

Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead

Landscape Ecology Management Plan

Parcels 8 & 9

April 2023



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Report Ref: DFA23020

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Derek Finnie Associates was commissioned by Barratt David Wilson (BDW) Homes to provide ecological advice in relation to a residential development at Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead. The wider site has outline planning permission for up to 1,500 new dwellings, up to 12,000 sqm of employment floor space, a Neighbourhood Centre with up to 1,900 sqm of non- residential floor space, a new primary school, new sports pitches and associated pavilion building (Planning Ref: O/2014/2179 and 140764).

1.1.2 BDW are currently taking forward the reserved matters application for two discrete residential parcels within the wider development, referred to as Parcel 8 and Parcel 9. As part of the Outline Permission, there are certain conditions that must be satisfied prior to the commencement of development. Condition 26 of the Outline Planning Permission states:

Condition 26.

Prior to submission of any Reserved Matters application other than in respect to the Nine Mile Ride Extension South an outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Thereafter, each Reserved Matters Application for any sub phase of the development shall include a detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan for that sub phase of the development. Each detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan shall be in accordance with the mitigation, contingency and enhancement measures contained within paragraph 7.5.5 to 7.7 of the submitted Environmental Statement revision 2 (Royal Haskoning DHV, September 2014) and the approved outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. The detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan(s) shall be implemented in accordance with the approved plan unless otherwise approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: In order to ensure that the approved landscaping is satisfactorily maintained in accordance with NPPF, Wokingham Borough Core Strategy policies CP1, CP3 and CP7 and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan Policies CC03 and TB21 and the Arborfield Strategic Development Location Supplementary Planning Document (2011).

1.1.3 The following report, therefore, has been prepared to discharge Condition 21 as far as it relates to Parcels 8 and 9 of the wider site and has been prepared in line with Site-Wide Landscape and Ecology Management Plan submitted in relation to Condition 21 of the Outline Permission (HDA 2018).

2 SITE WIDE STRATEGY

2.1 Site Wide Aims

2.1.1 The main aims of the Site wide LEMP are to:

- Describe habitat restoration, creation and landscape enhancement works proposed for the management area, including outline details of formal and informal landscape planting within areas of public open space;
- Describe measures to provide new and enhanced opportunities for protected and notable species recorded within the site and wider area;
- Identify prescriptions for the establishment and long-term management of habitats and features of nature conservation interest; and
- Identify mechanisms to ensure successful establishment of these features and their long-term management.

2.1.2 Outline details of the landscape planting and habitat creation, retention and enhancement works across the management area and wider site are shown on the Composite Landscape Strategy provided in Appendix A (RPS, 2018a). The outline landscape proposals for the site include:

- Development focused on the areas of site currently used for farming, of limited ecological value;
- Retention, enhancement and creation of hedgerows, treelines, community orchards and areas of woodland habitats located along the site boundaries and within and bordering development parcels, other than where sections will be removed for access and the installation of drainage. These habitats include areas of ancient woodland, Hogwood Shaw LWS and woodland of antiquity;
- A corridor of open green space bisecting the site from north to south, leading from existing tree lines and woodland in the north to the proposed country-park SANG and open countryside to the south, east and west of the site. In addition to the provision of a corridor for wildlife and public enjoyment, the green space provides protection to existing habitats of high ecological and landscape value including ancient woodland, waterbodies and hedgerows together with creation of new habitats including species-rich meadow grassland, wetlands, woodlands, orchard and scrub habitats.

2.1.3 However, given that the boundary for both Parcels 8 and 9 is more or less restricted to the residential footprint, implementing the above objectives in a any meaningfully way is not achievable. Nevertheless, where habitat creation and management tis possible within the Parcel boundary, due regard has been given to the above objectives.

3 CURRENT CONDITIONS

3.1 Parcels 8 & 9

Parcel 8

- 3.1.1 The vast majority of the land outlined as Parcel 8 is currently being used as the Site Works Compound and Car Park and as such is devoid of any semi-natural vegetation.

Parcel 9

- 3.1.2 Parcel 9 comprises an area of species-poor, semi-improved grassland in the southwest, with an area of ancient woodland to the northeast. The woodland will be retained as part of the development, with a minimum of a 15m buffer between the woodland edge and the development.

