



LAND ADJACENT TO M4 JUNCTION 37, PYLE

DRAFT Landscape Concept Statement

Job no. 749.01

Revision - P01

22.12.2023

DRAYCOTT GROUP



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This document has been prepared by Haire Landscape Consultants Ltd on behalf of Draycott Group.



t. 07714 961358

m. mike@hairelandscapeconsultants.co.uk

w. hairelandscapeconsultants.co.uk

Haire Landscape Consultants Ltd

Upper Brechfa, Llandefalle, Brecon, Powys, LD3 0NG

01 Introduction

Introduction

This document is intended to support the application and provide a Landscape Scheme as required by the PAC response.

The following Bridgend CBC documents were consulted: Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) Biodiversity & Development 'A Green Infrastructure Approach', Landscape Character Assessment for Bridgend County Borough 2013.

Landscape Context

The design of the landscape of the site is influenced by its particular characteristics and its landscape context. The site lies within Landscape Character Area (LCA) 12 'Newton Down Limestone Plateau' and is summarised as follows:

'This LCA is located in the south-central part of the County Borough, located between the settlements of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Pyle. It is a distinctive elevated limestone plateau defined by a steep scarp slope to the south and west, classified by LANDMAP as 'Lowland' (Level 2 of the Visual & Sensory aspect).'

It is described in the NRW LANDMAP database as 'settled' although the disturbance and intrusion caused by the M4 is acknowledged.

The main characteristics of which can be summarised by the following extract from the LCA:

Agricultural land use and field patterns

- Improved pasture with some fields of arable cultivation.
- Closely trimmed hedgerows or walls dividing a regular pattern of medium-large fields on the plateau, becoming smaller and more irregular on slopes.

The site is improved pasture and is contained by (mostly) trimmed hedges. Its precise shape is influenced by recent highway infrastructure interventions.

Semi-natural habitat

- Bracken, semi-improved grassland and broadleaved plantation on Stormy Down (designated as a SINC).
- Other locally important habitats including broadleaved semi-natural woodlands on slopes, patches of relict calcareous grassland on the downs, and scrub colonising the limestone cliffs of Cornelly Quarry.

The scrub colonising the partial rock cutting of the A4229 shares some characteristics with the quarries to the south (although there is a significant amount of invasive 'exotic' growth)

Field observations confirm that the context of the site is heavily influenced by the adjacent M4 Motorway and A4229 dual carriageway. One consequence of this is that the site is very discreet, being enclosed on all

sides by established woodland or trees, much of which is associated with the road system.

Apart from the direct influence of the modern roads, both in defining the shape of the field and the constant noise intrusion generated, there are more subtle, indirect effects. These include the dislocation of the previous road pattern, including the truncation of the hedged lane to the northwest of the site and the construction of a new road (and bridge across the A4229) to access Ty Tanglwyst Farm together with associated lighting and signage.

Slightly further away to the west there is a remnant of an old railway formation in the adjacent field.

The Site

The site is a single improved pasture that slopes gently down towards the M4 to the north. The northwestern boundary is contained by an old, hedged lane which now gives access only to the site and to an area of hardstanding to the north that was once a cement works. It is otherwise contained by dense scrub or woodland that has become established on the slopes that separate the site from the major roads. There is a small group of mature Sycamore trees on the earthwork ramp onto the Ty Tanglwyst Farm bridge at the western end and a distinctive group of mature Alder trees at the eastern end of the site.

The site is isolated, access is currently only possible via a private road and because it is at a higher level than the roads that enclose it, it is not readily visible from the surrounding area. The fences that define the site date from the road construction era and the shape of the field is itself determined in part by the detail of the highway layout.



Hedged lane



Northern boundary



Group of Alder (east end)



