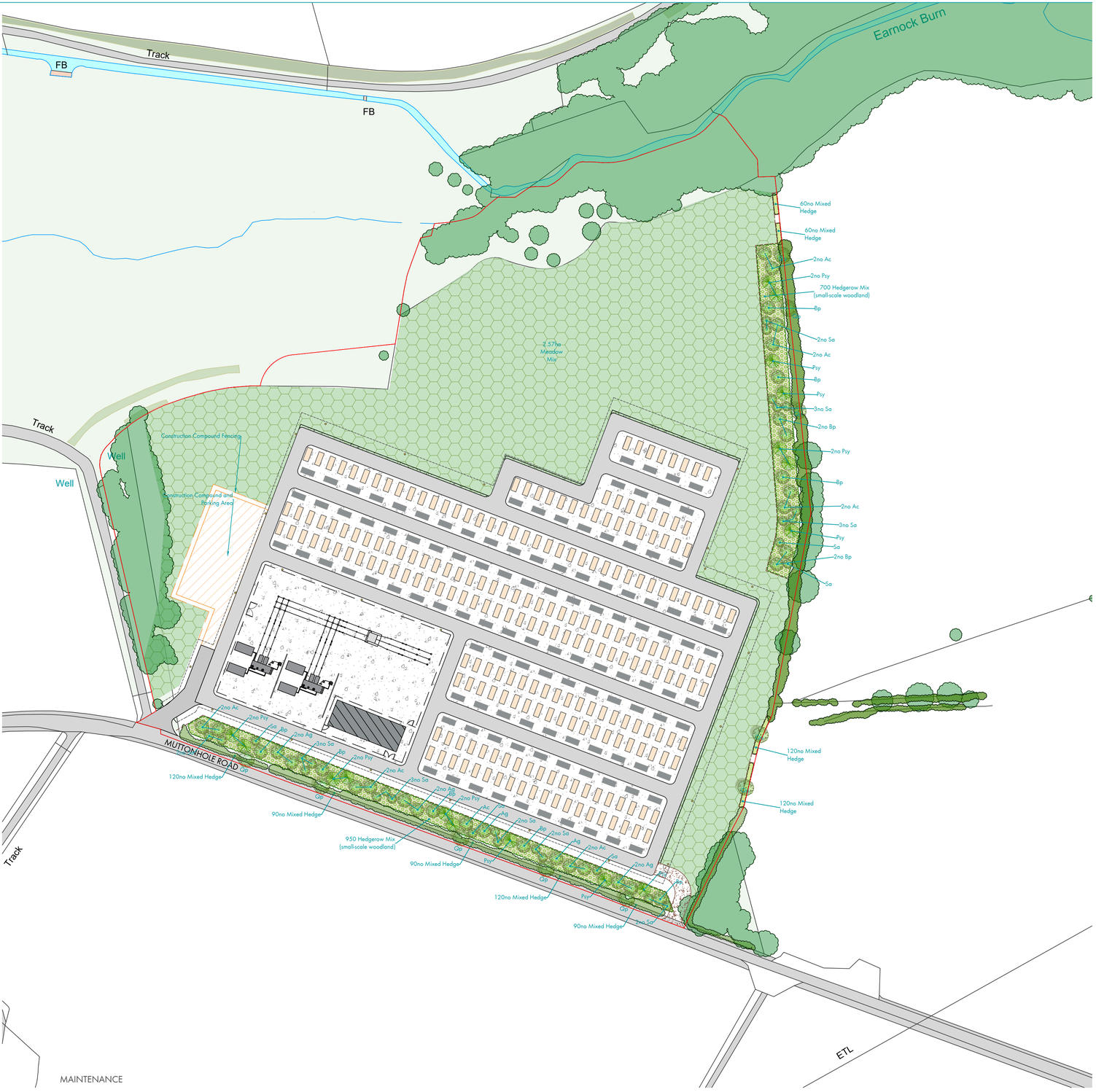

MAINTENANCE

The following maintenance regime is recommended. This to ensure the establishment and on-going success of installed/sown landscape per Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (BEP):

Trees:

Trees have been chosen for their appropriateness to their individual location. Pruning, other than for health and safety reasons, should not be necessary. They should, however, be inspected by a suitably qualified arboriculturalist annually.

a. An area 1m diameter at the base of the trees shall be kept clear of weed and grass either mechanically or by using an approved herbicide.
b. Tree stakes and ties should be inspected 3 times per year (Autumn, Winter and Spring).
c. All dead and diseased branches, or those broken due to malicious action or wind damage should be cleanly removed and the scar cleaned up.
d. All trees which have been removed or which are found to be dying, severely diseased or damaged will be replaced by trees of similar size and species to those originally planted. These should be replaced as soon as seasonal weather conditions allow.

