Landscape Management Recommendations

for new planting at

Hillview, Romsey Road, Kings Somborne

L165 R01

Aug 2022

This landscape management plan is to be read in conjunction with landscape planting plans L126/D01-2

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1. Introduction

1.1. This document should be read in conjunction with the plans as submitted to Test Valley Borough Council for committee on 9 August 2022.

1.2. Landscape strategy- L165/B01

1.3. Landscape planting plan - L165/B02

2. Maintenance Objectives for Soft Landscape Planting

General Principals

2.1. Apply good horticultural and ecological practice to all operations

2.2. Promote healthy growth and establishment of all plants, trees, grass, wildflower areas

2.3. Ensure consistent control of invasive weeds

Promote optimum display and flowering periods and stem colour

2.4. Ensure development of optimum plant form, shape, and planting density

2.5. Provide protection against pests and diseases

2.6. Promote wildlife value and species diversity where appropriate

2.7. Ensure long term commitment to replacement of defective plant material

2.8. Review opportunities for introduction of new species or replacement of exhausted species where appropriate, in line with original design intensions

Feathered trees, whips, understory and shrub mixes

2.9. Ensure that good horticultural practice is employed to encourage long term health and vitality of all trees, shrubs, hedges and whip planted areas

2.10. Planting to be thinned / re-spaced in order that the plants have sufficient room to develop

2.11. Review opportunities for introducing native shrubs and those with particular wildlife value into planted areas.

2.12. Maintain a clean and safe environment.

2.13. Ensure cultural techniques are employed which use a variety of mulches and organic fertilisers and which minimise the use of chemicals and peat wherever possible.

Retained existing trees and hedgerows

2.14. Existing trees and shrubs to be maintained healthy, free of disease, damaged or broken stems/branches, dead wood etc.

3. Maintenance Objectives for Landscape Planting

3.1. The following maintenance works are to be undertaken for the first three years following planting.

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Standard and EHS trees												
Watering (weather dependent)				2	2	2	2	2	2			
Fertiliser (for 3 years from planting)			1									
Refirming stakes and ties (remove after 3 years from planting)			1							1		
Hedge trees												
Watering (weather dependent)				2	2	2	2	2				
Weeding			1		1		1		1			
Fertiliser (for 3 years from planting)			1							1		
Refirming stakes and ties (remove after 3 years from planting)			1							1		
Shrubs and herbaceous												
Watering (weather dependent)				2	2	2	2	2	2			
Weeding			1		1		1		1			
Fertiliser (for 3 years from planting)			1						1			
Pruning and thinning			1							1		
Wildflower meadow												
Mow to 5cm height (first year only)							1		1			
Mow to 7.5cm height (if required)				1								
Mow to 4-7.5cm height							1					
Mow to 4-7.5cm height (if required)										1		
Wildflower verge (visibility splay)												
Mow as for wildflower meadow to keep maximum height below 450mm.							1		1		1	

4. Maintenance Principles for Trees, Hedges, Shrubs and Herbaceous Planting

Watering

4.1. All planting to receive watering for at least the first 2 growing seasons.

4.2. Planting will be watered as necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of plants; watering to full depth of topsoil without damaging or displacing plants or soil.

4.3. Plants are to be watered in periods of drought where there has been no rain for 7-10 days and where the soil is dry.

4.4. Where possible, watering is to be supplied via trickle or slow release drip/seep hoses directly into the soil around the tree roots to avoid unnecessary water wastage.

4.5. Ensure sufficient water is applied to maintain healthy growth: taking into account published meteorological data on rainfall for any given period, in particular in periods of Spring drought (April, May & June)

Quantity

4.6. Trees: extra heavy standard or larger – 10 gallons per tree per application

4.7. Feathered trees and whips – wet soil to full rooting depth.

Weed control

4.8. All planting areas shall be kept clear of weed growth for the first 3 growing seasons; after 3 years, a herb layer can be allowed to return. Achieve by hand-weeding/hoeing. Herbicide applications are not to be used. Ensure that the methods used will cause a minimum of damage to adjacent planted areas.

4.9. Tree and plant stems: Do not allow nylon filament rotary cutters or other mechanical tools closer than 200mm to the stem of any tree or plant. Include for strim guards around the base of each tree, height 225mm or maintain a grass & weed-free area around the base of each tree, min diameter 1000mm.

4.10. Carry out operations close to stems using hand tools

4.11. Hand weeding: Hoe and loosen the soil throughout the planting areas, taking care to avoid disturbance of roots of planted material. Remove weeds entirely, including roots. Remove the minimum of soil and minimise disturbance to plants, bulbs and mulched surfaces. On completion, rake areas to a neat condition.