Rock cutting



A4229



Site viewed from west

02 Landscape Design

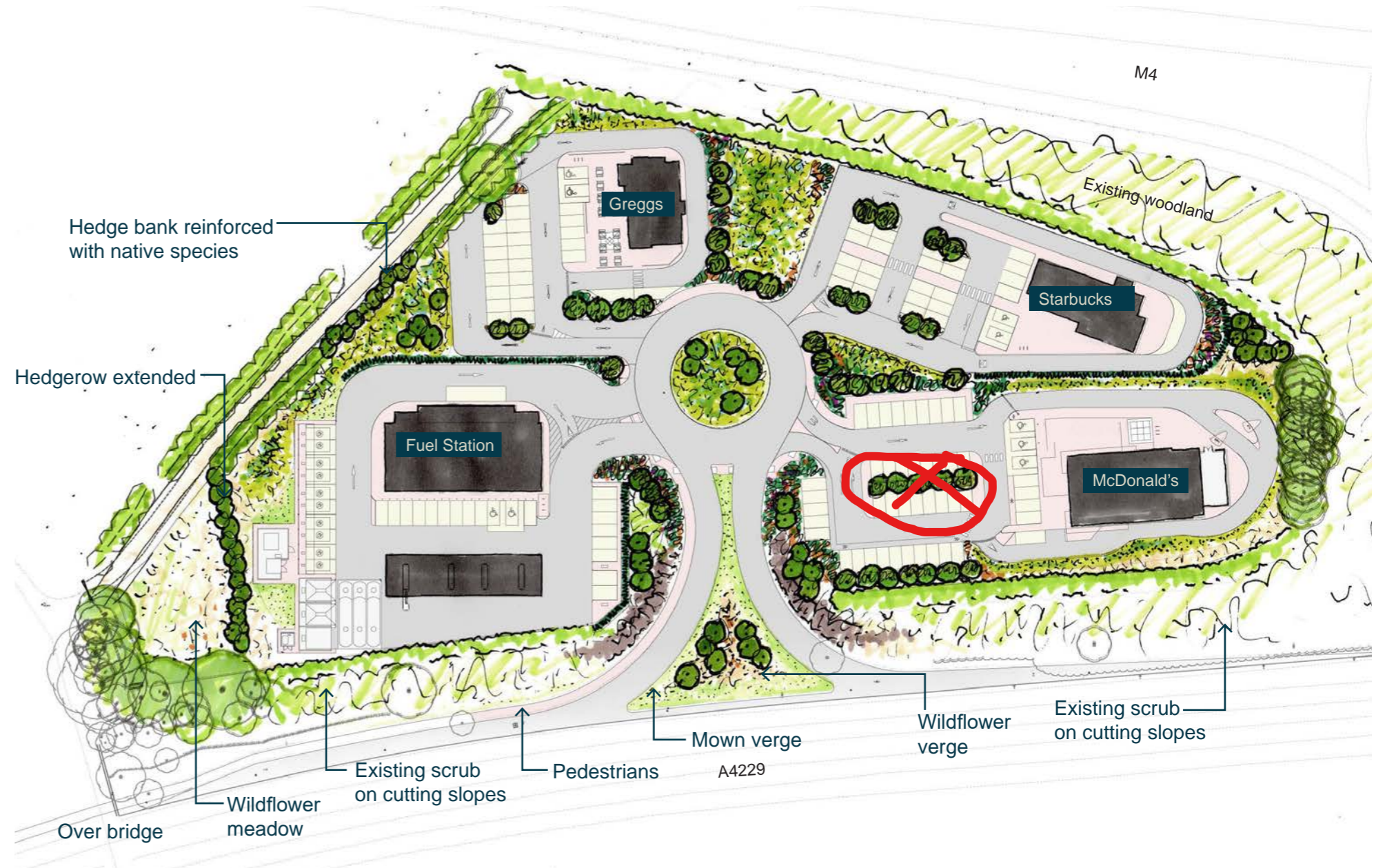
Landscape Design

The proposed layout divides the site into four compartments, each accessed from a central roundabout, linked to the A4229 via separate 'in' and 'out' roads.







Each compartment will be a self-contained unit with the structures and surfaces required to support the various functions. The new landscape of each will be influenced by the design layout and any existing site characteristics, as well as the need to consider Green Infrastructure, screening, function and management.

Drainage considerations mean that large parts of the site will be given over to accommodating runoff. This new, wetland-dominated landscape will link all four parts of the site and will extend to the central roundabout.

