INDIGO

LANDSCAPE ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Teffont Mill, Teffont Evias, Wiltshire

February 2024

Revision A

Prepared by:

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Rev	Description	Date	By	Chk
(-)	First draft issue	2024-02-02	ML	MG
-	Issued for planning	2024-02-05	ML	MG
A	Detailed Landscape Proposals drawing added to Appendix A	2024-02-06	ML	MG

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

1.1 The following guidance has been prepared by Indigo Landscape Architects Limited to guide the ongoing landscape management of the solar array development at Teffont Mill, Wiltshire; in connection with Planning Application reference PL/2023/09559.

1.2 This plan covers the period of 30 years from the commencement of the scheme, and includes the decommissioning of the scheme and the restoration of the land post removal of the array.

1.3 The plan is divided into the following sections:

Section 2 - Implementation
- i. General planting notes
- ii. Biosecurity
- iii. Soiling and planting specification
- iv. Timing and monitoring of planting works

Section 3 - Overview of the management required
- i. Description of the features to be managed
- ii. Objectives of the management plan
- iii. Responsibilities for carrying out the works
- iv. Review and monitoring of the management plan

Section 4 - Management prescriptions
- i. General site maintenance
- ii. Hedges
- iii. Wildflower meadow

Section 5 - Works schedule (30 year period)

Section 6 - Decommissioning and restoration
- i. Restoration
- ii. Five year care plan

Appendix A – Detailed Landscape Proposals plan

1.2 The plan assumes that the development is carried out in accordance with Indigo Landscape Architect's drawing 1088-SW-01B (Appendix A) and all recommendations in the Ecological Impact Assessment (HalpinRobbins Ltd; June 2023) are implemented. It is also assumed that all works are carried out to relevant British Standards.

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The Proposed Development comprises a row of ground mounted solar panels which would be pile driven directly into the ground with no need for permanent foundations etc. It is a temporary use of the land, and all parts of the installation are reversible. An inverter would be housed within the existing building adjacent to the array.

The proposed mitigation planting, however, will remain.

2.1 General planting notes:

All works shall be undertaken to recognised good horticultural practice and to relevant British Standards. The quality of all landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard 4428:1989 'Code Of practice For General Landscape Operations'.

All plants included within the approved details shall be healthy, well-formed specimens of a minimum quality that is compatible with British Standard 3936:1992 (Part 1) 'Specifications for Trees & Shrubs' and British Standard 4043:1989 (where applicable).

2.2 Biosecurity

'BS 8545:2014 Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape' shall be adhered to. In the interest of Biosecurity, trees should not be imported directly from European suppliers and planted straight into the field, unless they have appropriate certification that they are 100% disease free and have come from an area with no known horticultural diseases; If disease free certification is not possible, the trees shall have spent a full growing season in quarantine, in a British nursery to ensure plant health and non-infection by foreign pests and diseases. This is a measure to address the threat of the introduction of pests and diseases from outside the UK.

2.3 Soiling and planting specification

- Plants to be planted into existing soil.
- Existing topsoil on site should be checked for quality to a depth of 250mm. If the soil is considered to be of poor quality, the contractor should inform Indigo Landscape Architects for a suitable resolution prior to proceeding with the planting works.
- Organic fertilisers shall be incorporated per manufacturer's suggested rates in hedge planting areas to ensure there are sufficient plant nutrients within the soil.
- Hedge planting areas to be mulched with minimum 50mm settled depth medium grade woodchip mulch to suppress weeds.
- Plants to be protected from damage with Tubex guards.
- Wildflower meadow planting shall be from seed as per supplier's recommendations. Areas are to be prepared by removing any perennial weeds (spot herbicide treatment if necessary), and cutting existing grass down hard and creating gaps either with harrows or by raking (aiming to create around 50% bare soil). NO fertilisers shall be used.

2.4 Timing and monitoring of planting works

All planting shall be undertaken within the first planting season following installation of the solar panels (1st November to 31st March inclusive).

Meadow seeding shall be undertaken in the Autumn (September – October).

