

Blessington Lakes eGreenway

Landscape Plan

Wicklow County Council

Ref: ABP-312479-22

60617025

November 2023

Quality information

Document name	Ref	Prepared for	Prepared by	Date	Reviewed by
Landscape Plan	60617025	Planning	JP	November 2023	PM

Revision history

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorised	Name	Position

This document has been prepared by AECOM Limited for the sole use of our client (the "Client") and in accordance with generally accepted consultancy principles, the budget for fees and the terms of reference agreed between AECOM Limited and the Client. Any information provided by third parties and referred to herein has not been checked or verified by AECOM Limited, unless otherwise expressly stated in the document. No third party may rely upon this document without the prior and express written agreement of AECOM Limited.

Contents

1.0 Introduction.....	5
2.0 Project Description.....	6
3.0 Landscape Plan and Planting Schedules.....	8
• Farm Land Landscape	
• Lake Shore Landscape	
• Mixed Woodland	
• Rural Road Landscape	
• Open Space Landscape	
4.0 Maintenance and Management.....	18



1.0 Introduction

The report has been prepared to describe the landscape proposals and their maintenance and management requirements for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway.

The scheme is proposed to travel around the Poulaphouca Reservoir (also known as the Blessington Lakes) in Blessington, County Wicklow.

This report details the landscape plan and management and maintenance actions necessary to protect and enhance the landscape and biodiversity along the eGreenway. It provides detail on planting species mix for each of the landscape typologies identified along the route. The management and maintenance actions described within this plan have been developed with reference to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) 2021-2025 particularly with regard to the guidance objective 2 'Making public land pollinator friendly'. A key requirement for the management of the eGreenway route will be to engage with the appointed AIPP Communities Officer to review the maintenance actions noted within this plan.

Detailed maintenance and management proposals are also provided to ensure the new landscape establishes in the early years and is managed appropriately into the future.

This report has been prepared with reference to the Arboricultural Survey and Assessment Report ref: PR-447455 by Flynn Furney.

2.0 Project Description

The route will provide a facility for pedestrians and cyclists along the shoreline of the reservoir and will pass through the townlands of Baltyboys Lower, Tulfarris, Rathballylong, Baltyboys Upper, Monamuck, Valleymount, Annacarney, Carrigacurra, Ballyknockan, Ballynastockan, Lacken, Sroughan, Carrig, Knockieran Upper, Knockieran Lower, Blessington and Burgage More and the villages of Valleymount, Ballyknockan and Lacken before returning to Blessington at Knockieran Bridge.

The scheme includes proposals at the existing public car parks to provide bicycle parking, information boards, bins, seating areas, lighting, drinking water stations and electric vehicle charging points

Signage will be provided to provide visitor information, way-finding information, heritage information and advisory/regulatory information in proximity to road/agricultural crossings. All signage will be subject to full specification at detailed design in project in accordance with national technical standards and guidance.

The minimum width of the greenway will be 3.0m. This will widen to 4.0m in the vicinity of proposed car parks and access points where the volume of pedestrians and cyclists will be higher.

Where possible a minimum verge width of 1.0m will be provided on either side of the greenway. All overhanging trees shall be pruned to provide a minimum of 2.7m headroom.

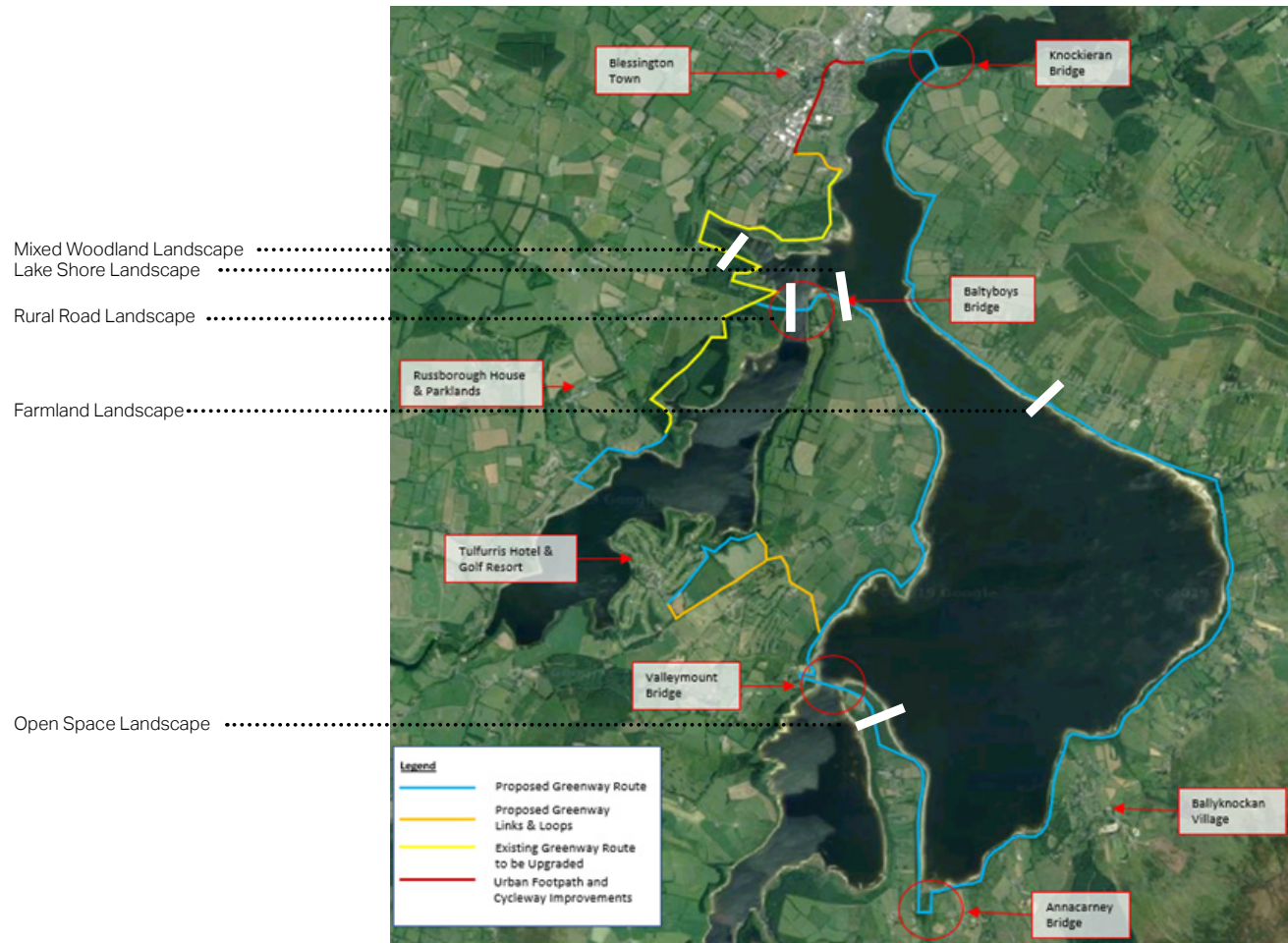


Fig 1: Project Route Map

(not to scale)

3.0 Landscape Plan and Planting Schedules

3.1 Farmland Landscape

This landscape is typically open fields marked by mixed native hedgerow boundaries and limited woodland or tree planting. The proposed planting aims to provide additional native planting and enhance the existing hedgerow and tree planting with a mix containing native oak, willow, alder and hazel. The seasonal interest and biodiversity is further enhanced by wildflower planting.



SECTION LOCATION PLAN

TREES	
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Prunus avium</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Salix caprea</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB

