



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CONSULTANTS

Preliminary Woodland Management Plans

Threadneedle Curtis Ltd
MAG 401 building, Pinfold Way.

Prepared by Simon Brain *Chartered arboriculturist*

23.08.2022

Version 1

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Appendix 1 – GA proposal

Woodland Management Plan

Prepared by ATC Ltd on behalf of Capita

Contact details for Owner/Occupier	Contact details for ATC Ltd	
Manchester Airport Group	Mr Simon Brain, Willow Hill Cottage, School Lane, Burwardsley, Chester, CH3 9NX. 01829 770075	
Date Woodland visited: 19 th August 2022	Weather Conditions: Blustery sunshine	
Address of Wood	Approx Grid Reference	Revision status
Land to north	SJ 80841 84780	Version 1
Administrative Boundary	Total Area of woodland (app)	Area Soil type
Manchester City Council	0.76 Acres	Freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils
Woodland Management Plan Period	Review dates	Public Access
Ten years to commence upon the start of development of site.	(2, 5 and 10 year intervals prescriptive).	Yes
Site Designations/Constraints No TPO or Conservation Area applies. The site is priority habitat under the NERC Act Section 41 habitats.		
European Protected Species All EPS and priority 1 species require confirmation of absence or presence and impact / mitigation details if required before any tree works can commence.		

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Instruction

This preliminary Woodland Management Plan (WMP) has been prepared for the client to support the management and development of the woodland affected by an approved planning permission to construct a new building on the site. The WMP has been specifically drafted to support the Biodiversity assessment for this site in order to outline the habitat enhancement and provide details on how the woodland habitat will be brought into a better condition than at present.

2.0 Site location and description

2.1 Location

Whilst we are informed planning permission has been granted for the construction of the building as outlined in appendix 1, the positioning of the building has an impact on woodland to the south and therefore planning permission is to be sought managing the aspects of this impact. Our brief is to manage the woodland area of this site.

2.2 Descriptions

The total study area consists of approximately 0.76 acres of semi natural broadleaf woodland. The site consists generally of an even aged high canopy tree species dominated by young and middle mature *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash) with a southern boundary containing mature Oak. Oak, Sycamore and Ash are also present in the high canopy and in addition; Horse Chestnut, and Thorn are all present in smaller numbers. A limited amount of natural regeneration occurs in the area, occasional *Ilex aquafolium* (Holly) and *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) are present. There are several 'honorary' native species such as *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore) that have developed in the high canopy. A herb / ground vegetation layer is present but it is dominated by *Heracleum helix* (Ivy).

3.0 Woodland Survey – Species, Habitat, Landscape

3.1 Species

Those tree species listed below have been identified in the woodland.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Code	Group (Broadleaf, Conifer)
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	AH	B
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	BE	B
Birch (downy/silver)	<i>Betula pubescens/pendula</i>	BI	B
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	GWL	B
Hawthorn species	<i>Crataegus spp</i>	HAW	B
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	HAZ	B
Holly species	<i>Ilex spp</i>	HOL	B
Pedunculate/common oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	POK	B
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	SY	B

3.2 Habitat

The following habitat types are present: woodland and small areas of tall ruderal herb, as defined by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Phase 1 habitat mapping guidance.

A baseline ecological survey (PEA) has identified the woodland as Priority Habitat under the NERC Act Section 41.

Species and Habitat - Significance

These habitats contribute to the current level of species abundance and richness across the site. Each will contribute to niche habits of plants and animals associated with the woodland such as land mammal's connection to the woodland itself and bird and bat species also being attracted by the habitat diversity.

4.0 Proposed development

4.1 Description

The loss of a small section of woodland is proposed as shown in appendix 1.

5.0 Stakeholder engagement and woodland protection

5.1 Stakeholder / interested party engagement

It is envisaged that there shall be a number of operations available to interested parties such as tree planting, brash and timber stacking, bat/bird box installation, small tree felling and wildlife monitoring (passive and static animal and plant surveys). It is hoped that local species-specific bodies can be approached such as the South Lancs Bat Group.

