

SF 2653 | MCDONALDS BARNLEY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

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REVISION A

SMEEEDEN FOREMAN

Landscape Architects ■ Urban Designers ■ Ecologists ■ Arboriculturists

Document check sheet

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Smeeden Foreman Limited has been commissioned by McDonalds Restaurants Limited to provide a Landscape and Habitat Management Plan in regards to their site off Upper New Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (central grid reference SE 34566 05975), hereafter referred to as the 'site'.

This report is based on the findings of the Phase 1 Habitat Survey (ref SF2653, March 2017) and development proposals (drawing ref: 6635_AEW_8543_0016B_Landscape Plan produced by AEW, appended).

This report will address the following details:

- A brief description of the site and its surroundings;
- A summary of the proposed planting and habitat creation associated with the redevelopment of the site;
- Mitigation specifications to be included within the development proposals for bats and birds;
- A habitat management plan including a description of the management aims and objectives for the site along with a schedule of operations to achieve these aims for five years post construction, following the initial planting/completion of the development.

The proposed development area is shown in Figure 01 below.



Figure 01: Proposed development site boundary.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located within an urban area on the outskirts of Barnsley town centre. It occupies an area of approximately 0.5 hectares and comprises two buildings, hard standing with marginal vegetation, amenity grassland, trees and shrubs. The site is bound to the north by John Street; to the east by Burleigh Street; to the south by Thomas Street; and, to the west by Upper New Street. Habitats to the north and west of the site comprise a dense urban predominantly commercial area which is likely to receive heavy volumes of traffic and be well illuminated overnight. To the south and east of the site is a mainly residential area which contains areas of green space, larger trees, will receive less traffic and be less illuminated overnight. Refer to Figure 01.

Proposals for the site comprise a single restaurant building with associated road infrastructure, car parking, cycle shelter, service yards and hard and soft landscaping. The landscaped areas are included within the management plan. Following the implementation of the proposals the development will therefore consist of the following ornamental and semi-natural planting types:

- Wildflower grassland
- Turf seeding

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

There are three elements to the landscape and ecological mitigation/enhancement measures included within the development:

- Wildflower grassland
- Bat box installation
- Bird box installation

The management of these elements is intended to fulfil the following aims and objectives:

- Deliver and maintain the approved scheme;
- Integrate the development with its surroundings;
- Provide a pleasant environment within the development;
- Contribute to the biodiversity/ecological potential of the area.

These aims and objectives will be achieved through the strategies described in section 4.0 and implemented by the management operations in section 5.0.

4.0 STRATEGY

4.1 Wildflower grassland seeding

An area along the western site boundary will be seeded with a wildflower mix. The aim will be for this area to be visually attractive, botanically diverse, invertebrate rich and to increase wildlife value by providing structurally varied habitat. The wildflower mix specified is Emorsgate Wildflower Seed Mix comprising thirteen species: Lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, birdsfoot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, cowslip *Primula veris*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, wild red clover *Trifolium pratense*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, crested dogstail *Cynosurus cristatus*, slender-creeping red fescue *Festuca rubra* and smaller cat's-tail *Phleum bertolonii*.

The wildflower grassland area will be managed through cutting, with 4 to 5 cuts taken within the first year it is seeded. First cut will be taken in March/April or May if seeded in spring. The sward will be cut to 50cm every two months with a final cut taken in September/October.

Long term management of the grassland following the first year cutting regime will involve taking a cut in early spring (to reduce grass competition) and late summer, once wildflowers have gone over and dropped their seed.

Following all cuts arisings should be removed from site to avoid build-up of nutrients.

4.2 Bird box installation

Bird boxes are proposed to be incorporated within the proposed development site, to be installed onto a proposed retaining wall to the south-east of the site, ideally away from proposed lighting so they are not illuminated during night-time. The retaining wall will be approximately 3.75m in height. 'Wood-crete' (a wood sawdust, concrete and clay mixture)

boxes have been recommended as these are more durable and long-lasting, as opposed to the more temporary traditional wooden boxes.

