

NORTH AND EAST MELTON MOWBRAY DISTRIBUTOR ROAD

Proof of Evidence LCC 04: Landscape

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1. Introduction

1.1 Qualifications

- 1.1.1 My name is Nigel Weir. I am a Chartered Landscape Architect and have been a full member of the Landscape Institute for 30 years.
- 1.1.2 I hold a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Geography and a Master of Arts degree in Landscape Architecture and have specialised in landscape design, and latterly landscape and visual impact assessment, for over 35 years. I have previously held posts in a number of engineering and environmental consultancies, the mineral industry and in the community regeneration sector.
- 1.1.3 I am an Associate Landscape Architect at AECOM and have held this post for over 15 years.

1.2 Relevant Experience

- 1.2.1 During my career I have been involved in the preparation of a large number of landscape assessment and mitigation schemes for many infrastructure projects and landscape and visual impact assessments (LVIAs) for all types of development, from highway schemes, high speed rail, industrial development, built development, wind farms and minerals/waste projects.
- 1.2.2 My highways landscape design/assessment experience includes the following projects, as well as many smaller schemes relating to roundabouts, junctions and minor roads:
 - optioneering of route selection for the A458 at Cressage and A49 at Dorrington,
 Shropshire;
 - preparation of evidence for the M6 Toll Road public inquiry;
 - offsite planting design for the A5 Fazeley/Two Gates bypass;

- assessment of and landscape design for the M1 J10-13 smart motorway and attendance at public inquiry;
- assessment of and landscape design for the M1 J10A junction and evidence to the DCO hearing;
- assessment of and landscape design for the M6 J10A-13 smart motorway;
- supervision of the A63 Melton junction (Hull) landscape implementation and maintenance works;
- design and supervision of landscape mitigation associated with the Mersey
 Gateway project;
- assessment of and landscape design for the A38 junctions scheme and attendance at the DCO hearing;
- assessment of and landscape design for the M54/M6 Link and on call attendance at the DCO hearing;
- assessment of the A46 Walsgrave junction optioneering, Coventry;
- optioneering assessment of the A1 Doncaster to Darrington; and
- landscape detailed design for the M11 J7A and link.
- 1.2.3 The work I have undertaken in relation to highways typically draws on the landscape and visual assessment of the schemes to then inform the approach taken towards landscape and visual considerations including the route selection, as well as the mitigation proposals
- 1.2.4 I have given evidence at Public Inquiry on numerous occasions, including in relation to housing, windfarms, highways and minerals/waste projects.
- 1.2.5 The evidence provided in this Proof of Evidence has been prepared and is given in accordance with the guidance of my professional institute and I confirm that the opinions expressed are true and professional opinions.

2. Involvement with the Scheme

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 I have been involved with the NEMMDR project since early 2017, when the landscape team contributed to the Scoping Report which set out the methodology and guidance to be adopted for the LVIA chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES). I led the LVIA team which undertook the optioneering and subsequent assessment and I wrote or supervised and approved the content of it, which was in accordance with the "Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition) 2013 (CD TG11). The evidence I present relates to the landscape design and landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) for the NEMMDR.

2.2 Route Selection and Optioneering

- 2.2.1 AECOM were appointed to assess and undertake the detailed design of the chosen NEMMDR option, following the high level optioneering and route selection stage undertaken by other consultants. I was not, therefore, involved in early stage route wide optioneering or selection. I understand that the key issue for determination of the preferred route was related to the traffic, cost and subsequent benefit arising from the proposals in meeting the objectives for the Scheme proposals. Both routes would entail a similar length of new highway through LCA 20: Melton Farmland Fringe and impact a similar range of visual receptors. A western route would occupy the Wreake Valley whereas the eastern route crosses the Eye Valley. The northern arc of a western route would occur the green corridor between less sensitive, more industrialised landscape north of the A6006 but to the south it would occupy an equally or more sensitive route through to Burton Lazars. In both cases a route would cut through rolling topography and entail cuttings and embankments and impact landscape elements, and the established field pattern. However, in my professional opinion there is no significant difference in a west or east route in broad landscape terms.
- 2.2.2 My role has therefore been to develop the most appropriate solution following the wider decision to adopt a north and east route. Prior to my involvement, two routes were looked at in detail, the preferred route and a second route further to the east.

