

**SITE WIDE
ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN
ADDENDUM**

COUPRO-CLAFAR-2579-ECMP

November 2009

Issue	Date of Issue	Written By	Reviewed + Approved By
One	20 March 2009	KH	HM
Addendum	16 November 2009	LP	KH



REPORT ADDENDUM

1. This addendum contains amendments to the Site Wide Conservation Management Plan (Report reference: COUPRO-CLAFAR-1839-ECMP) following further consultation with Cambridge City Council and the design team. The page, paragraph and line number within the original report for each amendment and the amended text is provided below.
2. Where reference is made to accompanying Figure 1, the revised drawing number 1818/PR/002E should instead be referred to in relation to the detailed design of the Bird Mitigation Area.

Page 6Paragraph 1

3. *Line 3:* The Plan addresses Condition 43 (the wording of the condition has not changed from that within the original report).

Page 19Paragraph 31

4. *Line 3:* Hobson's Brook Trustees manage and maintain this watercourse and will continue to do so during and after development or this will be undertaken by their appointed contractor.

Page 20Paragraph 35

5. *Line 14:* Hobson's Brook (management and maintenance of the brook will continue to be the responsibility of Hobson's Brook Trustees or their principle contractor)

Page 21Paragraph 35

6. *Line 6:* Footpaths, reed screens and viewing points
7. *Line 7:* Wet fences (wet ditches with tall stands of common reed)

Page 41Paragraph 148

8. *Line 10:* Management and maintenance of the brook will continue to be the responsibility of Hobson's Brook Trustees or their appointed contractor.

Page 66Paragraph 293

9. Line 3: Creation of floating islands and a permanent island

Page 67Paragraph 293

10. Line 4: Roosting areas (floating islands, permanent island and wet grassland)

Page 67Paragraph 294

11. Line 2: Footpaths, reed screens and viewing points
12. Line 3: Wet fences (wet ditches with tall stands of common reed)

Paragraph 295

13. Line 2: The permanent area of water (water body 1) lies adjacent to Hobson's Brook, but will be separated from it by a wet, reed-lined ditch (wet fence) and the planting of occasional groups of native tree species. The ditch will be planted with common reed for the primary purpose of screening visual disturbance and some natural colonisation of the water body is likely to occur. To aid establishment and maturation of the water body, and to aid oxygenation, submerged and floating vegetation will be planted as individual plants (with weights), to include (referring to Cambridge City Council's *SUDS Draft design guide – Biodiversity*); fennel pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), broad-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), shining pondweed (*Potamogeton lucens*), spiked water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), rigid hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), unbranched bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*) and fan-leaved water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus circinatus*). No common reed will be planted within the water body to aid the establishment of other species. Some common reed is likely to naturally colonise.

Paragraph 297

14. Line 3: There will be no access to the water's edge. Paths around the outside of the water body and associated habitats will lead to two viewing points (one on the northern boundary and one on the southern boundary), which will provide visitors with views over the water and interpretation boards will inform visitors of the interest of the Bird Mitigation Area and of permitted activities. The ground level will be slightly raised at the location of the viewing point and reed screens will be positioned either side of the

viewing point and occasional shrubs planted (where necessary for screening) to limit disturbance to birds and other wildlife associated with the wetland area.

Page 68

Paragraph 302

15. *Line 8:* Maintenance of open and vegetated sections of the water body: A minimum of two-thirds of the permanent open water area will be maintained and a minimum of two-thirds of the banks will be maintained as bare earth or short marginal vegetation. Periodic maintenance will ensure the water body and its margins does not become choked with accumulating plant debris and emergent vegetation.

Page 68

Paragraph 303

16. *Line 1:* Prior to any silt removal, statutory bodies (for example, the Environment Agency and Natural England) will be consulted to ensure correct methods are used and relevant licences obtained.

Page 69

Paragraph 304

17. *Line 1:* Marginal and aquatic vegetation will not be allowed to cover more than one-third of the water's surface or more than one-third of the banks.

Page 70

Inserted New Paragraph (Under Paragraph 312)

18. *Heading:* Permanent Island
19. One large permanent island will be created within the permanent area of open water (water body 1), adjacent to the eastern shore, to provide undisturbed nesting habitat for birds, such as terns and gulls and suitable foraging habitat for waders. The island will be topped with sub-soil to reduce the colonisation rate of the island by vegetation. The island will be maintained as open, un-vegetated and support a dead wood feature, which will provide additional habitat for invertebrates.

Annual Works

20. The island will be inspected annually and any vegetation will be removed by hand. Fluctuations in water levels and low soil nutrient content will aid management to minimise vegetation growth.