4 PARCELS 8 & 9 STRATEGY

4.1 Phase 8 & 9 Aims

- 4.1.1 The aims of the LEMP with Parcels 8 and 9 are to maximise the ecological benefits of the landscaping areas, as well as providing a suitable buffer to the area of ancient woodland that lies to the north of Parcel 9.
- 4.1.2 This aims of the LEMP will be achieved through the implementation of the following objectives:
- Objective 1: Maintain a minimum of a 15m green buffer along the southern edge of the ancient woodland;
 - Objective 2: Planting of native tree species within woodland buffer and other suitable areas within the Parcel to enhance the ecological permeability;
 - Objective 3: Creation of tussocky grassland within the buffer zone; and
 - Objective 4: Creation of a wildflower grassland.
- 4.1.3 Management prescriptions that will be undertaken to achieve each objective are described in Section 5, with annual work plans presented in Section 6.

5 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Objective 1: Maintain a minimum of a 15m green buffer

- 5.1.1 As can be seen from the Landscape Masterplan for Parcels 8 and 9 (reproduced as Appendix 2) a 15m green buffer has been maintained between the edge of the ancient woodland and the development area. This is in line with the guidance from Natural England.

5.2 Objective 2: Planting of native tree species

- 5.2.1 Approximately 100 native trees will be planted within the ancient woodland buffer, as well as around the development parcels, increasing the ecological permeability of the Site. Species to be planted are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Tree species planting schedule

Tree Species	
Common name	Scientific name
English oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
White willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>

- 5.2.2 The tree planting will be supplemented by native shrub planting, utilising the species given in Table 2, around the pumping station at the southeast of Parcel 9, as shown on the landscape masterplan (Appendix 2).

Table 2. Shrub species planting schedule

Shrub Species	
Common name	Scientific name
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>

- 5.2.3 Once planted, it is envisaged that both the tree planting and shrub planting will require minimal on-going maintenance and management beyond the replacement of failed specimens in the first five years.



- 5.2.4 The annual management prescriptions required to achieve Objective 2 are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Management prescriptions for Objective 4.

Code	Prescription	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
NTP	Planting of native trees and shrubs					
NTP1	Plant standard trees per Figure 1 with species mix presented in Table 1.	✓				
NTP2	Plant areas of shrubs as per Figure 1 with species mix presented in Table 2. Plant in random groups at equivalent density of 1/m ²	✓				
NTP3	Weed between new tree and scrub planting to ensure continued good growth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NTP4	Monitor new tree and scrub growth and replace planting if greater than 10% loss		✓			
NTP5	Monitor new tree and scrub growth and replace planting if greater than 5% loss			✓	✓	✓

5.3 Objective 3: Creation of tussocky grassland within the buffer zone.

- 5.3.1 In addition to the tree planting within the buffer zone, a species rich, tussocky grassland will be created which will not only provide a valuable ecological resource in its own right but will act green barrier between the development and the ancient woodland. It will also provide valuable reptile habitat.
- 5.3.2 A tussock grass mix, such as Emorsgate EG10 or similar, will be sown along the woodland edge in line with the manufacture's guidelines. The ground preparation will be achieved through repeated mowing throughout the early part of the summer in an attempt to reduce the vigour of the grasses and eliminate any perennial weeds.
- 5.3.3 Once established the grassland will be left to grow during the summer with a first cut being taken in late summer once the majority of the grasses have set seed, approximately in late July/early August. However, consideration will be given to leaving three blocks of grassland uncut on a three year rotational basis. This will provide valuable over wintering habitat for numerous invertebrate species and will benefit the overall ecological value of the grassland.
- 5.3.4 Table 4 sets out the management prescriptions for Objective 3.

Table 4. Management prescriptions for Objective 3.

