Hampshire Rose Bowl
Phase 2 Access Track:
Non-licensable Method Statement

1. Introduction

Rose Bowl Plc has appointed Keltbray Golf Environmental (KGE) to remodel and extend an existing golf course at the Hampshire Rose Bowl, Botley Road, West End, Southampton, Hampshire SO30 3XH.

After a number of years of uncertainty, part of the Rose Bowl development, the construction of a new hotel, has been confirmed and hotel developers appointed. The timescale for the hotel works is rapid and this will result in the generation of some 25,000 m3 of soil from the site of the hotel. A review of suitable receptor sites for this soil has confirmed that there is one suitable location. This is an area of grassland adjacent to the M27 associated with the future golf holes no's 5 and 6, which lies beyond an area of dormouse habitat and within potential habitat for slow worm.

Dormouse are known to be present within woodland and scrub associated with part of the southern boundary of the Rose Bowl golf course site, recently being reconfirmed by survey work carried out in 2012 by Johns Associates. A small proportion of the habitat currently utilised by dormouse is located within the playable area of the course. To accommodate the course a small area of potential feeding habitat will be removed and replaced through new planting and the height of the same habitat will be reduced, although connectivity retained. This is shown in Figure 1.1 (red hatching indicates vegetation to be removed). In addition, connectivity to habitat not currently used by dormouse will be dramatically improved through the development as a result of dormouse bridges and new areas of woodland planting. The suitability of habitat will also be improved through a programme of planting, woodland management and provision of dormouse nest boxes.

Access through this habitat is required to create a access track for the imminent movement of stadium soil. This would also be adopted in the long term for the shaping of the two golf holes and landscaping.

Beyond the area of trees and scrub is an area of damp semi-improved grassland. This area will be disturbed and restored through the golf development proposals. The habitat is suitable for common reptiles (notably slow worm) and very small numbers of individuals have been recorded in this area by past surveys. The habitat is too wet for hibernation, is north facing and as such it is only likely to provide habitat suitable for hunting and movement. This area is the receptor site proposed for the soil arising from the removal of the stadium bund).

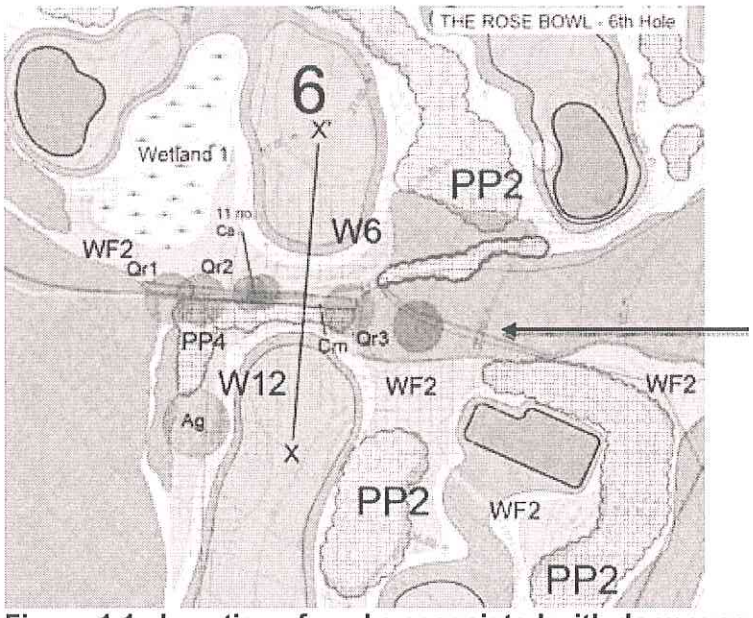


Figure 1.1. Location of works associated with dormouse habitat

Legal protection and licensing

Dormouse is afforded legal protection by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In summary this affords:

- protection of the animal;
- damage or destruction of the nest or other breeding or resting habitat; and
- protection against disturbance of the animal whilst occupying such habitats.