Mulch

4.12. Mulches should be hand weeded as necessary and replenished to their original depth at least once annually

Fertiliser

4.13. ‘Enmag’ or similar approved slow release fertiliser to be spread over planted areas in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions. Carry out a single application between March and May for the first 3 years after planting.

Tree Stakes and re-firming

4.14. General: Trees & shrubs shall be maintained in a firm position in the ground and all stakes and ties shall be checked regularly adjusted to allow for the increase in stem girth.

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

4.16. Replace missing rabbit guards

4.17. Report any significant failures

4.18. Inspect all trees twice a year. Adjust fixing to suit stem growth and provide correct and uniform tension. If growth is sufficient for tree to be self-supporting, remove fixing and fill holes with lightly compacted soil.

4.19. Check stakes for looseness, breaks and decay and replace as necessary. Remove stakes and ties after 3 years establishment.

Pruning generally

4.20. Pruning to be carried out in accordance with good horticultural and arboricultural practice Standard: BS 7370.4, clauses 3.6.3 to 3.6.5

4.21. Appearance: Trim individual plant appropriate to species, location and season to leave a well balanced natural shape;

4.22. Cutting: appropriate clean sharp tools.

4.23. Clean cuts back to sound wood;

4.24. Disease of fungus; give notice if detected;

4.25. Do not use growth retardants, fungicides or sealant unless instructed;

4.26. Disposal of arisings: compost on site within specified areas in the open space.

Pruning of trees

1.1. Tree work standards: to BS 3998 and Forestry and Arboriculture Training and Safety Council Safety Guidance;

1.2. During pruning protect adjacent structures, plants or trees;

1.3. Appearance: Trees to maintain a well-balanced natural appearance; remove any suckers or basal growth. Cut back level with source stem or root.

1.4. Chain saw work: operatives must hold a certificate of Competence;

1.5. Timing: Prune between leaf fall and mid winter

1.6. Prunings: All large pruning arisings to be utilised in the creation and maintenance of habitat piles in un-obtrusive areas.

Thinning and pruning of young trees and whips up to 3m high

4.27. After 3 years full growing seasons, selectively thin, re-space and crown raise feathered trees and whips

4.28. Prune between leaf fall and mid winter

Pruning of hedges

4.29. Timing: cut back hard twice a year, mid July and late autumn/winter to a height of 1.5m, width 1m.

4.30. Form: allow to reach planned dimensions only by gradual degrees, depending on growth rate and habit.

4.31. After 3 years establishment of new hedge planting, lay hedges in accordance with specification below. Allow for 10% replacement and restocking of hedge plants.

5. Maintenance Principles for Wildflower Meadow, Grass Verge and Grass Lawn Planting

Watering

5.1. Grass verge and wildflower meadow to be watered as required, especially during seed establishment in year 1. Watering to be by sprinkler, in accordance with local regulations. Sprinkler to be used in early and morning and evening only to avoid water wastage

5.2. After year 1 the wildflower meadow or grass verge should not require watering.

Mowing

5.3. Mowing is to be carried out in accordance with the nature of the grass growth.

5.4. Initial mowing arisings to be left in situ for a few days to allow seed to drop to the ground, with arisings then removed to compost in order to reduce soil fertility.

5.5. Small areas of grass are to be cut with a hand scythe or strimmer with large areas to be mown by heavy duty mower such as a sickle-bar mower or motor-scythe or a two wheel strimmer.

5.6. Initial cut after sowing to be 5-7.5cm. Subsequent cuts to be to 4cm high.

5.7. **Spring cut** – to be used in areas where grass growth is very lush. Cut back to height of 7.5cm only and complete this cut no later than the end of April.

5.8. **Main summer cut** - This cut is to be carried out between late June and the end of August; the earlier cutting favours spring flowers such as cowslips, fritillary, lady's smock, selfheal and bugle; the later cutting favours summer flowers such as knapweed, devil's bit scabious and lady's bedstraw.

5.9. **Autumn cut** – If the grass is particularly vigorous - one or two cuts between the end of August and late November removes surplus growth and helps keep grasses at bay to allow the wildflowers to persist.

5.10. **Winter Cuts** - Following the last cut of the season, all meadows can be kept mown to keep the grass short and neat through the winter if desired. Any cut that produces substantial clippings should have the clippings removed and composted.

Tree and Plant Replacement

5.11. Plant condition is to be assessed annually at the end of each growing season and any plants that die or are badly misshapen by dieback, disease or damage shall be replaced during the planting season in the year the fault was identified.

Replacement stock shall be of the same size and species as that originally specified.