5.2 Woodland protection - Threats to the Woodland

Plant Health

The only notable tree disease present in the woodlands is Ash dieback. This is a disease that is defoliating several Ash trees across the UK and specific management of dying ash trees is required over the management plan length. In addition, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *aesculi*, is also present even though the number of *Aesculus hippocastanum* trees present in the study area is very limited.

Mammal predation, particularly Grey Squirrels is however a significant threat to the extent of natural regeneration. Planting is therefore required for the future sustainability of the woodland. Tree damage from predation is present throughout the woodland and a control programme is preferred to maintain the viability of introduced woodland trees and plants. A control programme of Grey Squirrels needs to consider a ratio of <5 per Ha, prior to April which is maintained by trapping or poisoning in baited cages throughout the active period when damage is caused (Apr-Jul).

Detrimental environmental change caused by pollution; flooding / soil erosion is considered unlikely but pollution measures are needed from the adjacent re development. There was no evidence of anti-social behaviour across the site.

Invasive species have been found to be present – Cotoneaster.

Climate change has proven to very recently challenged traditional forest management techniques largely due to the identification of an extensive list of new tree disease and pest outbreaks in the UK (FC England Managing Risk Fig 9)

Practical advice to combat climate change in this woodland shall consist of:

- Planting a wider range of species for future tolerance of climate change but also to reduce a reliance what is a small species range in the UK (72% of hardwood forest are reliant on five species FC Managing Risk 2014)
- Tree species selection capable of resilience based on future climatic predictions

Summer Drought is thought to be the greatest risk from climate change. Woodland dominated by high canopy *Fagus sylvatica* is susceptible to drought. This will require consideration in a drought year as to its impact on arboricultural Health and Safety and public access.

6.0 Outline Woodland Management Plans

6.1 Aims and Objectives.

The following outline objectives shall apply:

- Creating three + age classes within high canopy
- Maintaining no significant browsing damage
- Maintaining absence of non native invasives
- Increasing number of native tree and shrub species
- Enhancing areas of open woodland (10-20% of overall areas)
- Developing woodland regeneration
- Developing ground flora ancient woodland indicator plants
- Developing veteran trees
- Creating standing deadwood

- Avoiding nutrient enrichment
- To engage the landowners and local community in active woodland management
- Improvement of species abundance and species richness within those areas of unaffected semi natural woodland
- Accounting for the needs of species associated (or potentially associated) with the woodland that require a mosaic of habitats
- Acknowledgement of the role played by native and non-native conifer species in the areas landscape character and history
- Maintenance of a woodland that is suitably safe for adjacent site users
- Maximise woodland structure by selective intervention

The following specific aims shall apply:

- Maintenance of high canopy Oak as it is a typical vegetation type for the area
- Enhancement of the existing Conifer stock across the site
- Arboricultural management for individual trees to create niche habitat
- Control of undesirably invasive species throughout the site
- Development and protection of veteran trees
- Tree planting using species to create woodland structure throughout the site
- Progressively re-structuring of the even aged areas to achieve an improved range of age classes
- Re-structuring by coupe felling, this shall apply to selected areas of low-quality natural regeneration.
- Establish monitoring intervals to allow repeatable data gathering to allow analysis for change in local distribution of species
- Maintain stakeholder partnership programme and volunteer involvement

The techniques by which these specific aims shall be delivered are:

- The implementation of the Outline Management Strategy
- Introduction of conifer stock. The thinning (Halo thinning) of those scrub trees growing within the immediate vicinity of such Pine shall be applied. This shall be progressive and be completed over a number of years so as to gradually release the tree as an individual.
- Natural regeneration of sycamore predominately covers the woodland scrub layer. Such regeneration shall be removed in the initial year of works in and replanted with suitable native plant species in order to create a graduated strip of vegetation providing eco tones, niche habitat and woodland structure.
- The Control of undesirably invasive species throughout the site shall focus on the removal of those areas where *Cotonester* is identified.
- Selective thinning of honorary natives such as sycamore shall be carried out to improve species diversity eg G18.
- Veteran trees are not present in the woodland but they could be developed by individual management aimed at improving the longevity of these trees and therefore their contribution to biodiversity such as the mature Oak on the southern boundary which can be gradually pollarded to produce a long lived tree bole. The installation of bird and bat boxes is provided on such trees.
- Woodland structure shall be reinforced and improved by installing suitable plants that form an intermediate layer in the woodlands structure such as *Sorbus*, *Corylus* and *Crataegus*.
- The review dates for the woodland management plans are year 4 and year 8 following implementation of the WMP.