Table 01: Bird box specifications

BOX 1		
Model	Bird Home 1MR	
Number	3	
Make	Schwegler	
	Ideal for small hole nesting birds such as tit species, great tit, blue tit and coal tit and sparrows such as house sparrow.	
Installation	Fixing height is between 1.5 and 5 metres above the ground, positioned out of direct sunlight Will be installed on the retaining wall to face north and east. Supplied with screw hook with universal wall plug.	
Dimensions	W19 x H 27 x D 23 cm.	
Cleaning	Cleaning should take place outside the breeding season, (March – August, inclusive). To clean the bird home remove the front panel. After turning the bottom locking screw 180°, pull the front panel downwards.	

4.3 Bat box installation

Bat boxes are proposed to be incorporated within the proposed development site, to be installed onto a proposed retaining wall to the south-east of the site, ideally away from proposed lighting so they are not illuminated during night-time. The retaining wall will be approximately 3.75m in height. 'Wood-crete' (a wood sawdust, concrete and clay mixture) boxes have been recommended as these are more durable and long-lasting, as opposed to the more temporary traditional wooden boxes. Bat boxes are to be periodically inspected every five years by a licensed bat worker to assess usage by bats.

Table 02: Bat box specifications

BOX 2					
Model	Flat Bat Box 1FF				
Number	1				
Make	Schwegler				
Installation	This box is suitable for crevice roosting bat species.				
	The box will be installed at the top of the retaining wall at approximately 3.75m positioned to face south-east. The box comes supplied with a hanger and aluminium nail.				
Dimensions	W 27 x H 43 x D 14 cm.				
Cleaning	No cleaning is required as it is open at the bottom so any droppings, if occupies will drop out the bottom. If any maintenance is required this should be undertaken by a licensed bat surveyor due to the legislation afforded to bats in regards to their disturbance.				

5.0 MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

5.1 Programme and notification

The Contractor shall carry out management operations at suitable times and in suitable weather conditions, with a minimum of one visit per month (a visit being of such duration as to enable all works required at that time to be completed).

The Contractor is required to produce a programme of intended management operations for approval on a yearly basis, at the beginning of each year of the contract.

The Contractor shall notify the Contract Supervisor before his intention to carry out any of the management operations in order that the work can be checked and approved if necessary.

5.2 Annual monitoring and review

An annual site walkover by a suitably qualified ecologist will be undertaken to monitor the site to assess the establishment of proposed habitats and suggest remediation works or alterations to the programme where required to ensure that the habitats develop as intended and to allow adaptation of the management plan to incorporate unforeseen but beneficial changes as the habitats develop.

This visit will make note of any ecological trends to inform any additional management recommendations which may be needed and allow for recommendations of alternative management methods if the aims and objectives of the management plan are not being met.

5.3 General maintenance of planted areas

Management and maintenance shall cover the following operations described in detail in the following sections:

- Wildflower grassland cutting and control of pernicious weeds;
- Watering;
- Keeping all areas litter free;
- Bat and bird box inspections.

5.4 Wildflower grassland cutting

5.12.1 First year

Wildflower areas should be cut 4/5 times to reduce competition from grasses and control weeds. Cut to a height of 50mm every two months. All cut material to be removed to reduce nutrient build up and smothering.

For Autumn sowing: first cut to be March/April - final cut to be September/October.

For Spring sowing: first cut to be May – final cut to be September/October.

5.12.2 Subsequent years

Wildflower areas shall be cut twice a year in early spring (to reduce grass competition) and late summer (timing approximate to allow plants to set seed). All cuttings are to be collected and removed from site to contractor's tip, to avoid a build up in soil fertility.

5.12.3 General

Vegetation shall be cut in the direction of unaffected sections of grassland habitat. The cut shall also be made as high as possible (150mm) and a strimmer or brushcutter shall be used.

Selective/spot weeding is to be undertaken by hand or herbicide weed-wipe or similar spot applicator to remove aggressive/invading weed species, whenever required.