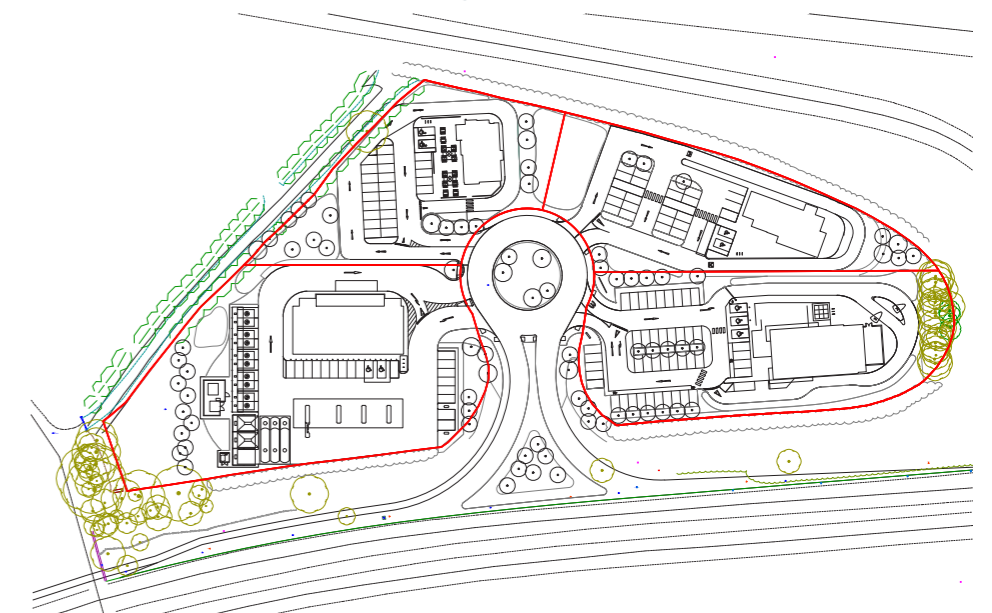
The approach to the site will climb through the existing cutting slope. The south-facing rocky slopes this will generate visual and biodiversity interest linked to the existing scrub-colonised road cutting slopes. This will provide new marginal habitats because of the slopes of different aspect and substrate created.



Key

-  Rain gardens (Page 3)
-  Trees (Page 4)
-  Hedges (Page 5)
-  Ornamental planting (Page 5)
-  Mown verge
-  Wildflower meadow

The site is divided into four compartments:



03 Drainage and Rain Gardens

Drainage and rain gardens

The SAB regulations require that large parts of the site are given over to wetland areas and rain gardens in order that runoff from the development is retained on site. This will generate a new range of habitats and will affect the landscape character, including at the main approach and roundabout. This will increase the biodiversity of the site, allowing wildlife to colonise a currently denuded area.

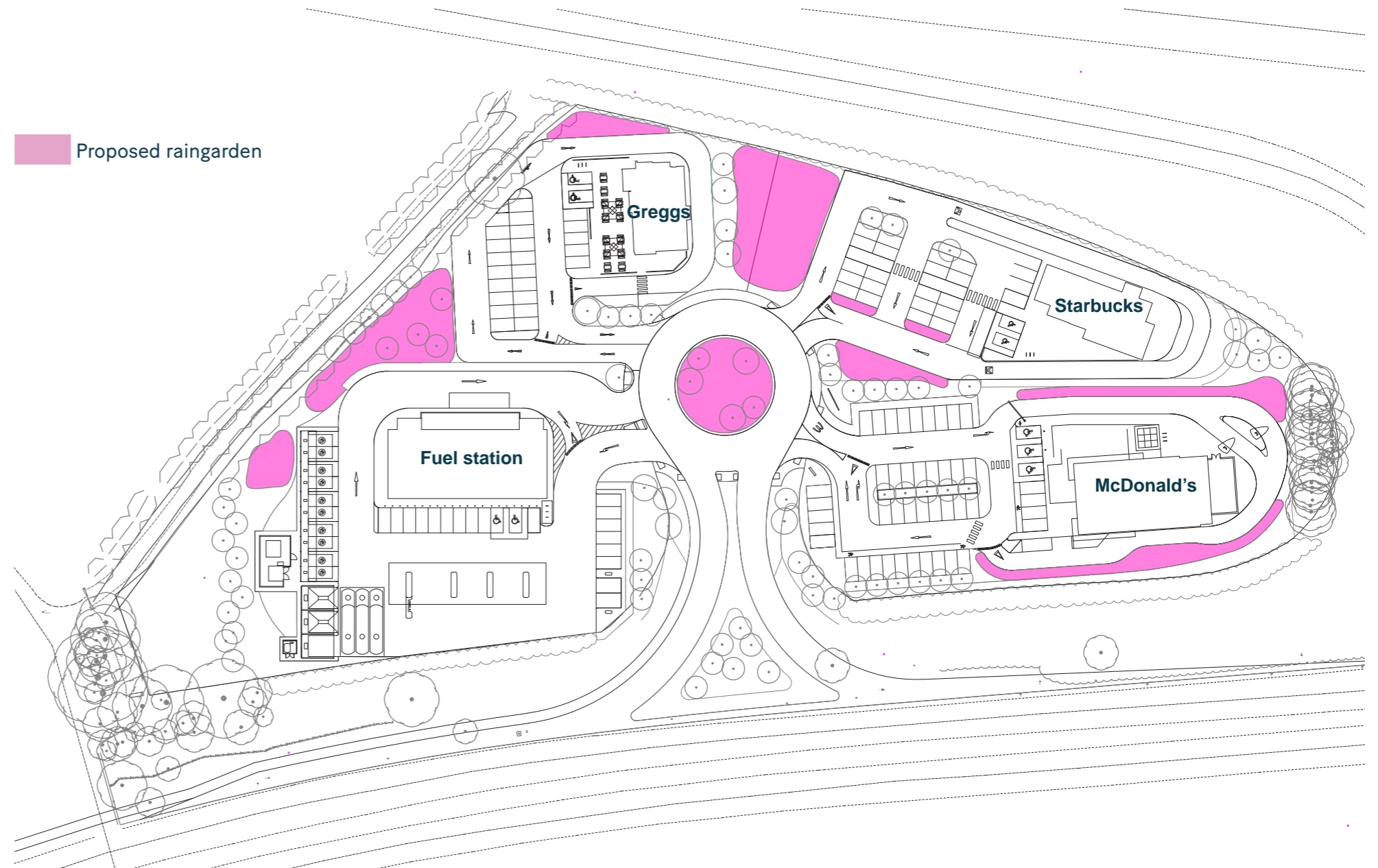
Some of the 'attenuation' areas feature underground water storage structures. These will support low-growing damp-tolerant species. Other parts of the drainage system will allow trees to be accommodated and this provides opportunities to develop a more diverse landscape structure.

