

Land East of Albion Road and North of Copper Lane, Marden, Kent

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP)

August 2023



Prepared by Allen Scott for Rydon Homes Ltd



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COVER: DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN by OSP for Rydon Homes (not to scale)

FIGURE 1 & APPENDIX A: LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AREAS (appendix to scale)

1.0 Introduction

This Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) covers an area of residential development by Rydon Homes at Land East of Albion Road and North of Copper Lane, Marden, Kent.

This OLEMP has been prepared by Allen Scott Ltd on behalf of Rydon Homes and is aimed to help support a planning application for development.

This OLEMP has been prepared based on a layout plan prepared by OSP Architects for Rydon Homes. It has also been prepared based on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, feedback from the Pre-App meeting as part of the planning approval process and a review of assessments by other disciplines such as ecology, arboriculture and heritage.

This OLEMP will inform a more detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) which will need to be based on final detailed proposed development and the results of the final protected species surveys.

Specific management areas addressed are illustrated on Figure 2 below and Appendix A which should be referenced alongside and in conjunction with this report.

The structure and content of this report is intended to provide a clear and comprehensive management framework for the existing and proposed ecological and landscape areas within the development site boundary, other than the private gardens.



A view of the Site pre-development from Copper Lane (photography taken in July 2023)



Views within the Site pre-development (photography taken in April 2022)

2.0 Aims and Objectives of the OLEMP

The aims and objectives of this OLEMP is to set out a detailed framework of landscape operations required to:

- Secure the long term health, safety, screening quality and habitat connectivity of the important landscape green infrastructure of the site provided by existing and new hedgerows and tree cover and maintain and enhance the nature conservation value of these areas.
- Manage the new attenuation basin and swales to provide attractive features of conservation value with appropriate levels of accessibility, whilst ensuring their function as part of the natural drainage systems is also maintained as a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) element.
- Provide a range of informal open spaces and a setting for the development.
- Provide and maintain a natural screening from the wider open countryside to the south.
- Provide and maintain connections throughout the areas of open space
- Provide and maintain hedgerows throughout the development.
- Enable new and existing vegetation to establish and be maintained to deliver the aims and aspirations shown in the Ecological Assessment.
- Provide a statement on who is responsible for management and maintenance post construction.

The OLEMP also helps illustrate how the proposed development can help deliver the objectives set within Maidstone Borough Council Landscape Character Assessment Supplement.

This report should be read in conjunction with the following reports and documents:

- The site layout by OSP for Rydon Homes
- Landscape Note – Initial Landscape Review
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)
- Ecological Assessment (EA) by Ecology Solutions
- Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA) by Broadoak
- Maidstone Borough Council's Landscape Character Assessment Supplement 2012



FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (NTS)

Please refer to Appendix A for an A3 version of this drawing

3.0 Ecological and Landscape Area Descriptions and Management Principles

The development area is approximately 5.98 hectares, of which 3.54 hectares is proposed to fall to open space (outside of private gardens and access roads). These areas of communal open space can be described in four separate areas.

These areas are shown on the Figure 1 above and are described below together with a summary of broad objectives and management principles.

The areas of greatest ecological value are the existing hedgerows and trees which offer suitable foraging and sheltering opportunities for a wide range of bats and bird species. It's therefore recommended that these should be retained and enhanced wherever possible.

Great Crested Newts are known from ponds within 250m of the Site. The addition of new, and improvements of existing ponds within the site should be noted as an important action in creating new corridors for this species, and others.

Note that management of landscape areas within plots will be by individual property owners.

3.1 Area i: Northern Arrival

This area consists of the main proposed access road which leads from Albion Road into Area ii and the majority of the new development. It also consists of: footpaths, an existing pond, existing hedgerow and groups of existing trees along with proposed trees to enhance these areas.