Hedgerow Mix:

This has been designed to maintain a native, small-scale woodland/shrub cover to provide boundary landscape connectivity and screening. As the landscaped strip matures it should encourage regeneration and ecological diversity. Pruning should therefore be kept to a minimum, with the below implemented to ensure healthy long-term establishment.

a. Planting to be thinned as required once every five years for the first twenty years.
b. The ground at the base of the hedgerow mix shall be kept clear of invasive weeds, either mechanically or by use of an approved herbicide.

Mixed native hedge:

The objective is to in-fill degraded Hawthorn hedge and produce a thick, healthy, impenetrable hedge which represents the character of the local landscape (rural landscape). Pruning should be undertaken where necessary to achieve a neat and compact finish.

a. Hedge trimming to occur in January/February (not within periods of sustained hard frosts) to avoid nesting season (March to August) and removal of winter berries (September to December).
b. Hedges to be trimmed on a 2-year rotation. A "topped A shaped" form is to be achieved to prevent gaps and improve hedge viability and cover for wildlife.
c. To prevent weed/grass competition, an area 1m across to be cleared mechanically/chemically in line with the hedge. Care to be taken to avoid damage/slicing of stems or overspray (hooded spray applicator to be used by certificated operative).
d. Spiral tree guards are to be removed when plants are well established (3-5 years).

Meadow Mixes:

Establishment
a. Areas of meadow are to be established and maintained as per supplier/seed merchant recommendations and guidelines, or:
b. Early meadow cut in the first year ONLY if unwanted annual weeds appear and grow rapidly. Cut material should be removed. Cutting annual weeds may not be necessary if there is little growth, few weed plants or the appearance is acceptable.
c. Cut every two to three weeks until mid-summer to help establish species diversity. Annual weeds should disappear once the meadow is established.
d. Cut meadow and remove cuttings at the end of the growing season (normally September).

Residual Maintenance (to be implemented after the second year of establishment or after desired loss of unwanted annual weeds/grasses)
e. Cut meadow twice in Spring to weaken grasses and maintain species diversity. Cut material should be removed.
f. Meadows should then be cut and the cuttings removed at the end of the growing season (normally September).

Yellow Rattle:

If grass appears to be dominating through establishment, overseed with additional Yellow Rattle.

PLANTING SCHEDULE

These plants have been chosen taking into account local species, native/naturalised preference, and the recommendations of the RHS Plant Selector. Material attractive to wildlife for food source and cover are included.

PROPOSED MEDIUM TREES (10 - 20m)

Ac	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	13no
Ag	Alnus glutinosa (Common Alder)	8no
Bp	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	12no
Sa	Sorbus aria (Rowan)	27no

The above trees to be Bare-root (BR) Standards (1.8 to 2.0m h), single-staked and fitted with 1.2m tree tubes. An area 1m Ø, at the base of the tree, should be mounded and kept clear of weeds and grass and other deleterious material.

PROPOSED LARGE TREES (>20m)

Qp	Quercus patraea (Sessile Oak)	10no

The above trees to be root-balled Standard (8-10cm girth) Single-staked. An area 1m Ø, at the base of the tree should be mounded and kept clear of weeds and grass and other deleterious material.

Psy	Pinus sylvestris (Scots Pine)	16no

The above to be bushy specimen, wired root-ball (150-175cm height). Single Short-staked. An area 1m Ø, at the base of the tree should be mounded and kept clear of weeds and grass and other deleterious material.

HEDGEROW MIX (SMALL-SCALE WOODLAND) (1,650no)

40%	Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	60 to 80cm 1+1	660no
25%	Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	60 to 80cm 1+1	413no
20%	Sambucus nigra (Elder)	60 to 80cm 1+1	330no
15%	Corylus avellana (Hazel)	60 to 80cm 1+1	247no

Area is to be cultivated and prepared for 'Spit and Place' to ensure a series of raised mounds. Understorey mix is to be planted in groups of 5 to 10 at 1 per m². Unprotected edges to be enclosed with 3-wire post & wire protective livestock fence per plan.