The planting of the Swale/Rain Garden areas will aim to maximise biodiversity offering a protective habitat for birds and small mammals, nectar for insects and bees, and foodplants for moths and butterflies and will comprise mainly grasses and perennials.

The swales will form attractive features with a natural profile and a grassy 'wetland' seed mix to the base. Some small shrubs on the upper slopes will add height, structure and visual interest and provide a transition into the more 'amenity' type planting areas.

Areas of native marginal species to include moisture tolerant ferns, grasses and herbaceous plants (container grown) to include:

- Filipendula ulmaria (meadowsweet),
- Athyrium filix femina,
- Caltha pulastris,
- Carex pendula,
- Carex riparia,
- Dryopteris filix mas,
- Lythrum salicaria,
- Lysimachia vulgaris,
- Iris pseudocorus,
- Osmunda regalis,
- Primula veris,
- Dryopteris dilatata





04 Proposed Tree Planting


Proposed tree planting

Trees will provide structure within the space, screening and containing built elements and reducing the impression of the extent of the development. All the tree species proposed will provide visual interest, shade and will contribute to biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.

The species proposed can be split into three groups

Tree type 1  Distinctive specimens, known for their appearance, primarily intended to provide structure, and amenity (decorative trees).

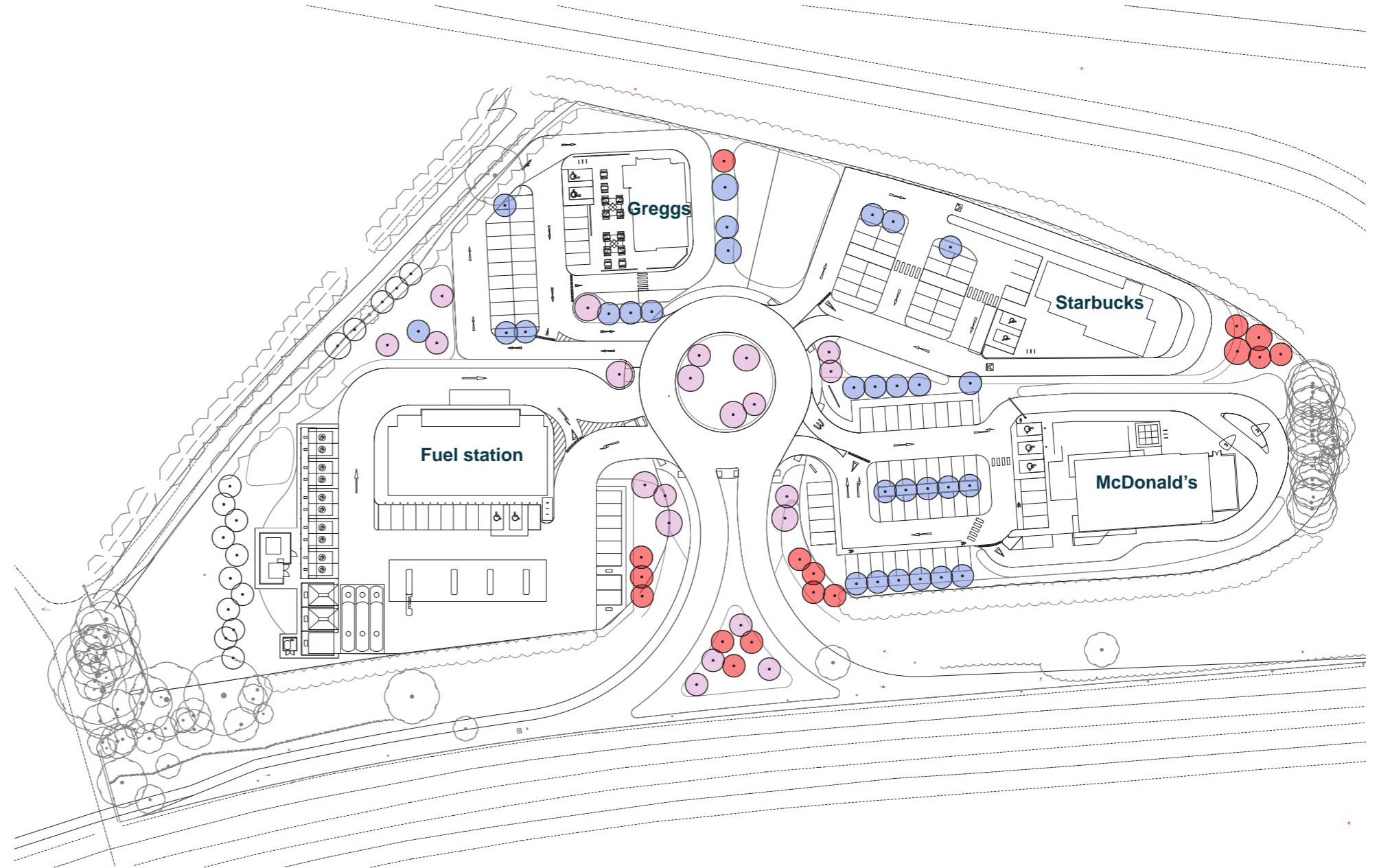
Tree type 2  Native species primarily intended to reinforce and enrich the established landscape structure and provide habitat for wildlife.