7.0 Outline Woodland Management Plans

7.1 Outline Management Strategy.

Coleg Menai Woodlands – Individual woodland work programme

Activity, scope and Specification	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	10+
Control and monitor of undesirably invasive species	Yes		Yes monitor			Yes monitor	
Progressive re-structuring of honorary native species such as Sycamore to create wider glade areas. This shall consist of a 10% thinning ratio of standing trees. Halo thinning for replanted conifer. Remove and replace low quality regeneration throughout with native trees and shrubs. Ash trees will be favoured for woodland thinning and some left as standing dead with bark intact.		Yes near G14 and G10 (Halo thinning). Remove /replace G4/7 and 9.			Yes 10%	Yes 10%	
Tree planting shall be undertaken as follows: In areas dominated by Ash intermediate layer species shall be introduced at approximate 2m intervals with adequate rabbit and stem protection and Beech and Oak will be planted at 5m intervals throughout the Woodland. Native conifer shall be planted throughout and intermediate layer planting of hazel, mountain ash and thorn The planted areas shall be inspected and 'beaten up' / failed trees replaced		Yes Yes		Yes (monitor) Yes (monitor)		Yes (monitor) Yes (monitor)	
Development and protection of veteran trees – Oak on southern boundary There are no veterans in the woodland however several large over mature trees (largely Oak) are suitable for veteranisation techniques. For example, has several examples of trees that are likely to be lost over the next twenty years due to their condition but if pruned the deadwood resource could be extended significantly. Where veteran trees can be identified halo thinning shall be undertaken around the tree very gradually and throughout the WMP period		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (monitor)	
Coupe felling. It is intended that several small areas (10m square) can be created by coupe felling a cluster of tree stems. Given the resultant development of ground vegetation	Yes	Yes (monitor veg. types)			Yes (dep on monitoring result)		
Native ground flora introductions such as bluebell, wild garlic, lesser celandine, showdrop and wood anemone	Yes	Yes			Yes (monitor)		
Bird and Bat boxes to be installed in trees in accordance with local bat/bird group advice.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

8.0 Funding

- 8.1 Manchester Airport Group would be established by the developer whom shall be solely responsible for the funding of the WMP for the lifetime of the development.

9.0 Conclusions

- 9.1 The woodland area is small being less than 1 acre acres in total. It is an even aged semi natural broadleaf woodland containing a no conifer species. It exhibits poor levels of natural regeneration, scrub, and field layers with a lack of variety of woodland plants growing within the study areas. It has attained a poor condition status as measured by the DEFRA Biodiversity habitat condition assessment sheet.
- 9.2 As a result of the proposed improvements it has been assessed that the site can achieve an at least moderate condition through the DEFRA biodiversity metric v3.1.