Activities that would otherwise cause an unlawful act to occur can be licenced by Natural England. Other activities can proceed in habitat associated with Dormouse without a licence, based on the professional judgment of a suitably qualified ecologist, as long as it can be demonstrated that these activities would not result in an unlawful action.

Common reptiles, such as slow worm, are afforded legal protection by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This provides protection from injury and killing.

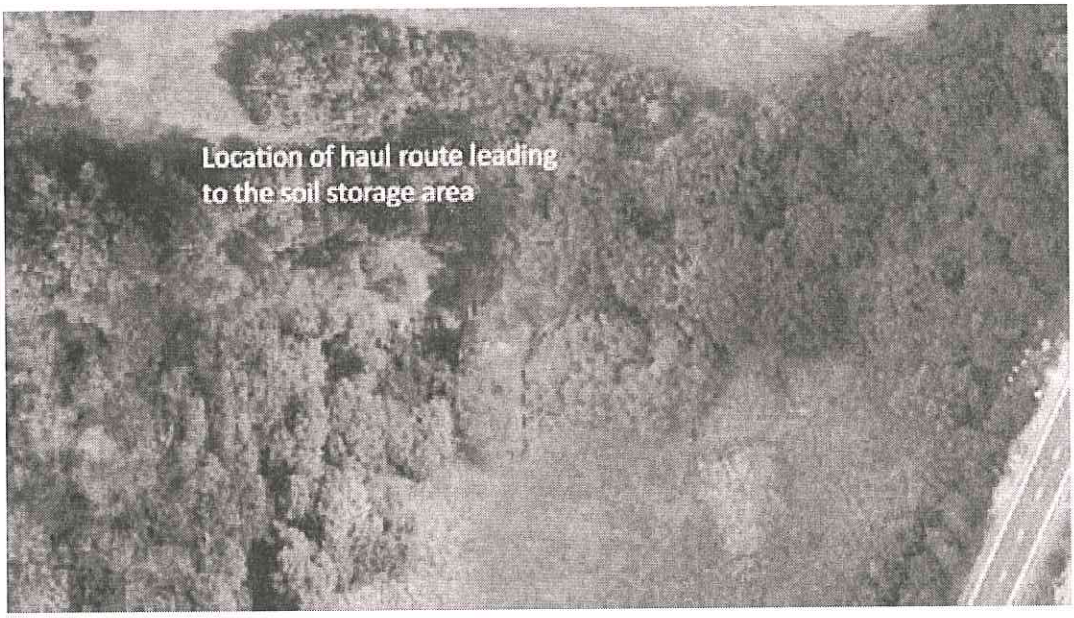
This non-licensable Method Statement sets out the rationale as to why the proposed construction and use of the access track does not require a dormouse licence and why the deposition of the soil on potential reptile habitat does not require detailed mitigation (e.g. trapping and translocation).

It also identifies a number of activities that need to be implemented to ensure that the perceived minimal risk of a legal offence relating to dormouse does not occur, including the timescale associated with the non-licensable activities.

Longer term use of the access track for the remainder of the construction process and removal/management of trees and scrub, together with associated planting and enhancement of this part of the Rose Bowl and other locations (for the benefit of dormouse) will be undertaken following the granting of a Natural England licence.

Location and description of route and soil storage area

The access track would be aligned from the adjacent fairway and through an area of plantation woodland, across an area of semi-improved grassland and through a small area of open scrub dominated by hazel and holly into the grass field to the south (as shown in Figure 1.2. The length of the access track through the open scrub is approximately 35m. Further description and illustration of the route is provided below.