5.5 Litter collection

All grassed areas shall be kept clear of litter and rubbish at all times. An annual check should be undertaken for any fly tipped waste which should be removed as required.

5.6 Bird boxes

Cleaning of bird boxes is advised but not essential. Clean out nest boxes annually in November/December if required. Remove old nesting materials and dispose of any unhatched eggs as necessary. If required, the barn owl box would be cleaned out by a licensed barn owl worker due to the protection afforded to this species.

5.7 Bat boxes

Periodic inspection of bat boxes to be undertaken by a licensed bat worker on a five yearly basis. Boxes may be cleaned out during inspection if required and box found unoccupied. Inspection/cleaning should be undertaken in April or October to minimise potential disturbance to bats should they be occupied. No other maintenance is required.

6.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility for the implementation of the management plan will lie with the site occupier, McDonalds Restaurants Limited.

Table 03: Management operations – years 1-3

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Wildflower grassland (Year 1)				Cut to 50mm to suppress pernicious weeds. Cuttings to be removed from site.		Cut to 50mm to suppress pernicious weeds. Cuttings to be removed from site.		Cut to 50mm to suppress pernicious weeds. Cuttings to be removed from site.		Cut to 50mm to suppress pernicious weeds. Cuttings to be removed from site.			
Wildflower grassland (year 2-3)				Early season cut to suppress pernicious weeds. Cuttings to be removed from site.				Cut following seed set to 150mm. Cuttings to be removed from site.					
Watering				As required.									
Litter	Annual checks for the removal of any flytipped waste.			Removal of litter during general maintenance visits.									
Bat boxes	No maintenance required.												
Bird boxes											Cleaning advised but not essential		

Table 04: Management operations – years 4-5

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wildflower grassland (year 4-5)				Early season cut to suppress pernicious weeds. Cuttings to be removed from site.				Cut following seed set to 150mm. Cuttings to be removed from site.				
Watering				As required.								
Litter	Annual checks for the removal of any flytipped waste.			Removal of litter during general maintenance visits.								
Bat boxes (year 5)				Periodic inspection by licenced bat worker. (April OR October)						Periodic inspection by licenced bat worker. (April OR October)		
Bird boxes										Cleaning advised but not essential		

