



11/03/2022

Penny Mills  
West Suffolk Council

By email only

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*Thank you for requesting advice on this discharge of condition from Place Services' landscape advice services. This provides advice to planning officers to inform West Suffolk Council planning decisions with regard to potential landscape impacts from development. Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have, must be directed to the Planning Officer who will seek further advice from us where appropriate and necessary.*

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**Application:** DCON(H)/09/1283  
**Location:** Land Nw Of Haverhill Anne Sucklings Lane Little Wratting Suffolk  
**Proposal:** Application to Discharge Conditions A2 (Alignment), A4 (Arboricultural Method Statement), A5 (Soft Landscaping) , A6 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan), A8 (Archaeology) and A9 (Excavation and Ground Levels) of SE/09/1283

Dear Penny,

Thank you for consulting Place Services on the above discharge of conditions application.

With reference to the above named application and submitted documents received by Place Services on the 22/02/2022, asking for Landscape comments, as per the agreed timescale, our comments on the Planning Application as submitted are made below. This response relates to the discharge of condition A4 (Arboricultural Method Statement), A5 (Soft Landscaping) and A6 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan).

**A4 (Arboricultural Method Statement) – Discharge condition**

Based on the submitted Arboricultural Method Statement (Doc ref: JBA 17/364 AR01 Rev I) we would recommend this condition is discharged.

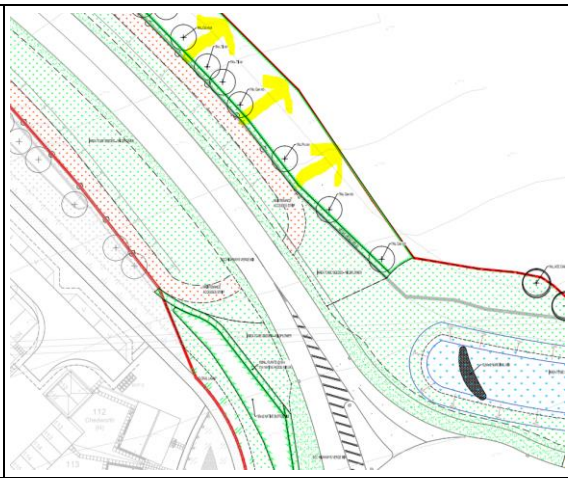
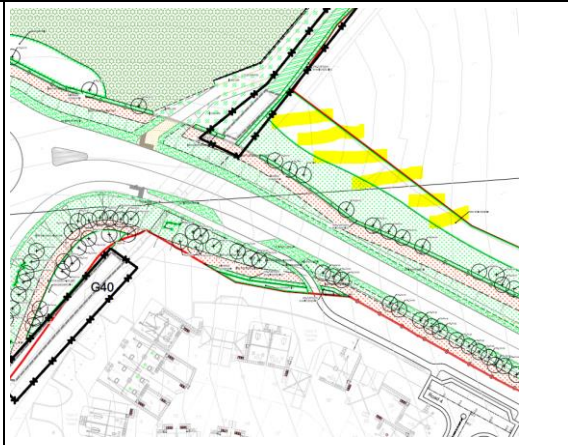

**A5 (Soft Landscaping) – Recommend further revisions**

As part of this condition, Detailed Hard and Soft Landscaping Proposals for Infrastructure Areas (Dwg ref: JBA17/364 01 to 13 Rev.J) have been submitted.

There has been an increase in the amount of woodland planting and individual trees which is welcomed. However, looking at the proposed plans against this strategy it would appear that there is not quite enough woodland planting. The following table provides recommended landscape layout and design

amendments to ensure the scheme reflects the planting strategy approved as part of the Outline application. Reference Planting Strategy drawings include:

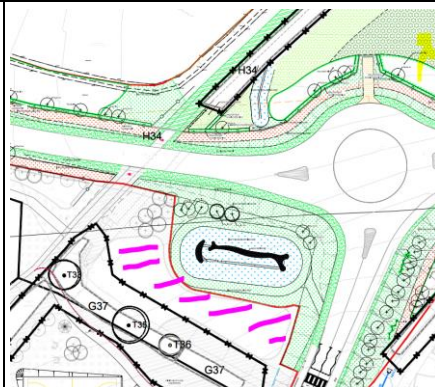
- Relief Road Planting Proposals Proposed hedge planting (Dwg no. SW51000002-505)
- Relief Road Planting Proposals Woodland Planting areas (Dwg no. SW51000002-503)
- Relief Road Planting Proposals Proposed Roadside Tree Planting (Dwg no. SW51000002-501)
- Relief Road Planting Proposals Woodland Planting areas (Dwg no. SW51000002-502)

<p><b>Drawing ref: JBA17\3640 01</b></p> <p>This point is applicable along the length of the road but I've highlighted it on this plan. The hedge should be on the northern edge away from the road as previously discussed to mark the boundary with the adjacent agricultural fields.</p>	
<p><b>Drawing ref: JBA17\3640 04</b></p> <p>Woodland planting on area of yellow hatching would help to reduce visual impact of the roundabout on the surrounding countryside as roundabout is elevated.</p>	
<p><b>Drawing ref: JBA17\3640 04</b></p> <p>The amount of woodland planting to the north of the roundabout should be enlarged.</p>	

**Drawing ref: JBA17\3640 05**

Same point as Drawing 04 regarding an increase in woodland planting north of the roundabout.

