National Trust Specification of Soft Landscaping and Proposed Cycle Provision

Soft Landscaping - to be read in conjunction with drawing No. AL(0)17

The overall philosophy of the landscaping is to be as light touch as possible i.e. reinstate the landscape so the building feels as though it has been there a while.

1. **Woodland trees**

Native British trees to plant in the areas around the centre to supplement the existing trees and chosen for their ability to survive in this exposed site and value to nature and to the visual appearance of the site. As the area to be planted is so small we have decided to go for smaller trees that will help with biodiversity. The number of trees planted will be at a higher density than normal due to the poor soil and exposed site that will reduce growth rates of the trees selected but with higher planting densities have a pleasing visual appearance. Height and spread are average sizes but in the position we will plant them they will more than likely be smaller.

Silver Birch (Betula pendula) x 4 Height25-30m spread 8m

Hazel (Corylus avellana) x 2 Height 8m spread 6-8m can coppice every 5 years

Mountain ash (Sorbus aucuparia) x 4 Height 15m spread 8m

Wild Cherry (Prunus avium) x 2 Height 15-20m spread 8-10m

2. **Wildflower/ Amenity grass seed mix**

We are going to use some of our beautiful wildflower meadows already existing on the leas as a donor site for a green hay project spreading the collected seed across the newly prepared areas around the new building. The species mix is diverse and will include the following.

Dog violet, cowslip, birdsfoot trefoil, bush vetch, crossword, Hoary plantain, Kidney vetch, Hay rattle, Woundwort, Spotted orchid, Betony, Wild thyme, Hogweed, Agrimony, Autumn gentian, Wild carrot, Yellowort, Knapweed, Scabious, Hawkbit, and many more.

Grass seed will be included such as bents, fescues, ryegrass which will be in the amenity grass mix as well and can establish quickly once sown and will cost around £40 for 10kgs which should be enough for our grass seed needs.

3. **Shrub Planting**

a mixed species triple hedge that will be a great wildlife feature with spring flowers and berries throughout most of the year.

Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) x 30

Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) x 30

Sea buck thorn (Hippophae rhamnoidies) x30

Groundwork Preparation

As soon as the handover has been done the Ranger team will start removing stones raking the areas to be re-seeded in preparation for application of seeds later in the year.

August ground preparation.

Sept Initial Amenity grass seed sowing followed by a spring re-sow and light hand harrow.

Sept cut and bail wildflower meadow on the Leas.

Sept/ Oct spread green hay over prepared area to be re-seeded as wildflower meadows.

Oct-Dec Trees/ shrubs planted and annually checked for possible replacements.

Proposed Cycle Provision - to be read in conjunction with drawing No. AL(0)17

The proposed cycle storage provision are 3 timber post designed to accommodate 2 bikes either side so 6 in total. These have been used on other National Trust sites and are more in keeping with the rural setting than metal Sheffield stands. They would be similar to the photos below and would be 1.4m high from ground level.