Description				
Section of access track across open fairway. Short mown grass, often wet. Disturbed by golfers and greenkeeping activities.				
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**	**Disturbance**	**Licencing**
Dormouse	No suitable habitat.	No risk as not suitable habitat.	No risk as not suitable habitat.	No requirement
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**		**Mitigation strategy**
Slow worm	No suitable habitat.	No risk as not suitable habitat.		No requirement

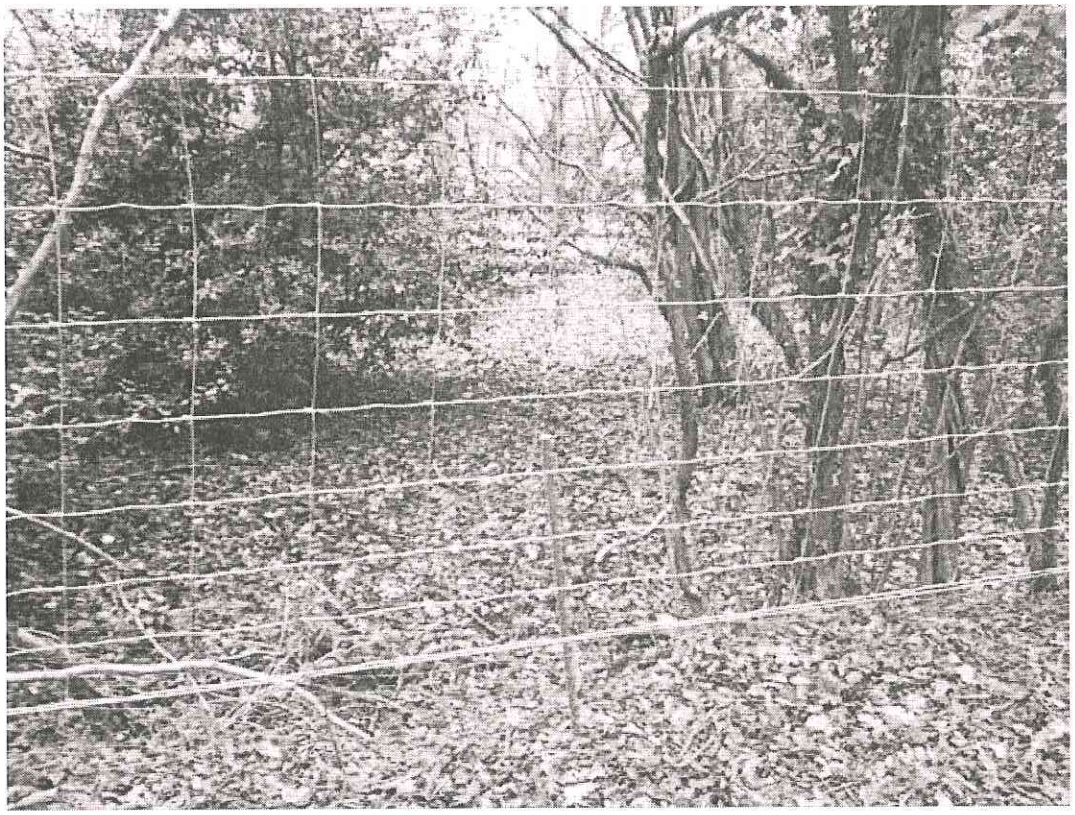




Description				
Section of access track through maturing plantation. Compacted soil, no ground flora, currently covered with leaf litter.				
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**	**Disturbance**	**Licencing**
Dormouse	Sub-optimal habitat – no evidence of document recorded. No hibernation habitat.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat no evidence of dormouse use..	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No requirement
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**		**Mitigation strategy**
Slow worm	Not suitable habitat. Slow worm has not been recorded in this part of the site.	No risk as not suitable habitat.		No requirement



Description				
Section of access track across open ground. Compacted soil, no ground flora, currently covered with leaf litter.				
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**	**Disturbance**	**Licencing**
Dormouse	None – not suitable habitat.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat, no evidence of dormouse use.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No requirement
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**		**Mitigation strategy**
Slow worm	Not suitable habitat. Slow worm has not been recorded in this part of the site.	No risk as not suitable habitat.		No requirement



Description				
Section of access track into woodland. Compacted soil, very limited ground flora, shallow bank into woodland (no potential hibernation habitat). Would involve removing one hazel stool and coppicing a second.				
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**	**Disturbance**	**Licencing**
Dormouse	Removal of 1 hazel stool (potential food plant) in winter at a time when dormouse are hibernating (not present at the stool).	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No requirement
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**		**Mitigation strategy**
Slow worm	Not suitable habitat.	No risk as not suitable habitat.		No requirement



Description				
Section of access track through woodland. Compacted soil, very limited ground flora. No potential hibernation habitat. Would involve removing one immature holly and removal of two overhanging hazel limbs..				
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**	**Disturbance**	**Licencing**
Dormouse	No habitat lost.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No requirement
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**		**Mitigation strategy**
Slow worm	Not suitable habitat.	No risk as not suitable habitat.		No requirement



Illustration of well connected canopy at height – retained during the use of the access track.