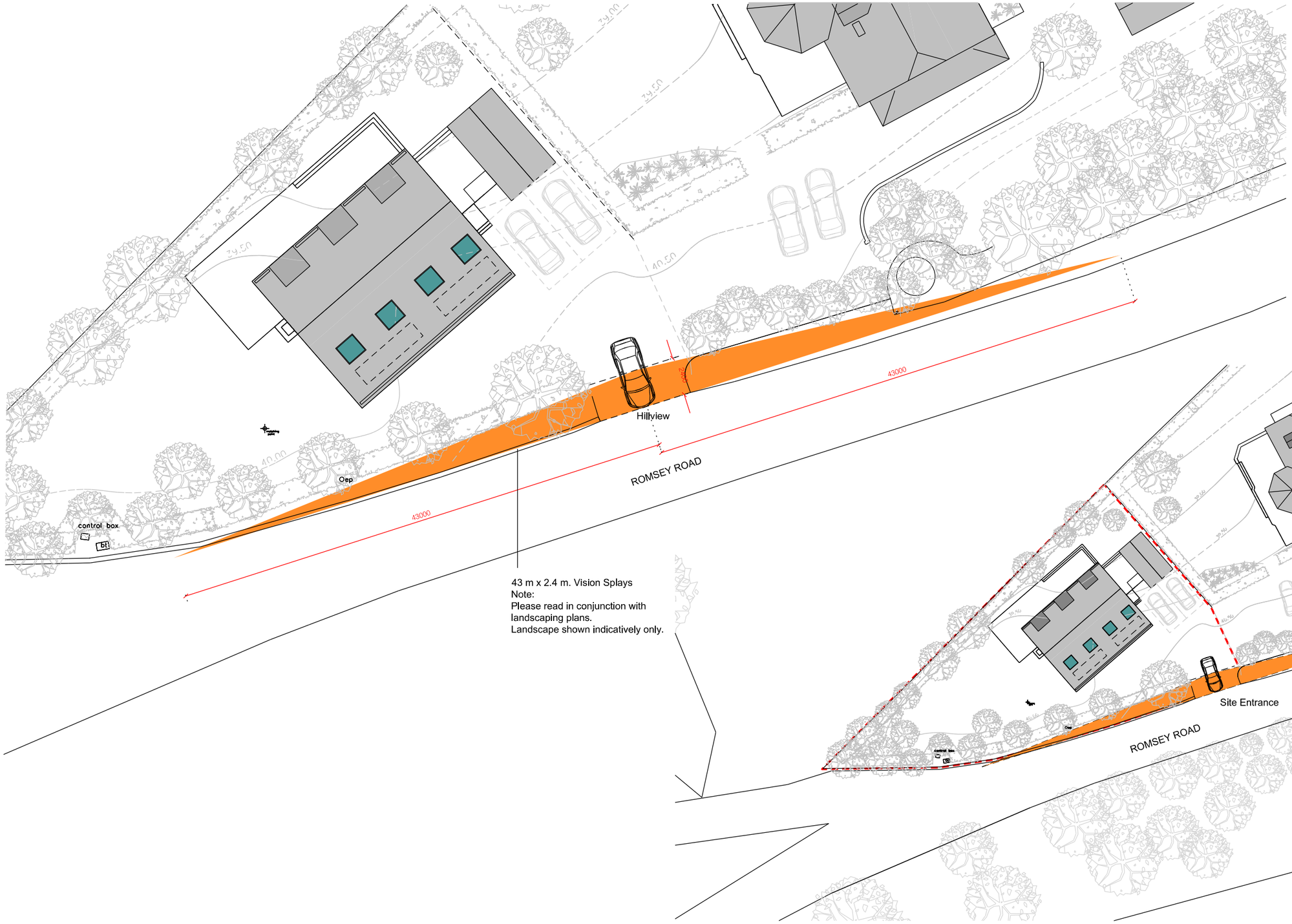
5. Implementation Programme for Landscape Planting

5.12. The indicative programme for landscape planting is as shown in the table below.

5.13. All plants are to be supplied bare root or rootballed according to availability and are to be planted within the winter planting season of 2022-2023 in order to achieve the best conditions for planting establishment.

5.14. Grass wildflower meadow, lawn and wildflower verge will be sown as seed mixes in the Spring of 2023 to ensure establishment over the summer of 2023.

	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
Activity	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Standard and EHS trees									
Ground preparation									
Planting									
Hedge trees									
Ground preparation									
Planting									
Shrubs and groundcover									
Ground preparation									
Planting									



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Project name:
Meadow View

Drawing:
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May 2021	161	PL - 200
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