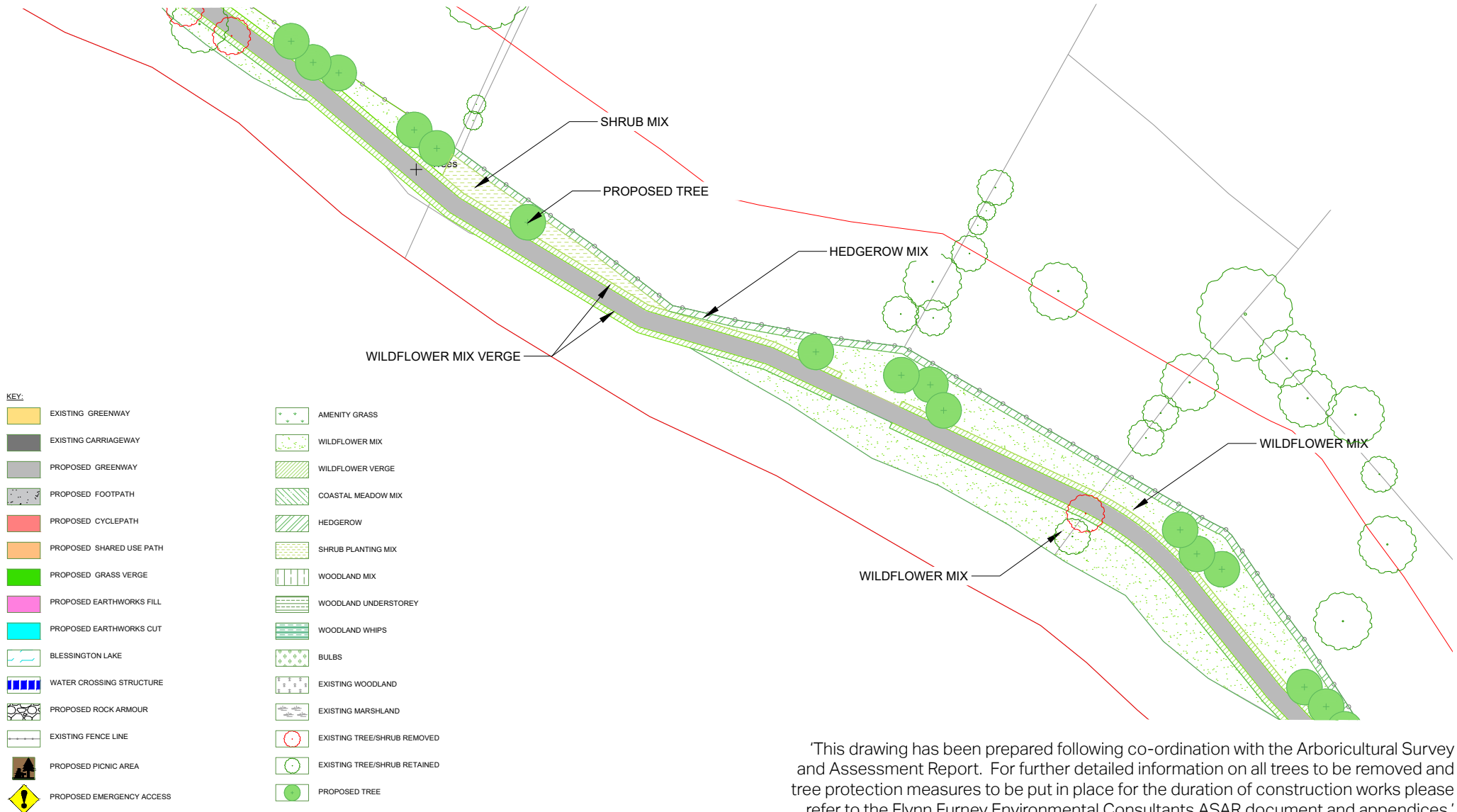
HEDGEROW MIX		
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	50%
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	5%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	10%
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	5%
<i>Prunus avium</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	5%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	10%
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	5%
<i>Salix alba</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	10%

WILDFLOWER MEADOW PLANTING SEED MIX
Dandelion, Hogweed, Vetches, Ox-eye-daisy, Selfheal, Clover, Birds-foot-trefoil, Meadow Vetchling, Woundwort, Devil's-Bit-Scabious, Knapweed

Plant species included in this schedule support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and are recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as 'Plants for Pollinators'.
Exact species within planting schedule to be confirmed by project ecologist for appropriateness.

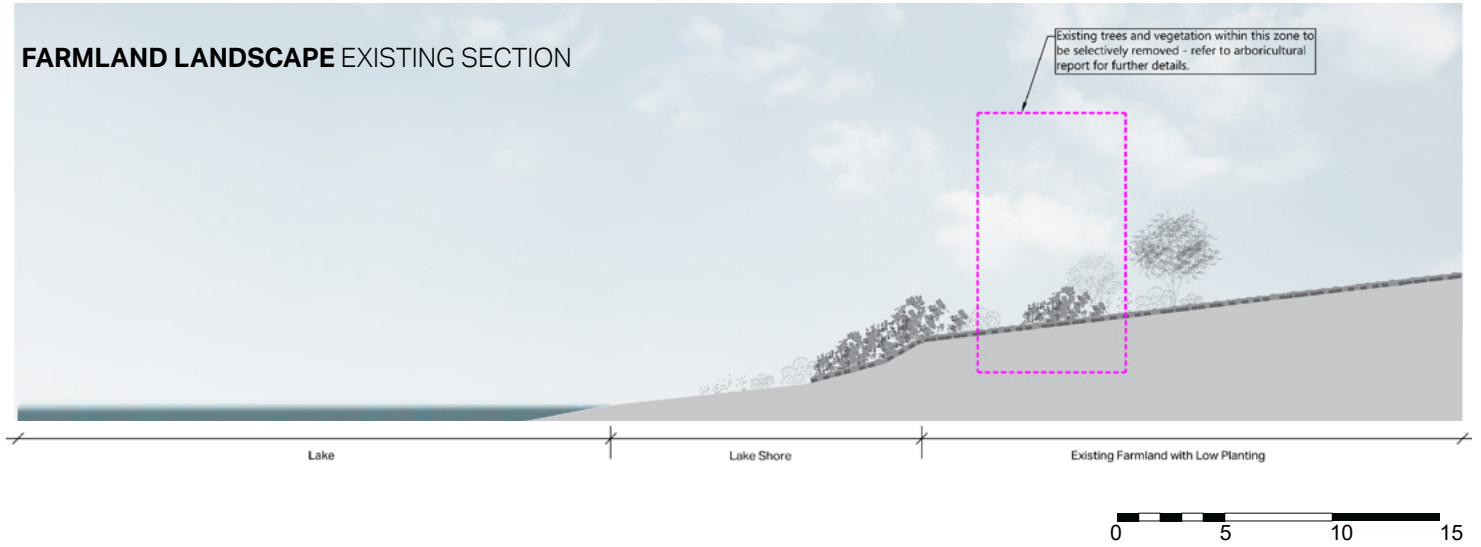
FARMLAND LANDSCAPE - PLANTING SCHEDULE

FARMLAND LANDSCAPE- PROPOSED PLAN

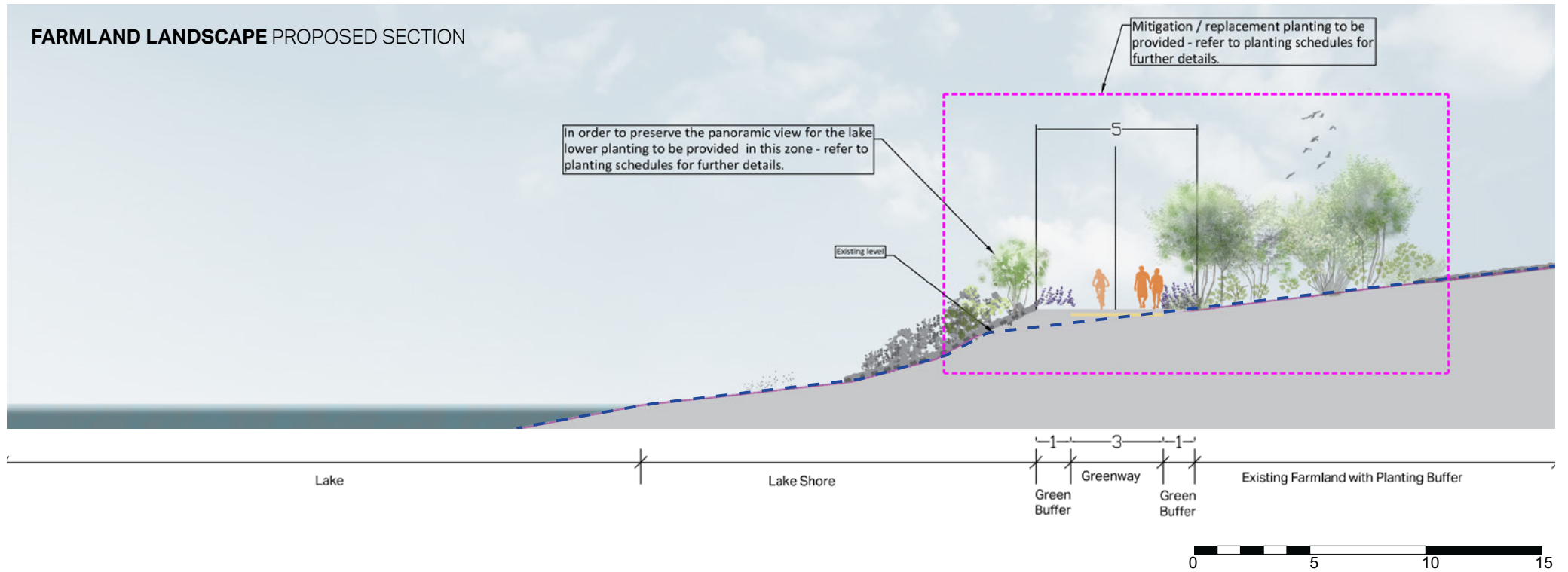


'This drawing has been prepared following co-ordination with the Arboricultural Survey and Assessment Report. For further detailed information on all trees to be removed and tree protection measures to be put in place for the duration of construction works please refer to the Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants ASAR document and appendices.'

