

LITTLE ACRES, LONGFIELD

Landscape Strategy with Biodiversity Enhancements

OCTOBER 2021

Issue 1



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Building for a Healthy Life - Homes England 2020

- Birkbeck

"Connecting existing and new habitats; safeguarding existing or creating new movement corridors for nature.

Where retained, keeping hedgerows within the public realm, safeguarding their future retention and management.

Frame views of features on or beyond a site."

Living with Beauty - January 2020

- The report of the building better, Building Beautiful Commission

"The retention of existing hedges in greenfield developments and planting of new hedges.

In addition to the wider benefits set out above, there is a need to reconnect children with nature and with the sources of their food. The government should:

Support a programme of urban orchards within our towns and cities"

National Character Area:

The North Downs National Character Area opportunities have been carefully considered i.e. The characteristics of this area includes increased urban development in the western part of the area, small nucleated villages and scattered farmsteads and woodland primarily found on the steeper slopes. The proposals have purposefully retained the majority of the existing boundary hedgerows and vegetation as well as enhancing and reinforcing habitat connectivity across the site with proposed native hedgerows and trees.

County Landscape Character:

The recommendations to 'create' within the Southfleet Arable Lands, County Landscape Character has been used as the main design focus of the proposals. The proposed native trees, shrubs and hedges in the northern and southern corners of the site bolster the existing boundaries to the east and west with a native mix and adds to the 'reinforce enclosure patterns' discussed in the Landscape Assessment for this area. The frontage vegetation is to be removed to allow for the vis plays and replaced with a single species native hedge.



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PRELIMINARY			
Project LITTLE ACRES, LONGFIELD			
Drawing title Landscape strategy with Biodiversity enhancements			
Rev	Description	Date	
1			
2			
3			
Scale	Date	Drawing number	Rev
1:250@A1	Oct 2021	0468/21/A/1	
1:500@A3			



Ecological Enhancement

This plan complies with the recommendations of UEEC.

Birds: The value of the site for birds will be enhanced by installing a range of artificial nest boxes. These will be placed on retained mature trees within the development or at the site boundaries or incorporated within building facades. For instance:
New buildings: nest boxes can be installed under the eaves for birds that utilise buildings for nesting, e.g. house martin, house sparrow, swallow and swift. These species are of principal importance and are of conservation concern.
Trees: nest boxes with entrance holes suitable for tit species, woodpeckers and nuthatches, and open-fronted boxes suitable for spotted flycatcher or song thrush, and treecreeper boxes.

Bats: The value of the site for bats will be enhanced by installing a range of artificial roost boxes. These will be placed on retained mature trees within the development or at the site boundaries or incorporated within building facades. Boxes suitable for a range of species should be used, for instance:
New buildings: integral bat tubes can be installed within buildings which face vegetated areas, particularly towards the north and west of the development. Bat tubes can be incorporated into the design of the building so that only the access holes are visible from the exterior of the building. The Schwegler IFR or 2FR Bat Tube is designed to meet the characteristic requirements of the types of bats that inhabit buildings such as pipistrelles or serotines. It is designed to be installed on the external walls of buildings, either flush or beneath a rendered surface.
Pipistrelles: bat boxes suitable to install on mature trees either within or at the edges of the development include the Schwegler IFF Flat Bat Box, or other manufacturer's equivalent.
Bat boxes should ideally be located south-facing (between south-east and south-west) and above 4m from ground level. They should be installed facing vegetation features such as mature hedgerows or trees, but with a clear line of flight for bats exiting the roost, and away from sources of artificial light.

Hedgerow planting: Any hedgerow creation and/or restoration should use a range of native fruit, nut and nectar bearing shrub species, such as: hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*. If an evergreen hedge is required for landscape screening, suitable native species include holly *Ilex aquifolium*, yew *Taxus baccata*, although both can be rather slow growing, ivy *Hedera helix* and privet *Ligustrum vulgare*. Beech *Fagus sylvatica* and hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* are also widely used as hedging plants and, although not evergreen, these will keep their brown leaves through winter if trimmed in late summer.

Meadow: Buffers of less intensively managed vegetation (e.g. coarse grasses and wildflowers) can be created within soft landscaped areas to maintain/enhance ecological connectivity. The use of tussock-forming grass species such as cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* is encouraged.

Habitat piles: should be created within the area of retained grassland and at the edges of the site close to boundary hedgerows and woodland (i.e., towards the north of the site). These will provide additional hibernation and shelter resources for amphibians, invertebrates, reptiles, and a range of other wildlife, and egg-laying substrate for grass snakes. Hibernacula can be created by partially burying logs and stones in sheltered areas away from flood risk and covering over with earth or turf. Breeding habitats can be created by collecting grass clippings and other prunings arising from landscape management of the site, and composting them in a secluded corner of the site.