The objective is to protect and maintain the existing hedgerow, woodland and pond, and to establish further vegetation with trees that help to reinforce the natural / verdant edge to this part of Marden. It will also create an attractive sense of arrival into the new area of housing development.

Note in the Maidstone Borough Landscape Character Area guidelines: “Ponds are also a valuable nature conservation resource and landscape feature. The council will encourage landowners and developers to retain and increase ponds and wetland areas to enhance their visual and wildlife functions.”

Management Principles:

Existing Trees:

Trees will be regularly visually checked for the presence of any diseased or rotten wood; fungal or other infections / disease; and structural stability. An Arboricultural Assessment will be undertaken annually in the initial stages; inspecting the condition of existing trees and identifying any works required for health and safety reasons.

New Trees:

There are several new trees proposed within Area i. The new trees shall be set within suitable tree pits within areas of soft landscape and have appropriate support and protection from rabbits. They will be watered regularly in the first year to establish and will continued to be watered during dry periods in the second year. General maintenance will be carried out at appropriate times of the year to maintain a healthy condition. Reducing, lifting or thinning the crown, coppicing or pollarding will be carried out if required.

Hedgerows:

An existing hedgerow creates a boundary between Area i and Area ii. There is a break in the hedgerow to allow for an access road between Albion Road and the rest of the Site.

Hedgerows that require bulking out /replacing should typically be: a mixed native species to support and attract wildlife; Plants that provide year-round interest from buds and flowers in spring through berries and seeds in the autumn; such as Birch, Silver Beech, English Oak, Field Maple, Hazel, Common Dogwood, Hawthorn, Holly.

Plants will be a minimum of 1m tall whips or 3L containers. Planting will be of an approximate density of 5 plants per linear metre (dependant on container size and species) in double staggered rows. The planted areas of hedge will require repeated layering until the new planting has sufficiently knitted into the existing planting. The planting season runs from November to March prior to the bird nesting season.

Where hedgerows are managed by trimming, hedgerows will be trimmed no more frequently than every other year on a rotational cutting scheme, with no more than one third of such hedges trimmed within the same 12 months, to encourage bushier growth and fruiting of hedgerow plants in addition to reducing maintenance costs. Hedgerows will be trimmed between January and February, to avoid the disturbance of bird nesting sites and allow the majority of hedgerow fruits to be eaten by birds and other wildlife prior to cutting. Any hedgerow maintenance required during the March to September bird breeding season would be immediately preceded by a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist to avoid effects on nesting birds. Hedgerow trees to be retained will be identified and measures must be taken to ensure that these trees are not damaged when the hedgerow tops are cut back. Where appropriate, excessive horizontal growth will be maintained with layering. Scrub encroachment from hedgerows into grassland will be monitored and where necessary, cut back between March and September, outside the bird nesting season. Cuttings that result from management works will be used on site to enhance log piles or be placed in a designated compost area and are not to be left on grassland for any period of time.

Pond

There is a small existing pond within the vegetation on the south boundary of Area i. Initial clearance of surrounding vegetation through the development will expose the pond where the existing condition should be assessed.

Management will include periodic inspections to ensure any inlets/outlets are not blocked, control of invasive aquatic or marginal plants, removal of litter and grass cutting twice a year.

Footpaths:

The proposed access road comprises footpaths on either side in this area. These will typically be adoptable asphalt / tarmac paving and edging.

Following completion of capital works no further work will typically be required in the medium term other than sweeping and periodic making good.

The shared surface roads shall be laid to suitable block paving. Following completion of capital works no further work will typically be required in the medium term other than sweeping and periodic making good.

3.2 Area ii: Northern Edge & Upper Levels

This area consists of a new housing, roads, footpaths, trees, partly retained existing windbreak of Birch trees and a central village green. It is set at the north side and highest plateau of the Site, surrounded by mature trees and hedgerow to the north and east which are to be retained.