FARMLAND LANDSCAPE EXISTING SECTION



FARMLAND LANDSCAPE PROPOSED SECTION



3.2 Lake Shore

Land situated by the edge of a lake, exposed and with limited existing tree planting. It is characterized by low shrubs and naturalised shoreline grasses. The aim of the proposed planting is to complement the existing planting to promote improved biodiversity, as well as providing an improved landscape screening to adjacent farmland and road infrastructure.



SECTION LOCATION PLAN

Blessington Lakes eGreenway

TREES	
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	250-300CM, FEATHERED TREE, 2xtr, 3 STEMS, RB
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Populus tremula</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Salix alba</i>	250-300CM, FEATHERED TREE, 2xtr, 3 STEMS, RB
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB

NATIVE SHRUB MIX		
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	10%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	15%
<i>Crataegus monogyana</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	25%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	40-60cm, 2L, Container Grown	10%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	20%
<i>Rosa canina</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	10%
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	10%

COASTAL SHRUB AND PERENNIAL MIX		
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION	
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%
<i>Olearia traversii</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%
<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%
<i>Erigeron acer</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%
<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%
<i>Aster spp</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%
<i>Rudbeckia spp</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%
<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	20-30, 3L pot	10%

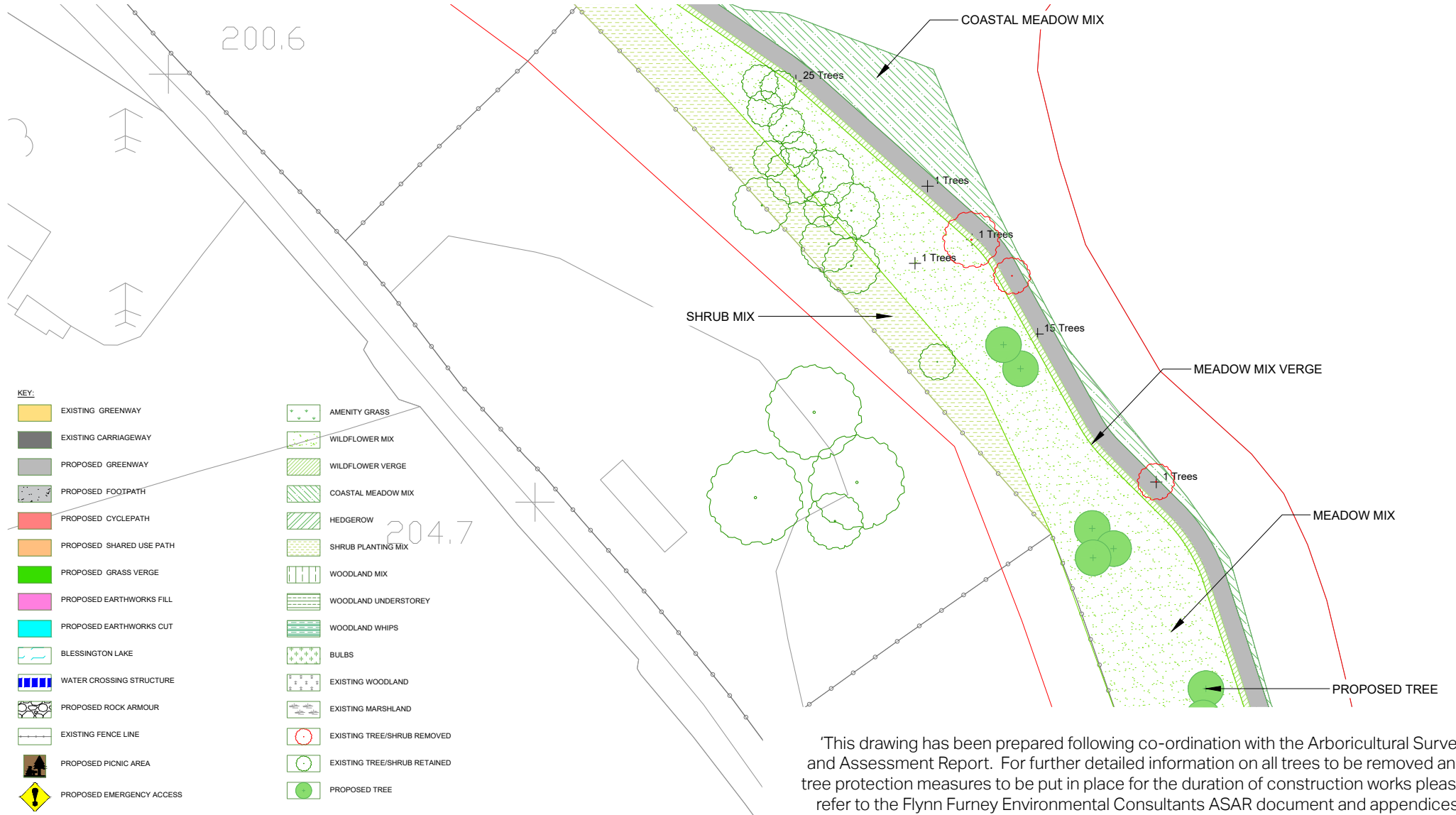
COASTAL MEADOW MIX
<i>Achillea millefolium, Anthyllis vulneraria, Centaurea nigra, Centaurea scabiosa, Chrysanthemum pegetum, Daucus carota, Echium vulgare, Galium verum, Hypericum perforatum, Hypochaeris radicata, Leucanthemum vulgare, Linaria vulgaris, Lotus corniculatus, Papaver rhoeas, Rhinanthus minor, Silene vulgaris, Tragopogon pratensis, Trifolium arvense</i>

Plant species included in this schedule support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and are recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as 'Plants for Pollinators'.

Exact species within planting schedule to be confirmed by project ecologist for appropriateness.

LAKESHORE - PLANTING SCHEDULE

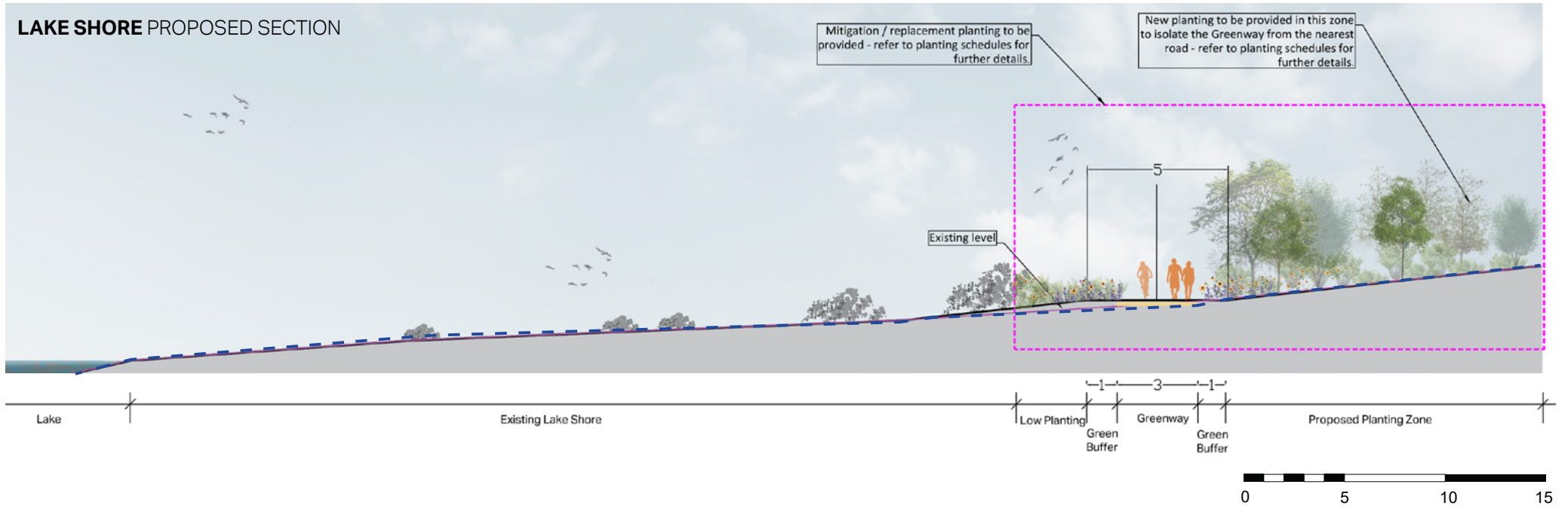
LAKE SHORE - PROPOSED PLAN



LAKE SHORE EXISTING SECTION



LAKE SHORE PROPOSED SECTION



3.3 Mixed Woodland

Existing woodland, typically composed of Scots pine, Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and Larch. In order to introduce species biodiversity the planting proposals include mixed deciduous native trees along the margins of the eGreenway and a forest floor mix of native woodland shrubs. The seasonal interest and biodiversity is further enhanced by woodland bulb planting.



