

Planting  
Management Plan

Jack's Pill, Newport

Prepared for Hedyn  
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### Drawings:

The following document relates to this Management Plan:  
Planting Plan at 1:250 scale, Catherine Etchell Associates  
Dwg No. 538.03

### Contract Administrator contact details

tbc



## 1. Summary

The aim of this Management Plan is to promote the establishment of grassland, trees and hedges in a way which maximises biodiversity, maintains the wildlife corridors running through and around the site, whilst permitting recreation, and achieving a visual appearance appropriate to an urban residential area on the edge of the Usk river corridor.

At the end of each 5 year period a review will be undertaken prior to extending contract for a further 5 years

### CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION (tbc)

Contract Administrator (CA) contact details tbc

- The Landscape Contractor will be responsible for managing landscape areas until handover. Thereafter the Management Company will be responsible.
- SUDS rain gardens and attenuation will be managed by the Management Company on behalf of the SAB
- The Management Company will be responsible for all replacement planting for the first 5 year period following planting.

The site to be maintained consists of the following areas,

1. Communal Open Space to include wild flower grassland, bulb planting, trees, hedges and ornamental shrub and perennial planting,
2. Rain gardens and bio retention areas with a mix of perennial and shrub planting and trees
3. Underplanted tree avenues with hedges along site perimeters

### Objectives of the Management include:

- Promote healthy tree growth;
- Establish under planting which provides shelter, food and movement corridor for local fauna;
- Provide connectivity between the site and existing established planting along Usk Way and the river frontage;
- Provide visual softening of the proposed development;
- Promote speedy establishment of new trees, shrubs and grass sward to maintain a visually acceptable appearance appropriate to a residential area and to contribute to the overall ecological value;
- Encourage ecological diversity by correctly timing management operations e.g. cutting hedges outside bird nesting season;
- Use manual rather than chemical techniques for vegetation manipulation, and allowance of natural development of vegetation in particular ground flora underneath hedges and trees, where appropriate;

- Allow accessibility and informal use by the community to promote social cohesion, health and recreation;
- Provide a safe environment for individuals and families to enjoy.

### Required Maintenance Operations include:

- Grass and wildflower cutting and removal of arisings;
- Litter clearance;
- Watering;
- Control of insects, fungus and other diseases;
- Control of weeds including knotweed and reporting of same;
- Pruning/coppicing/thinning and hedge trimming;
- Refirming, mulching and other operations necessary for proper growth.
- Fertilising;
- Reforming grass edges;
- Adjustment of tree guys/stakes and ties;
- Visual check of existing mature trees with annual arboricultural inspection;
- Hedge cutting;
- Replacement planting;
- Reporting of condition of surfaces to CA for instruction and repair.

All operations are to be carried out at a time appropriate for wildlife and for planting, as detailed below.

The Contractor shall inspect all areas each time before commencing maintenance to ensure there are no visible hazards likely to cause injury to the public, and shall report such hazards immediately to the Contract Administrator.

The Contractor shall provide necessary barriers and notices around works where public protection is deemed to be required. Safe alternative routes must be provided where public access is affected.

Note that any conflict between the Management Plan and what is on the ground should be referred to the Contract Administrator

## 2.0 Number of visits to site

Sufficient visits must be made to site over the five year maintenance period and at the appropriate time in order to achieve the standard of maintenance described. Initially, a minimum of 26 maintenance visits will be required per year, reducing to 18no., with additional visits during drought or after strong winds or other disturbances.

## 3.0 Health & Safety Legislation

All operations must comply with relevant and current sections of the following legislation:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974;
- Control of Pollution Act 1974;
- Food and Environment Protection Act 1985;
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; in particular Schedule 9 Section 14 makes it an offence for anyone to knowingly introduce Japanese Knotweed into the wild.
- The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986; these regulations require all those who handle or use pesticides (including herbicides) to hold approved Certificates of Competence. Only approved pesticides as covered under this Act may be used.
- The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991; these regulations require all producers, carriers and disposers of waste to follow a Code of Practice and keep records. Any material contaminated with Japanese Knotweed is a 'waste' unless treated for re-use.
- The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981;
- Current guidance notes produced by the Health and Safety Executive with respect to safe working practices.

Identified risk for this site: Working in areas used by public for walking cycling and general recreation and adjacent to dual carriageway.

