

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: Brett Hallworth, Operations Director, SRC

Visit no: 1 of 1

Date: 16/05/25

Time on site: 10am

Time off site: 11:30am

Monitoring Officer: Shelley Bailey

Tel No: 03330136824

Also in attendance: Megan Cowell, ECC Landscape Consultant

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:

- 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.

Inspection Results Summary:

- SRC staff have changed since last year, with new staff now getting to know the site. In previous years, the site has been visited, monitored and maintained several times per year by SRC and by RDT Woodlands; however, this year there is no evidence of this having been undertaken.
- Water levels across the site were lower than last year. There has not been significant rain for some weeks.
- It is not clear from the visit what weeding has been completed. Thistles were still present along the southern part of the site and in general there was growth/weeds in and around most growing tubes. Old and empty tubes were present across the site. SRC were unable to provide any details of this having taken place.
- The wetland area gate is still propped open by the water pipe as at last years visit. It appeared that machinery had accessed the wetland area via the eastern end and removed some fencing to do so. The fencing had not been replaced. Possibly some dredging has taken place as there was a pile of silt material on the northern bank; however, no detail was able to be provided by SRC.
- Dead oaks still in their guards were present along the northern boundary with no evidence of the required replacements having been undertaken.
- The 'woodland block' area appears similar to the last visit, with many trees identified as dead with a red dot but were actually alive. This hadn't been rectified on site today and it was clear that there has been no removal of dead species or replacements undertaken in this area over the past year.
- The 'copse' area appeared the same as the last visit, with many old/empty tubes still in place.
- Overall, it appeared that there had been little or no maintenance across the site. No evidence has been provided to show what has been completed.

Actions to be taken before next site visit:

- Removal of redundant tubes across the site, including in the eastern copse area – To be undertaken by operator immediately (it is understood that this has been completed prior to sending out this report).
- Replacement planting in southern and northern hedgelines, or comprehensive assessment of what has been undertaken over the last year to justify this not being done.
- Developer to review the 'red dots' across the site which seem to have incorrectly identified dead specimens, particularly in the 'woodland block'.
- Comprehensive thistle, weed and bramble management required across the site.
- Clarification of what management has taken place in the wetland area over the last year.
- Please note, all of the above are required to be incorporated into a comprehensive Year 2 aftercare report evidencing what management has been undertake over the last year. This is currently being put together by SRC. If the details don't comply with the requirements from the May 2024 visit then it must be fully justified. In the event that the MPA is not satisfied that the site has been adequately managed the site will be held in Year 2 of aftercare.

Note: The actions noted in this report are required in order to ensure adequate progress is made and to avoid potential enforcement action against a breach of planning control.