The area adjoins Area i to the west with the access road from Albion Road passing through an existing hedgerow and Area iii to the south. To the north is the Russet Grove development, separated by a line of existing trees and mature vegetation, to the south Area ii joins Area iii.

Houses have been arranged to 'face outwards' in order to ensure a perimeter footpath route can be retained and good buffer widths provided along existing vegetated boundaries.

Area ii includes new street trees throughout and there are locations along the primary road for grass verges and an avenue of street trees. There is a central 'village green' managed as part of the regular management and maintenance of the wider open space.

Management Principles:

Existing Trees:

Trees will be regularly visually checked for the presence of any diseased or rotten wood; fungal or other infections / disease; and structural stability. An Arboricultural Assessment will be undertaken annually in the initial stages; inspecting the condition of existing trees and identifying any works required for health and safety reasons.

New Trees:

There are several new trees proposed within Area ii. The new trees shall be set within suitable tree pits within areas of soft landscape and have appropriate support and protection from rabbits. They will be watered regularly in the first year to establish and will continued to be watered during dry periods in the second year. General maintenance will be carried out at appropriate times of the year to maintain a healthy condition. Reducing, lifting or thinning the crown, coppicing or pollarding will be carried out if required.

Existing hedgerows:

The majority of the existing north and east boundary hedgerows in this area are to be retained and managed as a mature hedgerow.

Hedgerows that require bulking out /replacing should typically be: a mixed native species to support and attract wildlife; Plants that provide year-round interest from buds and flowers in spring through berries and seeds in the autumn; such as Birch, Silver Beech, English Oak, Field Maple, Hazel, Common Dogwood, Hawthorn, Holly.

Plants will be a minimum of 1m tall whips or 3L containers. Planting will be of an approximate density of 5 plants per linear metre (dependant on container size and species) in double staggered rows. The planted areas of hedge will require repeated layering until the new planting has sufficiently knitted into the existing planting. The planting season runs from November to March prior to the bird nesting season.

Where hedgerows are managed by trimming, hedgerows will be trimmed no more frequently than every other year on a rotational cutting scheme, with no more than one third of such hedges trimmed within the same 12 months, to encourage bushier growth and fruiting of hedgerow plants in addition to reducing maintenance costs. Hedgerows will be trimmed between January and February, to avoid the disturbance of bird nesting sites and allow the majority of hedgerow fruits to be eaten by birds and other wildlife prior to cutting. Any hedgerow maintenance required during the March to September bird breeding season would be immediately preceded by a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist to avoid effects on nesting birds. Hedgerow trees to be retained will be identified and measures must be taken to ensure that these trees are not damaged when the hedgerow tops are cut back. Where appropriate, excessive horizontal growth will be maintained with layering. Scrub encroachment from hedgerows into grassland will be monitored and where necessary, cut back between March and September, outside the bird nesting season. Cuttings that result from management works will be used on site to enhance log piles or be placed in a designated compost area and are not to be left on grassland for any period of time.

Existing Birch Windbreak

Parts of the line of birch trees are to be retained, the extent of this being dependent on the detailed design of the site.

It is recommended to plan for natural succession of a band of hedgerow and mature trees to develop across this area due to the short life-span of the birch species (20-40years longevity remaining).

The existing Birch will be regularly visually checked for the presence of any diseased or rotten wood; fungal or other infections / disease; and structural stability. An Arboricultural Assessment will be undertaken annually in the initial stages; inspecting the condition of existing trees and identifying any works required for health and safety reasons. Any deadwood to be left standing unless it is structurally unstable.

The hedgerow planting should typically be : a mixed native species to support and attract wildlife; Plants that provide year-round interest from buds and flowers in spring through berries and seeds in the autumn; such as Silver Beech, English Oak, Field Maple, Hazel, Common Dogwood, Hawthorn, Holly.

Plants will be a minimum of 1m tall whips or 3L containers. Planting will be of an approximate density of 5 plants per linear metre (dependant on container size and species) in double staggered rows. The planted areas of hedge will require repeated layering until the new planting has sufficiently knitted into the existing planting. The planting season runs from November to March prior to the bird nesting season.