MIXED HEDGE (870no)

25% Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)	60 to 80cm 1+1	218no
25% Rosa canina (Dog Rose)	60 to 80cm 1+1	218no
25% Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	60 to 80cm 1+1	217no
25% Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	60 to 80cm 1+1	217no

Mixed hedge is to be planted in two staggered rows at 300mm centres along either side of reinstated post/wire fence (6 per linear m), in alternating groups of 12no.

3-wire post & wire 1.2m ht protective livestock fence to be installed per plan.

PROPOSED MEADOW MIX

2.57ha combined mix of:

MG5 Meadow Mix available from:
https://www.scotiaseeds.co.uk/shop/mg5-meadow-mix/

Wet Meadow Mix available from:
https://www.scotiaseeds.co.uk/shop/wet-meadow-mix/

(or other approved mix/supplier)

TOPSOIL SPECIFICATION

Topsoil is an important component of most landscape projects where it provides the function of supporting the growth of vegetation. The underlying subsoil or other substrate can provide additional rooting depth, moisture storage, and drainage.

The following specifications for the stripping, storage, and transport of topsoil are derived from BS3882: 2015. It is the responsibility of the General Contractor/Ground Worker/Landscape Contractor (Contractor) to ensure the standards within BS3882: 2015 (and all normative references) are met both off and on site.

TOPSOIL STRIPPING and TRANSPORTATION

1. Existing topsoil to be stripped shall be sampled per BS3882: 2015, Clause 5 & Annex C.
2. Topsoil is only to be stripped, handled and trafficked in appropriate conditions of weather & soil moisture (in accordance w/ BS EN ISO 17892-12: 2018), and with suitable tracked machinery per BS3882: 2015, Annex A.

STORAGE

3. The stockpiling of soils (stripped) should be avoided whenever possible to prevent loss of quality.
4. Where stockpiling is unavoidable this should be done in a safe area of site, graded and cleared of rubbish, and outwith defined Root Protection Areas of any existing trees. Topsoil to be stockpiled separately from subsoil and other excavated materials.
5. Heaps should be tipped loosely with surface firmed and shaped to shed water. Depending on length of storage the heap may be grass seeded to prevent run-off. Per BS3882: 2015, Annex A.

PLANTING SPECIFICATION

GENERAL

1. Plant material shall be locally sourced, as far as is reasonably practicable. It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure they are selecting suitable origins, provenances, and categories of planting material for planting native species of trees & shrubs. Seed mixes to be from UK supplier.
2. All planting to conform to National Planting Specification Guidelines. The individual setting out of landscape material on site shall be the responsibility of the contractor.
3. Plant material to conform to the National Plant Specification. Plant handling and planting operations are to be in accordance with Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) 'Handling and Establishing Landscape Plants', Parts I-III.
4. All planned planting (and grassed) areas are to be initially cleared of vegetation (annual/perennial weeds; invasive woody shrubs; self-seeded material, long grass), rubble, glass, and litter/rubbish. All deleterious material to be removed from site.
5. All developed weed growth shall initially be eliminated with a suitable weed killer (to be specified and applied by a suitably certificated/trained operative and to be used strictly in accordance with current legislation and relevant codes of practice). Allow recommended dying off period to elapse prior to cultivation/clearance. Repeat applications as required for persistent/re-emerging weed species.
6. Planting Seasons

   In general, planting operations are only to occur in appropriate weather conditions. Avoid planting when ground is saturated or when hard/ sustained frosts are likely.
   - Trees & Whips (Bare-Root): October to March
   - Rootballed Trees: October to March (any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable, avoiding periods of severe drought, wet, or freezing)
   - Grass seeding/turf & Meadow Mixes: Late March to early May or September to early October

TREES

1. Trees shall be planted at the appropriate season depending on root-grown or bare-root, and in line with BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape.
2. Tree pits are to be dug not smaller than 250mm larger than the overall root spread. Care is to be taken to ensure that all sides are permeable and have not been "polished", and that all pits are free draining with 50mm of washed round pea gravel to the base of the tree pits.
3. Staked to schedule specifications.
4. Backfill for the tree pits is to be 20% Peat-free Compost, Fison's or similar approved.
5. The backfill is to be a raised mound at the top with the centre 150mm above the edges. Care is to be taken to ensure that the finished backfill level is at the nursery level on the tree, and that level is at the centre of the mound 150mm above the edges of the pit, when the tree has been well firmed in.
6. On completion of the planting, the tree shall be well watered in with not less than 10gallons of water. Thereafter it should be watered as required, following periods of any more than three consecutive hot, dry days, until the tree is fully established.