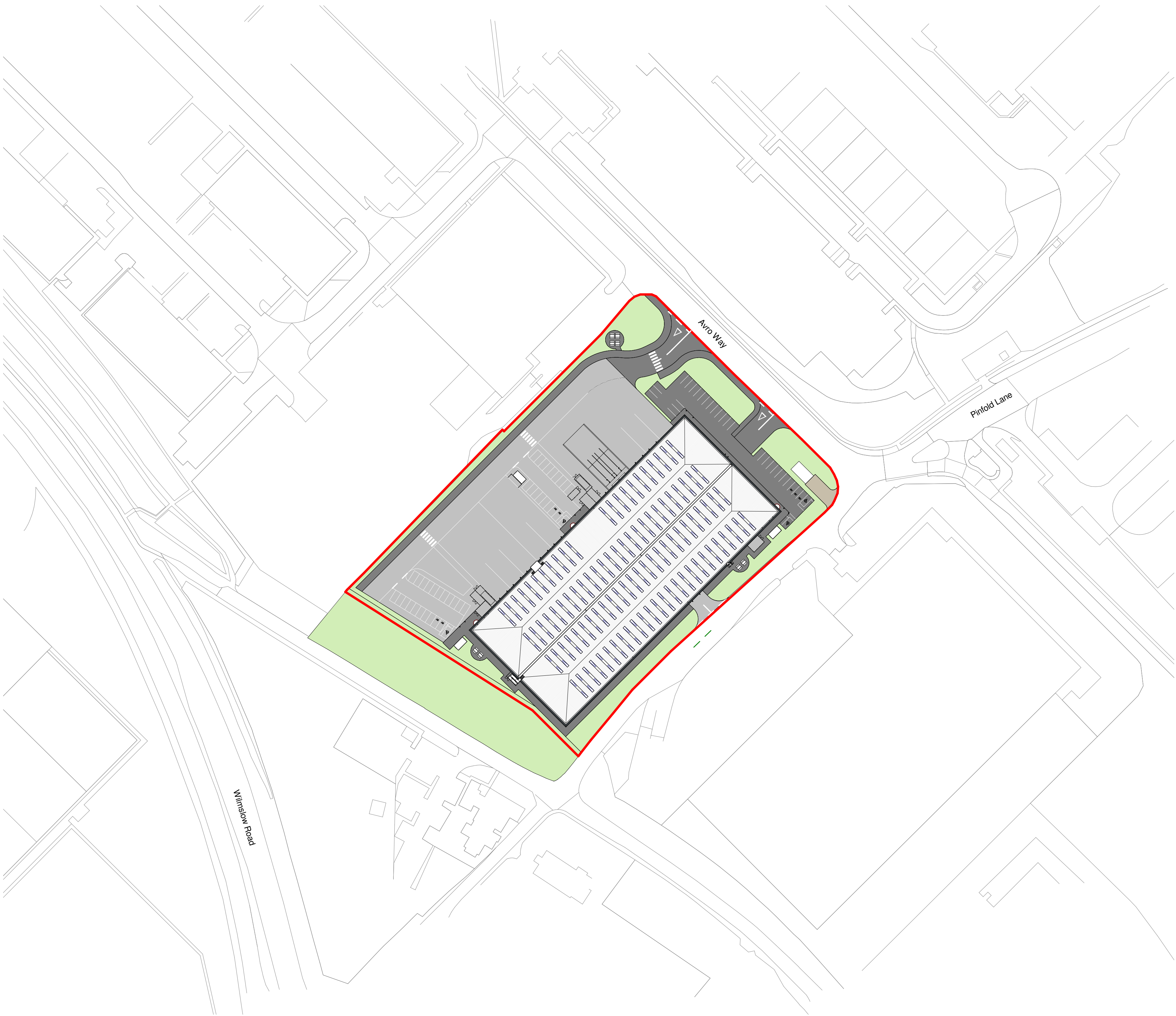
Appendix 1 – GA proposal

Notes

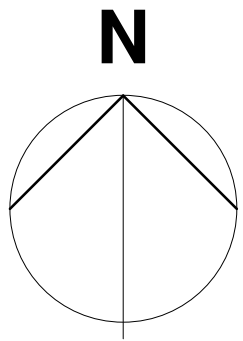
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Site Boundary

For further information please refer to AECOM Civils package



Site Location Plan
1 : 1000



10m SCALE 1:1000

P03	Tender Addendum as per comments from meeting on 17.05.22	ET	ET	25.05.22
P02	Issue for Tender	BG	ET	09.05.22
P01	RIBA 3 - Initial Issue for Comment	BG	ET	20.04.22
Rev	Description	By	Ckd	Date



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Project
MAG - Building 401, Manchester Airport

Title
Site Location Plan

RPS Project Number NK020598	Scale @A1 As indicated	Date Created 05.04.22
Task Team Manager ET	Information Author BG	Task Information Manager ET

Status
S3 (Suitable for Review and Comment)

Document Number 020598-RPS-SI-XX-DR-A-5000	Revision P03
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Project Code - Originator - VaidSys - Level/Loc - Type - Role - Drawing Number

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