For detailed management of the new hedgerow – see hedgerows section.

Village Green

The green is to be mown regularly from late spring to autumn by strimming or mowing. Grass cuttings shall be removed from site or stored in appropriate compost on site.

Subject to detail design and the proposed use of the Green, it may be beneficial to retain areas of species rich meadow grasses that require less cutting during the year and provide additional biodiversity benefits.

Planting in front of plots and along verges:

A grass margin / verge is proposed along the road edge to the access road.

Grass verges shall be kept mown regularly during late spring / summer months by strimming or mowing. Grass cuttings shall be removed from site or stored in appropriate compost on site.

Subject to detail design, it may be beneficial to create grass verges with of species rich meadow grasses that require less cutting during the year and provide additional biodiversity benefits.

Footpaths:

The proposed access road comprises footpaths on either side in this area. These will typically be adoptable asphalt / tarmac paving and edging.

Following completion of capital works no further work will typically be required in the medium term other than sweeping and periodic making good.

Other new paths within areas of open space will be laid to self binding gravel and timber edge and maintained as per other footpaths within the open spaces across the development. Subject to final products specification, it is envisaged that these will require little ongoing maintenance other than periodic making good to address depressions, ruts and/or scoring. If these issues are due to drainage problems, these will be rectified prior to resurfacing.

The shared surface roads shall be laid to suitable block paving. Following completion of capital works no further work will typically be required in the medium term other than sweeping and periodic making good.

3.3 Area iii: Mid-Levels

This area is defined by a central green corridor which filters at the edges into Areas ii (north) and iv (south) whilst existing hedgerows and mature trees line the west and east boundaries. The residential housing has facades arranged facing outwards onto the green corridor and along the roads.

New street trees are to be planted along the green corridor with wide grass verges adding to the open public space provision. North-south linear SUDS channels buffered by green infrastructure run through the area connecting into a further SUDS system to the south in Area iv.

Management Principles:

Existing Trees:

Trees will be regularly visually checked for the presence of any diseased or rotten wood; fungal or other infections / disease; and structural stability. An Arboricultural Assessment will be undertaken annually in the initial stages; inspecting the condition of existing trees and identifying any works required for health and safety reasons. Where bat roost features are identified in any trees recommended for removal, these will be inspected by a qualified ecologist.

New Trees:

There are several new trees proposed within Area iii. The new trees shall be set within suitable tree pits within areas of soft landscape and have appropriate support and protection from rabbits. They will be watered regularly in the first year to establish and will continued to be watered during dry periods in the second year. General maintenance will be carried out at appropriate times of the year to maintain a healthy condition. Reducing, lifting or thinning the crown, coppicing or pollarding will be carried out if required.

Existing hedgerows:

The existing hedgerows to the west and east boundaries are to be retained and managed as a mature hedgerow. There are breaks to allow vehicle and pedestrian access between Area ii and iv .

Hedgerows that require bulking out /replacing should typically be: a mixed native species to support and attract wildlife; Plants that provide year-round interest from buds and flowers in spring through berries and seeds in the autumn; such as Birch, Silver Beech, English Oak, Field Maple, Hazel, Common Dogwood, Hawthorn, Holly.

Plants will be a minimum of 1m tall whips or 3L containers. Planting will be of an approximate density of 5 plants per linear metre (dependant on container size and species) in double staggered rows. The planted areas of hedge will require repeated layering until the new planting has sufficiently knitted into the existing planting. The planting season runs from November to March prior to the bird nesting season.