SMALL-SCALE/SCRUB WOODLAND (WHIP PLANTING)

1. The planting area shall be initially checked for quality of soil and risk of flooding (it is known that planting area at base of hill can retain water). If there is a problem with either of these, remedial actions shall be taken.

   (Note: It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that they are planting into the correct quality of material and not into waterlogged soil)
2. The area shall be cultivated by 'Spit and Place' to ensure a series of raised mounds. The whips shall be placed at the higher point.
3. All plants are to be staked and tied, and protected with a 600mm high Tubex Standard tree shelter.
4. Each plant is to be supported with a stake driven into a firm base, with a proprietary tie positioned at 500mm above ground, and with the stake a further 100mm above the tie. The tree should be planted ensuring that the stake will be on the windward side of the tree shelter. The tree shelter should then be carefully positioned over the tree, making sure not to damage the lateral branches and ensuring that the releasable ties slide over the stake. It should be pushed into the ground a minimum of 20mm. The thumb release ratchet ties should then be tightened to ensure that the tree shelter is firmly positioned. The tie end should then be tucked into the hole in the tree shelter.

BARE-ROOT HEDGES

1. Storage: Cool, dry, and frost-free place protected from wind until ready to plant. If from delivery planting to be greater than 2 days, temporarily 'heal in' plants in an angled trench covered with loose soil and kept moist.
2. All hedgerow planting should be carried out in accordance with BS4428:1989, Code of practice for general landscape operations.
3. Gaps within the existing hedgerow are to be expanded with removal of degraded/weak Hawthorn per plan. Remove any existing vegetation/grass by spraying or by rotavating/digging in (cutting short first). Herbicide pre-treatment to be with approved Glyphosate only.
4. Area for planting should be established by using the line of the hedge as the length. The width will be the planted line of the hedge plus 300mm either side. (ie a double line of hedge, 300mm apart, will be 1,200mm wide).
5. Whips are to be T-notch planted, double row with 6 per linear m, in groupings of 6 to 12 per species along the length. Create a t-shape/cross in the ground with the spade by pushing it into the ground. Push the spade into the first cut to push up the soil. This will create a small open space. Keeping the spade in the hole, place the tree in the space, ensuring that all of the roots are in the soil. Gently heel in.
6. Whips to be installed with 600mm spiral tree guard and cane support.
7. Granular fertiliser shall be applied to the length of the hedge and the hedge well watered in.

MEADOW GRASS SEEDING

Verges
1. Remove any existing vegetation/grass by spraying or by rotavating/digging in (cutting short first). Herbicide pre-treatment to be with approved Glyphosate only.
2. Overseed to supplier recommendations (3g per m²).

MG5 Meadow Mix
1. Field area to be deep-ploughed to mix topsoil and subsoil (reduce fertility of surface soil). Application of additional site material to comprise 30/70% topsoil/subsoil to max. depth of 150mm. Surface to be prepared to a fine tilth by harrowing.
2. NO APPLICATION OF SOIL CONDITIONER OR FERTILISER.
3. Spot spray, dig out, or further rotovate any recurring invasive weeds (Docks, thistle, other perennial weeds) 2 weeks prior to sowing.
4. Seed to be sown to supplier recommendations (3g per m²). Mix seed at start and through sowing to ensure seeds do not separate out per size. Use equal volume of dry sand to bulk up seed and improve handling/aid spreading.
5. Sow mechanically with seed to be broadcast by spreader. Divide sowing areas into zones and use half of the seed for each zone, sowing in one direction first. Use remaining seed to sow across the other direction to avoid empty patches.
6. Areas to be gently harrowed or rolled after sowing.

Appendix 6.6

Landscape Proposal

- Development Boundary: 7.52ha
- Species-rich Meadow Mix: 2.57ha
- Proposed Tree
- Proposed Hedge
- Post and Wire Fence

Scale: 1:1000 @ A1

0 10 20 30 40 50 m

Client Name	Advance Grid Solutions Limited
Project Name	Muttonhole Road BESS
Drawing Reference	COG511/APP/033/c
Date	25/03/25

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