21. Visual inspections of the islands with the use of binoculars will be undertaken regularly from the water's edge during maintenance and monitoring checks. Litter will be removed from the islands on a regular basis as required, as this poses a risk to bird safety. However, during the nesting season consideration will be given to the presence of nesting birds to ensure any nests are not disturbed.

Page 70

Paragraph 313

22. *Line 1:* Reedbed habitat will be created in patches along the northern, eastern and southern margins of the water body. Primarily the function of the reedbeds will be to screen areas of the pond to reduce visual disturbance to birds and to provide suitable habitat for wetland birds. Reedbeds also have the additional benefit of improving water quality and help to maintaining ecosystem balance within the water body.
23. *Line 6:* Lesser bulrush will be the dominant constituent, with other emergents such as yellow iris, branched bur-reed, lesser pond-sedge, common club-rush, water-plantain, reed sweet-grass and marsh speedwell. Common reed will not be planted within the water body but is likely to naturally colonise. Natural generation of aquatic plants will be favoured, but plug planting in groups of 5-10, to create stands may be required, which will aid the establishment of a wide diversity of species. Approximately one-half to two-thirds of the water body margin will remain free of marginal vegetation, leaving muddy edges in the damp zone for dabbling birds.

Page 71

Paragraph 315

24. *Line 2:* The eastern edge should be kept free of tall vegetation, which would otherwise deter waders from feeding.

Page 71

Paragraph 317

25. *Heading:* Footpaths, Reed Screens and Viewing Points
26. *Line 1:* Footpaths will guide visitors around the periphery of the Bird Mitigation Area (except along the western edge). A reed-lined, wet ditch will surround the water body to prevent access to the water and edge habitats. A gated access road will be provided along the western boundary for maintenance/management and monitoring only.

Paragraph 318

27. *Line 1:* Paths around the periphery of the Bird Mitigation Area will lead to two viewing points (one on the northern boundary and one on the southern boundary), which will provide visitors with the enjoyment of views over the water body and interpretation boards will inform visitors of the interest of the Bird Mitigation Area and of permitted activities. The ground level will be slightly raised at the location of the viewing points to provide views over the reed-lined, wet ditch surrounding the water body and reed screens will be positioned either side of the viewing points and occasional shrubs planted (where necessary for screening) to limit disturbance to birds and other wildlife within the Bird Mitigation Area.

Paragraph 319

28. *Line 1:* A management regime should be agreed to monitor the footpaths, reed screens and viewing points.

Page 72

29. *Heading (after paragraph 322):* Wet, reed-lined ditch

Paragraph 323

30. *Line 1:* A wet, reed-lined ditch will be created around the entire Bird Mitigation Area, which will screen the wetland from surrounding habitats, reducing visual and noise disturbance from the footpaths and the adjacent Built Development and will prevent access into the Bird Mitigation Area. The ditch will be wide enough to support a dense margin of tall emergent plants. The ditch will be patch planted to aid colonisation with species with tall, dense foliage, suitable for screening. The vegetation will be dominated by common reed. Other suitable species that can be planted to increase diversity include lesser bulrush and common club-rush.

Paragraph 324

31. *Line 1:* The ditch form will have a stepped channel to maintain a central deep, open water area with dense stands of reed either side. This channel form will have additional benefits in providing suitable habitat for water vole, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates.

Paragraph 325

32. *Line 1:* Ditches will generally be managed for tall marginal vegetation with no scrub. Scrub would reduce the value of the ditch for water vole and provide perches for predatory birds, which would conflict with the interests of the Bird Mitigation Area. Marginal vegetation will be cut along one side of the ditch at a time on a three-year

rotation, where only 30% of a 100m section is cleared at any one time. A water vole and great crested newt survey will be undertaken prior to the commencement of works and any appropriate mitigation implemented in accordance with best practice. Work will be undertaken in an upstream direction. Arisings will be left on the bank top for 48 hours to allow any invertebrates to escape bank into the water and then disposed of off site. Works will not be undertaken from March to September to avoid the water vole and bird breeding season.

Page 73

Paragraph 326

33. *Line 6:* Countryside Properties, or their successors in title, will be responsible for the management of all management areas, except Hobson's Brook (which will continue to be managed and maintained by Hobson's Brook Trustees or their appointed contractors), until adoption of responsibility by Cambridge City Council and, in respect of the four balancing ponds, until adoption by Anglian Water Authority (anticipated to be take place one year after practical completion).

Page 74

Paragraph 331

34. *Line 1:* Annual reports of monitoring will be provided by the ecologist and subsequent reviews of the ECMP will be undertaken following annual monitoring and surveys. Annual reports of monitoring will be provided to the client and the City Council Ecologist. The ECMP will be revised accordingly in consultation with involved parties.