Tree type 3  Decorative, small-growing species suitable for constrained spaces such as car parks. These will produce berries.

Specimen trees, species appropriate to location, typically 12 - 14 cm

girth, rootballed, staked, mulch

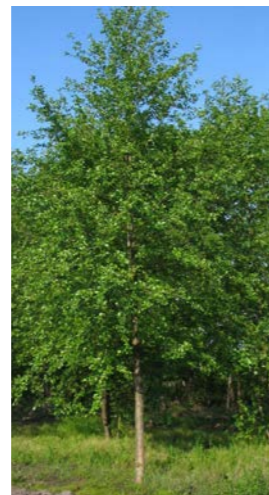
- Acer platanoides (Type 1)
- Acer campestre (Type 2)
- Alnus glutinosa (Type 2)
- Betula pendula (Type 2)
- Betula pubescens (Type 2)
- Malus 'John Downie' (Type 3)
- Prunus avium 'Plena' (Type 1)
- Pyrus 'Chanticleer' (Type 1)
- Quercus robur (Type 1,2)
- Sorbus aucuparia (Type 3)
- Sorbus aria 'Lutescens' (3)



Acer platanoides



Acer campestre



Alnus glutinosa



Betula pendula



Betula pubescens



Malus 'John Downie'



Prunus avium 'Plena'



Pyrus 'Chanticleer'



Quercus robur



Sorbus aucuparia



Sorbus aria 'Lutescens'

05 Hedges and Ornamental Planting

Hedges and Ornamental Planting

Hedges are proposed within the site to provide containment and separation in locations where there is limited space for wider areas of planting. Within the main part of the site, these will be single species Beech hedges. This is a robust, practical solution that provides a simple visual backdrop, reducing the extent of any 'visual clutter' in potentially 'busy' areas.

Some short lengths of 'native' hedgerow are proposed. These include the repair of the hedge along the lane to the northwest of the site and a new length of hedge at the western end of the site. This will separate the filling station site from a small remnant of field which will be developed for biodiversity. These hedges will comprise native species and will contribute to the Green Infrastructure of the site and wider area by making or repairing connections.