Where hedgerows are managed by trimming, hedgerows will be trimmed no more frequently than every other year on a rotational cutting scheme, with no more than one third of such hedges trimmed within the same 12 months, to encourage bushier growth and fruiting of hedgerow plants in addition to reducing maintenance costs. Hedgerows will be trimmed

between January and February, to avoid the disturbance of bird nesting sites and allow the majority of hedgerow fruits to be eaten by birds and other wildlife prior to cutting. Any hedgerow maintenance required during the March to September bird breeding season would be immediately preceded by a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist to avoid effects on nesting birds. Hedgerow trees to be retained will be identified and measures must be taken to ensure that these trees are not damaged when the hedgerow tops are cut back. Where appropriate, excessive horizontal growth will be maintained with layering. Scrub encroachment from hedgerows into grassland will be monitored and where necessary, cut back between March and September, outside the bird nesting season. Cuttings that result from management works will be used on site to enhance log piles or be placed in a designated compost area and are not to be left on grassland for any period of time.

Swales:

Linear SUDS features forming drainage and surface storm water attenuation, whilst providing an attractive green corridor within the development, will add to the landscape value of the streetscape and development. Area iii consists of a swale running north to south along the access road, spanning into Area iv.

The swale will be managed and maintained so that they are effective drainage elements as well as forming part of an attractive green corridor through the site linking areas of open space. Where these features cross roads they will be culverted, outfalling to the attenuation basin.

Generally the swales shall be vegetated using a mixture of wildflower suitable for wetlands (for example EM8 Meadow seed). Management and maintenance shall carefully follow the seed supplier's recommendations for laying, establishment and aftercare.

Invasive aquatic/marginal plants will be controlled, and periodic removal of accumulated silt will ensure they function correctly.

Planting in front of plots and along verges:

A grass margin / verge is proposed along the road edge to the access road.

Grass verges shall be kept mown regularly during late spring / summer months by strimming or mowing. Grass cuttings shall be removed from site or stored in appropriate compost on site.

Subject to detail design, it may be beneficial to create grass verges with of species rich meadow grasses that require less cutting during the year and provide additional biodiversity benefits.

Footpaths:

The proposed access road comprises footpaths on either side in this area. These will typically be adoptable asphalt / tarmac paving and edging.

Following completion of capital works no further work will typically be required in the medium term other than sweeping and periodic making good.

Other new paths within areas of open space will be laid to self binding gravel and maintained as per other footpaths within the open spaces across the development. Subject to final products specification, it is envisaged that these will require little ongoing maintenance other than periodic making good to address depressions, ruts and/or scoring. If these issues are due to drainage problems, these will be rectified prior to resurfacing.

The shared surface roads shall be laid to suitable block paving. Following completion of capital works no further work will typically be required in the medium term other than sweeping and periodic making good.

3.4 Area iv: Southern Edge & Lower Levels

The southern extent of the site comprises of housing on the boundary of the development, moving into open space which has within it: SUDS Swale, proposed attenuation basin, three existing ponds, hedgerows, mature trees and orchards. The majority of existing vegetation is to be retained and managed as part of the development.

Boardwalks and tracks are provided within the open space. Area iv is bound by mature hedgerow and trees on all except the north boundary. There are breaks in the south boundary for pedestrian/emergency & maintenance vehicle access onto Copper Lane.

The area includes a large attenuation basin which is intended as a positive landscape feature within the open space, contributing to the ecological & hydrological value of three existing ponds.

Management Principles:

Existing Trees:

Trees will be regularly visually checked for the presence of any diseased or rotten wood; fungal or other infections / disease; and structural stability. An Arboricultural Assessment will be undertaken annually in the initial stages; inspecting the condition of existing trees and identifying any works required for health and safety reasons.

New Trees:

There are several new trees proposed within Area iv. The new trees shall be set within suitable tree pits within areas of soft landscape and have appropriate support and protection from rabbits. They will be watered regularly in the first year to establish and will continued to be watered during dry periods in the second year. General maintenance will be carried out at appropriate times of the year to maintain a healthy condition. Reducing, lifting or thinning the crown, coppicing or pollarding will be carried out if required.

