

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 Bradley, Quality Manager SRC

Visit no: 1 of 1

Date: 7th May 2024

Time on site: 10am

Time off site: 11am

Monitoring Officer: Shelley Bailey Tel No: 03330136824

Also in attendance: Almudena Quiralte, ECC Landscape Consultant.

Site Co-ordinator: Shelley Bailey Tel No: 03330136824

Planning Permission no's:

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

(This site is subject to a s106 Agreement)

Inspection Results/Actions from last site visit:

- Highway consents to be obtained for works to Wash Lane.
(Comment - a report from Intermodal Transportation 'Highway Remedial Works Report for Haul Road crossover of Wash Lane, Goldhanger on behalf of Sewell Reservoir Construction (SRC)' dated 4th August 2023 has been submitted, a meeting has been held on site with the Highway Authority and it has been confirmed that the repair works are acceptable and no further action is required).
- 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.

Inspection Results Summary:

- Water levels across the site are high, with some of the trees on the lower banks becoming part submerged. Some of the 'agricultural' area in the north of the site also has patches of standing water.
- As identified in the submitted report, there have been some losses of tree/hedge specimens along the southern hedge and along the northern boundary. There is a small gap in the southern hedgeline which will need to be planted. In particular, several of the oak specimens in the northern boundary hedge have died. Some dead specimens have been identified for replacement using a red dot marker, but not all. In the woodland planting block, many trees have been identified with a red dot but were alive. JB said she would speak with the consultant about this.
- Dead specimens must be replaced in the coming planting season. It was discussed that it would be sensible for the developer to use species that are thriving, such as hawthorn or maple, since it is not known why some specimens have died.
- As in the previous visit, there were lots of very large thistles along the southern and western banks. Also lots of grass/weed growth alongside and actually within the tree guards of the southern hedgeline. Along the western hedgeline, the specimens appear to have grown more and weed management was clearer to see. However, brambles were fairly prominent. Weed management will need to be done comprehensively along all of the hedgelines this year and not just spraying, since the brambles will need to be pulled out.
- The 'woodland copse' at the eastern end of the site has mostly failed. No replacements have gone in and there were many empty guards. These should all be removed from site to avoid littering. Since this area was not a planning requirement we are happy for specimens to be replaced as the developer sees fit. It is recommended that weed control is carried out around the remaining establishing plants.
- Tree guards across the site should be reviewed and removed as appropriate at the end of this summer.

- The damaged area along the northern boundary does not appear to have been replaced. This should be done at the next planting season.
- The wetland area has established a lot since the last visit. The ornamental planting that deviates from the approved scheme is not considered to be a problem at this stage. It was noted that the gate was propped open due to a water pipe laying on the ground. This should be rectified so that the gate can close, otherwise the fenced area will not do its job of protecting the plants by keeping waterfowl out.
- It was discussed that the fence around the wetland area, which is temporary, can be reviewed next year to see if it can be removed.

Actions to be taken before next site visit:

- Replacement planting to be undertaken in the southern and northern hedgelines in the coming planting season.
- Developer to review the 'red dots' across the site which seem to have incorrectly identified dead specimens.
- Comprehensive thistle, weed and bramble management required across the site.
- Empty plastic guards to be removed in the eastern woodland copse area, as well as any guards that are becoming too restrictive or brittle across the site.
- The gate to the wetland area needs to be kept closed to avoid damage from ducks/rabbits.
- The fence to the wetland area to be reviewed next year.