The masterplan also shows woodland planting on the southern side here (where basin is proposed). Could this be provided south of the basin (hatched in pink?) We understand this is outside the scope of the relief road DCON and would be in the infrastructure reserved matters but it is worth flagging up here if it is not possible to do in the road corridor due to the drainage requirements.



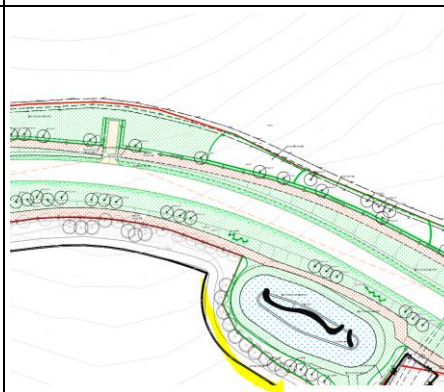
**Drawing ref: JBA17\3640 06**

The masterplan planting strategy drawings show the woodland planting extending further to the east of the landscape feature G22 and therefore this should be replicated on the detailed landscape plans.



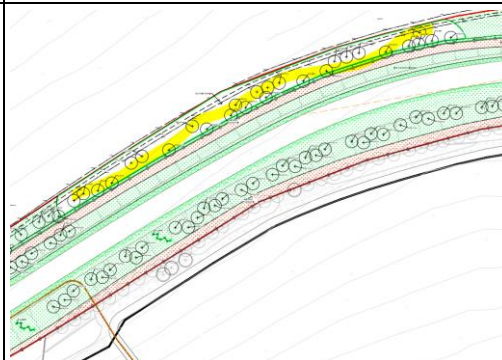
**Drawing ref: JBA17\3640 07**

There should be some woodland to the south of the attenuation basin. I do not think this is going to be possible but could be provided in an alternative location (suggested an area on Drawing 4 east of the roundabout or Drawing 8 north of the road)



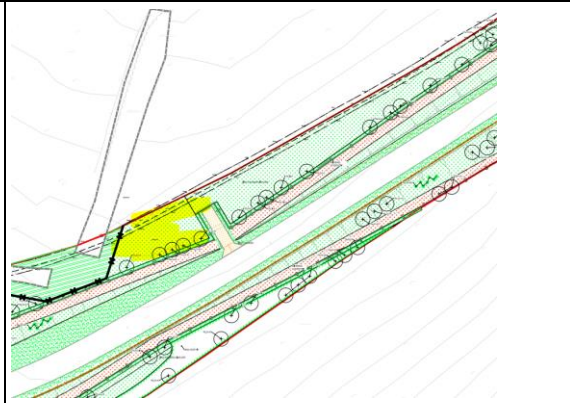
**Drawing ref: JBA17\3640 08**

We note that some tree planting is included already. Though given the road will be elevated at this point, additional canopy cover could be included to increase levels of screening.



**Drawing ref: JBA17\3640 09**

Additional woodland planting should be located here.



In addition, we would advise the following recommendations are considered:

- Where large areas of dense planting are proposed, such as the canopy mix, we would advise that rabbit-proof mesh fencing/netting is used around the planting area, rather than individual shrub shelter guards.
- The hedgerows should be accompanied by a 3/2-strand wire and timber post fence. The fence should be erected through the centre of the staggered row of hedge to prevent access through the site by pedestrians until the hedges are fully established.
- The canopy mix should substitute some shrub planting for additional woodland trees.
- We recommend that *Viburnum tinus* spp. is removed from the planting palette and replaced with a different *Viburnum* sp. The species can be severely damaged by Viburnum beetle and often produces an unpleasant smell particularly when the foliage is wet.
- There are a number of trees proposed close to the northern boundary (Dwg no. JBA17\364 10 Rev J) that need to be set slightly further in to the site so they can mature without encroaching too much on adjacent land

#### **A6 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan)- Recommend further revisions**

We note that the revised LEMP (Document ref: JBA 17/364 Rev K) makes reference to the '*Checking and removal of tree stakes and ties*' though there is no reference in the document to rabbit guards or fencing for shrub and hedgerow planting. Prior to the discharge of this condition we would expect guards/fencing to be reviewed annually and then removed between 4 to 6 years after planting, depending on overall plant growth. This should be built into the occasional works section, but also the Schedule of Maintenance Operations.

Yours sincerely,

**Ryan Mills BSc (Hons) MSc CMLI**  
Senior Landscape Consultant  
Place Services at Essex County Council

**Place Services provide landscape & ecological advice on behalf of West Suffolk Council**

Please note: This letter is advisory and should only be considered as the opinion formed by specialist staff in relation to this particular matter.