Existing Orchards

Parts of the existing apple orchard are to be retained in the lower area of the site. Their management is dependent on their use, whether this continues as a managed orchard or becomes a community orchard.

Trees will be regularly visually checked for the presence of any diseased or rotten wood; fungal or other infections / disease; and structural stability. An Arboricultural Assessment will be undertaken in the initial stages to establish the condition of existing trees and identifying any works required for health and safety reasons. Any deadwood or trees, unaffected by disease or harmful pathogens, are to be left standing unless there is structural instability, as trees with standing dead or decaying wood are highly valuable as a wildlife habitat within orchards.

The trees should be pruned yearly whilst they are dormant in late winter or early spring (Nov-March), taking up to 20% of the wood to maintain a balanced tree.

The Orchard understorey should be mown regularly during late spring to autumn. Mulching may be necessary in spring if trees are suffering from lack of nutrition.

Use of pesticides should be ceased as this is damaging to the surrounding environments and heavily limits the ecological value of the area. Proximity to SUDS allows it to 'travel' and damage further.

Ongoing management and fruit picking will be subject to detail design and the final LEMP.

Existing hedgerows:

Most of the existing hedgerows that define this area is to be retained and managed as a mature hedgerow.

Hedgerows that require bulking out /replacing should typically be: a mixed native species to support and attract wildlife; Plants that provide year-round interest from buds and flowers in spring through berries and seeds in the autumn; such as Birch, Silver Beech, English Oak, Field Maple, Hazel, Common Dogwood, Hawthorn, Holly.

Plants will be a minimum of 1m tall whips or 3L containers. Planting will be of an approximate density of 5 plants per linear metre (dependant on container size and species) in double staggered rows. The planted areas of hedge will require repeated layering until the new planting has sufficiently knitted into the existing planting. The planting season runs from November to March prior to the bird nesting season.

Where hedgerows are managed by trimming, hedgerows will be trimmed no more frequently than every other year on a rotational cutting scheme, with no more than one third of such hedges trimmed within the same 12 months, to encourage bushier growth and fruiting of hedgerow plants in addition to reducing maintenance costs. Hedgerows will be trimmed between January and February, to avoid the disturbance of bird nesting sites and allow the majority of hedgerow fruits to be eaten by birds and other wildlife prior to cutting. Any hedgerow maintenance required during the March to September bird breeding season would be immediately preceded by a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist to avoid effects on nesting birds. Hedgerow trees to be retained will be identified and measures must be taken to ensure that these trees are not damaged when the hedgerow tops are cut back. Where appropriate, excessive horizontal growth will be maintained with layering. Scrub encroachment from hedgerows into grassland will be monitored and where necessary, cut back between March and September, outside the bird nesting season. Cuttings that result from management works will be used on site to enhance log piles or be placed in a designated compost area and are not to be left on grassland for any period of time.

Ponds

*Three existing ponds are to be retained on the southern edge, connecting to the wider SUDS network, with species recorded including Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and Birds-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* (according to the Exhibition FAQs).*

Management will include periodic inspections to ensure any inlets/outlets are not blocked, control of invasive aquatic or marginal plants and removal of litter. Surrounding neutral grassland is to be mown in late summer/early autumn with cuttings shall be removed from site or stored in appropriate compost on site.

Attenuation Basin:

The attenuation basin will follow best practice guidance on delivering successful SuDS scheme's in development. The intention is to design it as attractive and naturalistic area within the development / wider landscape and not as solely as functional storm water storage.

The attenuation basin will be de-silted as required to maintain the depth for it to uphold the capacity for storm water. This process will include the removal of decomposing vegetation therefore maintain healthy oxygen levels in the water. De-silting work will be carried out in September or October. Removed silt or vegetation will be left at the basin edge for two days before removing to allow any wildlife to return to the basin.