Code	Prescription	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
CTG	Creation of Species Rich Grassland					
CTG1	Ground preparation through repeated mowing.	✓				



Code	Prescription	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
CTG2	Sow Emorsgate EG10 or similar in buffer zone adjacent to ancient woodland	✓				
CTG3	Cut meadow and remove arising		✓	✓	✓	✓
CTG4	Leave one block uncut on three year rotational cycle		✓	✓	✓	✓

5.4 Objective 4: Creation of a wildflower grassland.

- 5.4.1 A wide service corridor runs along the southern boundary of Parcel 9, between the development and the adjoining Nine Mile Ride Extension. Within this corridor, a species rich, wildflower meadow will be created. The area will be over sown with a species rich mix such as Emorsgate EM4, or similar, which will contain the species in Table 4.

Table 5. Species mix for wildflower grassland.

Species		Percentage
Common name	Scientific name	
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	0.5
Betony	<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	0.8
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	3
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	1.5
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	0.6
Birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	0.8
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	3
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	0.4
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	2
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	3
Yellow rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	1.5
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	1.5
Ragged robin	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	0.1
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	0.3
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	1
Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	10
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	2
Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	1
Quaking grass	<i>Briza media</i>	1
Crested dogstail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	36
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	24
Meadow barley	<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	2
Small cat's-ear	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	4

- 5.4.2 The ground preparation for the areas identified as species rich grassland will be achieved through repeated mowing throughout the early part of the summer in an attempt to reduce the vigour of the grasses and eliminate any perennial weeds. Selected areas will be chain harrowed prior to seeding to open up the soil, thus promoting greater seed take up. Consideration will also be given to the use of herbicides such as glyphosate in areas of denser sward.



5.4.3 Once established, the species rich grassland will be cut once in the spring and once in autumn each year after the plants have gone to seed with all the arisings being removed. Additional cuts may be undertaken as necessary.

5.4.4 Table 6 sets out the management prescriptions for Objective 4.

Table 6. Management prescriptions for Objective 3.

Code	Prescription	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
HRG	Creation of Species Rich Grassland					
HRG1	Ground preparation through repeated mowing, chain harrowing and possible use of glyphosate.	✓				
HRG2	Sow Emorsgate EM4 or similar in service strip on southern side of Parcel 9	✓				
HRG3	Cut meadow and remove arising		✓	✓	✓	✓

6.1 Work Plan for Year 1

6.1.1 The management prescriptions required to be undertaken within Year 1 are given in Table 7.

Table 7. Work Plan for Year 1

Code	Prescription	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NTP	Planting of native trees and shrubs												
NTP1	Plant standard trees per Figure 1 with species mix presented in Table 1.										✓	✓	
NTP2	Plant areas of shrubs as per Figure 1 with species mix presented in Table 2. Plant in random groups at equivalent density of 1/m ²										✓	✓	
NTP3	Weed between new tree and scrub planting to ensure continued good growth											✓	✓
CTG	Creation of Species Rich Grassland												
CTG1	Ground preparation through repeated mowing.			✓	✓								
CTG2	Sow Emorsgate EG10 or similar in buffer zone adjacent to ancient woodland				✓								
HRG	Creation of Species Rich Grassland												
HRG1	Ground preparation through repeated mowing, chain harrowing and possible use of glyphosate.			✓	✓								
HRG2	Sow Emorsgate EM4 or similar in 'service strip' on southern side of Parcel 9				✓								