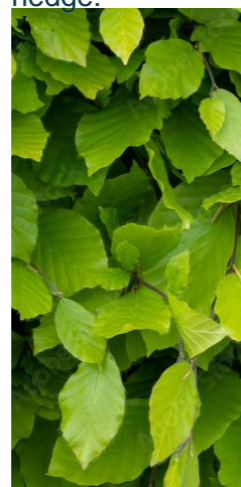
A modest amount of amenity shrub and groundcover is proposed in small areas at the margins of pavements and parking areas. These areas will require limited maintenance but will provide a range of heights and textures and will include flowering and berry-bearing species. The food source and structure provided by these features will support birdlife.

Hedges

Single species (Beech) hedge: 1+1 bare root transplants, 600-800mm. Mulch strip 1m wide, 75mm deep, 5/lin m to comprise:
Fagus sylvatica

Native hedgerows: 1+1 bare root whips and transplants, 600-800mm. Mulch strip 1m wide, 75mm deep, 5/lin m to comprise:
Acer campestre,
Corylus avellana,
Crataegus monogyna,
Euonymus europaeus,
Ilex aquifolium, 2L
Prunus spinosa
Quercus robur (1+2)
Viburnum opulus

Single species hedge:



Fagus sylvatica

Native hedge mix



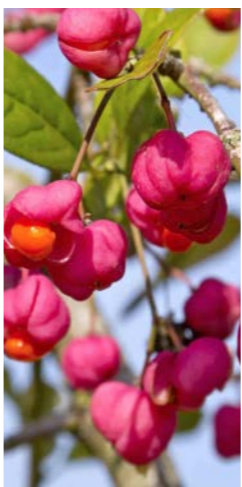
Acer campestre



Corylus avellana



Crataegus monogyna



Euonymus europaeus



Ilex aquifolium



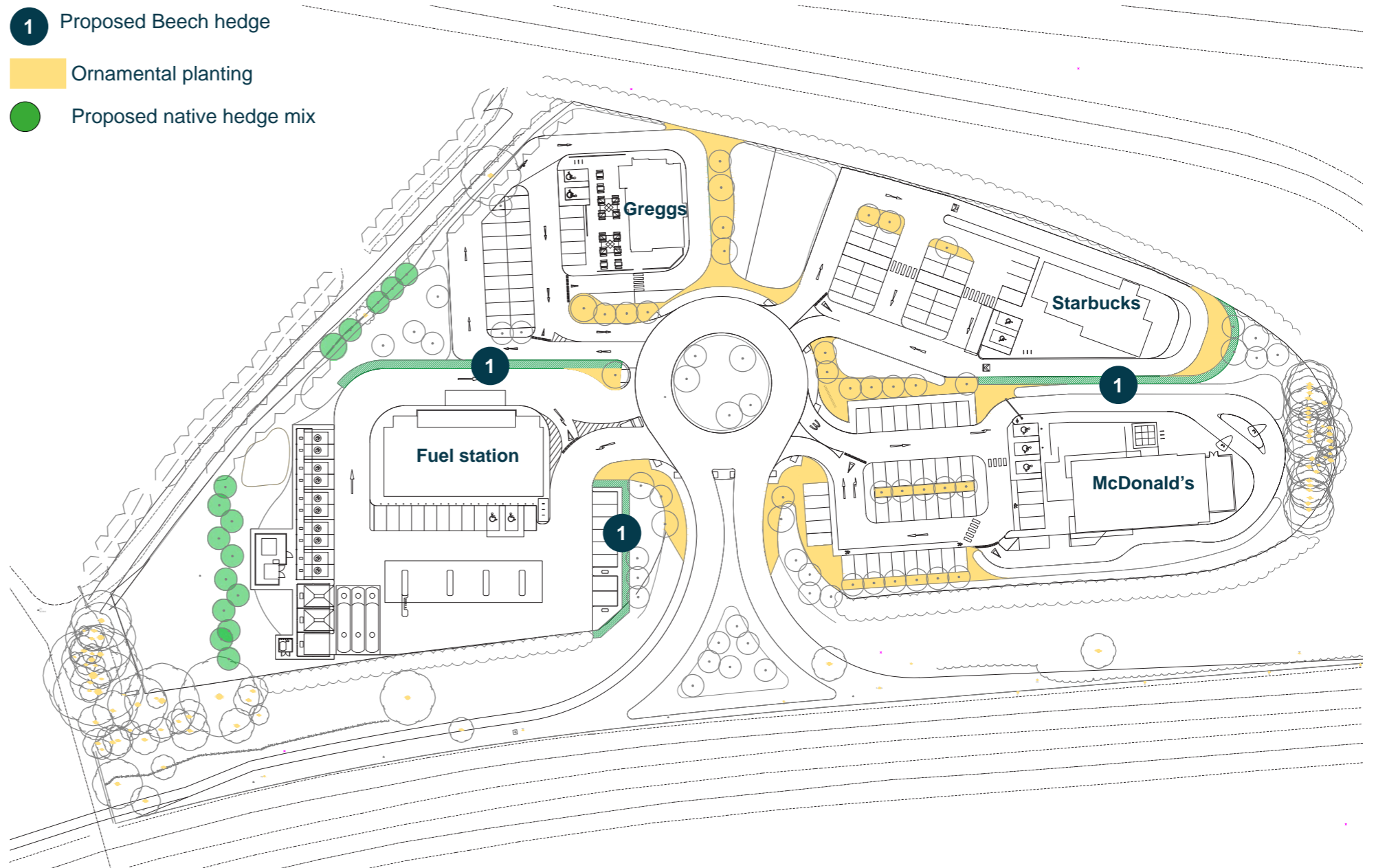
Prunus spinosa



Quercus robur



Viburnum opulus



Ornamental planting

Ornamental planting (including larger specimens at prime locations) to be container grown, planted into soil with complete mulch cover, 75mm deep to include:

- Berberis thunbergii 'Orange Glow'
- Buxus sempervirens (ball)
- Ceanothus thyrsiflorus repens
- Cornus species
- Euonymus japonicus 'Ovatus Aureus'
- Hebe rakiensis
- Hedera helix
- Lonicera nitida 'May Green'
- Lonicera pileata
- Phormium 'Sundowner'
- Phormium tenax 'Atropurpureum'
- Potentilla 'Goldfinger'
- Prunus 'Otto Luyken'
- Rosa pimpinellifolia
- Rubus 'Betty Ashburner'
- Stipa gigantea
- Stipa tenuissima
- Skimmia japonica 'Rubella'
- Viburnum 'Eve Price'



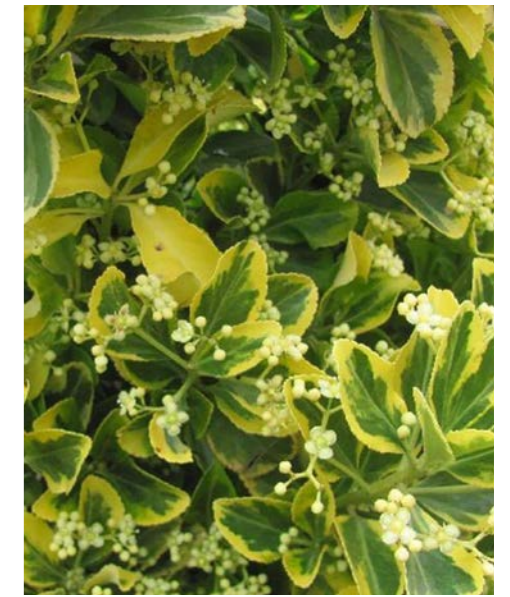
Buxus sempervirens (ball)



Ceanothus thyrsiflorus repens



Cornus species



Euonymus japonicus 'Ovatus Aureus'



Hebe rakiensis



Lonicera nitida 'May Green'



Phormium 'Sundowner'



Stipa tenuissima



Rosa pimpinellifolia



Decorative planting



Skimmia japonica rubella



Prunus 'Otto Luyken'

06 Marginal Areas and Biodiversity

Management plan

The proposals for the site include the establishment and encouragement of more biodiverse landscapes than can be found in the existing improved pasture.

There are opportunities to increase this biodiversity further through appropriate management and by improving links with the surrounding landscape.