The second route was included in the 2017 consultation exercise, with comments requested, but very few were obtained, and the preferred route was confirmed. I understand that the main reasons for the second route not being chosen were increased journey times, increase in flood plain intervention, impact on Brentingby Dam and EA objections.

- 2.2.3 Once the alignment to the north and east of Melton was selected, AECOM's landscape team, under my supervision, considered the second option further east and had concluded that it was less favourable than the preferred route due to greater incursion into the rural landscape. In the event the second route option to the east was, as explained above, dropped from further consideration for other reasons.
- 2.2.4 We then undertook more localised optioneering of the specific variations for the River Eye Crossing Options Appraisal, using options labelled A to E. Option A was discounted by the wider team, at an early stage, as not being feasible as it required construction of a bridge under high voltage powerlines. The high-level landscape assessment of the remaining four options (variously considering the diversion of the powerlines and/or the River Eye) concluded that, overall, there was little difference in the effect of all the options in relation to landscape and visual matters.

2.3 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

2.3.1 The "Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition) 2013 (GLVIA3: CD TG11) is the standard methodology for undertaking landscape and visual impact assessments, and prior to issue of LA107 (CD: TG13 DMRB LA 107 Landscape & Visual Effects) by Highways England (HE) in late 2019, was adopted by most practitioners involved in non HE highway schemes, IAN 135/10 having effectively been superseded by the approach and terminology in GLVIA3. The assessment defined the significance of effects at the various assessment stages of the project (construction, year 1 and year 15 as defined in Highways England assessment guidance LA107 and IAN135/10 which preceded it).

- 2.3.2 In order to understand the approach, it is necessary to understand certain basic concepts/terms used in respect of landscape and visual assessment. For the purposes of assessment, a clear distinction is drawn between landscape and visual effects:
 - Landscape effects: effects on the landscape and its elements as a resource in its own right;
 - Visual effects: effects on views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
- 2.3.3 These definitions are taken from the GLVIA3 glossary. Landscape effects arise from a removal of landscape elements, including landform, and/or the introduction of new of different elements which change landscape character. Changes in visual amenity, visual effects, arise from the loss of elements in the view or introduction of new elements.
- 2.3.4 The landscape and visual impact assessment followed the assessment process by identification of the nature of baseline receptors (landscape character, range of viewers) and then assessed the nature of effects on them before identifying the significance of effects. That process informed the development of mitigation proposals.

2.4 Landscape Mitigation

- 2.4.1 Landscape mitigation is the design response to mitigate, as far as practicable, the landscape and visual effects of the scheme identified by the landscape and visual impact assessment. I led the landscape mitigation design and was involved with refinement of it during the subsequent minor modifications to elements of the highway design as it evolved. Mitigation may address both landscape and visual effects, or just one of them, in any particular location.
- 2.4.2 I have visited the site, most recently in July 2021. I have collaborated with ecological and highway colleagues and attended meetings with Leicestershire County Council

(LCC) to present the preliminary designs and modify them in response to consultation and client comments and to develop mitigation proposals.

- 2.4.3 Based on an understanding of those effects I directed the mitigation design shown on Figures 60542201-ACM-ELS-S1_ML_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0001-P02 to 60542201-ACM-ELS-S1_ML_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0021-P02 within Appendix B of this proof of evidence. The landscape treatments shown on these plans are labelled using the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) landscape elements codes provided in Volume 10 Environmental Design and Management (Section 0) Environmental Objectives, Part 3 Ha 88/01, Landscape Elements. The key on the figures indicates the range of environmental functions applicable to the landscape element as set out in DMRB Volume 10 Environmental Design and Management Part 2 HA 87/01 Environmental Functions. These provide a standardized approach to what the landscape treatment is and an indication of its purpose. More recently, in late 2019 and in a revision dated March 2020, and post-dating the development of the mitigation the principles of highway landscape design referred to above have been defined in DMRB LD 117 Landscape Design 2020 (CD: TG12).
- 2.4.4 The planning application and accompanying Environmental Statement (ES) was submitted on the 1st October 2018. As a result of feedback from the consultation exercise, a small number of minor modifications relating to landscape design, rights of way and ecological mitigations were made to the proposals and planning permission was subsequently granted in May 2019.
- 2.4.5 The landscape team set out appropriate monitoring measures for delivery of the landscape mitigation to ensure it is properly managed, grows to maturity and benefits from replacement planting should plants fail during the establishment period.
- 2.4.6 Monitoring parameters include:

