

Site monitoring report for aftercare sites

Please find detailed below the report for the site monitoring undertaken. If you should have any queries or require any photographs taken, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Site Name: Cobbs Farm, Maldon Road, Goldhanger

File Ref: 24 421 34

Operator: SRC

Site Representative: Joanna Brockhurst, Quality Manager SRC

Also in attendance: Almudena Quiralte, ECC Landscape Consultant.

Visit no: 1 of 2

Date: 23rd May 2023

Time on site: 10am

Time off site: 11am

Monitoring Officer: Shelley Bailey

Tel No: 03330136824

Site Co-ordinator: Shelley Bailey

Tel No: 03330136824

Planning Permission no's:

ESS/23/17/MAL – western bund

ESS/68/20/MAL – Main site

ESS/68/20/MAL/NMA

ESS/68/20/MAL/NMA3

ESS/69/20/MAL – Main site

ESS/69/20/MAL/NMA

ESS/69/20/MAL/NMA3

ESS/70/20/MAL – Washing plant

(This site is subject to a S106 Agreement)

Inspection Results/Actions from last site visit:

- Schedule of Works for forthcoming 12 months under Condition 40. Due 4 weeks prior to aftercare visit.
- Regularising application required for planting amendments – prior to aftercare visit.

Inspection Results Summary:

- Most of the tree/hedge specimens appear to be growing well. A very small number have died, these could be replaced as part of routine inspections during the planting season.
- There were quite a few large thistles in the southern and western areas around the reservoir. It should be ensured that these are monitored and controlled/removed if the numbers increase.
- The 'woodland copse' at the eastern end of the site has failed. Most specimens are dead and there are prolific weeds and grass growing, which need to be controlled. This whole area should be replaced during the next appropriate season and maintained going forward.
- The northern boundary was quite overgrown with weeds/grass between the planted specimens in places. This should be kept on top of. There is an area to the west of the telegraph pole – perhaps a 5m stretch - that has been damaged and all planted specimens have been removed, possibly when the adjacent ground was ploughed. This area should be replanted during the next appropriate season and the location reviewed slightly to follow the existing established hedge line to avoid similar damage in future.
- The 'woodland planting' area was quite overgrown between the planted specimens, although there was evidence that the space immediately around each plastic guard has been sprayed. The weeds/grass will be cut once the nesting season is over, since some nests were previously seen by the operator.
- The wetland area has been planted and the person who manages (Mitch) it was on site. The planting appears to be deviating from the approved scheme to ornamental planting, which may have an impact on biodiversity. Mitch took a copy of the approved wetland drawing so that he can ensure the correct species and numbers are planted and maintained going forward.
- New conifer/evergreen trees have been planted along the south and west banks of the reservoir. These were not included in the approved restoration plan. Advice is being sought on the impact these may have on the ecological objectives of the restoration scheme and the developer will be advised.

Actions to be taken before next site visit:

- Highway consents to be obtained for works to Wash Lane.
- Dead tree/hedge specimens to be replaced in the gap on the northern boundary and in the 'woodland copse' during the next planting season.
- Grass and weed managed required across the site.
- Thistles to be maintained and controlled if necessary.
- The wetland area species should be corrected and it should be ensured that the ornamental planting does not impact the approved scheme.