The basin will be vegetated using a mixture of wildflower suitable for wetlands (for example EM8 Meadow seed). Management and maintenance shall careful follow the seed supplier's recommendations for laying, establishment and aftercare.

The basins will be managed to ensure their effective functioning as drainage elements whilst promoting their habitat value. Management will include periodic inspection to ensure any inlets/outlets are not blocked, control of invasive aquatic or marginal plants, removal of litter and grass cutting twice a year.

Swales:

Linear SUDS features forming drainage and surface storm water attenuation, whilst providing an attractive green corridor within the development, will add to the landscape value of the streetscape and development. Area iv consists of a swale running north to south along the access road, connecting into the network of attenuation basin and ponds to the south.

The swale will be managed and maintained so that they are effective drainage elements as well as forming part of an attractive green corridor through the site linking areas of open space. Where these features cross roads they will be culverted, outfalling to the attenuation basin.

Generally the swales shall be vegetated using a mixture of wildflower suitable for wetlands (for example EM8 Meadow seed). Management and maintenance shall careful follow the seed supplier's recommendations for laying, establishment and aftercare.

Invasive aquatic/marginal plants will be controlled, and periodic removal of accumulated silt will ensure they function correctly.

Planting in front of plots and along verges:

A grass margin / verge is proposed along the road edge to the access road.

Grass verges shall be kept mown regularly during late spring / summer months by strimming or mowing. Grass cuttings shall be removed from site or stored in appropriate compost on site.

Subject to detail design, it may be beneficial to create grass verges with of species rich meadow grasses that require less cutting during the year and provide additional biodiversity benefits.

Footpaths:

New paths within areas of open space will be laid to self binding gravel and maintained as per other footpaths within the open spaces across the development. Subject to final products specification, it is envisaged that these will require little ongoing maintenance other than periodic making good to address depressions, ruts and/or scoring. If these issues are due to drainage problems, these will be rectified prior to resurfacing.

Timber Decking / Viewing Platform (subject to detailed design and approval following reserved matters):

Ongoing maintenance and management of the new viewing platform should follow guidance from the supplier / manufacturer.

It is assumed that, following completion, this will require little maintenance other than periodic checks for defects, damage, slips and trips.

Scheduled repairs and replacements are planned every 5 years.

4.0 Landscape Management and Maintenance Schedules

The following schedules set out the management and maintenance actions for the development at Land East of Albion Road and North of Copper Lane, Marden, Kent. This sections is structured to cover general site wide operations, followed by specific annual management and maintenance of landscape elements.

4.1 General Requirements:

All maintenance visits and operations on site will take due regard of the operational and safety requirements of the site, its residents and road users.

The maintenance contractor shall remove from site all rubbish, trimmings and superfluous materials, leaving the works in a clean and tidy condition unless expressly stated that material is to remain.

All tree work shall be in accordance with BS3998 Recommendations for Tree Work.

All works should be completed at an appropriate time of year and in accordance with relevant EU and UK wildlife legislation.

Landscape Management and Maintenance Schedules to be revised on an annual basis, and/or as necessary, in accordance with information from ongoing monitoring.

Measures to minimise ecological impacts in construction and operational phases will include:

- Provide briefings to all contractual staff working on the site to make them aware of all the ecological receptors of interest.
- Establish site fencing to prevent access and the storage of materials to areas of ecological interest and landscape value (e.g. Root Protection areas for retained trees).
- Keep to appropriate times for site clearance to avoid ecological sensitive times of year e.g. avoidance of bird nesting period (March to September inclusive).
- All maintenance works to be conducted in accordance with the Environment Agency's 'Pollution Prevention Guidelines', particularly PPG6 'Working at construction and demolition sites' and PPG5 'Works and maintenance in or near water'.
- All works to comply to best practice methods.

