at all times.

Vehicles and trailers shall be parked in the designated off-street maintenance bay only, so as not to cause parking issues. No machinery shall be left unattended at any time. All machinery shall be in a serviceable condition and be fit for its purpose.

All defective and vandalised areas shall be reported immediately. Areas that may cause harm shall be coned off and made safe.

All relevant legislation should be adhered to whilst carrying out management works with particular attention paid to the following:

- Control Of Pesticide Regulations 1986
 - Health And Safety At Works Act 1974 .
 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- Control Of Substances, Hazardous To Health

3.7 Planting Replacement Strategy

The applicant commits to ensuring a replacement strategy within a period of five years from the date of the planting of all proposed soft landscape. Any that are removed, uprooted or destroyed or dies, or becomes seriously damaged or defective within the five year period will be replaced with another tree/grass/shrub of the same species and size as that originally planted and shall be planted in the same location. This will be carried out as soon as reasonably possible and no later than the first available planting season.