- assessment of plant establishment and annual assessment of losses and replacement planting through a series of regular site inspections (typically quarterly);
- quarterly monitoring and reporting of maintenance operations undertaken as required by the landscape specification – including items such as weed control, fertiliser application, condition of tree guards or shelters, mowing and any other measures required to promote plant establishment and growth;
- the delivery mechanism for monitoring would be the landscape maintenance specification and the Environmental Management Plan and responsibilities for monitoring;
- annual report of landscape mitigation establishment.
- 2.4.7 There has therefore been an integrated approach to the landscape assessment, mitigation design and long-term delivery of the mitigation proposals, which have been brought forward as part of the development of the Scheme. Detail of the assessment and the mitigation is provided in section 4 of this Proof of Evidence.

3. Development of the Scheme

3.1 Development Since Planning Submission

- 3.1.1 Development of the Scheme since planning permission was granted comprises detailed design development of the highway elements. In relation to the landscape design, post planning there was minor further development of detailed landscape proposals to reflect the changes in the areas set out below:
 - Horizontal alignment of the route: no significant development and only minor modification of the landscape masterplans, typically to reduce tree belt widths or realign proposed hedgerows.
 - Vertical alignment of highway: minor development as part of detailed design and only minor modification of the landscape masterplans, typically to reduce or increase widths of species rich grassland as a result of a wider or reduced width landscape corridor/soft estate.
 - Earthworks: development as part of detailed design but no notable implications on the landscape treatment or mitigation design.
 - Drainage: finalising location and size of balancing ponds with associated access tracks and earthworks: entailed minor modification of the landscape masterplans, typically to reduce tree belt widths or realign proposed hedgerows to accommodate the accesses and realign to them.
 - Accommodation works: finalising location and size of accommodation tracks and accesses, including field accesses: entailed minor modification of the landscape masterplans, typically to reduce tree belt widths or realign proposed hedgerows to accommodate the accesses and realign to them.
 - Bridge structures: no significant changes or landscape mitigation changes arising.
 - Non Motorised Users (NMUs): finalising footpath diversions and alignments but no notable implications on the landscape treatment or mitigation design.
 - River Eye diversion: no significant changes of the ecologically driven mitigation design.

- Ecology Further development of detailed mitigation proposals for badgers,
 Great Crested Newts, bats etc. but no notable implications on the landscape treatment or mitigation design.
- 3.1.2 None of the changes in the post planning permission detailed design development of the highway elements compromised the principles of the landscape mitigation or indicated that there was a need to reassess the design other than minor modifications. Indeed, the majority of changes to the landscape design came about as a result of detailed discussion between the project team, feedback from LCC, and following consultation with local landowners affected by the scheme. Following meetings with those parties, changes to the design to address their concerns (as far as possible) were marked up in draft and incorporated into the mitigation design under my supervision.
- 3.1.3 In order to satisfy the requirements of the planning permission the landscape team (in conjunction with ecology) prepared a Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan which identified specific management and maintenance operations and their frequencies to ensure the successful establishment of the landscape and ecological elements of the scheme.

