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Notes

Following the completion of mineral extraction, the site shall be restored to a mix of land uses and habitats comprising a series of large lakes and associated wetland areas, agricultural land, and a mosaic of other habitats including conservation grassland, woodland and scrub, hedgerows and small ponds.

Areas to be Cultivated and Seeded:

All disturbed land or newly restored areas (including those areas to be tree and shrub planted) shall be cultivated and seeded in the first available season following the completion of earthworks. Ideally, seeding operations should be undertaken in April / early May or late August / early September.

Where practicable, the replaced soil shall be cultivated through its full depth by ploughing, discing and chain harrowing to create a reasonably fine seed bed. Any large stones (with a dimension greater than 50 mm) or any other deleterious material brought to the surface shall be picked-off prior to seeding.

The areas to be restored to agricultural pasture shall be sown with a long-term agricultural grass ley suitable for the grazing of sheep or cattle.

Once established, the agricultural grassland areas shall be cut for hay or silage in the first year, followed by grazing or cutting in the following year.

The proposed conservation grassland areas shall be sown with a grass mix such as Emorsgate EG8 (or similar), or prescribed areas may be sown with grass and wildflower mixes appropriate to the prevailing soil type or hydrological conditions.

Areas of conservation grassland shall be managed by hay cutting or low intensity seasonal grazing.

Woodland, Scrub and Hedgerow Planting:

All proposed woodland and scrub areas shall be planted with trees and shrubs to be selected from the following species list:

- Alnus glutinosa* (Alder) - mainly within wetter lakeside / ditch-side locations.
- Betula pubescens* (Downy Birch)
- Corylus avellana* (Hazel)
- Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn)
- Frangula alnus* (Alder Buckthorn)
- Ilex aquifolium* (Holly)
- Populus nigra* (Native Black Poplar)
- Prunus avium* (Wild Cherry)
- Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn)
- Quercus robur* (Oak)
- Salix caprea* (Goat Willow)
- Salix fragilis* (Crack Willow) - mainly within wetter lakeside / ditch-side locations.
- Sambucus nigra* (Elder)
- Sorbus aucuparia* (Rowan)

Hedgerows shall comprise a selection of the following shrubs, planted as 40-60cm transplants in groups of 5 of the same species in double staggered rows at 500mm spacings and protected with spiral guards:

- Corylus avellana* (Hazel)
- Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn)
- Frangula alnus* (Alder Buckthorn)
- Ilex aquifolium* (Holly)
- Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn)
- Salix caprea* (Goat Willow)
- Sambucus nigra* (Elder)

Individual specimens of *Quercus robur* (and occasion other species including *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pubescens*, *Populus nigra* and *Prunus avium*) shall be planted as 1.5m feathered trees or whips at intervals of between 10m and 15m within the hedgerows. These trees shall be adequately staked and protected with 1.2m tree guards.

Marginal & Emergent Planting:

The more extensive areas of proposed reedbed shall be planted with stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), but the narrower marginal fringes shall be planted with a greater diversity of emergent and marginal aquatic plants prevalent to the local area and soil conditions.

The emergent and marginal plants shall be planted as plugs at a density of 3 plants/m² within the lake shallows or on the immediate lake margins, and shall be protected from grazing wildfowl during establishment by temporary mesh fencing.

Aftercare and Management Scheme:

To ensure successful establishment of the restoration scheme, the management of planted areas and grassland (including the agricultural grassland) shall be undertaken in accordance with a 5 Aftercare Scheme which shall be submitted to and approved by the Mineral Planning Authority. A subsequent long-term management plan will also be put place to achieve longer term biodiversity and landscape objectives.



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Project: **Hurst Farm & Station Road**

Title: **Restoration Scheme Combined**

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