SECTION LOCATION PLAN

WOODLAND WHIPS		
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	20%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	40-60cm, 2L, Container Grown	10%
<i>Malus domestica</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Quercus robur</i>	1+1, 60-80cm, BR, min 3 BRANCHES	5%
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	1+1, 60-80cm, BR, min 3 BRANCHES	15%

BULBS	
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION
<i>Crocus tommasinianus</i>	7/+, 30/m ²
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>	7/+, 30/m ²
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	7/+, 30/m ²
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	7/+, 30/m ²


























Plant species included in this schedule support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and are recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as 'Plants for Pollinators'.

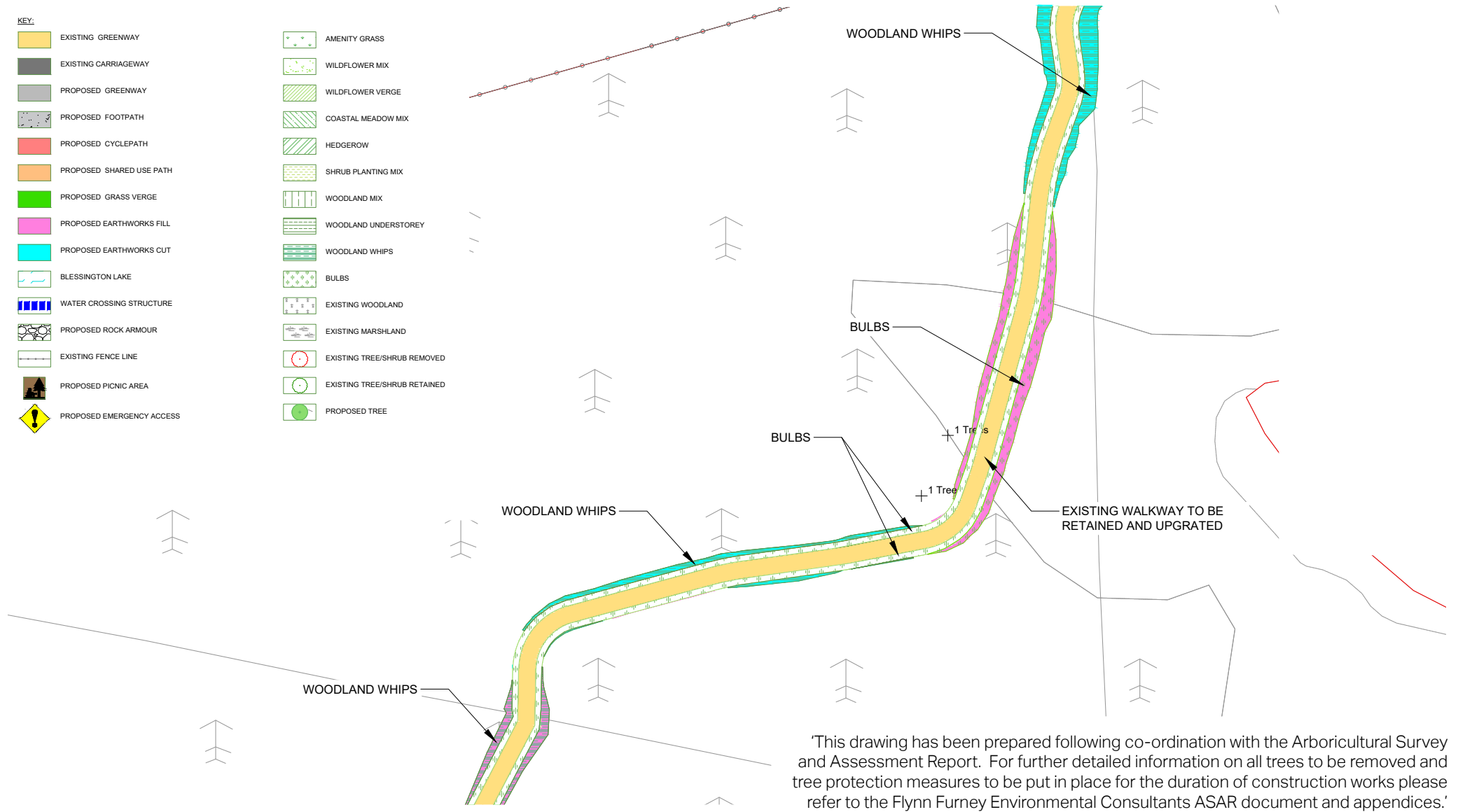
Exact species within planting schedule to be confirmed by project ecologist for appropriateness.

MIXED WOODLAND - PLANTING SCHEDULE

MIXED WOODLAND- PROPOSED PLAN

KEY:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|
|  | EXISTING GREENWAY |  | AMENITY GRASS |
|  | EXISTING CARRIAGEWAY |  | WILDFLOWER MIX |
|  | PROPOSED GREENWAY |  | WILDFLOWER VERGE |
|  | PROPOSED FOOTPATH |  | COASTAL MEADOW MIX |
|  | PROPOSED CYCLEPATH |  | HEDGEROW |
|  | PROPOSED SHARED USE PATH |  | SHRUB PLANTING MIX |
|  | PROPOSED GRASS VERGE |  | WOODLAND MIX |
|  | PROPOSED EARTHWORKS FILL |  | WOODLAND UNDERSTOREY |
|  | PROPOSED EARTHWORKS CUT |  | WOODLAND WHIPS |
|  | BLESSINGTON LAKE |  | BULBS |
|  | WATER CROSSING STRUCTURE |  | EXISTING WOODLAND |
|  | PROPOSED ROCK ARMOUR |  | EXISTING MARSHLAND |
|  | EXISTING FENCE LINE |  | EXISTING TREE/SHRUB REMOVED |
|  | PROPOSED PICNIC AREA |  | EXISTING TREE/SHRUB RETAINED |
|  | PROPOSED EMERGENCY ACCESS |  | PROPOSED TREE |

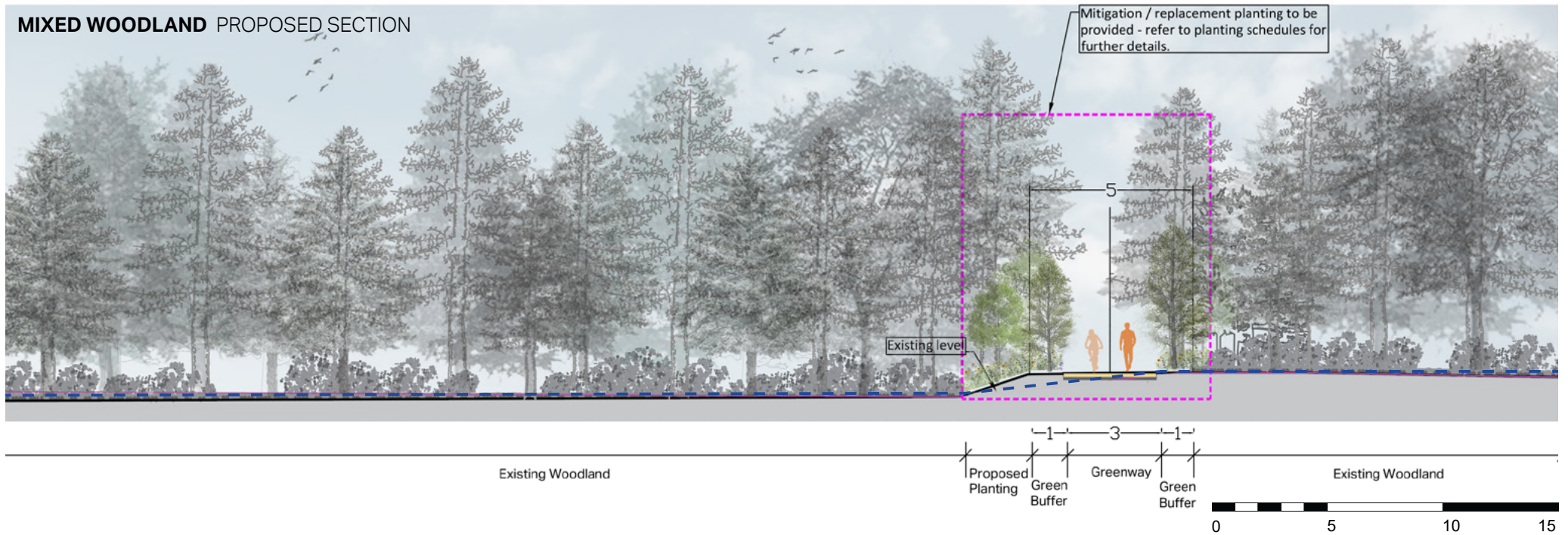


'This drawing has been prepared following co-ordination with the Arboricultural Survey and Assessment Report. For further detailed information on all trees to be removed and tree protection measures to be put in place for the duration of construction works please refer to the Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants ASAR document and appendices.'