4. Assessment of Scheme Proposals

4.1 Scheme impact

- 4.1.1 As may be expected for any large-scale linear infrastructure project there will usually be significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity during construction and operation, typically reducing as mitigation elements mature.
- 4.1.2 Effects on landscape character are typically derived from the scale and extent of change to the landscape character and its sensitivity to the introduction of a highway which cuts across the field pattern and modifies the natural landform through the introduction of cuttings and embankments. For both landscape and visual effects, the IAN 135/10 guidance relies on a scale of significance of effect ranging through neutral/slight/moderate/large/very large. Large and very large effects are regarded as significant and effects of moderate significance can be significant, when justified by professional judgment. Definitions of what the significance of effect means, taken from IAN 135/10 are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Typical Descriptors of the Significance of Landscape Effect.

| Typical Descri | ptors of the Significance of Landscape Effect Categories |
|-----------------------|---|
| Neutral | The project would: Maintain the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Blend in with characteristic features and elements. Enable a sense of place to be retained. |
| Slight Adverse | The project would: Not quite fit the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Be at variance with characteristic features and elements. Detract from a sense of place. |
| Moderate Adverse | The project would: Conflict with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Have an adverse impact on characteristic features or elements. Diminish a sense of place |
| Large Adverse | The project would: Be at considerable variance with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Degrade or diminish the integrity of a range of characteristic features and elements. Damage a sense of place. |
| Very Large Adverse | The project would: Be at complete variance with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Cause the integrity of characteristic features and elements to be lost. Cause a sense of place to be lost. |
| Typical Descri | ptors of the Significance of Visual Effect Categories |

| Neutral | No perceptible change in the view. |
|-----------------------|--|
| Slight Adverse | The project would cause limited deterioration to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or cause greater deterioration to a view from a receptor of low sensitivity. |
| Moderate Adverse | The project would cause obvious deterioration to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, or perceptible damage to a view from a more sensitive receptor. |
| Large Adverse | The project would cause major deterioration to a view from a highly sensitive receptor and would constitute a major discordant element in the view. |
| Very Large Adverse | The project would cause the loss of views from a highly sensitive receptor and would constitute a dominant discordant feature in the view. |

4.1.3 The LVIA concluded that there would be direct moderate adverse effects on the character of Landscape Character Area (LCA) 20: Melton Fringe during construction, reducing to slight adverse in year 1 of operation and reducing to neutral/slight at year 15 as the landscape mitigation matures and better integrates the highway. There would be direct slight adverse effects on the character of LCA 16: Farmland Patchwork during construction, year 1 of operation and reducing to neutral/slight adverse at year 15. There were no significant indirect effects on the other LCAs within the study area LCA 6: Ridge and Valley/ LCA 11: Pastoral Farmland/ LCA 13: Eye Valley. Refer to Table 2 and Figure 7.3 in Appendix A.

Table 2: Assessment of landscape effects within the study area

| LCA 1 | 16: Farmland Patchwork | Significance |
|------------|--|------------------------|
| 0 | During construction: | Slight adverse |
| Stage | Year 1 of operation: | Slight adverse |
| O) | Year 15 of operation: | Neutral/Slight adverse |
| LCA | 20: Melton Fringe | Significance |
| (1) | During construction: | Moderate adverse |
| Stage | Year 1 of operation: | Slight adverse |
| 0) | Year 15 of operation: | Neutral/slight adverse |
| LCA 6 | 6: Ridge and Valley/ LCA 11: Pastoral Farmland/ LCA 13: Eye Valley | Significance |
| | Du spannat rin nat rin nat rinc rinc rinc rinc rinc rinc rinc rinc | Slight adverse |
| Stage | Year 1 of operation: | Slight adverse |
| Ö | Year 15 of operation: | Neutral/Slight adverse |

- 4.1.4 Effects on visual amenity are typically derived from loss of key elements of a view (for example woodland or hedges), the scale and extent of change to the view, obstruction of long views, changes in composition of the view and the introduction of highway infrastructure and traffic into the panorama.
- 4.1.5 The LVIA adopted 25 viewpoint locations to illustrate the range of typical views that would potentially be impacted by the scheme, refer to Figure 7.1 in Appendix A. Viewpoint locations not taken forward for further assessment as a result of no likelihood of significant effects are provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Restriction on views towards the proposed scheme resulting in nonsignificant effects.