All planting works will be undertaken and supervised by a competent professional landscape contractor.

3.0 OVERVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT REQUIRED

3.1 Description of the features to be managed

The plan covers the following management areas:

i. Hedges; and
ii. Wildflower meadow.

3.2 Objectives of the management plan

Ensuring the successful establishment of the landscape planting, maintaining a safe and attractive environment around the site, and maximising the biodiversity value / opportunities for the attraction of wildlife.

3.3 Responsibilities for carrying out the works

The property owner(s) are responsible for the care and management of property and shall employ / appoint a landscape management contractor to carry out the specified works. This arrangement shall be reviewed as needed to ensure the property is continuously maintained.

The planting will be maintained by the owners as part of their property management and requires no special funding or legal security as it is a small scale scheme.

3.4 Review and monitoring of the management plan

This plan is a reviewable document which can be updated and revised as required. At a minimum the plan should be reviewed in its entirety every 5 years and adjusted according to the on-going management of the site and to ensure the plan is in accordance with current best practise and wildlife legislation.

4.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

All management works are to be undertaken by an experienced qualified landscape contractor in accordance with British Standards including:

a. All landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard 4428:1989 'Code of practice for General Landscape Operations'.

b. All soft landscape areas are to be maintained to British Standard 7370-4:1993 'Grounds Maintenance'.

c. All plants supplied shall be healthy, well-formed specimens of a minimum quality compatible with British Standard 3936:1992 (Part 1) 'Specifications for Trees and Shrubs' and British Standard 4043 (where applicable).

Maintenance visits will typically be undertaken once monthly between October and March and twice monthly between April and September.

4.1 General site maintenance

Objectives

a. The general intent of landscape maintenance for the site is to ensure that over a period of time the planting develops to maturity, to the concept that has been approved by the local planning authority.

Management Prescriptions

a. All works are to be undertaken to a high standard, to recognised horticultural practice and in such a way as to allow healthy plants to develop, unhindered by weed growth or other inhibiting factors.

b. All existing trees and vegetation to be retained are to be protected from construction works as required by British Standard 5837:2012 – Trees in relation to construction 6.2 & Figure 3 using 1.8m high protective heras fencing with stabilizer struts.

c. Replace any plants that are dead or become seriously damaged or diseased within the first 5 years of planting with plants of a similar size and species. All planting will be inspected annually in late summer. Any dead, dying or diseased plants shall be removed and replanted according to the approved plan in the next planting season (November – March).

d. Collect and remove litter from all planting areas on a monthly basis, minimum.

4.2 Hedges

Objectives

a. Hedgerows will be managed to ensure the successful establishment and prolonged health of new plants and to promote dense bushy growth that can be suitably maintained.

Management Prescriptions

a. Water hedge plants as necessary to ensure vigorous and successful establishment, particularly during periods of warm, sunny weather.

b. In the first year newly planted hedging is to be trimmed twice annually to approximately 1.2m height, to maintain a neat appearance and encourage dense growth whilst establishing. This should be increased gradually over a period of five years and then maintained yearly at 2m height and 1.5 – 2m in width to the south, and 2.5m height to the east and west. Collect and remove all debris from trimming / pruning.

c. Any cutting should be undertaken outside the bird breeding season (unless it is confirmed by a suitably qualified Ecologist that breeding birds are absent). The bird breeding season typically extends between March and August inclusive.

d. Aged / tired hedgerows which have developed gaps or invasive species should re-shaped, gapped-up or laid in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist, then returned to trimming as above.

e. Straighten and re-firm hedge plants after strong winds, frost heave or other disturbances.

f. Inspect guards and stakes twice annually or after severe weather and repair / adjust / replace as required. Remove guards and stakes once the plants are well established and the plants no longer require protection (guide: three to five years after planting).

g. Keep plant beds clear of weeds using handing weeding. Non-residual herbicides should only be used when necessary.

h. Fertilise plants annually with a single dose of evenly spread slow release fertiliser to the base of the plants in March / April for the first three to five years to encourage establishment.

i. Maintain a 50mm settled depth mulch layer until fully established. Check annually and top up as needed.

j. Inspect plants annually in late summer. Remove and replace dead, diseased or dying plants with the same species to the original specification.

