RUSSELL FOSTER TYNE & WEAR YOUTH LEAGUE

Coaley Lane, Newbottle

Landscape Management Plan

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This document is a management plan for existing and proposed woodland, hedges and grassland for the Russell Foster Youth League site at Coaley Lane, Newbottle , Sunderland. The location of the site is shown on Figure 1.1. The area to be managed comprises woodland planting and new landscape planting which includes woodland structure planting, hedges and advanced nursery stock tree planting with 'rank' grassland.

1.1.2 The species mixes proposed for the landscape scheme are shown on Waterman's drawing EN5481 94 0001 rev E.

1.1.3 Areas of existing planting to be retained in the site are shown on Waterman's drawing EN5481 94 0002 rev D. Most of this planting is mostly approximately 13 years old. The original planting mixes are in Appendix 1.

1.1.4 The main aims of the management scheme are to:

- Preserve the existing and new woodland and hedges as landscape features.
- Protect and enhance the site's ecological value
- Enhance its potential for community recreation
- Enable its use for education

1.1.5 From the analysis of the historic, planning and landscape context of the woodland, and ecological survey information, the following specific management objectives have been formulated:

- Long term preservation of the existing woodland.
- Encouragement of the existing genetic integrity of the woodland by natural regeneration wherever possible.
- Increase of structural and ecological diversity within the woodland.
- Conservation of the visual amenity value of the woodland in the long and short term by retaining continuous cover and increasing cover to prevent encroachment of invasive species.
- Phased thinning of the existing woodland, in order to enhance diversity. This would enable the woodland to become a valuable educational resource for local schools and community groups.
- Protection of the habitat requirements of species using the wood.
- Continued maintenance and enhancement of the wood to improve landscape amenity value of the site

2. MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

2.1 New planting

2.1.1 In order to achieve the stated management objectives, a range of management operations will be employed in the existing woodland and the new areas of planting as detailed in Table 1.

2.1.2 Operations will generally be carried out in accordance with the Model Conditions of Contract and Specification for Arboricultural Works produced by the Arboricultural Association.

Table 1
Maintenance regime

Maintenance Year	Operation	Frequency/Year
Maintenance regime for new tree woodland and hedge planting		
Year 1	Contact Translocated herbicide application to entire planted area	x 3 applications – April, June and September, plus 1No additional provisional application
	Refirming of all plant material where necessary	x 1 – April
	Fertiliser – application of approved slow release fertiliser at rate of 35gms per plant	x 1 – April
	Shelters and stakes to be replaced where necessary	When required
	Pruning	x 1
	Litter clearance	When reasonably necessary ie X2 or X3 a year
	Plant replacements – dead or defective plants to the original specification	x 1 as required – November-March
Year 2	Translocated herbicide – as Year 1	x 2 applications – April and June
	Other operations – as Year 1	As Year 1
Year 3	Translocated herbicide applied within 0.5 metre diameter area around planted stock	x 2 applications – April and June
	Litter clearance – as Year 1	As Year 1
Year 4	Translocated herbicide – as Year 3	x 1 application – April
	Removal of remaining stakes and shelters subject to monitoring	
	Litter clearance – as Year 1	As Year 1
Years 5-8	Litter clearance – as Year 1	As Year 1
Years 9 & 10	Removal/thinning of 5% stock per year in new structure planting blocks– favouring removal of hawthorn and elder in edge mixes	x 1
	Litter clearance – as Year 1	As Year 1

Table 1 Maintenance regime		
	Coppicing of 50% of alder in main woodland and hazel in edge mix blocks per year	x 1 November-February
Maintenance regime for new tree woodland and hedge planting		
Year 1	Litter clearance	When reasonably necessary ie X2 or X3 a year
	Removal/thinning of 5% stock per year – favouring removal of sycamore and poplar	
Year 2-4	Litter clearance	As year 1
Year 5	Litter clearance	As year 1
	Removal/thinning of 5% stock per year– favouring removal of sycamore and poplar	
Year 6-9	Litter clearance	As year 1
Year 10	Litter clearance	As year 1
	Removal/thinning of 5% stock per year– favouring removal of sycamore and poplar	
Note: see detailed explanation of approach to coppicing and thinning in text below. All hedges to be cut annually		

Crown and formative pruning of advanced nursery stock trees

2.1.3 This operation will be carried out for the standard trees planted in avenues and in the car park area, by skilled operatives in accordance with the British Standard, BS3998, "Recommendations for Tree Work". Careful crown pruning may be required to remove dead, damaged or diseased wood, which could potentially be dangerous. Similarly, pruning may be required where the balance of a tree could present a future hazard, although it may be more appropriate to fell severely damaged trees in extreme circumstances where there is a concern over public safety adjacent to designated access routes. Remedial works to reduce the crown/canopy size will be considered initially.