| Photoviewpoint number | Distance | Built form | Infrastructure (e.g. road embankment) | Landform | Vegetation |
|-----------------------|----------|------------|---|----------|------------|
| 6 | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 9 | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 10 | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 11B | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 12 | | ✓ | | | |
| 13 | | | | ✓ | √ |
| 14 | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 15 | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 16 | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 17 | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 18 | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 19 | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 20 | | | | | ✓ |

4.1.6 The assessment outcomes of the remaining locations are provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Assessment of Visual Effects at Representative Viewpoints

| | Significance of Effect (adverse) | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Viewpoint Location | Construction Operation Year 1 Operation Year | | | |
| 1: Residents at Junction of A606 | | | | |
| Nottingham Road & St. | Moderate | Slight | Neutral/Slight | |
| Bartholomew's Way | | | | |
| 2: Northern Edge of Melton | Madagata/lagga | | | |
| Country Park | Moderate/large | Slight/moderate | Slight | |
| 3: Entrance to Twinlakes Park, | Climba | Climbt/made devete | Climba | |
| Melton Spinney Road. | Slight | Slight/moderate | Slight | |
| 4: Leicestershire Footpath F2, | Large/Very Large | Largo/Vory Largo | Moderate/Large | |
| Edge of Thorpe Arnold | Large/very Large | Large/Very Large | Moderate/Large | |
| 5: B767 Saxby Road adjacent to | Slight | Neutral/Slight | Noutral/Slight | |
| Hudson Road Industrial Estate | Slight | Nedital/Slight | Neutral/Slight | |
| 7: Leicestershire Restricted | | | | |
| Byway D106 adjacent to St. Mary | Slight/moderate | Slight/moderate | Slight | |
| and St Lazarus Hospital | Oliginatioaciate | Olighamodorato | Oligiti | |
| Scheduled Monument | | | | |
| 8: Leicestershire Footpath E1 on | Moderate/Large | Slight/moderate | Slight | |
| the edge of Melton Mowbray. | Woderate/Large | Siightinoderate | Oligin | |
| 11A: A607 adjacent to Melton | Neutral/Slight | Neutral/Slight | Neutral/Slight | |
| Mowbray Golf Course. | rveutta#Oligiti | Noutian Oligin | rvodital/oligit | |
| 21: A607 on the edge of Thorpe | Moderate/large | Moderate/large | Slight/Moderate | |
| Arnold. | Woderate/large | Woderate/large | Clight/Woderate | |
| 22: Junction between Sawgate | Slight | Slight Slight Neutra | | |
| Road, Cross Lane and Lag Lane. | Slight | Slight | Neutral/Slight | |
| 24: Leicestershire Footpath E17 | Slight/moderate | Slight | Slight | |
| near Great Framlands. | Silginationerate | Siigiit | Siigiti | |
| 25: Leicestershire Footpath F2 | Large/Very Large | je Large/Very Large Moderate/Larg | | |
| near Brentingby Lodge Farm. | Large, very Large | Large, very Large | Woderate/Large | |

4.1.7 The assessment of landscape and visual effects was undertaken with embedded mitigation in place. Assessment without mitigation would result in more significant effects on both landscape character and visual amenity, demonstrating the need for

embedded mitigation. Effects which are of moderate/large/very large are considered significant.

- 4.1.8 In summary the LVIA concluded there would be localised but significant effects on landscape character (of LCA 20: Melton Fringe) during construction but at no other stages. Significant effects on landscape character during highway construction are to be expected for all bit the most minimal of schemes. The assessment concluded that post construction there would be no long-term significant effects, albeit the scheme would remain of slight adverse significance in year 1, declining by year 15.
- 4.1.9 There would be significant effects on visual amenity during construction for a small number of residents on the northern edge of Melton Mowbray (VP1) and Thorpe Arnold (VP 21) and for users of Melton Country Park (VP2) and several PRoW in proximity to the scheme, including Leicestershire Footpath F2 and Leicestershire Footpath E1 (VP 4, VP 8 and VP 25). In year 1, the number of significant effects on visual amenity would reduce to a small number of residents on the edge of Thorpe Arnold and users of Leicestershire Footpath F2. By year 15, significant effects on visual amenity would be confined to users of Leicestershire Footpath F2 in close proximity to the scheme (VP4, VP25).
- 4.1.10 A discussion of the key principles of the mitigation which was developed to reduce or eliminate effects on landscape character and visual amenity is provided below.

