

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

Site: 122 Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8SP

Planning Reference: PL/25/0800

This Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) is submitted to formally discharge Condition 5 of the Householder Decision Notice (Ref: PL/25/0800). The following specifications detail the required arboricultural mitigation, hard surface engineering, and soft landscaping provisions necessary to ensure ecological continuity, sustainable drainage, and the successful establishment of replacement planting.

1. Hard Landscaping and Boundary Treatments

To satisfy local planning requirements regarding surface treatments and boundary permeability, the following methodologies shall be employed:

- **Hard Surfacing (Patio and Driveway):** The proposed hardstanding areas shall be constructed to manage surface water runoff effectively. The patio areas shall be finished with outdoor-grade, frost-resistant tiles laid upon an appropriate sub-base. The driveway shall be constructed utilizing a gravel-based, permeable surface over an open-graded, porous sub-base to act as a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS). This specification ensures adequate hydraulic conductivity, maintaining vital gaseous exchange and moisture availability within the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of retained trees where applicable.
- **Boundary Enclosures:** Replacement or new boundary demarcations shall consist of 1.8m close-boarded timber fencing, installed with minimal ground disturbance to avoid root severing.
- **Ecological Connectivity (Mammal Gaps):** To maintain foraging corridors for terrestrial fauna, specifically *Erinaceus europaeus* (West European Hedgehog), 130mm x 130mm access gaps shall be integrated into the base gravel boards at ecologically appropriate locations, thereby preventing habitat fragmentation.

2. Soft Landscaping and Planting Matrix

The prescribed planting matrix is designed to mitigate the arboricultural loss of T2, T5, and SG1. The specified taxon selection introduces structural diversity, seasonal foraging resources for local pollinators, and enhanced boundary screening, thereby increasing the site's overall biodiversity value.

ID	Species	Common Name	Type	Size	Qty	Planting Density & Ecological Notes
T7	Juniperus connuris	Juniper	Evergreen Tree	15L	2	Specimen planting; structural evergreen
T8	Magnolia grandiflora	Magnolia	Evergreen Tree	20L	2	Specimen planting; pollinator resource
S2	Hydrangea macrophylla	Pink Hydrangea	Deciduous Shrub	3-5L	2	Feature shrub
S3	Choisya ternata	Mexican Orange Blossom	Evergreen Shrub	3L	2	Planted at 1.0m centres
S4	Euonymus fortunei	Wintercreeper	Evergreen Shrub	3L	2	Planted at 0.5m centres; groundcover
S5	Viburnum tinus	Laurustinus	Evergreen Shrub	3L	1	Planted at 1.0m centres; winter forage
S6	Osmanthus × burkwoodii	Burkwood Osmanthus	Evergreen Shrub	3L	2	Planted at 0.8m centres; chalk-tolerant pollinator resource
S7	Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry Laurel	Evergreen Shrub	3L	2	Planted at 1.0m centres; dense screening

3. Arboricultural Methodologies and Tree Pits

To ensure adherence to BS 8545:2014 (Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape) and to safeguard retained specimens (T1, T4, T6), the following arboricultural methodologies must be strictly observed:

- **RPA Incursions & Excavation:** Any soft landscaping operations occurring within the defined Root Protection Areas of retained trees shall be strictly hand-dug using specialist arboricultural tools to prevent the severance of fibrous feeder roots.
- **Proximity Planting Constraints:** Planting interventions within 1.5m of retained trees are restricted to plug stock. For areas beyond this exclusion zone but within the RPA, containerized stock must not exceed 3L to minimize necessary excavation volumes.
- **Tree Pit Specifications (T7 & T8):** Pits shall be excavated to the exact depth of the rootball and 1.5 times its diameter. Pit walls must be scarified to prevent glazing and root spiraling. Backfill shall consist of site-won topsoil ameliorated to meet BS 3882 standards. Where pit construction encroaches upon an existing RPA, soil grading must not exceed a depth of 100mm.
- **Organic Mulching:** A 50-100mm layer of well-composted organic bark mulch shall be applied to the base of all newly installed stock and retained mature trees. This application is critical for regulating soil temperature, suppressing weed competition, and reducing soil moisture deficit.

4. Statutory Five-Year Establishment and Aftercare

To satisfy the statutory 5-year establishment requirement, the following aftercare regime shall be executed:

- **Establishment Watering:** A rigorous irrigation schedule shall be implemented from May to September during the initial two growing seasons. Soil moisture levels will be monitored to prevent drought stress, particularly during periods of low precipitation.
- **Mulch Replenishment:** Organic mulch rings shall be subject to bi-annual inspections and replenished as required to maintain the specified 50-100mm depth.
- **Formative Pruning & Care:** Shrub stock shall be selectively pruned post-anthesis to promote dense, structurally sound habits. Arboricultural formative pruning of trees shall be conducted in strict accordance with BS 3998:2010 (Tree Work - Recommendations) to remove dead, diseased, or crossing laterals.
- **Mortality Replacement:** Any botanical stock that fails, exhibits significant dieback, or is removed within five years of the practical completion of planting shall be replaced in the subsequent dormant season with equivalent nursery stock, subject to local authority approval.