2.1.4 Formative pruning may be appropriate on young trees where selective removal of branches competing with the main leader would lead to improved timber quality and reduce the likelihood of crown splitting in the future.

2.2 Existing woodland

Selective thinning

2.2.1 The purpose of selective thinning is to reduce the number of trees within an area so that those remaining have more space to develop and less root and light competition. Light thinning operations will be designed so as not to break the canopy to any

noticeable extent, with care being taken to prevent the possibility of wind throw through over exposure of remaining trees.

2.2.2 Selective felling or thinning will remove poor, weak, diseased, overcrowded and inappropriate trees in order to leave room for the best climax trees to grow to maturity and form the upper canopy. Trees retained should be appropriate to the management objectives of the woodland, healthy, well balanced and undamaged.

2.2.3 Whilst the trees are young, spacing will be maintained at about one quarter of the average height of the trees. For example where the average height is 16m, the distance between trees will be a minimum of 4 metres. Such a thinning operation will create sturdy and stable trees by reducing competition and maximising their growth and development.

2.2.4 Waste felled material, which would be uneconomic to extract, will be cut into lengths and stacked in piles with hollow centres to create habitat piles for invertebrates and other saprophytic species. Brash piles could also assist in controlling public access to designated routes.

2.2.5 Where a group of trees that are of a consistent quality it is often more appropriate to fell trees collectively. Such group felling is appropriate where many trees are tall and etiolated with high canopies, each dependant on one another for support. Felling will concentrate on removal of nursery species. Where the species seems to be highly invasive then the application of herbicide to the stumps will be carried out to prevent regrowth. In such circumstances, selective thinning could leave remaining trees susceptible to wind throw damage so care will be taken to avoid this. Clearings created by group felling will let in light through the canopy and allow natural regeneration. As a guide, the minimum width of the clearing will be 1.5 times the height of adjacent trees. This practise would be used in the creation of rides, or small glades.

2.2.6 In the existing woodland to be retained thinning will be principally of poplar and sycamore.

Coppicing

2.2.7 In areas of high density thinning will be achieved by felling particular trees as coppice, though care will be taken to choose those species which will respond well to this management technique. Species in this woodland, which are particularly appropriate for this approach include hazel (Corylus avellana) and alder (Alnus glutinosa).

2.2.8 Those trees, which are coppiced will, on regeneration, contribute to the understorey canopy to form a gradation from ground flora to high canopy and provide a more diverse habitat for wildlife.

2.2.9 As with selective felling, waste felled material will be used to create habitat piles. Brash piles could also assist in controlling public access to designated routes.

2.2.10 Hazel within the understorey may require coppicing on a future 20-year rotation with approximately 25% of the total stock of these species being coppiced every 5 years depending on growth.

Management of ash regeneration

2.2.11 It is anticipated that some ash regeneration should have occurred across the site in the initial 10-year period. This may require thinning and possibly some formative pruning depending upon the extent of regeneration. Management of this regeneration will aim to ensure retention of those trees of optimum form. Material generated by thinning and coppicing operations may be stacked to provide habitat piles where this would be uneconomic to remove.

Thinning operations

2.2.12 Further thinning operations may be required following the initial maintenance period, the extent of which would be dependent upon the amount of regeneration. This will favour the retention of oak and ash, with self seeded sycamore generally being removed. In the longer term planted ash will be removed in favour of naturally regenerated ash, depending upon the extent of regeneration.

2.3 Proposed 'rank' grassland

2.3.1 This will be managed to maintain long grass to encourage small rodents and provide a feeding habitat for birds. This area will be managed generally in accordance with ILAM (Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management) recommendations in appendix 2 for conservation grassland.

2.4 Grass football pitches

2.4.1 These will be managed generally in accordance with ILAM recommendations in appendix 2 for football sports pitches.

2.5 Review of management scheme

2.5.1 This document sets out the main aims and objectives of the management scheme and the mechanisms to deliver these. However, this programme of works will need

to be reviewed and varied where necessary to ensure the aims and objectives are delivered.