Description				
Section of access track through woodland. Compacted soil, very limited ground flora, small area of isolated bramble scrub. No potential hibernation habitat. Would involve removing small bramble scrub and 1 immature ash.				
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**	**Disturbance**	**Licencing**
Dormouse	No habitat lost.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No requirement
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**		**Mitigation strategy**
Slow worm	Not suitable habitat.	No risk as not suitable habitat.		No requirement



Description				
Section of access track through woodland. Compacted soil, very limited ground flora, small area of isolated bramble scrub. No potential hibernation habitat. Would involve removing 1 immature dog rose.				
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**	**Disturbance**	**Licencing**
Dormouse	No habitat lost.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No requirement
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**		**Mitigation strategy**
Slow worm	Not suitable habitat.	No risk as not suitable habitat.		No requirement



Description				
Section of access track through woodland edge. Compacted wet soil, grass and ruderal plants. Willow branches and bramble scrub. No potential hibernation habitat. Would involve pruning willow branches (e.g. 3m width) and 1m width of bramble scrub.				
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**	**Disturbance**	**Licencing**
Dormouse	No habitat lost.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No requirement
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**		**Mitigation strategy**
Slow worm	Not suitable habitat.	No risk as not suitable habitat.		No requirement



Saturated ground demonstrating unsuitability for dormouse or reptile hibernation habitat



Description				
Section of access track through rush and wet grassland, leading to open grassland (site of soil disposal). Wet soil, grass and rush. Would involve removing rush and topsoil (stacked) prior to main soil storage.				
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**	**Disturbance**	**Licencing**
Dormouse	No habitat lost.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No risk as not suitable hibernation habitat.	No requirement
	Habitat loss	**Injury/killing**		**Mitigation strategy**
Slow worm	Not suitable hibernation habitat (wet).	No risk as not suitable winter habitat.		No requirement

Methodology

The following activities will be implemented to ensure no legal offences will occur:

- Detailed marking of haul route by Ecological Clerk of Works;
- Removal of vegetation under direct supervision of Ecological Clerk of Works, ensuring arboreal connectivity is maintained;
- Installation of Heras type tree protection fencing around the haul route as it passes through the woodland and extending around the perimeter of the soil deposition area;
- Construction of haul route in February 2012 when dormouse and reptiles will be absent;
- Removal of soil in the grassland area in February when reptiles will be absent;
- Use of the haul route during February, March when dormouse will be absent;
- From mid-late March all ongoing works in this area will be addressed by the Natural England dormouse licence;
- Should the licence be delayed, works would cease from April 2012 until the licence was granted.
- Installation of perimeter reptile fence in March 2012.

Conclusions

The woodland and scrub associated with the proposed haul route is part of a wider extent of habitat that supports a small population of hazel dormouse. The grassland beyond this habitat (accessed by the haul route and acting as the receptor site for soil arising from the hotel excavation) has supported small numbers of slow worm.

A specific alignment of the haul route has been identified that will not result in the loss of dormouse breeding, hibernation or significant potential resting habitat. It achieves this by being located within an existing open area of woodland and requires the minimal removal of scrub that does not contain features suitable for dormouse overwintering. The ground is also wet and subject to ice formation in the winter. The area is not suitable as overwintering habitat. Dormouse would therefore not be present in the immediate area during the construction of the haul road or its short term use during February and March. No disturbance of dormouse would therefore occur. No severance of canopy would occur through these works. The removal of the scrub is not considered to comprise destruction of breeding or resting habitat due to the limited amount of scrub removal, no direct evidence (from tube and nut surveys) of their use by dormouse and the significant extent of alternative habitat in the adjacent area (meaning no notable effects on the population status).