4.2 Annual Maintenance schedules:

This schedule indicates the level of landscape maintenance required to fulfil the specification and keep the planting / vegetation in good and healthy condition. Operations are shown in months required and this does not indicate the number of visits. Operations marked with **P** are only carried out if and when necessary.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
General operations												
Annual review inspection								X				
Surfaces – maintain edges by strimming and mowing				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Gates, fences, furniture – maintain in good condition (P)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Plant inspections			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Vegetation clearance (P)	X	X									X	X
Plant replacements (P)											X	
Weed Control			X	X	X	X	X					
Watering (non-irrigation)					X	X	X	X				
Re-firming	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Removal of litter	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Pest and disease control (P)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Topping up mulch				X	X	X	X	X	X			
General pruning of plants and trees (exact timing dependant on species)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Operations to boundaries / hedgerows and woodland												
Inspections	X		X	X					X	X		
Hedgerow planting up gaps (establishment years), laying, general ops (P)	X	X										
Transplants and feathered trees (establishment years). Replace as required (P)	X	X	X							X	X	X
Weed Control			X	X					X	X		
Vegetation clearance (P)	X	X									X	X
Selective Shrub Thinning (P)	X	X									X	X
Tree felling (P)	X	X	X								X	X
Removal of invasive species (P)						X	X					

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Operations to SUDS swales and basins												
Weed control			X	X					X	X		
Vegetation management	X	X						X			X	X
Thinning / removal of blanket weed and dominant species (P)								X	X			
Removal of invasive species						X						
Litter / debris removal and clearance of inlets, outlets and culverts	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Sediment monitoring and clearance when required									X	X		

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Operations to Wildflower meadows												
Hay cut (Sept/Oct depending on weather)									X			
Sowing additional seed (P)			X						X	X		
Control perennial weeds			X	X	X	X	X					
Optional second cut (P)		X	X						X	X		

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Operations to Trees												
Tree inspection	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Weed control			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Formative pruning	X	X									X	X
Watering (non-irrigation)					X	X	X	X	X			
Mulch – topping up			X							X		

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Operations to grass verges												
Strimming and mowing				X	X	X	X	X	X			
<i>Refer to 'Operations to Wildflower meadows'</i>												

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Operations to existing ponds												
Strimming and mowing				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Weed control			X	X					X	X		
Vegetation management	X	X						X			X	X
Thinning / removal of blanket weed and dominant species (P)								X	X			
Removal of invasive species						X						
Litter / debris removal and clearance of inlets, outlets and culverts	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Sediment monitoring and clearance when required									X	X		

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Operations to village green												
Strimming and mowing				X	X	X	X	X	X			
<i>Refer to 'Operations to Wildflower meadows'</i>												

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Operations to orchards												
Tree Inspection	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Strimming and mowing				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Pruning	X	X	X								X	X

4.3 Ongoing maintenance schedule:

OPERATIONS	ESTABLISHMENT		MEDIUM TERM PERIOD							LONG TERM MANAGEMENT			
	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 20	YEAR 30	YEAR 40
GENERAL													
Inspections													
Litter collection													
Weed control													
Replacement works													
SOFT ELEMENTS													
Trees													
Pruning													
General Horticulture ops													
Crown thinning													
Coppicing													
Planting													
Orchard													
Pruning													
Understorey Mown													
General Horticulture ops													
Planting													
Hedgerows													
Pruning													
General Horticulture ops													
Seed													
Hay out													
Weed control													
Removal of invasive species													
De-silting													
Thinning vegetation													
Strimming and Mowing													
Grass margin / Verge / Village Green													
Cutting back edges / encroachments / mow / trim													
HARD ELEMENTS													
Surfacing and paths maintain / replace													
Fences and gates maintain / replace													
Open Space tracks maintain / replace													
Operation carried out													
Operation carried out as and when required													

5.0 Management and Maintenance responsibilities

A Management Company will be formed for the maintenance of the private roads, parking areas, private drainage areas and areas of communal landscaping. The Developer will maintain these areas until the management company has taken transfer of it.