Table 05: Management operations – post year 5

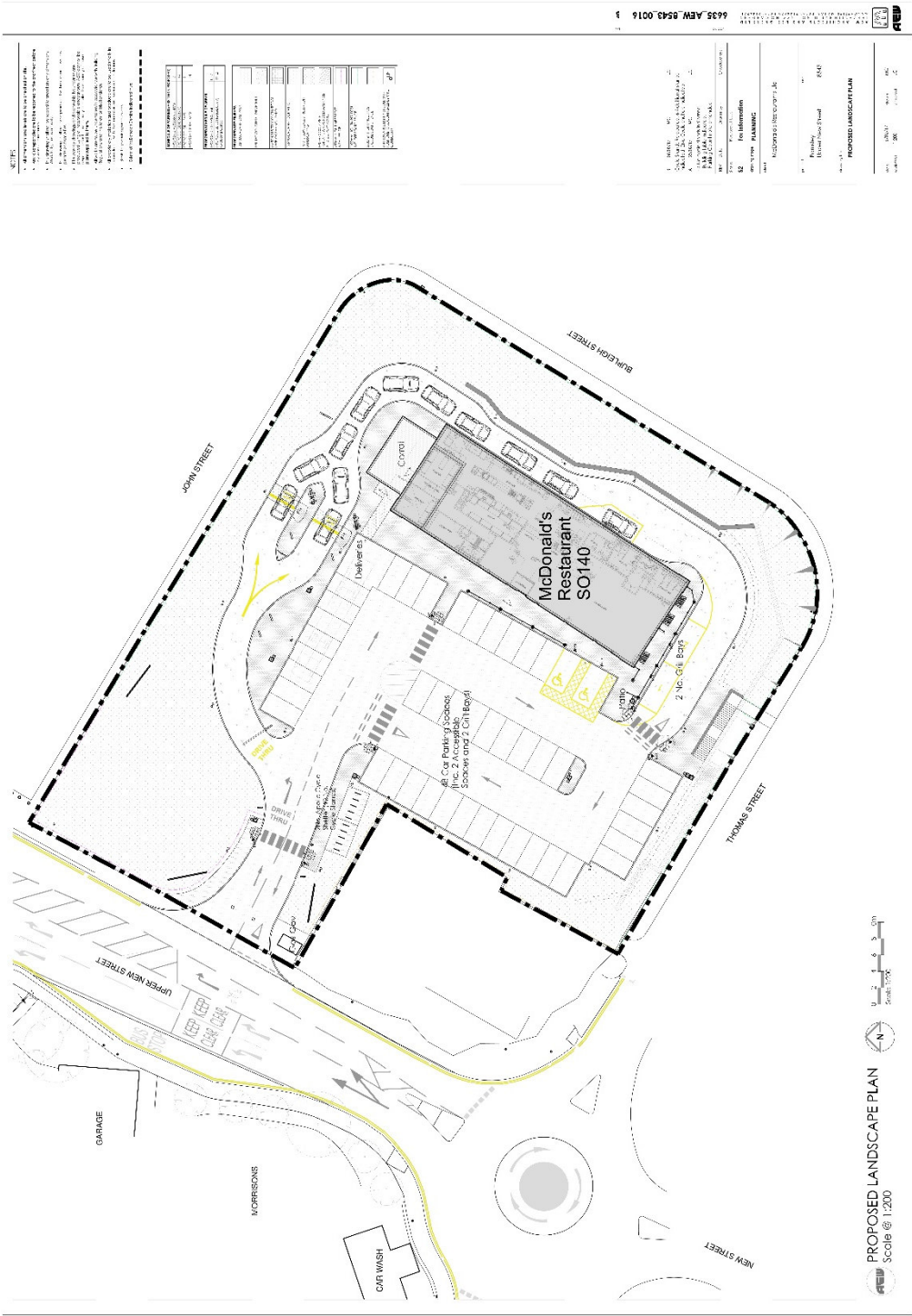
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wildflower grassland				Early season cut to suppress pernicious weeds. Cuttings to be removed from site.				Cut following seed set to 150mm. Cuttings to be removed from site.				
Litter	Annual checks for the removal of any flytipped waste.			Removal of litter during general maintenance visits.								
Bat boxes (at 5 year intervals)				Periodic inspection by licenced bat worker. (April OR October)						Periodic inspection by licenced bat worker. (April OR October)		
Bird boxes											Cleaning advised but not essential	

APPENDICES

Appendix 01: Proposals Plan

Appendix 02: Legislation Notes: Protected Species

Appendix 01: Proposals Plan (drawing ref: 6635_AEW_8543_0016B_Landscape Plan)



Appendix 02: Legislation Notes: Protected Species

Bats

Bats and their roosts are afforded full legal protection under both UK and European legislation. The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended, 2017) transpose the Habitats Directive into UK law, making it an offence to-

- deliberately disturb a bat
- deliberately kill, injure or capture a bat
- damage, destroy or obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place (note this applies to both deliberate and reckless actions).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (Schedule 5) made it an offence to

- intentionally kill, injure or take a bat
- damage, destroy or obstruct a bat roost *
- disturb a bat at a roost *
- possess or control a bat or any part thereof
- sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for sale any bat or part thereof
- set traps for catching, killing or injuring bats
- possess articles for the purposes of committing offences against bats

[*= intentional and reckless offences covered]

This protection applies whether bats are present within the roost at the time or not.

Breeding birds

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) gives protection to all bird's nests (whilst being built or in use) and eggs from intentional damage or destruction. Additional protection against disturbance on the nest or of dependant young is provided for birds included on Schedule 1.