4.3 Wildflower meadow

Objectives

a. To maintain the plant-species diversity and character of the grassland.

Management Prescriptions

Seeding

b. Wildflower meadow areas are to be overseeded with EH1F – Wildflowers for Hedgerows (Emorsgate Seeds).

c. Seed will be sown during suitable calm weather conditions at the recommended rate prescribed by the supplier (1.5g/m^2). 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.

d. Sowing should be undertaken in the Autumn.

e. No pre-seeding fertiliser should be applied.

Establishment

f. The contractor will ensure that all seeded areas are watered fully at the time of installation to the full cultivated depth, and that sufficient subsequent watering is carried out to ensure healthy establishment of the grass sward.

Aftercare

g. For wildflower mixes to survive and remain stable, competition from vigorous grasses and problem weeds such as docks and thistles need to be kept under control. Wildflower mixtures can soon degenerate into rough grassland within only a few years due to lack of maintenance. Cutting the sward is a vital component in managing competition and achieving good results. This is particularly the case during the first growing season when perennial meadow species are slow to develop.

h. First year management: After sowing continue mowing as needed aiming to keep the grass short (30-50mm). Continue mowing through winter and early spring as needed. Stop mowing in April and leave until July/August at which time the meadow can be managed as set out below.

i. Management once established: Zoned management of meadow areas frequently produces the best diversity of habitat structure: areas which are shaded below the panels can be left uncut in most years, becoming rough and "tussocky" in character. To control scrub and bramble development cut these areas every 2-3 years between October and February (best done on a rotational basis so that no more than half the area is cut in any one year, leaving part as undisturbed refuge for wildlife). Areas which are more open should be managed as grassland habitat (cut once a year).

j. All arisings will be removed off site to prevent the build of soil fertility. Arisings from autumn cuts (i.e. once the flowers have set seed) will be left for 48 hours to allow seeds from the cuttings to fall to the soil.

5.0 WORKS SCHEDULE (Minimum 30 year period)

Habitat / Feature	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	No. of actions (annually)	Comments / Notes
Hedgerows														
Monitor plants to ensure they are thriving	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	With the aim of ensuring successful establishment and prolonged health
Replace diseased, damaged or dying plants	*	*	*								*	*	*	As required
Watering				*	*	*	*	*	*				*	As required
Weed control			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8	Hand weeding / non-residual herbicide
Check / adjust stakes and guards				1						1			2	Repair / adjust as necessary until removal
Check bark mulch depth / quality				1						1			2	Top up as necessary (50mm depth)
Apply hedgerow fertiliser			*	*									1	Yearly spring application for first 3-5 years to encourage establishment
Hedgerow cutting during establishment	*	*								*	*	*	2	Cut twice annually (outside bird nesting season) to 1.2m gradually increasing to 2m/2.5m height (as noted) over 5 years.
Hedgerow cutting once established	*	*								*	*	*	1	Cut once a year, outside bird nesting season
Wildflower meadow														
First year cut	*	*	*						*	*	*	*	*	As needed, keeping grass short (30-50mm)
Subsequent year cuts (under panels)	*	*								*	*	*	1	Cut every 2-3 years (on rotational basis)
Subsequent year cuts (open areas)									*	*			1	Cut once a year
Watering				*	*	*	*	*	*				*	As required during establishment
Review management plan									*				1	As required. At a minimum every 5 yrs

6.0 DECOMISSIONING AND RESTORATION

As set out above, the proposed development is for temporary use and all of the parts associated with the solar array will be reversible. At the end of its operational life, all the components and above ground structures would be removed from the site, any excavated/ disturbed areas would be made good, and the land would be returned to grassland. All planting associated with screening and biodiversity benefit would remain after decommissioning.

6.1 Restoration

Once the solar array has been removed, the grassland will be allowed to fill in any bare soil naturally, and will continue to be managed as an area of open grassland (cut once a year).