Lone working will not be permitted.

## 4.0 Schedule of Operations

**SHORT TERM MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS**  
TO BE READ WITH MANAGEMENT PLAN above

|     | MOWING TURF AREAS | MOWING GRASS LOW MNANCE | FERTILISING TURF AREAS | CHECK TREE GUYS, STAKES | REFIRMING   | CUT BACK BRAMBLE  | HEDGE TRIMMING | PRUNING | REMEDIAL PLANTING | SWEEP LEAF FALL | WATERING    | WEEDING     |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
|     |                   |                         |                        | Each visit              | As required | where encroaching |                |         |                   |                 | As required | As required |
| APR | 2x                |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 | 2x          |             |
| MAY | 2x                |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 | 4x          |             |
| JUN | 4x                |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 | 4x          |             |
| JUL | 4x                |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 | 4x          |             |
| AUG | 2x                |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 | 4x          |             |
| SEP | 4x                |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 | 2x          |             |
| OCT | 2x                | 1x                      | 1x                     |                         |             |                   | 1x             |         |                   |                 | 1x          |             |
| NOV |                   |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 |             |             |
| DEC |                   |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 |             |             |
| JAN |                   |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 |             |             |
| FEB |                   |                         |                        |                         |             |                   |                |         |                   |                 |             |             |
| MAR | 1x                |                         | 1x                     |                         |             |                   | 1x             |         |                   |                 | 2x          |             |

## 5.0 Detailed Maintenance Prescriptions

Note that any conflict between the Management Plan and what is on the ground should be referred to the Contract Administrator

### 5.1 Generally

#### REINSTATEMENT

Reinstate disturbance to soil structure, planting or grass to original condition.

#### CONTROL OF PESTS

Combat any attack by mammals/fungus/insect/other pests.

Submit proposals for treatment to CA for approval

#### WATERING

Supply: Potable mains water.

Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.

Application: Do not damage or loosen plants.

Compacted soil: Loosen or scoop out, to direct water to root zone.

Frequency: as often as necessary to maintain healthy plant growth.

#### DISPOSAL OF ARISING

Refer to s.5.9 below for compostable material. Excess material to be removed to local authority compost point; location to be agreed (note that knotweed shall be removed to licensed tip) unless otherwise instructed.

#### LITTER/TIPPED MATERIALS

Collect and remove from site at each visit, and a minimum of once per month, to licensed tip.

#### INVASIVE SCRUB

Cut down to ground level and dig out roots.

#### INVASIVE SPECIES

Emergence of Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam or other invasive species to be reported to CA. A method statement for treatment to be submitted to CA for approval.

Note that Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are classed as 'controlled waste' and must be disposed of subject to the relevant current regulations.

#### PROTECTION OF GRASS AREAS

Protect areas affected by maintenance operations using boards/tarpaulins.

Do not place excavated or imported materials directly on grass.

#### CLEANLINESS

Soil and arisings: Remove from hard surfaces.

Leave the works in a clean, tidy condition at completion and after any maintenance operations.

#### RE-FORMING GRASS EDGES

Draw back soil and re-form edges to beds, paths, service covers etc, to clean straight lines or smooth flowing curves, sloping slightly back from vertical.

#### TREES IN GRASS

Ensure that a mulched area 2m in diameter is edged and maintained around all trees growing in grass, in order to promote survival of trees, through lack of competition of water with grass, and through not being damaged by strimming and mowing operations.

#### TIMING OF TREE & SHRUB PRUNING

To take place during September to March, in order to avoid bird nesting season.

#### PRIVATE GARDENS

Private gardens will be managed from planting until handover to the residents. However, replacement of failures of plants within first 5 years following planting will still apply.

#### ALL AREAS

Maintain as litter free

Remove perennial weed species e.g. sycamore

Notify contract administrator of any viral or fungal problems affecting the planting or woodland

Wherever works impede pedestrian or vehicular access the Contractor shall provide and maintain safe alternative routes alongside or through the affected work area

Produce an annual report to Contract Administrator of work executed

#### **REPLACEMENT PLANTING**

Any failures of planting within the first 5 years including trees, shrubs, hedges, bulbs, amenity turf and wildflower grassland, are to be replaced.

