## Planting Scheme - suggested species

As per our telephone discussion this morning I can't really add further to Dan's methodology for translocation. We need to add as much of the soil structure around the roots as possible, and working in small sections should allow the translocated stock to be firmed in, as the soil will loosen around the roots when moved. Irrigation is essential – both before (in the trench) and afterwards, as per Dan's advice below.

### HEDGEROWS

If there are gaps in the hedgerow then we can add infill planting using the same mix as the new native hedgerow (see table below). The mix can also be used to replace dead stock.

The native hedgerow mix can be as follows:

| **Recommended Mixed Native Hedgerow Mix** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Scientific name** | **Common name** | **Specification** | **Approx. height (cm)** | **%** |
| *Fagus sylvatica* | Beech | 1 + 1 transplants | 60-80 | 15 |
| *Corylus avellana* | Hazel | 1 + 1 transplants | 60-80 | 20 |
| *Crataegus monogyna* | Hawthorn | 1 + 1 transplants | 60-80 | 40 |
| *Ilex aquifolium* | Holly | Pot-grown (3ltr) | 40-60 | 10 |
| *Viburnum opulus* | Guelder rose | 1 + 1 transplants | 60-80 | 15 |

It might not be long enough to have this mix in full, but even a 10m stretch will be 40 plants if planted at 4 plants/linear metre in a double staggered row (the minimum density) or 60 or 80 plants if we are aiming for a thicker hedgerow. I haven't included Hedera helix – this is Ivy. To get a proper species-rich hedgerow we'd ideally need at least 5 different species of woody plants, as per the table above.

### TREES

I'm not sure why Silver Birch is being specified?? Whilst the site does lie within a heathland mosaic LCT, I'd rather see something of local provenance like Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), or Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*). They should be ideally be

supplied as rootballed ‘Select’ or ‘Extra Heavy’ standard trees, and planted in the next available planting season (November to April).

## WILDFLOWER MEADOW MIX

For the wildflower mix I’d suggest going with a general mix suitable for freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (soil class 6) such as WFS060 supplied by Moles Seeds (Moles Seeds (UK) Ltd, Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 8PD) or (**preferably**) Emorsgate’s wild flower mix for loamy soils - code EM5F. This mix includes:

- *Achillea Millefolium* – Yarrow
- *Agrimonia eupatoria* – Agrimony
- *Carex flacca* – Glaucous Sedge
- *Cemtaurea nigra* – Common Knapweed
- *Daucus carota* – Wild carrot
- *Galium verum* – Lady’s Bedstraw
- *Geranium pratense* – Meadow cranesbill
- *Knautia arvensis* – Field Scabious
- *Leontodon hispidus* – Rough Hawkbit
- *Leucanthemum vulgare* – Moon Daisy
- *Lotus corniculatus* – Bird’s=foot Trefoil
- *Malva moschata* – Musk Mallow
- *Medicago lupulina* – Black Medick
- *Plantago lanceolata* – Ribwort plantain
- *Primula versis* – Cowslip
- *Ranunculus acris* – Meadow Buttercup
- *Ranunculus Bulbosus* – Bulbous Buttercup
- *Rhinanthus minor* – Yellow Rattle
- *Rumex acetosa* – Common Sorrel
- *Silaum silaus* – Pepper Saxifrage
- *Vicia cracca* – Tufted Vetch

Sowing and establishment details (as provided by Emorsgate are as follows:

- **Suggested sowing rates**

15kg/ha 6kg/acre 1.5g/m2

- **Description**

EM5F contains a good range of the wild flowers once common in unimproved flower-rich lowland meadows. Loamy soils are medium textured soils: a mixture of clay, silt and sand with none predominating. They are usually found in low lying areas developed from alluvium and other material, frequently over chalky or limestone bedrocks and so are often neutral to alkaline.

- **Growing guide**

100% wild flower mixtures are best sown into existing grass or combined with a suitable grass seed mix. If sown alone without grass onto bare soil the spaces left between the sown flowers will be filled by grasses and other weeds.

- **Ground preparation**

When sowing wild flower seed directly into existing grass the site must be carefully chosen and the ground preparation must be good. Select grassland on poor to moderately fertile soil with a fine sward structure and few perennial weeds or vigorous grasses. Unless yellow rattle is already established in the sward, results can often be improved by adding yellow rattle seed at up to 1g/m2 to this mix.

Control any perennial weeds such as docks or thistles.

Prepare the ground for sowing in late summer by cutting and/or grazing very hard and create gaps either with harrows or by raking (aiming to create around 50% bare soil).

- **Sowing**

Sow in the autumn using a 100% wild flower mixture. Bulk up the seed with an inert carrier such as sand to make distribution easier. The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. Rolling is not usually necessary.

- **First year management**

After sowing continue mowing or grazing as needed aiming to keep the grass short (30-50mm). Continue mowing/grazing through winter and early spring as necessary. Stop mowing/grazing in April and leave until

July/August at which time you can manage the sowing as you would established grassland as described below.

With the exception of yellow rattle most of the sown meadow species are perennial and will be slow to germinate, grow and flower, particularly against the competition from established grasses.

- **Management once established**

Established grassland can be managed in a number of ways which, in association with soil fertility, will determine its character. The best results are usually obtained by traditional meadow management based around a main summer hay cut in combination with autumn, and possibly spring, mowing or grazing.

Meadow grassland is not cut or grazed from spring through to late July/ August to give sown species an opportunity to flower.

After flowering in July or August take a 'hay cut': cut back with a scythe, petrol strimmer or tractor mower to c 50mm. Leave the 'hay' to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days then remove from site.

Mow or graze the re-growth through to late autumn/winter to c 50mm and again in spring if needed.

EM5F is a mixture containing 100% native wild flowers for sowing into existing grass or combining with a suitable grass seed mix. EG5 is the grass mix we recommend for sowing with these flowers. EM5F and EG5 are available premixed as a complete meadow mixture EM5

I trust this answers your questions below Richard. If you need any additional assistance I'm here until 5pm.

Best wishes,

Robin

**Robin Lines**
BA Hons, PG Dip LA, MA, LLI, PIEMA

PRINCIPAL

Robin Lines Landscape