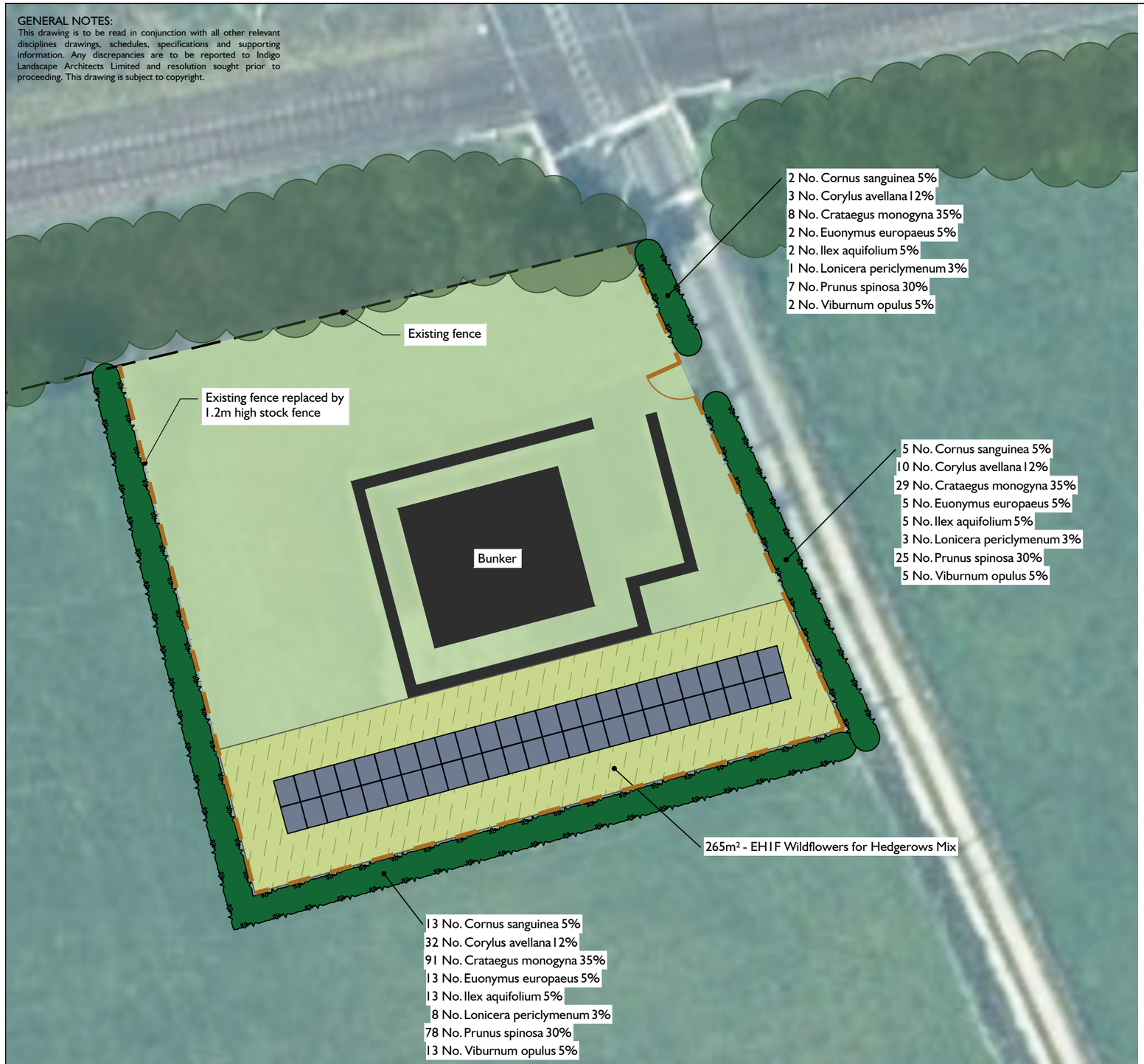
The hedgerows will continue to be managed as an established hedge (cut once a year, outside the bird nesting season).

