

Restoration and Aftercare Scheme for
Controlled Reclamation Landfill Site, Dix Pit, Stanton Harcourt

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The area to which this scheme relates is identified on attached drawing no.: 187CRLR/12 Rev B.
- 1.2 In the following, section 2 identifies the steps that will be taken to finally restore the land to agriculture with potential for nature conservation benefits, whilst section 3 identifies the steps that will be taken during the five year aftercare period in order to ensure that the restored land is brought to the required standard for agricultural use with conservation benefits.

2.0 Restoration Proposals

- 2.1 The proposed restored pre-settlement levels of the landfill site are as shown on drawing no.: DIX001 Rev B. (The post-settlement levels are as shown on drawing no.: DIX002 Rev B). The final surface layer will comprise 300mm of recycled topsoil.
- 2.2 The uppermost layer of the fill material will be ripped to a depth of 450mm to loosen any compaction before any placement of the topsoil. The topsoil will only be spread in dry conditions and will also be ripped to its full depth following placement.

3.0 Aftercare Proposals

- 3.1 The aftercare period will begin following the final placement of the topsoil cover.

Cultivation Practices

- 3.2 Pre-sowing cultivation will be as required to provide a suitable seedbed for grassland establishment with very fine seeds. A rigid tine cultivator will be used on the land, together with a disc harrow to break up any larger soil lumps as appropriate. As the site is then to be used for grazing there should be no need for further cultivation during the aftercare period.

Secondary Treatments

- 3.3 Any rocks or other deleterious material in excess of 150mm will be removed from the restored surface prior to seeding and this exercise repeated every year in the early spring.
- 3.4 Subsoiling will also be carried out with a wing tined subsoiler before cultivation and sowing, to encourage water movement through the soil.

Timing and Pattern of Vegetation Establishment

- 3.5 A species diverse grass mix will be sown in the first spring following final restoration, to achieve a structurally diverse sward that benefits floristic and invertebrate diversity. The specified seed mix (as given on drawing no.: 187CRLR/12 Rev B) is an adaptable mix suitable to a variety of soil conditions. The grass will be cut in the early summer of the following year. Sheep will then be introduced to the land in the summer after that for grazing. The grazing area(s) will be enclosed with stock proof fencing as appropriate. The grazing period is likely to be for a couple of months at a time.
- 3.6 All tree and shrub planting to be implemented at the site, as shown on drawing no.: 187CRLR/12 Rev B, will take place whilst stock is dormant between November and March. The bare-root standard trees will be pit planted with a slow release fertiliser tablet and 5 litres of peat-free planting compost. Bare rooted plants will be notch planted. Container grown and evergreen stock will be pit planted.
- 3.7 All plants will be protected by individual guards using 60cm tree shelters with tree stakes or spiral plastic rabbit guards and 90cm bamboo canes as appropriate. The tree shelters and guards will be removed when the trees have reached the point at which pest damage would no longer be threatening to their survival. The light standard trees will be individually supported by 1.5 metre softwood stakes with a minimum diameter of 5cm and adjustable buckles.
- 3.8 Any losses will be replaced like for like for the first two seasons and thereafter sufficient to achieve minimum 90% stocking after 5 years with no significant gaps.

Management of Soil Fertility, Weeds etc.

- 3.9 Topsoil samples will be taken, analysed for pH, phosphorous (P), potassium (K) and Magnesium (Mg) and applications of P, K and lime will be made based on the analysis requirements.
- 3.10 Each tree or shrub planting position will be sprayed off using a fast acting non-residual herbicide. Organic based slow fertilizer: NPK 7:7:7 will be spread over planting areas before final cultivation at the rate of 3oz per square metre, and cultivated into the top 100mm. Bituminous felt tree mats 50cm x 50cm will be fitted, one to each plant, and removed once the trees have reached the point at which pest damage would no longer be threatening to their survival. Any damaged, dead or diseased branches, and weak, thin or malformed growth will be removed, and each plant watered thoroughly immediately following planting.
- 3.11 Any general areas which suffer from persistent weed growth will be sprayed off in late summer and re-seeded. Any noxious weeds will be controlled by cutting

late July/early August before the plants are allowed to seed and spread further. An annual spot treatment of herbicide will be applied if necessary.

Drainage

- 3.12 The gradient of the land (as required by the Environmental Permit) and the existing ditches around the boundaries of the site, which will be kept clear, will be sufficient to drain the soils. Under-drainage could prejudice the integrity of the cap to the landfill site and is not needed. The matter can be reviewed during forthcoming aftercare meetings.

Annual Meeting

- 3.13 A site meeting will be held every year between the operator, the landowner, an officer from the Mineral Planning Authority, and their expert advisor, to consider treatment of the land, and to discuss and agree the detailed steps necessary for aftercare of the land in the following year.

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