MIXED WOODLAND EXISTING SECTION



MIXED WOODLAND PROPOSED SECTION



3.4 Rural Road Landscape

In locations where the eGreenway utilises existing road and pathway infrastructure there is limited requirement to remove any existing planting. The landscape proposals instead focus on providing new planting opportunities to improve screening to existing infrastructure and enhance the biodiversity of the eGreenway setting.



SECTION LOCATION PLAN

Blessington Lakes eGreenway

WOODLAND WHIPS		
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	20%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	40-60cm, 2L, Container Grown	10%
<i>Malus domestica</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Quercus robur</i>	1+1, 60-80cm, BR, min 3 BRANCHES	5%
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	1+1, 60-80cm, BR, min 3 BRANCHES	15%

WOODLAND UNDERSTOREY		
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	20%
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	15%
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	25%
<i>Erica vagans</i>	40-60cm, 2L, Container Grown	10%
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	10%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	40-60cm, 2L, LEADER & 3 LATERALS	20%

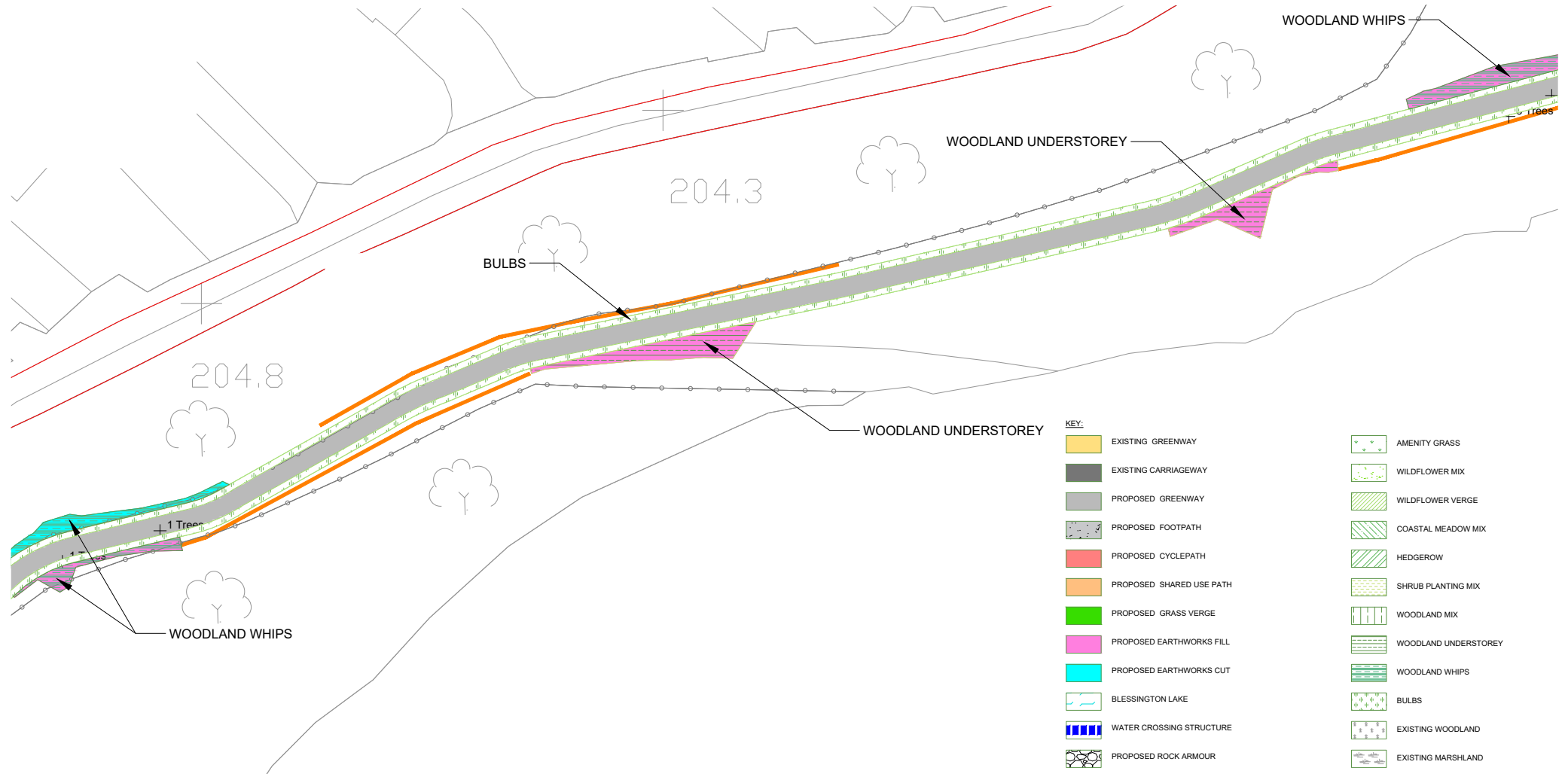
BULBS		
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION	
<i>Crocus tommasinianus</i>	7/+, 30/m ²	
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>	7/+, 30/m ²	
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	7/+, 30/m ²	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	7/+, 30/m ²	

Plant species included in this schedule support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and are recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as 'Plants for Pollinators'.

Exact species within planting schedule to be confirmed by project ecologist for appropriateness.

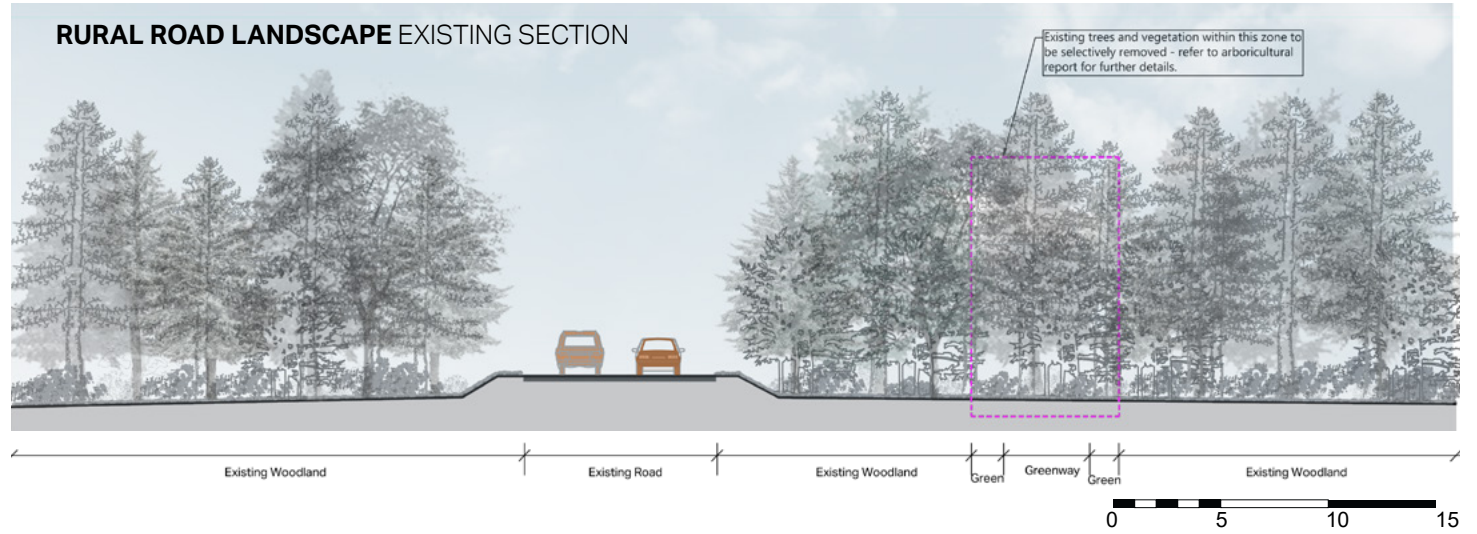
RURAL ROAD LANDSCAPE - PLANTING SCHEDULE

