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LEGAL AND GENERAL (STRATEGIC LAND NORTH HORSHAM) LIMITED

LAND NORTH OF HORSHAM

HILLSIDE LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

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CLIENT	Legal and General (Strategic Land North Horsham) Limited
PROJECT	Land North of Horsham
REPORT TITLE	Hillside LEMP Compliance Statement

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CONTENTS:

1. INTRODUCTION 4

2. THE SITE 5

3. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT 6

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Conditions 35 of planning application DC/16/1677 requires a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) to be submitted for each Phase or sub-phase of the development.

1.2 A Phase 1 Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) prepared between DJA and Derek Finnie Associates, was approved on 15th October 2021 (LPA reference: DISC/21/0139).

1.3 This compliance statement has been compiled pursuant to Condition 35 and addresses the Hillside area only.

1.4 Conditions 36 is not considered of relevance to the Hillside application as there will be no occupations within the application area.

2. THE SITE

2.1 The Hillside comprises of an area of open space with associated access and circulation routes.

2.2 The Hillside lies to the north of residential parcels RM1 and RM2.

2.3 The existing vegetation around the boundary of the site is to be retained.

3. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

3.1 Section 6.4 e) of the LEMP states:

'Watering – The Contractor shall ensure that there is no delay in the execution of watering by obtaining all necessary licences and permissions from water companies for the efficient execution of watering. The Contractor shall water all planting undertaken under the Contract, at the frequency necessary to ensure establishment and survival, until all planting works are completed. Plant materials shall be watered immediately after planting. Watering of new trees/shrubs/planting to continue for first 2 years to ensure successful establishment. Carry out regular feeding and watering throughout the growing season to promote healthy growth, taking care not to over water or over feed using a fine hose or sprinkler until full depth of topsoil is saturated. Extra Heavy standard/semi mature trees are to be watered weekly from the beginning of the growing season (April/May) and throughout the summer, during the first year of establishment. This can be adjusted depending on the weather. During the establishment period all trees are to be monitored by the management team for signs of die back and dehydration. The CA shall be informed of any apparent signs of overdue stress. Additional watering may be required in periods of drought/dry weather to ensure plant survival. After 10 continuous days without rain during the growing season the trees shall be watered twice a week as above.'

3.2 Since the LEMP was approved water neutrality requirements have come into effect on site. As a consequence section 6.4 e) should be replaced with the following text:

'Watering – All watering must accord with the Water Neutrality requirements – i.e. it must not increase the rate of water abstraction for drinking water supplies above existing levels**.** No permanent irrigation should be installed and there must be no new water connections onto the existing network as a result of this application. If watering is required the water must be brought in by tanker from outside of the water resource zone or extracted from the on-site SUDS basins if available.

The Contractor shall ensure that there is no delay in the execution of watering by obtaining all necessary licences and permissions for the efficient execution of watering. The Contractor shall water all planting undertaken under the Contract, at the frequency necessary to ensure establishment and survival, until all planting works are completed. The CA shall be informed of any apparent signs of overdue stress. Additional watering may be required in periods of drought/dry weather to ensure plant survival.'

3.3 In addition paragraph 5.140 'Watering - water as necessary to maintain moist soil conditions during the growing season' should be omitted.

3.4 All removed deadwood that is not cause of pests or disease should be retained on Site, whether this is moved to woodland or scrub habitat or kept *in situ*.

3.5 The use of biocides and fertiliser should not be used within buffer zones for ancient woodland or waterbodies, or between field margins and hedgerows (to avoid spray drift), unless targeting invasive non-native species as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These must be approved for aquatic use. Alternative methods such as handpulling of undesirable species should be implemented where possible.

3.6 The only exceptions should be as follows:

a. When dealing with noxious and invasive or harmful plants such as Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, Giant hogweed, Rhododendron and New Zealand Pigmyweed.

b. In respect of ex-arable fields, only if the top 10cm layer of topsoil cannot be removed and replaced with low fertility media, an application of glyphosate is permitted in advance of being left to fallow and planted with meadow seed. However, glyphosate should not be used in proximity to ancient woodland, ancient woodland buffer zones, waterbodies, ditches, hedgerow or scrub.

3.7 For clarity 3.6 and 3.7 above supersedes the information in the approved Phase 1 LEMP in replacing the use of herbicides with hand weeding by careful digging or selective scything in the following sections: 4.37, 5.17, 5.22, 5.28, 5.34, 5.38, 5.52, 5.96, 5.113, 5.175, 5.179, 5.197, 5.200 and 6.4.

3.8 Strimmers are not to be used in proximity to trees.

3.9 Supplier information for plant stock must be made available upon request; this can be provided at a later date.

3.10 Checks should be made for any nesting animals such as hedgehog before any strimming, cutting, or mowing of marginal, edge and scrub vegetation.

3.11 To ensure the grassland path is clear, the periodicity of this mowing should be more frequent than that of the other neutral grassland habitat.

3.12 Gaps in the newly planted hedgerows for recreational pathways should not exceed 9m (with gaps of 10m in length potentially preventing bats using the hedgerow – JNCC, 2001), although a smaller gap is strongly preferred and encouraged.

3.13 Monitoring reports will need to be submitted to Horsham District Council as stipulated in any future legal agreements.

3.14 Beyond the amendments above the landscape scheme that accompanies the Hillside application contains no additional landscape typologies or features that fall outside the content of the approved Phase 1 LEMP.