4.2 Scheme Mitigation Measures

- 4.2.1 The landscape masterplan was informed by the need for mitigation of landscape and visual effects to reduce or partially mitigate the effects identified in the LVIA. The objectives of the landscape mitigation were:
 - to replace trees and shrubs lost as a result of the proposed scheme;
 - to replicate landscape elements such as hedgerows and woodland blocks in a way which is sympathetic to the landscape context and integrates the proposed scheme into it;
 - to rationalize field severance and create appropriate new fields for agricultural use;

- to provide screening of the proposed scheme and vehicles using it through the use of landform and tree and shrub planting;
- to incorporate features of ecological/biodiversity/conservation value with the landscape and to mitigate effects on protected species;
- to integrate ancillary elements such as NMU access and maintenance access within the highway landscape;
- to provide a pleasant highway environment for users of the highway.
- 4.2.2 There are a number of key points that resulted in a relatively low key/light touch approach to the landscape mitigation.
 - the scheme has significant lengths of the route in cutting, as a result of the rolling topography and vertical alignment, which provides beneficial screening of both the highway and traffic using it. This is primarily visual mitigation and the effects on the landscape pattern and natural landform remain.
 - consequently, the landscape design was achieved within the land take required
 for the scheme as a whole and did not require any additional land in order to
 mitigate effects identified within the LVIA or specifically for landscape purposes
 on their own (that is separate to ecological/biodiversity/land access/engineering
 reasons).
 - the landscape treatment is proportionate and, through refinement, in my professional opinion represents the minimum required to achieve adequate mitigation.
- 4.2.3 Generally, the width of woodland planting is narrowed to around 10m width, which is, in effect, a screening belt rather than a substantial area of woodland. In my experience woodland of less than 10m becomes of reduced screening value, particularly in winter and as it matures such that if the primary purpose is an effective screen, it is compromised. Where field severance or land take allows and there is a need to better integrate the scheme with the adjacent landscape the masterplan has

included some additional areas of new woodland. Across the scheme as a whole these are the exception rather than the rule.

- 4.2.4 Where the scheme is located in cutting the most common form of boundary treatment is simply a hedge with hedgerow trees. In such cases its primary purpose is landscape integration rather than visual screening and the additional land take beyond the top of the highway cutting is minimal and required for safe access along the top of the cutting (Refer to 60542201 ACM ELS S2 ML ZZ Z DR LV 0004 chainage 1450 to 1700 for example). Conversely, where the scheme is on embankment screen planting becomes more important, to counter the potential increased visibility. In such locations, where space allows, the approach has been to predominantly position woodland planting at original ground level rather than on the highway embankment, It has been demonstrated on many highway schemes that, the growth and long-term viability of woodland on embankments is sub-optimal compared to adjacent natural ground, although clearly this occurs on many highway schemes. (Refer to 60542201 ACM ELS S2_ML_ZZ_Z DR LV 0004 chainage 1200 to 1400 for example). The most common form of landscape treatment overall is species rich grassland, included at the request of LCC, in order to maximise biodiversity value of the scheme.
- 4.2.5 The scheme does not seek to address potential visibility from new housing developments yet to be constructed. Mitigation of such effects would fall to the individual developers. The Scheme does seek to mitigate views from the edge of existing settlements at Burton Lazars and Thorpe Arnold in particular, but also from the northern edge of Melton Mowbray by use of landform and intervening vegetation. No land beyond that required for the permanent operation of the scheme for highway purposes, engineering requirements (including slope stability) mitigation, maintenance and access (including for third parties), has been taken.
- **4.2.6** Overall, I consider that, as demonstrated by reviewing the series of landscape masterplan drawings in Appendix B, land take to achieve the environmental mitigation is proportionate and necessary for a scheme, of this scale, in the landscape and visual context.