RURAL ROAD LANDSCAPE - PROPOSED PLAN

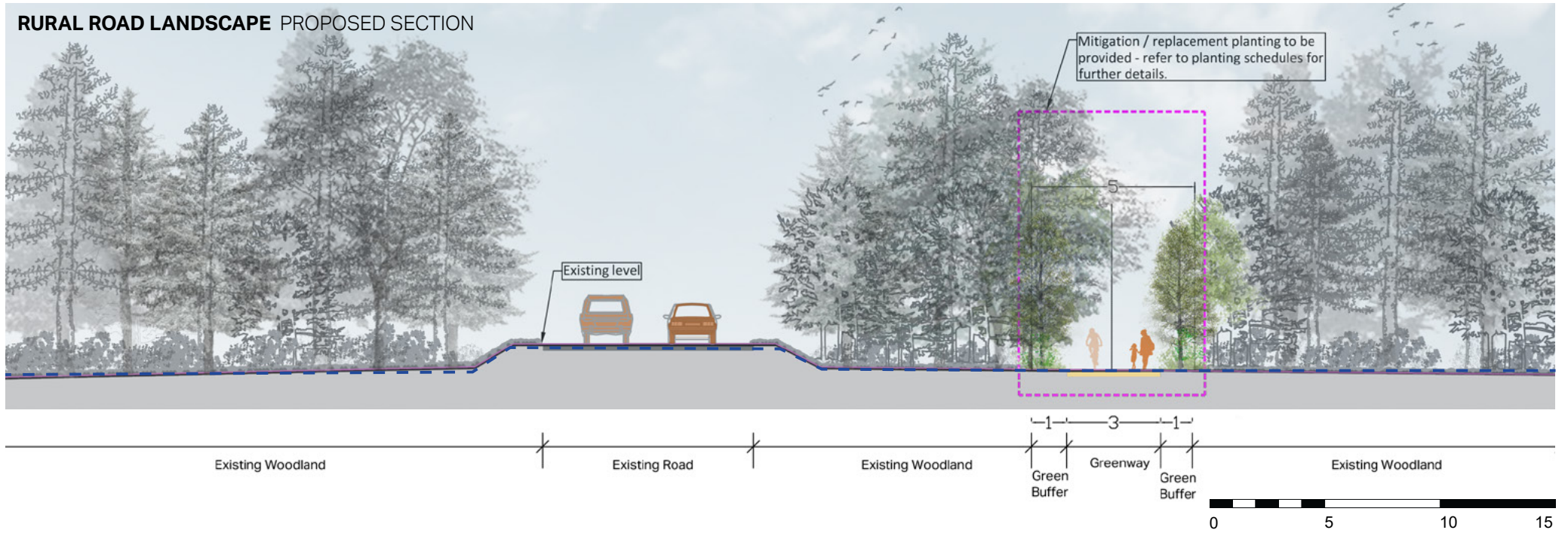


'This drawing has been prepared following co-ordination with the Arboricultural Survey and Assessment Report (ASAR). For further detailed information on all trees to be removed and tree protection measures to be put in place for the duration of construction works please refer to the Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants ASAR document and

RURAL ROAD LANDSCAPE EXISTING SECTION



RURAL ROAD LANDSCAPE PROPOSED SECTION



3.5 Open Space Landscape

This landscape is typically open marked by naturalised grasses, scrub planting and limited woodland or tree planting. The proposed planting aims to provide additional native planting and enhance the existing hedgerow and tree planting with a mix containing native oak, goat willow, rowan, hawthorn and blackthorn. The seasonal interest and biodiversity is further enhanced by wildflower planting.



SECTION LOCATION PLAN

TREES	
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	250-300CM, FEATHERED TREE, 2xtr, 3 STEMS, RB
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Prunus avium</i>	250-300CM, FEATHERED TREE, 2xtr, 3 STEMS, RB
<i>Quercus robur</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB
<i>Salix alba</i>	250-300CM, FEATHERED TREE, 2xtr, 3 STEMS, RB
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	3xtr, 16-18cm GIRTH, 2m MIN CLEAR STEM, RB

NATIVE SHRUB MIX		
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	10%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	15%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	25%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	40-60cm, 2L, Container Grown	10%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	20%
<i>Rosa canina</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	10%
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	1+1, 40-60cm, BR, min 2 BRANCHES	10%

HEDGEROW MIX		
SPECIES	SPECIFICATION	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	50%
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	5%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	10%
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	5%
<i>Prunus avium</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	5%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	10%
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	5%
<i>Salix alba</i>	BR, Double staggered rows, 60-80cm, 5 per sqm	10%

WILDFLOWER MEADOW PLANTING SEED MIX
<i>Dandelion, Hogweed, Vetches, Ox-eye-daisy, Selfheal, Clover, Birds-foot-trefoil, Meadow Vetchling, Woundwort, Devil's-Bit-Scabious, Knapweed</i>

COASTAL MEADOW MIX
<i>Achillea millefolium, Anthyllis vulneraria, Centaurea nigra, Centaurea scabiosa, Chrysanthemum segetum, Daucus carota, Echium vulgare, Galium verum, Hypericum perforatum, Hypochaeris radicata, Leucanthemum vulgare, Linaria vulgaris, Lotus corniculatus, Papaver rhoeas, Rhinanthus minor, Silene vulgaris, Tragopogon pratensis, Trifolium arvense</i>































Plant species included in this schedule support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and are recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as 'Plants for Pollinators'.

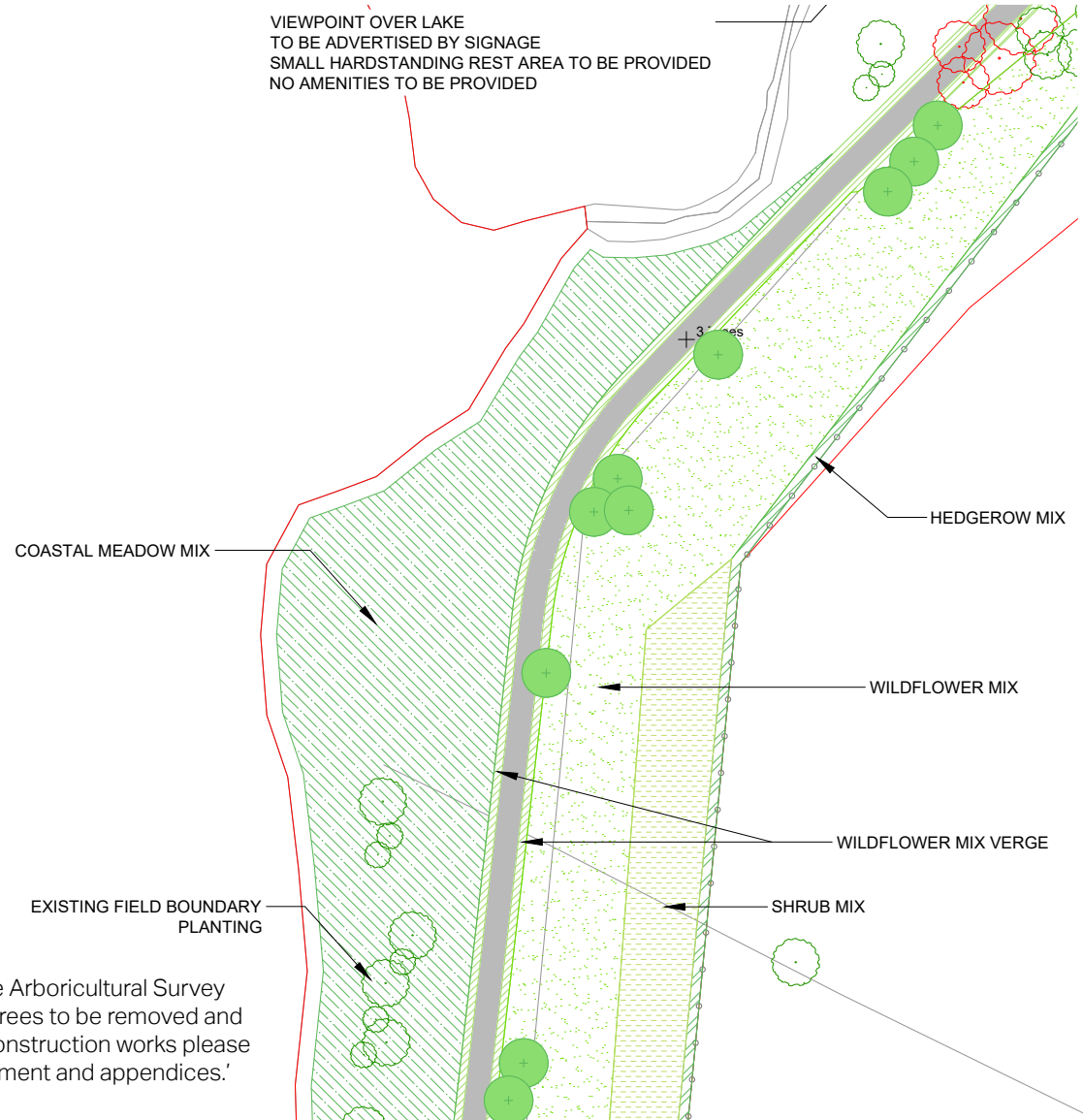
Exact species within planting schedule to be confirmed by project ecologist for appropriateness.