Species should be 'like for like' with avenue trees at larger size to match growth of other trees in avenue, and at densities as per the Planting Plan, with the following exceptions:

- Should planting have sufficiently closed over to provide suitable ground cover, then the dead plant should be removed, the ground made good, and no further planting required;
- Should a species appear to be struggling due to disease, unsuitable soil conditions or other identified reason, then it will be necessary to agree a replacement species with the CA and landscape architect;
- Should plants be dying due to poor ground preparation or treatment such as tracking, then remedial topsoil or subsoil provision will be required.

## 5.2 Grass, bulbs and wild flower areas

**WATERING:** During establishment of grass areas and for duration of maintenance period ensure that sufficient water is applied using a fine sprinkler or oscillating spray to maintain healthy growth.

Allow for filling depressions following settlement and reseed with appropriate mix.

### TREE STEMS

Ensure that a grass-free mulched area of 2.0m diameter is maintained around planted trees for first five years

Do not allow nylon filament rotary cutters and other mechanical tools closer than 100 mm to the stem of any tree.

Operations close to stems: Complete using hand tools.

**EDGES TO TURFED AREAS:** Form edges to planting beds and around newly planted trees with a suitable edging tool, to clean straight lines or smooth curves. Draw back soil from edges to permit use of edging shears and remove all arisings.

**FAILURES OF GRASS:** Bare areas and areas of dead grass that have failed to thrive, which are apparent during the maintenance period, must be made good by recultivation and reseedling with seed mix specified as per Planting Plan.

### LITTER CLEARANCE

Ensure site remains free of litter and tipped materials

### CUTTING OF GRASS

The Contractor shall inspect all areas to be mown, and remove litter, stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension and other debris immediately prior to cutting or treatment being undertaken. Cut when grass is reasonably dry.

Grass shall not be cut in adverse weather and ground conditions. Cutting shall only recommence when it is safe to do so without danger of damaging the sward, surface levels or contours of the ground.

**SHORT MOWN AMENITY GRASS** i.e. general amenity turf and frontages, Communal Open Spaces, 1.0m strip in wildflower areas adjacent to footways, benches, structures and planting beds:

When grass is between 50 and 75 mm high cut to approximately 35 mm high, using cylinder mower or suitable equivalent

#### LONG GRASS, WILDFLOWERS AND HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Grass and wild flowers allowed to flower and produce seed, with a single cut each year at end of summer/early autumn, using rotoscythe or suitable equivalent. Allow to lie on ground for 2 days before removal to allow seed to set, but no more than 48 hours. (Edge strip as for short mown amenity above)

#### BULBS

Following flowering, leaves should be left to die back naturally before mowing is resumed. This ensures that leaf nutrition is absorbed back into the bulb before dormancy, which ensures stronger growth the following year.

#### EDGES

At the time of each cut, trim all grass edges round the base of trees, manholes, etc. and remove arisings. Sweep all adjoining hard areas clear of cuttings and remove.

#### REMOVAL OF ARISINGS

Arisings to be removed to local authority recycling point

#### WEED CONTROL

Keep the sward substantially free of pernicious broad leaved weeds by hand removal, ensuring that wild flower species thrive. During first year, ensure that sufficient visits are made to keep complete control over weed growth.

**FAILURES OF GRASS:** Bare areas, areas of dead grass/flowers that have failed to thrive, which are apparent during the maintenance period, must be made good by recultivation and reseeded with appropriate seed with species and at times agreed with the CA.

#### FERTILISER

Do not use

### 5.3 SUDS planting: rain gardens and bioretention areas

The rain gardens will at different times contain varying volumes of water or be completely dry. Management is to be carried out in appropriate (i.e. dry) conditions.

Shrub planting is to be maintained as for s.5.6 below.

Remove pernicious weed species and scrub by hand.

Allow incoming non-invasive aquatics and marginal species to thrive.

#### LITTER CLEARANCE

Ensure the areas remain free of litter and tipped materials.

Do not use chemicals (pesticide, herbicide, fertiliser etc) in the vicinity of any water features.

### 5.4 SUDS and other control structures

Refer to engineer drawings for details of location and type of structures.

Visually check the stability and integrity of all structures at each visit, ensuring that structures are sound and fit for use.

Repair or replace with like materials and fixings as necessary. Remove any silt or other debris from slab aprons, remove any blockage; report any malfunction to CA.