Grassland habitats

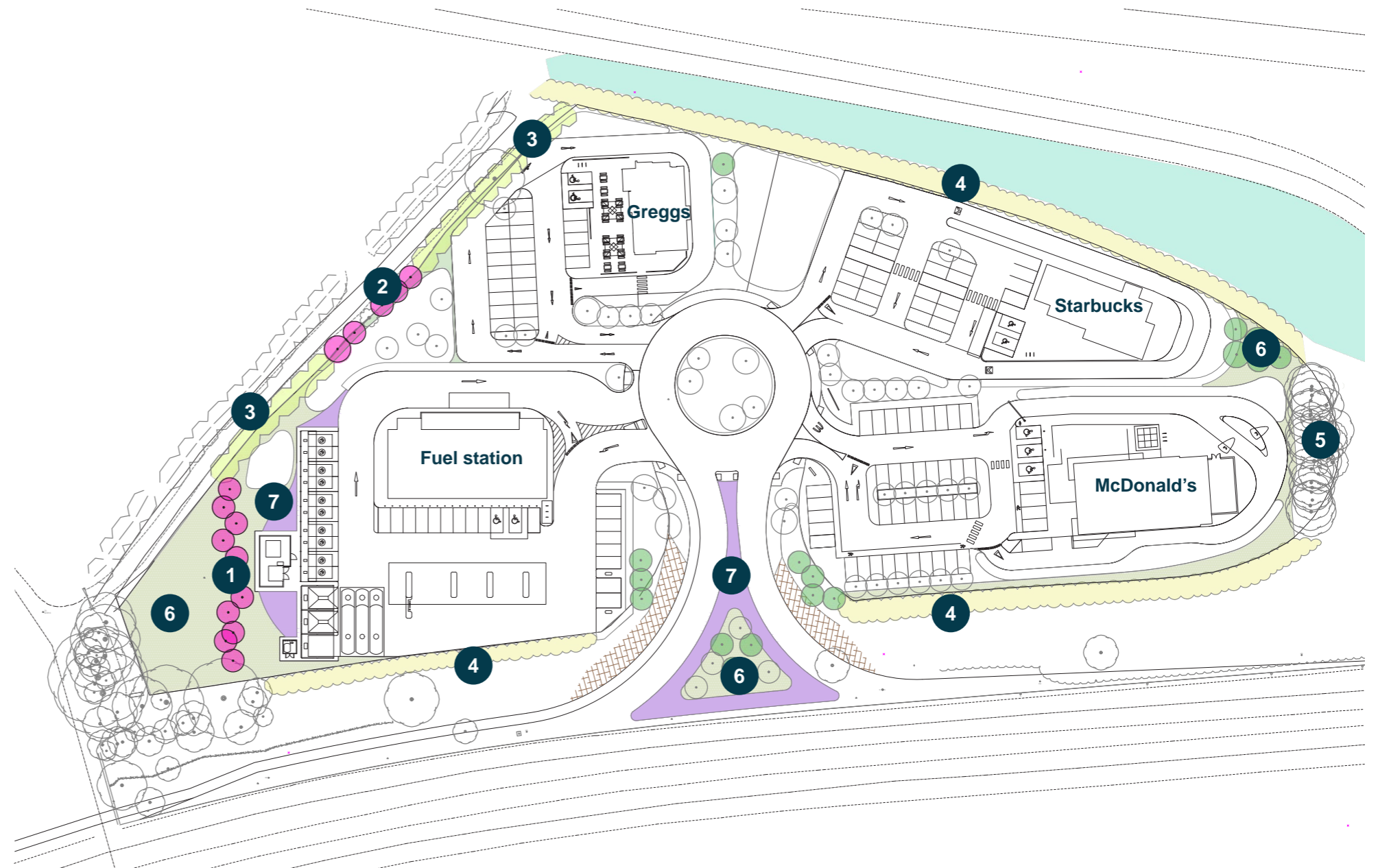
The extent of the close-mown grass verge proposed is limited to the margins of the approach roads and some small areas around the filling station site. Other grass areas will be managed as a traditional hay meadow to maximise species richness over time. This includes the area between the approach roads and the isolated area to the west of the filling station.

Hedges and linear woodlands

The existing site hedges, which are dominated by Blackthorn, are growing outside the site and have been trimmed regularly. This management will continue so that these features survive. The scrub and trees along the northern boundary (outside the site) will remain.

The hedge along the northwestern boundary will be rejuvenated by selective coppicing and by reinforcement with new trees where gaps exist. This feature will also be extended as shown near the western end of the site. New groups of native trees around the edge of the site will reinforce the Green Infrastructure and increase biodiversity.

The exposed rock cuttings to either side of the approach roads will be allowed to develop naturally, with the existing scrub to the east and west retained.



1. Extend the existing hedgerow to screen fuel station
2. Reinforce existing hedgerow with native species.
3. Prune/manage trees in hedge bank.
4. Existing boundary hedges to be trimmed (as existing).
5. Retain the established group of Alder trees to the east.
6. Areas managed as additional hay meadows.
7. Close mown grass verges



Coppicing



Grass mowing



Existing rocky margin



Grass areas will be managed as traditional hay meadows



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