OPEN SPACE LANDSCAPE - PLANTING SCHEDULE

OPEN SPACE LANDSCAPE- PROPOSED PLAN

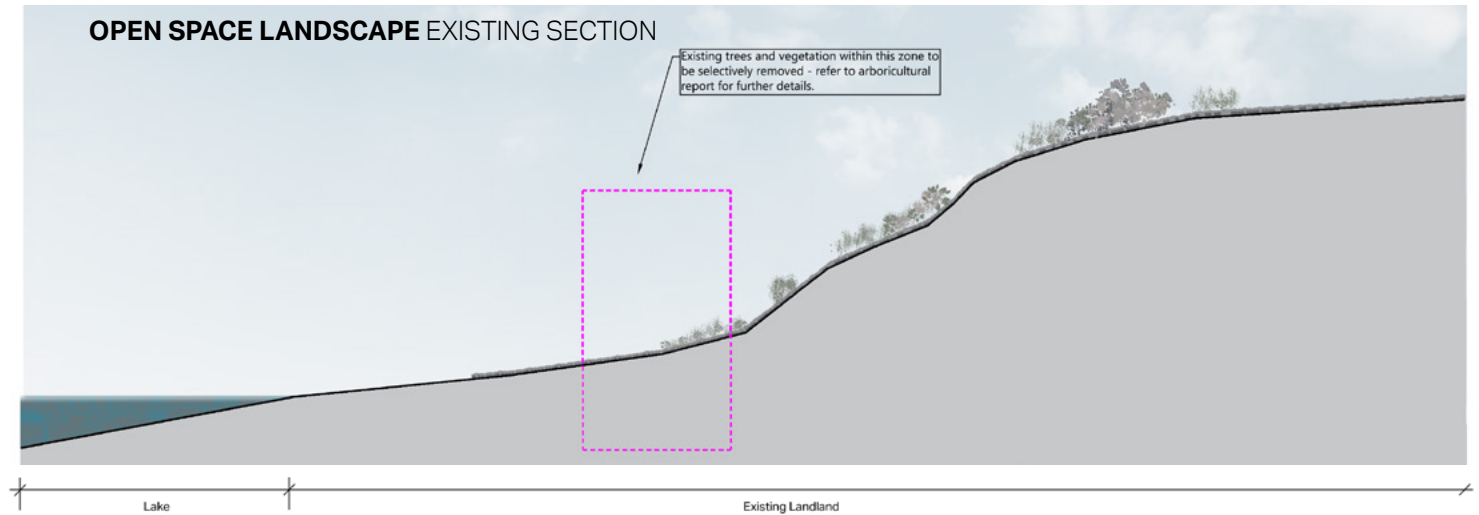
KEY:

	EXISTING GREENWAY		AMENITY GRASS
	EXISTING CARRIAGEWAY		WILDFLOWER MIX
	PROPOSED GREENWAY		WILDFLOWER VERGE
	PROPOSED FOOTPATH		COASTAL MEADOW MIX
	PROPOSED CYCLEPATH		HEDGEROW
	PROPOSED SHARED USE PATH		SHRUB PLANTING MIX
	PROPOSED GRASS VERGE		WOODLAND MIX
	PROPOSED EARTHWORKS FILL		WOODLAND UNDERSTOREY
	PROPOSED EARTHWORKS CUT		WOODLAND WHIPS
	BLESSINGTON LAKE		BULBS
	WATER CROSSING STRUCTURE		EXISTING WOODLAND
	PROPOSED ROCK ARMOUR		EXISTING MARSHLAND
	EXISTING FENCE LINE		EXISTING TREE/SHRUB REMOVED
	PROPOSED PICNIC AREA		EXISTING TREE/SHRUB RETAINED
	PROPOSED EMERGENCY ACCESS		PROPOSED TREE



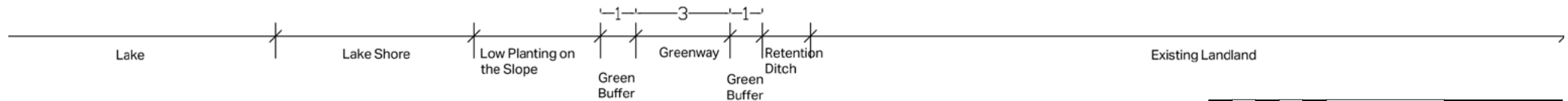
'This drawing has been prepared following co-ordination with the Arboricultural Survey and Assessment Report. For further detailed information on all trees to be removed and tree protection measures to be put in place for the duration of construction works please refer to the Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants ASAR document and appendices.'

OPEN SPACE LANDSCAPE EXISTING SECTION



OPEN SPACE LANDSCAPE PROPOSED SECTION

Mitigation / replacement planting to be provided - refer to planting schedules for further details.



4.0 Maintenance and Management

4.1 Purpose of Management and Maintenance Plan

The following section sets out the overall management objectives for the remedial planting of the Blessington Lakes eGreenway to cover a period of 25 years.

The plan also describes the maintenance required to allow the proposed planting treatments to flourish and reach their design potential. This document outlines the maintenance operations required after completion of the planting works and provides a framework for the long-term management of the Blessington Lakes eGreenway. These proposals have been developed with reference to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) 2021-2025 particularly with regard to the guidance objective 2 'Making public land pollinator friendly'. A key requirement for the management of the eGreenway route will be to engage with the appointed AIPP Communities Officer to review the maintenance actions noted within this plan.

4.2 Proposed Planting

4.2.1 Native Woodland

A mixed native woodland species mix is proposed to complement existing mature tree planting and in areas where the topography for maintenance of grass will be an issue. The schedule contains a mix of feathered and clear stem trees (15%), whips (45%) and native shrub planting (40%). Dependent on location each planting mix is further enhanced with wildflower and bulb planting to provide increased year round interest and contribute to the increased biodiversity of each setting. Amenity grass is proposed as a typical finish to the 1m eGreenway verge.

4.2.2 Wildflower

Wildflower will be sown with a mix of species that will be visually attractive and promote wildlife and increased biodiversity to the setting. This will also offer a contrast to the typical verge amenity grass finish. Details of the species mix are contained in the schedules. Where possible, all wildflower shall be collected from seed locally and hand cast sown to new locations along the eGreenway route.

4.2.3 Bulbs

To provide seasonal interest and compliment the native woodland planting, bulbs are proposed within the woodland settings where reduced light will limit the success of grass and wildflower.

4.2.4 Grass

A low maintenance amenity grass mix is proposed to the eGreenway verge alongside wildflower seeding. This will provide a formal edge to the eGreenway and a safe run off space should this be necessary for cyclists and/or pedestrians.

4.3 Management Proposals

It is proposed that the Contractor responsible for implementing the landscape plan will maintain all new planting up to the point of handover, which is expected to be 12 months after completion. This management plan is specifically for new soft landscape areas. It is to be read in conjunction with the arboricultural tree survey report.

After handover the landscape elements will be the responsibility of Wicklow County Council.

For any management plan to succeed it is essential that:

- All operatives are appropriately skilled and experienced for the type and quality of work;
- Materials and workmanship are to the highest possible standards and are in accordance with all relevant codes of practice and standards;
- All machinery and tools are fit-for-purpose, are suitable for site conditions and the work to be undertaken and are only used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations
- All operations fully comply with relevant Health & Safety regulations;
- This management plan is to be reviewed every 5 years to respond to the changes in the plant communities to ensure the healthy development of each habitat.

4.4 General Prescriptions

4.4.1 Planted areas and adjacent surfaces

- All grass and planted areas shall be kept in a neat and tidy condition and free of litter.
- The eGreenway route surface shall also be kept clear of litter, and un-wanted vegetation and debris. Hard standing and drainage maintenance is not included within this landscape plan.

4.4.2 Weed and pest control

- All planting shall be kept free from weeds, pest and diseases. Planting is to be inspected on a monthly basis and any remedial action taken immediately. Chemical treatments are to be avoided in line with AIPP guidance. Refer to the Pollinator-friendly Pesticide code here:

<https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Pollinator-friendly-Pesticide-Code.pdf>

4.4.3 Fertilizers

- Plant health is to be monitored monthly and where necessary, appropriate quick or slow release fertilisers are to be applied to remedy deficiencies.

4.4.4 Mulch

- In woodland planting areas mulch should be topped up to 75mm thick.
- Sweep up and replace mulch spilling onto adjacent areas and, if not contaminated with weeds or rubbish, return to planted area.
- Remove weeds growing on or in mulch by hand weeding.

4.4.5 Watering

- Planting should be monitored during dry periods in the first five years after planting. Trees and shrubs showing signs of distress are to be watered copiously during peak drought times or as required to reduce stress.