### 5.5 Avenue trees

In addition to 5.6 below, at each maintenance visit, carry out visual inspection of trees, including those overhanging adjacent roads. Notify contract administrator of any arboricultural assessment or incidental works required.

After initial five years, an inspection is to be made by a qualified arboriculturalist. Tree works to be undertaken only by a qualified arboriculturalist who will ensure that the shape and character of each tree is retained.

Prior to tree works being carried out, trees should be assessed by an ecologist for potential to support roosting bats. If there is high potential for roosting bats, observations or other assessments may be required. A derogation licence may be required if bats are present.

Trees considered dangerous to be cut back or removed according to arboriculturalist recommendations.

Remove pruning material to Local Authority Recycling Point

## 5.6 Tree, shrub and herbaceous planting

### REFIRMING OF TREES AND SHRUBS

Timing: After strong winds, frost heave and other disturbances.

Refirming: Tread around the base until firmly bedded.

Collars in soil at base of tree stems, created by tree movement: Break up by fork, avoiding damage to roots. Backfill with topsoil and refirm.

MULCH: Ensure composted bark mulch is maintained to 75mm depth for all trees and hedgerows. Ensure trees in grass have a 2.0m diameter mulched bed around each stem.

WATERING: During tree and shrub establishment and for duration of maintenance period ensure that sufficient water is applied to maintain healthy growth. Watering should be carried out using a hose not sprinkler, and bark mulch should be drawn back to allow water to soak full depth of topsoil. During very dry spells, planting to be watered at rate of 5L per shrub plant per week during establishment. Trees to receive 25L per week (using watering tubes where installed).

### PRUNING GENERALLY

Pruning: In accordance with good horticultural and arboricultural practice and at appropriate season for the type of plant. Prune to remove dead, dying or diseased wood and to promote healthy growth.

Removing branches: Do not damage or tear the stem.

Wounds: Keep as small as possible and cut cleanly back to sound wood.

Cutting: Make cuts above and sloping away from an outward facing healthy bud, angled so that water will not collect on cut area.

Larger branches: Prune neither flush nor leaving a stub, but using the branch bark ridge or branch collar as a pruning guide.

Appearance: Thin, trim and shape each specimen appropriately to species, location, season, and stage of growth, leaving a well balanced natural appearance.

Tools: Use clean sharp secateurs, hand saws or other approved tools.

Trim off ragged edges of bark or wood with a sharp knife.

Disease or fungus: Give notice if detected.

Growth retardants, fungicide or sealant: Do not use unless instructed.

Compostable material to be removed to site habitat piles (refer to s. 5.8); excess material may be removed to Local Authority recycling collection point.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC SPECIES

### **Dogwoods:**

Cornus species are to be coppiced to ground level on a 2 year rotation.

Cornus stolonoifera 'Kelseyi' does not require coppicing

### **Griselinia and Elaeagnus hedges:**

Hedges are to be watered regularly for the first two seasons following planting.

Hedges to be trimmed at end of March and early September, with a light trim in the summer if required.

Height of Griselinia and Elaeagnus to be maintained at 1.2m, and hedges allowed to gradually thicken up while keeping a neat side.

The width of the hedge at the base is to be maintained at 1m, with a flat top and A-shaped sides, to ensure plenty of sunlight reaches the top and bottom.

If the Elaeagnus plants have plenty of side branches there is no need to initial prune. If plants are sparse, however, shorten the leading shoot and longer shoots by up to one third, in order to encourage thickening up, in winter or straight after planting. Repeat in the second year if the plants still look a bit leggy.

### 5.7 Wildlife habitat

Wildlife-friendly practices are to be encouraged as part of a developing ecological balance to support interconnected communities of birds, water creatures, insects and mammals. The site provides a complex variety of food and shelter opportunities such as pollen and nectar, seeds and berries, nesting sites in undergrowth and habitat under stones, winter cover including for example ornamental seed head and stems left on through the winter, of value to overwintering insects.

### 5.8 Cut material

Cut plant material is to be removed to Local Authority Collection Point.

### 5.9 Public footpaths and surfaces

Sweep paved areas at each visit, and keep all surfaces free of litter and other deleterious materials.

Check for and remedy trip hazards to surfacings and edgings

Rake and top up loose surfaces as required (bark etc)

Repair erosion and water damage.

Refer to s. 5.2 for grassland management and s. 5.5 for trees.