



Blacker Green Lane

Landscape management plan

October 2017

BLACKER GREEN LANE

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Introduction.

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a dwelling on land off Blacker Green Lane, Silkstone in December 2016 (Planning ref 2016/0538). As part of the permission the Decision Notice identifies a series of conditions. This document has been prepared to address condition 14, repeated below.

A landscape management plan, including long term design objectives, management responsibilities and maintenance schedules for all landscape areas for a minimum of 5 years, 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 management plan shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plan.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality, in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CSP 29.

Aims and objectives for the site generally will be set out, then objectives for each landscape sub-type within the design. An outline Maintenance Schedule of operations is then provided. The Plan should be read in conjunction with the Landscape Details shown on dwg no E/S/441/5.

2. Overall Vision

2.1. Existing landscape

The site is located within the Lindley Dike valley flowing from a high ridge to the south west, in a north-easterly direction towards Silkstone then beyond to the River Dearne. The stream has been damned to form a small mill pond, Blacker Dam, in the valley bottom. The proposals site is at the north-eastern end of the dam above the mill-race, on land that was probably built-up to accommodate car parking and tennis courts in earlier years. The site itself is an approximately level area sitting above a steep slope running down to the beck. The beck and associated wooded valley sides run around the southern and eastern parts of the site. This mature woodland around the site is part of extensive mature woodland along the valley bottom extending north and south of the site. The woodland also runs around the eastern boundary of the houses on Blacker Green Lane immediately north of the proposals site. The area of the former car park is partially bare but mostly grassland forming a clearing within this woodland setting.

The surrounding area consists of a variety of habitats including pasture grassland, arable and woodland with the built environment (residential) further afield. The broadleaved mixed woodland and stream are UK Priority Habitats.

2.2. Description of improvements.

The preparation of landscape proposals for the site was informed by a Preliminary Ecological Site Appraisal, (Middleton Ecological Consultancy Oct 2016); a Arboricultural Implication Assessment (Tree Care Company July 2016); and a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (CF Landscape Feb 2016). These documents have been used further in preparation of this Landscape Management Plan.

The following elements are proposed

- A species rich hay meadow will be created on the open area of the site.
- A permeable grass grid sown with a grass and wildflower mix will be used for vehicle access.
- The shrubby component of the rather leggy hedgerow along Blacker Green Lane will be cut back to encourage denser growth. All holly within the hedge and selected trees will be retained un-pruned to enhance visual screening of the site. A dead tree at the end of the hedgerow will remain for reasons of biodiversity.
- The area of spindly saplings in the northern part of the site will be selectively thinned to encourage development towards broadleaved mixed woodland. Small groups of more varied tree, shrub and groundflora species will be planted within gaps created.
- Four Schwegler bat boxes will be erected on trees along the woodland edge to take advantage of the adjacent good foraging habitat for bats.

2.3. Overall aims

- a. To create a hay meadow within a glade in the existing woodland. To include the access road for the dwelling.
- b. To strengthen and develop a strong hedgerow with hedgerow trees along Blacker Green Lane
- c. To encourage development of the self-set, spindly trees near the northern boundary towards woodland

3. Objectives for Landscape Elements

Sub-divisions of the landscape have been identified to aid with management proposals. Specific objectives for each sub-division are outlined below. (The sub-divisions are annotated on dwg no E/S/441/5)

3.1. *Young Woodland*

- To develop a Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat of oak climax woodland, with shrub and herbaceous layers, and to form links with the valley bottom woodland.
- To create a varied age and physical structure to the woodland by creating glades to bring light to the woodland floor and thus encourage the natural regeneration of trees, shrubs and ground flora.
- To increase species diversity and encourage development of a shrub layer by planting of small groups of oak, lime, holly, field maple, crab apple, rowan bird cherry, dog rose, hazel and guelder rose.
- To increase species diversity in the field layer by planting small groups of plug plants of bluebell, wood anemone, lesser celandine, dog violet, wild garlic, red campion, primrose and foxglove.
- To prevent the dominance of undesirable species such as sycamore or bramble growth by selective removal.
- To ensure continued development of woodland by means of establishing a thinning programme.