4.4.6 Replacement Planting

- Trees and shrubs that have failed are to be replaced with species matching the original planting proposals. Replacement stock size must reflect the size and form of adjacent planting of the same species. Plant failures within the defects notification period will be replaced by the Contractor.
- Planting to be replaced in compliance with British Standard BS 3998 'Recommendations for tree work' and should be implemented in suitable weather conditions during the winter planting season.

4.4.7 Woodland Planting

- Maintain 75mm bark mulch over entire woodland planting area during 1st maintenance year before handover
- Keep 600mm diameter circle around base of tree free of weeds by hand weeding
- Check for pest and disease attack throughout the growing season
- Keep trees upright and check for root firmness in spring and autumn
- Check stakes and ties for firmness and adjust as necessary in spring and autumn and after periods of extreme winds
- Prune trees to remove any dead, damaged or diseased shoots in spring and autumn

- Check during periods of drought throughout growing season and water as necessary
- Remove stakes and ties once plant is established and at Yr4.
- Trees which die in the first 1 year after practical completion will be replaced by the landscape contractor with new stock in the following season
- Plants which die subsequently will be replaced where necessary by the WCC appointed maintenance contractor
- Prune shrubs after flowering to encourage even bushy growth and dense canopy. Cut back dead wood in winter
- Check shrubs for root firmness in spring and autumn
- Ensure shrub planting enclosures are secure in good condition and effective, or in open areas that spiral guards are secure and in good condition
- The trees will be pruned as required to aid establishment and remove cross limbs and other potential safety defects
- Following an establishment period of 10 years, thinning will be undertaken to reduce the crown density and encourage continual growth of the woodland structure. Thinning will take place as scheduled in Appendix 1 between the months of October - March.
- Do not allow mowing machinery closer than 100mm to any tree stem. Avoid damage to tree stems by nylon filament rotary cutters or other mechanical tools
- Safety inspections and arboriculturalist report on condition of trees to be carried out at years 10 and 20

4.4.8 Wildflower grass

- Wildflower grass areas to be cut three times a year in the first year to ensure a good establishment of the plant mix. Subsequent years will be subject to a single cut once a year during late September. Mowing is to be carried out using appropriate machinery.
- Monitor establishment to ensure a dense sward is established as rapidly as possible.
- Repairs carried out to failed or worn areas.
- Remove all litter and debris prior to cutting.
- Cutting regime: 1 cut per year late September 30mm (Wildflower Grass)
- Fertilisers will not be used in the wildflower areas and only pernicious weeds will be removed by hand weeding.

- Remove all arisings and clippings from site and ensure adjacent areas of hard paving are free of clippings.

4.4.9 Amenity Grass and Bulbs

- The amenity grass verge will be maintained as short cropped amenity grassland with 12 cuts in summer and topping cuts in winter when required
- Maintain grass in a healthy vigorous condition, free from disease, fungal growth, discoloration, scorch or wilt and reasonably free from moss, thatch, weeds, frost heave in spring and late summer
- Repair grassed areas damaged by trampling, abrasion or scalping during mowing
- Sward heights to be cut to the following limits:
30 – 65mm (April – August)
- Fertiliser and nutrients will be added to the amenity grass area as required to keep the sward healthy
- Maintenance operations such as edge trimming, hollow tining, top dressing and scarification will be carried out as required to ensure the health of the sward. Compacted areas to be aerated in autumn
- Grass areas will be maintained with neat well-defined edges

4.5 Maintenance proposals

Establishment Phase (Years 1-4)

4.5.1 Existing Mature Trees

- Annual tree safety inspections and removal of dead, dying or diseased branches, or other remedial works as required in accordance with recommendations set out in the Arboricultural Tree Survey.

4.5.2 Woodland Planting

- Pruning to ensure appropriate habit and form
- Annual inspections and adjustments to tree ties and staking systems and after severe storms
- Inspections to monitor health of trees and removal of dead, dying or diseased branches. 2 visits per annum or as required

- Replacement planting for all failures where necessary within the first 10 years
- Watering during periods of dry weather for the first 2 years
- Year 4: Remove stakes and ties (or when tree is firm on its own root system)

4.5.3 Wildflower Grass

- The wildflower grass areas will be cut three times a year in the first year to ensure a good establishment of the plant mix. Subsequent years will be subject to a single cut once a year during late September
- Mowing is to be carried out using appropriate machinery

4.5.4 Amenity Grass and Bulbs

- Monitor establishment to ensure dense, green, weed free sward is established as rapidly as possible

Repairs carried out to failed or worn areas

- Remove all litter and debris prior to cutting
- Cutting regime – maintain a grass sward between 30 and 65mm
- Maintain clipped edges to amenity grass verges
- Aerate grass and remove thatch as scheduled
- Remove all arisings and clippings from site and ensure adjacent areas of hard paving are free of clippings

Post Establishment Phase (Year 5 onwards)

4.6 Existing Mature Trees

- Annual tree safety inspections and removal of dead, dying or diseased branches, or other remedial works as required in accordance with recommendations set out in the Arboricultural Tree Survey.
- Dead wood to be stacked in piles in agreed locations

4.7 Woodland Planting

- Pruning to ensure appropriate habit and form
- Inspections to monitor health of trees and removal of dead, dying or diseased branches. 2 visits per annum or as required

4.8 Wildflowers / Amenity Grass and Bulbs

- Repairs to failed or worn areas
- Cutting regime – maintain a grass sward between 30 and 65mm long
- Maintain edges

Appendix 1

Management Regime: YEARS 1-4														
TASK	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	NOTES	
1	PLANTING AREAS													
1.1	Litter collection and removal from site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep litter free
1.2	Weed control		X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Keep weed free
1.3	Fertiliser to woodland mix			X										Once a year
1.4	Watering				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			As required in summer
1.5	Thin out planting			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>				As required
1.6	Check plant ties, supports, etc			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>				Remove at year 4
1.7	Pest & disease control			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			As required
1.8	Pruning to woodland mix		X			X	X			X	X	X		As required for species
1.9	Thin out woodland tree planting										X			At year 4
1.10	Replacement planting (all plant types)	X	X	X								X	X	As required to ensure plant cover
1.11	Works to trees		X								X			As required
2	EXISTING SITE VEGETATION													
2.1	Monitor and clear excessive over hanging vegetation to 2.7m from eGreenway		X							X				As required
2.2	Tree works to ensure safe / viable growth			X							X			As required
3	AMENITY GRASS & WILDFLOWER													
3.1	Mowing amenity grass verge		X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Regular mowing to maintain sward between 30 and 65mm length
3.2	Trim / neaten edges				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			As required
3.3	Approved grass herbicide					X								Only for amenity grassland
3.4	Approved grass fertiliser				X									Only for amenity grassland
3.5	Cut wildflower areas									<input type="checkbox"/>				Cut to between 40-60mm length

- Critical months for operations.

X - Operations to take place subject to site requirements

Management Regime: YEARS 5-10

	TASK	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	NOTES
1	PLANTING AREAS													
1.1	Litter collection and removal from site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep litter free
1.2	Weed control		X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X		Keep weed free
1.3	Pest & disease control			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			As required
1.4	Pruning to shrubs and groundcovers		X			X	X			X	X	X		As required for species
1.5	Replacement planting (all plant types)	X	X	X								X	X	As required to ensure plant cover
1.6	Works to trees		X								X			As required
1.7	Tree inspection						X							Arboriculturalist report yr 5 and 10
1.8	Thin out woodland shrub planting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								X		<input type="checkbox"/>	At year 5
2	AMENITY GRASS & WILDFLOWER													
2.1	Mowing amenity grassland area		X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Regular mowing to maintain sward between 30 and 65mm length
2.2	Trim / neaten edges				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			As required
2.3	Approved grass herbicide					X								Only for amenity grassland
2.4	Approved grass fertiliser				X									Only for amenity grassland
2.5	Cut wildflower areas									<input type="checkbox"/>				Cut once 40-60mm length

- Critical months for operations.
X - Operations to take place subject to site requirements

Management Regime: YEARS 11-25

	TASK	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	NOTES
1	PLANTING AREAS													
1.1	Litter collection and removal from site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep litter free
1.2	Weed control		X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Keep weed free
1.3	Pest & disease control			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			As required
1.4	Pruning to shrubs and groundcovers		X			X	X			X	X	X		As required for species
1.5	Works to trees		X								X			As required
1.6	Tree inspection						X							Arboriculturalist report yr 15 and 20
1.7	Thin out woodland tree planting										X			At year 20
2	AMENITY GRASS & WILDFLOWER													
2.1	Mowing amenity grassland area		X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Regular mowing to maintain sward between 30 and 65mm length
2.2	Trim / neaten edges				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			As required
2.3	Approved grass herbicide					X								Only for amenity grassland
2.4	Approved grass fertiliser				X									Only for amenity grassland
2.5	Cut wildflower areas									<input type="checkbox"/>				Cut once 40-60mm length

- Critical months for operations.

X - Operations to take place subject to site requirements