6.2 Five year care plan (post decommissioning)

Habitat / Feature	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	No. of actions (annually)	Comments / Notes
Hedgerows														
Hedgerow cutting	*	*								*	*	*	1	Cut once a year, outside bird nesting season
Wildflower meadow														
Meadow cutting (open areas)									*	*			1	Cut once a year

APPENDIX A – DETAILED LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS (1088-SW-01B)

GENERAL NOTES:
This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all other relevant disciplines drawings, schedules, specifications and supporting information. Any discrepancies are to be reported to Indigo Landscape Architects Limited and resolution sought prior to proceeding. This drawing is subject to copyright.



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PLANT SCHEDULE

Native hedge planting

Number	Species	Height	Specification	Mix Species Contribution
20 No.	Cornus sanguinea	60-80cm	B/R :1+1	5%
45 No.	Corylus avellana	60-80cm	B/R :1+1	12%
128 No.	Crataegus monogyna	60-80cm	B/R :1+1	35%
20 No.	Euonymus europaeus	60-80cm	B/R :1+1	5%
20 No.	Ilex aquifolium	40-60cm	2L Pot	5%
12 No.	Lonicera periclymenum	60-80cm	3L Pot	3%
110 No.	Prunus spinosa	40-60cm	2L pot	30%
20 No.	Viburnum opulus	60-80cm	B/R :1+1	5%

Hedge planted in a double staggered row. Rows 0.5m apart and plants at 0.5m centres, 4 plants per linear metre. Plants protected with tubular shelter guards.

Seed Areas

Area	Mix	Supplier	Rate
265m²	EH1F - Wildflowers for Hedgerows	Emorsgate Seeds	1.5g/m²

SOFTWORKS SPECIFICATION

1 - IMPLEMENTATION
General
All works shall to be undertaken to recognised good horticultural practice and to relevant British Standards. The quality of all landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard 4428:1989 'Code Of practice For General Landscape Operations'.

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- Hedge planting areas to be mulched with minimum 50mm settled depth medium grade woodchip mulch to suppress weeds.
- Plants to be protected from damage with Tubex guards.
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Timing and monitoring of planting works
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Meadow seeding shall be undertaken in the Autumn (September - October).

All planting works will be undertaken and supervised by a competent professional landscape contractor.

2 - LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT
Long term design objectives
The general intent of landscape maintenance of the site is to ensure that over a period of time the planting develops to maturity.

Management and maintenance is to be undertaken in such a way as to allow healthy plants to develop, unhindered by weed growth or other inhibiting factors.

Landscape maintenance schedules
All landscape maintenance work is to be undertaken by an experienced landscape maintenance contractor.

Maintenance visits will typically be undertaken once monthly between October and March and twice monthly between April and September. The primary maintenance operations will include:

- Watering plants and wildflower areas as necessary to ensure vigorous and successful establishment during the early years after planting.
- Keeping planting areas free from weeds. All planted areas shall be hand weeded or treated with a non-residual herbicide as appropriate / required.
- General pruning and trimming to ensure the adjacent track is not obscured and to ensure plants develop appropriately according to their species.
- Trimming native hedges to 1.2m in height for first 3 years and increasing to 2m (southern hedge) and 2.5m (east and western hedges) thereafter; and 1.5m-2m in width depending on space available.
- Overseeding wildflower areas as necessary.
- Cutting wildflower areas as per the supplier's recommendations.
- Replacing plants that fail where required, with the approved species, (within 5 years of planting as a minimum).
- All planting will be inspected annually in late summer. Any dead, dying or diseased plants shall be removed and replanted according to the approved plan in the following planting season (November-March).

NORTH

SCALE 1:250 @ A3

0 5 10m

rev	description	date	by	chk
B	Meadow mix amended per comments	2024-02-06	ML	MG
A	Issued for planning	2023-09-21	ML	MG
-	First draft issue	2023-09-21	ML	MG

project
TEFFONT MILL SOLAR

client
MRS CAMILLA WOODWARD

drawing title
DETAILED LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

drawing number	revision	status	scale
1088-SW-01	B	PLANNING	1:250@A3

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