3.2. *Wildflower grassland.*

- To provide a Species Rich Hay Meadow Priority Habitat by means of an annual or twice yearly mowing regime removing cuttings, to allow existing plants to flower and set seed and progressively reduce fertility.

3.3. *Blacker Lane Hedgerow*

- To develop physical and visual structure between the property and Blacker Green Lane.
- To enhance the current linear structure forming a wildlife corridor, as well as providing a food source and shelter for birds, bats, other small mammals and invertebrates.
- To ensure a dense hedgerow typical of the locality, an A-shaped hedge of 1.5-2.5m height, 1.5-2m wide at the base tapering to 0.5-1m wide at the top, within the first

five years. To be achieved by selective cutting of hedgerow trees and regular trimming of the hedgerow. (Trimming to take place in February allowing winter cover and food sources for birds and mammals.)

4. Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for management of the whole site will lie with the landowner.

5. Monitoring and Review

The site will be reviewed regularly to monitor its progress. An annual report will be produced outlining the progress towards the objectives and providing a detailed Maintenance Schedule for the following year. Consideration of the appropriateness of the aims and objectives will also be reviewed in the light of any changes to the site or its immediate surroundings. This report will be finalised in March of each year, after completion of the previous year's maintenance and in time to organise the following year's maintenance operations, starting in spring. Basic botanical information will be recorded at the appropriate season, in year 1 prior to the start of any landscape management, then every 3-5 years thereafter. The results will be utilised in the annual report.

- o A minimum of one site inspections per year will be undertaken to
- o Assess effectiveness and progress of management measures
- o to consider mowing regimes for grass areas.
- o to consider thinning or coppicing or new planting within the woodland.
- o To assess hedgerow pruning requirements

Land off Blacker Green Lane, Silkstone.
Landscape Management Plan
Maintenance schedule

October 2017

Item	Description	Frequency	Timing
	The following is an outline of likely maintenance operations. A detailed programme and schedule of operations will be prepared at the beginning of each year (March), following a site inspection in September and production of an annual review of the site and its progress towards attaining the objectives set out in the management plan. Young Woodland on northern boundary <i>Establishment of new planting of trees and shrubs in gaps within woodland for five years after planting.</i> 1 Apply spring fertiliser 2 Keep area at base of each tree free from weeds 3 Keep in firm upright position 4 Remove shelters and guards 5 Assess woodland cover. Thin poor specimens or clear small glades. Plant some gaps with trees and shrubs. 6 Plant wildflower plugs in gaps and along edges. glades. Plant some gaps with trees and shrubs. 7 Cut back one third of shrub species to 150-300mm ht on a five year cycle. 8 Assess woodland cover, species and age mix. Thin poor, or less desirable trees and shrubs. Standard trees <i>Establishment for five years after planting</i> 9 Apply spring fertiliser 10 Keep area at base of each tree free from weeds 11 Keep in firm upright position 12 Adjust tree ties 13 Remove stakes and guards Hedgerow- Blacker Green Lane 14 Trim top and sides to created a 1.5 to 2.5m high hedge with an a-shape profile tapering from a 1.5m wide base to a 0.6m wide top Wildflower meadow <i>Establishment, year one.</i> 15 Mow to approx 75mm height. 16 Spot treat any noxious weeds, scrub or undesirable species with translocated herbicide. 17 Mow to approx 75mm height. Leave cuttings for seven days then rake up into grass heaps. Grass heaps to be located at the base of hegerow and boundaries. 18 Spot treat any noxious weeds, scrub or undesirable species with translocated herbicide. Bat boxes 19 Inspect annually for damage, repair and refit as necessary. 20 Monitor for use.	Annually Years 1-3 3 x per year, years 1-5 3 times per year Year 5 Once every 2 years Once every 5 years Once every 5 years Once every 7 years Annually Years 1-3 3 x per year, years 1-5 3 times per year Annually years 1-5 Year 5 Once every 2 years 4 times As needed Annually years 2-5 and thereafter Twice per year, as needed Annually Annually	spring throughout growing season throughout year spring Years 3 and 5 Winter Year 6 and every 5 years thereafter, March. Year 5 and every 5 years thereafter, winter Year 5 and every 7 years thereafter, winter spring throughout growing season throughout year spring spring February throughout growing season throughout growing season Late Aug May, July late summer spring