

Landscape Briefing Note 7

Project: 1080 East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two

Date: 24th March 2021

Purpose: Notes responding to SPR's Deadline 6 submission
Reference: 1080 BN07 Responses to Deadline 6 submissions.docx

Submission Reviewed

Outline Operational Drainage Management Plan - Version 03 24/02/21 REP6-017

Implications of Latest Infiltration Basin Proposals

- The latest Outline Operational Drainage Management Plan (Outline Operational Drainage Management Plan - Version 03 24/02/21 REP6-017) includes a sketch figure showing an Option for infiltration basins (Wardell Armstrong Dwg ED11892-C-SK10 Infiltration Basin 10mm Per Hour Options Sketch)
- Figure 16 SUDS Overlay attached to this Briefing Note overlays Dwg ED11892-C-SK10
 (Outline Operational Drainage Management Plan Version 03 24/02/21 REP6-017) on the
 latest OLMP Proposed Planting Plan (Figure 6 in Outline Landscape and Ecological
 Management Strategy (OLMP) V03 24/02/21 REP6-007)
- 3. From Figure 16 it can be seen that the infiltration basins are considerably larger than the basins shown on the OLMP Proposed Planting Plan and would have the following consequences for the planting:
 - The triangular area of mitigation woodland located to the south west of the northern basin would have to be omitted.
 - Whilst a small strip of planting could be accommodated to the west of the northern basin it would need to allow access to the embankments for maintenance purposes and would be constrained by the access road.
 - Access to the embankments for maintenance purposes would reduce the area for woodland planting along the southern and western edges of the southern basin.

- 4. The OLMP Proposed Planting Plan shows areas of tree planting within the infiltration basins. It is unclear why these have been introduced as they will require an overall enlargement of the area of infiltration basins. It is questionable whether trees in these locations and close to the edge of the basins would be compatible with the engineered structures of the Infiltration basins.
- 5. The OLMP V03 (**REP6-007**) was issued on the same date as the Outline Operational Drainage Management Plan Version 03 (**REP6-017**) but does not reflect the proposed enlargement of the basins. This suggests that the landscape implications of enlarging the basins have not yet been considered.
- 6. The removal of the woodland from the southern and western edges of the northern infiltration basin will limit the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation in views from Footpath 17 which is located to the west of the proposed infiltration basins. The only LVIA Vp from Fp 17 is Vp 1. The grassed bund visible in the visualisation from Vp 1 (EA1N Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Addendum Appendix 1 Viewpoint 1 REP4-032) is the edge of the drainage basin. The visualisation shows no planting on the embankments and, as set out above, a maintenance access strip would need to be kept clear along the foot of the embankment, further limiting the planting.
- 7. Further north on Fp 17 the space for mitigation planting is limited to a strip either side of the access road for the substations. This strip between the footpath and the access road is shown as 'Potential Early Core Woodland Planting' on Figure 3 OLMP General Arrangement (OLMP V03 24/02/21 REP6-007). However, this strip is not sufficiently wide to accommodate meaningful woodland planting and it is likely to have the appearance of a line of trees rather than woodland. The proposed changes mean that there is a similar strip on the eastern side of the access road and the space for the new planting will be limited by the need to include maintenance access for the embankment. This strip is also not sufficiently wide to be able to accommodate woodland of any significance.
- 8. The Potential Early Core Woodland Planting ends just south of the overhead lines presumably due to the restrictions on planting under the overhead lines. This will allow open views from this section of Fp 17 towards the infiltration basin and the substations beyond.
- 9. The embankments of both infiltration basins will now be close to and parallel with Fp 17 for approximately 350m. Previously only 80m of the southern basin was close to and parallel with Fp 17.



Implications for Impacts

- 10. The new infiltration proposals will exacerbate the harm to the visual amenity of Fp 17. Fp 17 is the only remaining northbound footpath in the landscape to the north of Friston; an area of landscape that has been identified as having cultural, visual and recreational importance to the village of Friston. The new infiltration basins will:
 - Limit the amount of new woodland planting to the east of the access road
 - Bring engineered groundworks which cannot be planted closer to Fp 17
 - Extend the length of engineered groundworks close to Fp 17 from 80m to 350m
- 11. Fp 17 is already very significantly affected due to proximity to the substations. Additionally, due to constraints there is a lack of existing vegetation where the footpath passes under the high voltage power lines. Due to these constraints no significant planting is proposed in this area within the OLMP. In fact, the realignment of the most northerly power line and the introduction of an additional pylon has increased the area in which there are restrictions on planting. The effect of these constraints is very clear from the visualisations from Vp 5 which is located at the northern end of Fp17. There is a negligible reduction in visual impact even after 15 years

Conclusion

12. The new proposals for infiltration basins as set out on Dwg ED11892-C-SK10 (Outline Operational Drainage Management Plan - Version 03 24/02/21 REP6-017) will exacerbate the already significant harm to the visual amenity of the one remaining northbound PRoW to the north of Friston. They would further reduce the amenity of the landscape to the north of Friston as a resource for residents and visitors.

FIGURE 16

This Figure overlays Dwg ED11892-C-SK10 (from Outline Operational Drainage Management Plan -Proposed Planting Plan (Figure 6 in Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLMP) V03 24/02/21 REP6-007)

