

Planting Strategy - Phase 1

The planting approach balances both biodiversity net gain (BNG) considerations and the visual identity created through ornamental planting with seasonal value.

The proposed trees form the anchor of the planting approach, with a large range of species across each of the character areas. Special ornamental planting with flowering shrubs, evergreen grasses and native perennials will form the planting palette for the Arrival Plaza and Hurst Quad.

Final plant species will be selected for their low-maintenance requirements and drought-tolerant characteristics. Wildflower meadow maintenance could also be reduced to a single annual cut following establishment to maximise habitat creation.

During Phase 1, the future Phase 2 building footprint will be seeded as a species-rich wildflower meadow with low-level planting, providing biodiversity and visual amenity benefits until Phase 2 is delivered. The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements for the development will be secured during Phase 1 through the delivery and establishment of these habitat areas with an overall net gain of 13.71% in habitat units and 145.39% in hedgerow units, as shown in the BNG Statement.



Shade Feature Planting
Linear Gardens and central planter



Sun Feature Planting
Central planters



Wild flower Meadow:
Biodiverse rich meadow



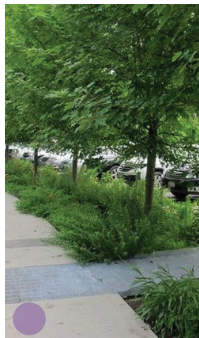
Hedge boundary:
Native Hedge Planting along car park and vehicle entrance



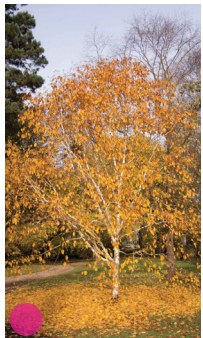
Existing Tree
Parking zones, courtyard



Multi stem Tree
Buffer, courtyard



Clear Stem Tree
Parking zones, courtyard



Feature Tree
Courtyard, Hurst Quad

Planting Strategy - Phase 2

Phase 2 builds upon the planting framework established in Phase 1 through the introduction of additional trees, ornamental planting, and landscaped terraces associated with the Phase 1 building and landscape steps.

These enhancements strengthen the site's biodiversity, seasonal interest, and landscape character while creating attractive spaces for students to gather and learn outdoors



Shade Tolerant Feature Planting
Future Hurst Quad and Woodland Gardens



Sun Loving Feature Planting
Arrival Plaza / Stepped Gardens



Wild flower Meadow:
Biodiverse rich meadow



Hedge boundary:
Native Hedge Planting along car park and vehicle entrance



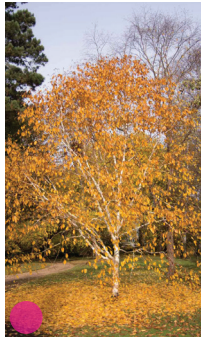
Existing Tree
Parking zones, courtyard



Multi stem Tree
Buffer, courtyard



Clear Stem Tree
Parking zones, courtyard



Feature Tree
Courtyard, Hurst Quad

Wildflower Meadow

Species-rich wildflower meadows are proposed within the car park buffer and entrance areas, providing a resilient and low-maintenance planting solution. The meadow mix has been selected to tolerate the site's clay soils and variable moisture conditions, including periods of drought and occasional waterlogging. In addition to enhancing biodiversity and supporting Biodiversity Net Gain objectives, the meadows will provide strong seasonal interest and a distinctive visual character across the site.

During the interim Phase 1 period, the future footprint of the Workshop Building will be established as a separate wildflower meadow area. This meadow will focus primarily on visual amenity, seasonal colour, and user experience, creating an attractive landscape setting until Phase 2 is delivered. The Interim landscaping proposals have not been taken into account in calculation of the project's BNG score



Methodology

Seeding Wildflower Ground Preparation: In all areas outside existing RPAS prepare a seed bed first remove weeds using repeated cultivation. Then plough or dig to bury the surface vegetation, harrow, or rake to produce a medium tilth, and roll, or tread, to produce a firm surface.

Seeding Within Root Protection Areas (RPAs): Within Root Protection Areas (RPAs), no soil cultivation or ground disturbance shall be undertaken. Existing vegetation shall be cut to a low height and arisings removed. The surface may be lightly scarified using hand tools or low-impact pedestrian equipment to a maximum depth of 10–20 mm, sufficient only to create surface texture and ensure seed-to-soil contact. Care shall be taken to avoid damage to tree roots. Any areas containing exposed or prominent surface roots should be excluded from scarification to avoid accidental root damage. Seed shall be evenly broadcast at the specified rate. No topsoil importation or regrading shall be carried out within RPAs. The surface shall not be consolidated using mechanical means. Light firming by foot is permissible where necessary. All operations shall be undertaken using lightweight equipment and low ground pressure techniques to avoid compaction. Vehicular access within RPAs is prohibited unless otherwise agreed with the project arboriculturist.

Wild flower Meadow:
Biodiverse rich meadow



Native wildflower meadow mix
Mix composed of 15% native wild flowers and 85% slow growing grasses

Wild flower Meadow (Phase I):
Feature Meadow with mown paths



Feature wildflower meadow mix (Pictorial Meadows)
colour perennial meadow