As such, it is considered reasonable that the proposed works can progress without a dormouse licence and the risk of a legal offence, relating to dormouse, is minimal.

The grassland location for the deposition of the soils arising from the hotel construction site is known to support very small numbers of slow worm. The ground in winter is typically wet, with lower areas being waterlogged. As such, frost and ice formation occurs and makes the area unsuitable for overwintering. In addition, no notable features that could act as hibernacula are present (e.g. log or rubble piles, rabbit

burrows etc). As such, the removal of existing soil and deposition of construction soil onto this are in winter is considered very unlikely to result in the injury or killing of slow worm. Post soil deposition, a reptile proof fence will be installed around the perimeter of the area to prevent the entry and accidental injury killing or injury of slow worm during construction. This would be removed after construction is complete.

As such, it is considered reasonable that the proposed works can progress with the reptile mitigation described in this document, and the risk of a legal offence, relating to slow worm, is minimal.



Author:

Matthew Johns CEnv MIEEM

3rd February 2011

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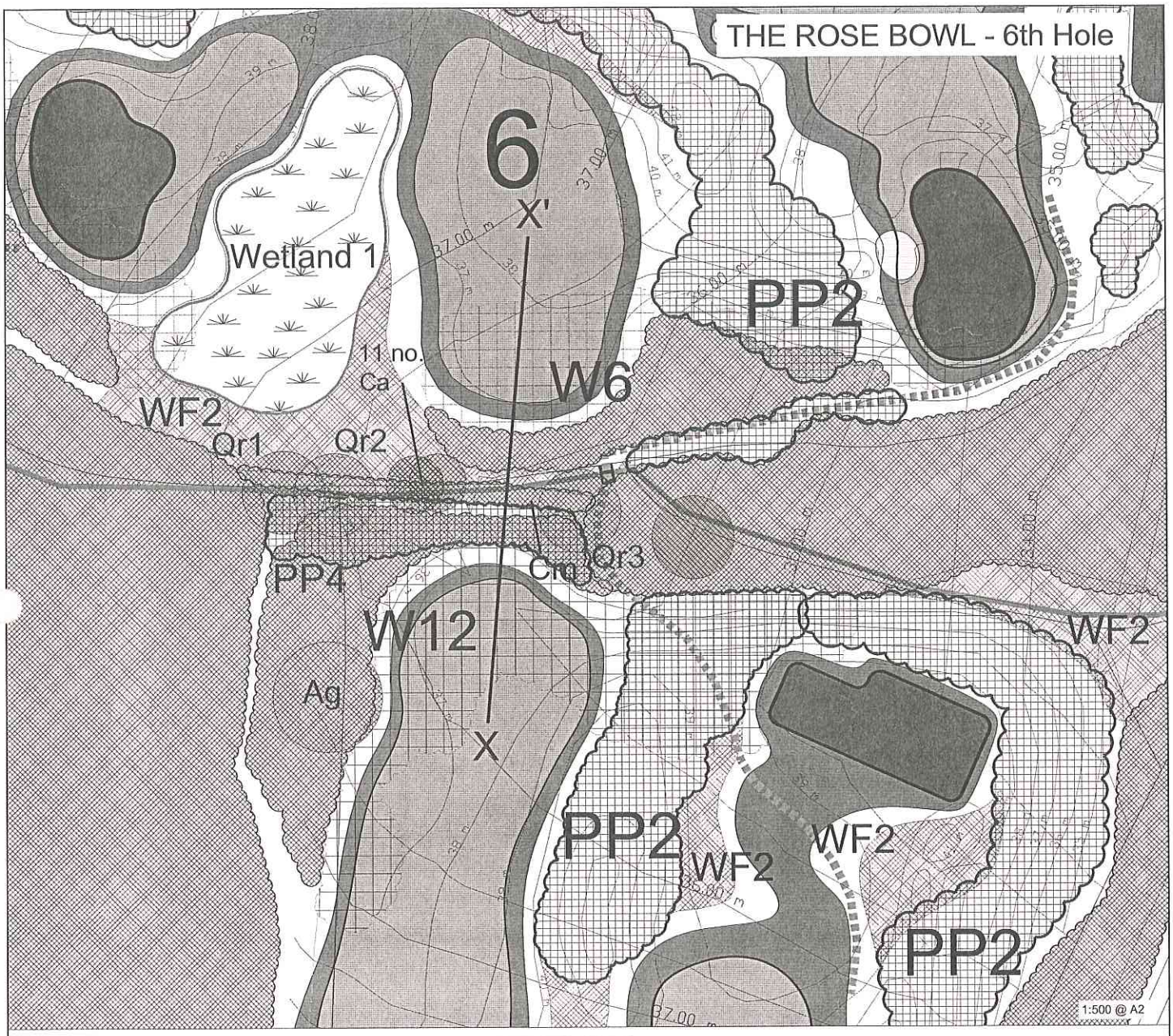