Mix of bat boxes to aid biodiversity and provide habitat enhancement on site



Log piles to be built using felled trees from the site, stockpiled and landscape management arisings to be added annually. Located in areas which are not accessible to the public.



Broad canopy native tree mix



Acer campestre



Carpinus betulus



Prunus avium



Quercus robur



Sorbus aria

Fastigate trees for within the development



Acer campestre
Streetwise



Carpinus betulus Frans
Fontaine



Prunus spire



Pyrus communis
Beech Hill



Prunus padus Albertii



Robinia margaretta
Casque Rouge

Evergreen native tree



Pinus sylvestris

Landscape Strategy

Native trees:

Broad canopy -		
Common oak	Quercus robur	20-25cm girth
Hornbeam	Carpinus betulus	14-16cm girth
Beech	Fagus sylvatica	12-14cm girth
Wild Service Tree	Sorbus torminalis	20-25cm girth
Pinus sylvestris		
Medium canopy -		
Field maple	Acer campestre	12-14cm girth
Cherry	Prunus avium	12-14cm girth
Whitebeam	Sorbus aria	10-12cm girth
Upright canopy -		
Birch	Betula pendula	12-14cm girth

Fastigate tree planting:

Field maple	Acer campestre Streetwise
Upright hornbeam	Carpinus betulus frans fontaine
Flowering cherry	Prunus spire
Pear	Pyrus communis Beech Hill
Bird cherry	Prunus padus Albertii
False acacia	Robinia margaretta Casque Rouge

Tree planting:

All trees in soft landscape to have RootRain Urban irrigation system

All tree pits to have Terracottem Arbor 3-1-7+ micro nutrients Fertiliser added to soil within tree pit.

Hedgerows



Carpinus betulus



Hornbeam



Taxus baccata

Ornamental shrubs



Abelia grandiflora



Bergenia Silberlicht



Carex comans Bronze



Chaenomeles superba Crimson and Gold



Choisya Aztec Pearl



Hydrangea macrophylla Lanarth White



Iris foetidissima



Lavandula intermedia Grosso



Miscanthus sinensis Adagio



Pyracantha



Sarcococca confusa



Skimmia japonica Veitchii

Landscape Strategy

Native hedges:

Hazel	Corylus avellana	80-100cm og
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	80-100cm og
Spindle	Euonymus europaeus	80-100cm og
Holly	Ilex aquifolium	60-80cm cg
Yew	Taxus baccata	60-80cm rb
Privet	Ligustrum vulgare	80-100cm og
Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclymenum	80-100cm og
Dog rose	Rosa canina	80-100cm og
Guelder rose	Viburnum opulus	80-100cm og

Beech	Fagus sylvatica	100-125cm, og/cg, at 0.3m centres
Hornbeam	Carpinus betulus	100-125cm, og/cg, at 0.3m centres
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	100-125cm, og, at 0.3m centres
Privet	Ligustrum vulgare	100-125cm, og, at 0.3m centres
Yew	Taxus baccata	100-125cm, cg/rb, at 0.5m centres

Nectar rich shrub planting:

Abelia grandiflora	60-80cm 15L
Astilbe	20-30cm 2L
Berberis darwinii	20-30cm 2L
Berberis thunbergii 'Harlequin'	30-40cm 3L
Crataegus monogyna	40-60cm 5L
Cornus alba 'Siberica Variegata'	40-60cm 5L
Cornus sanguinea	40-60cm 5L
Hebe 'Emerald Green'	20-30cm 3L
Lonicera purpusii 'Winter Beauty'	30-40cm 3L
Photinia davidiana 'Palette'	60-80cm 5L
Prunus laurocerasus 'Marbled White'	60-80cm 5L
Pyracantha 'Golden Charmer'	30-40cm 3L
Pyracantha 'Teton'	30-40cm 3L
Spiraea japonica 'Darts Red'	40-60cm 5L
Sarcococca confusa	30-40cm 3L
Skimmia japonica 'Rubella'	30-40cm 3L
Skimmia japonica Nymans	30-40cm 3L
Viburnum tinus 'Variegatum'	40-60cm 5L

The hedges on the site within management areas should be cut once a year in January. They will be maintained with branches dense to the base with a slight taper towards the top.

Where native shrubs and trees are not suitable due to maintenance and long term growth canopies, ornamental species which are nectar rich and produce berries will be included within the ornamental mixes to continue to support wildlife and enhance the biodiversity across the site.