6.2 Work Plan for Year 2 - 5

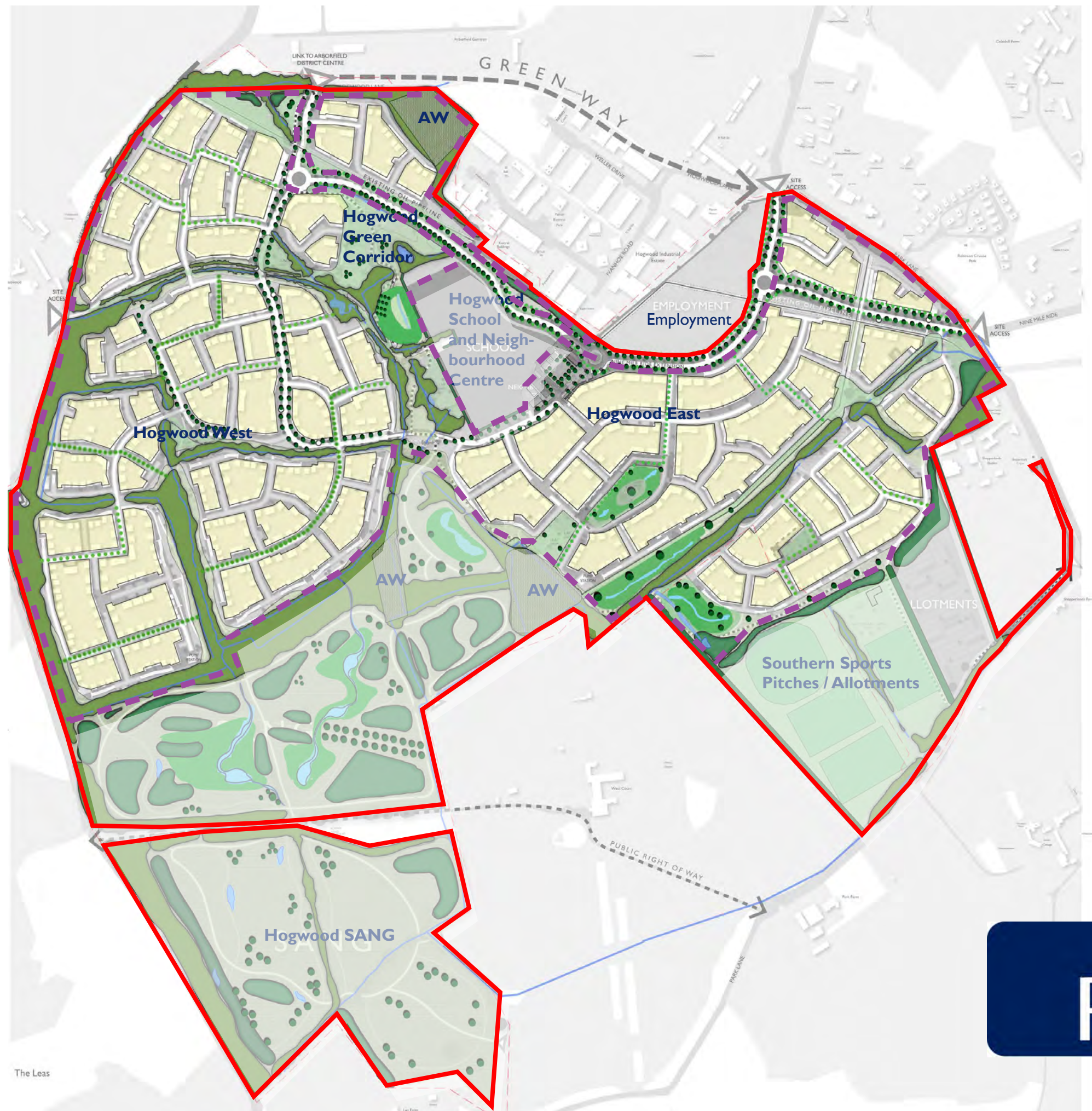
6.2.1 The management prescriptions required to be undertaken within Years 2 - 5 are given in Table 8.

Table 8. Work Plan for Year 2 - 5

Code	Prescription	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NTP	Planting of native trees and shrubs												
NTP3	Weed between new tree and scrub planting to ensure continued good growth		✓	✓									
NTP4	Monitor new tree and scrub growth and replace planting if greater than 10% loss									✓	✓		
NTP5	Monitor new tree and scrub growth and replace planting if greater than 5% loss									✓	✓		
CTG	Creation of Species Rich Grassland												
CTG3	Cut meadow and remove arising							✓					
CTG4	Leave one block uncut on three year rotational cycle							✓					
HRG	Creation of Species Rich Grassland												
HRG3	Cut meadow and remove arising							✓					



Appendix 1.
Site Wide Landscape Strategy



- KEY**
- Site boundary
 - Management area
 - Existing Woodland
 - Proposed Amenity Grass
 - Proposed Woodland
 - Proposed SuDS Features
 - Proposed Meadow / Long Grass
 - Proposed Residential Blocks
 - Proposed Individual Trees
 - Proposed Tertiary Ecological Corridors
 - AW** Ancient Woodland

RPS

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Appendix 2.

Landscape plan for Parcels 8 and 9