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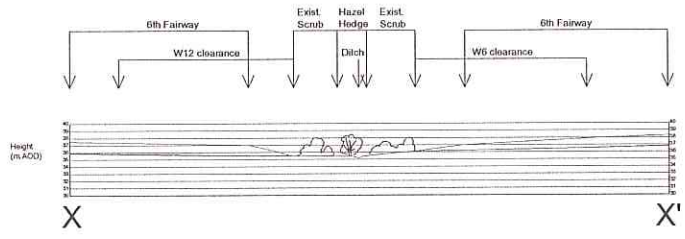

Clearance - permitted

PP2 - Woodland Block Mix (see Landscape Plan 150.04D)
Pedunculate Oak - 15%
Common Ash - 15%
Holly - 5%
Crab Apple - 5%
Rowan - 10%
Hazel - 10%
Hawthorn - 25%
Honeysuckle - 5%
Field Rose - 5%
Guelder Rose - 5%

Wetland allowed to establish naturally

Existing hazel hedgerow to be maintained at a height of approximately 3m. A strip of PP4 hedgerow species will be planted on the southern side of the existing hedge to supplement the existing scrub vegetation.

PP4 - Hedgerow Mix (see Landscape Plan 150.04D)
Hazel - 15%
Hawthorn - 50%
Honeysuckle - 10%
Blackthorn - 25%

Wildflower Grassland

WF2 - Neutral Soils(BSH - WFG4 or similar)

Species	%Mix
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed
Conopodium majus	Pignut
Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw
Geranium pratense	Meadow Cranesbill
Leucanthemum vulgare	*Ox-eye Daisy*
Linum usitatissimum	Common Flax
Lotus coniculatus	Birdsfoot Trefoil
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged Robin
Onobrychis vicifolia	Sainfoin
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
Prunella vulgaris	Self Heal
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow Rattle
Sanguisorba minor	Salad Burnet
Scabiosa columbaria	Small Scabious
Stachys officianalis	Betony
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch
Phleum pratense	Small-eared Timothy
Dactylis glomerata	Cocksfoot
Festuca pratensis	Meadow Fescue
Festuca arundinacea	Tall Fescue

This plan should be viewed in conjunction with figure E5 (Appendix E) of the Woodland Management Plan document and Clearance Plan 150.05 rev C.

KEYPLAN
Existing Ground Surface
Permitted Ground Surface

NO	REVISION	DATE	INITIAL
A	Reduced clearance either side of hedge across 6th fairway	1-2-12	SR

JOB: ROSE BOWL HOTEL
DRAWING: 6th Hole - Clearance and Landscape Plan
SCALE 1:500 @ A2 DATE 14/09/11 DRAWN BW
DRAWING NO. 150.45 REV A

Weller Designs Ltd Golf Course Architects
Bishopsmead House, Bishops Mead, West Street, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7DU
Tel/Fax: 01252 712712 Website: www.wellerdesigns.co.uk
Email: info@wellerdesigns.co.uk

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