5. Summary and Conclusions

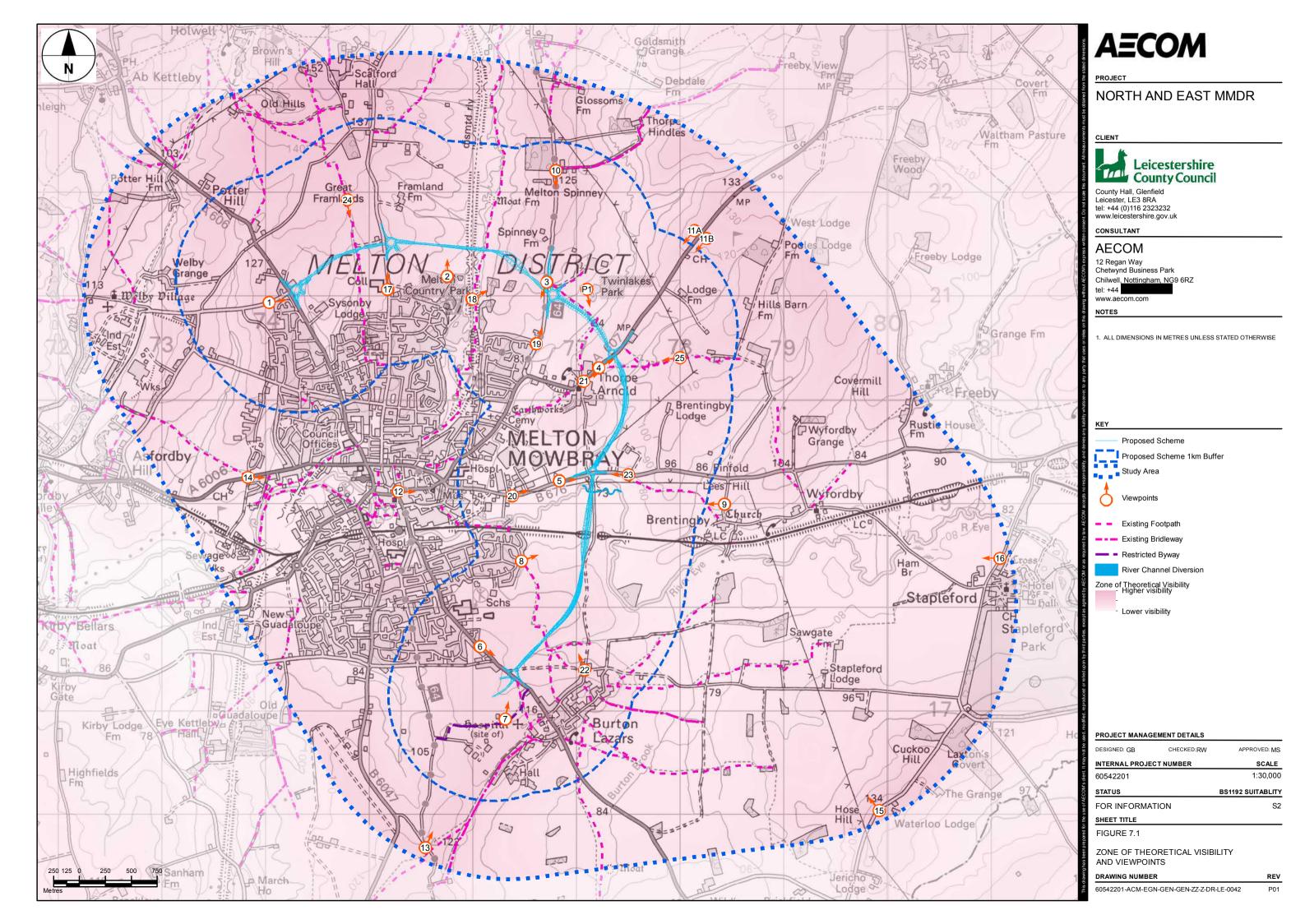
- 5.1.1 I have been involved with the NEMMDR scheme through from optioneering, assessment and mitigation design. I have influenced the mitigation strategy and responded to stakeholder consultation comments regarding the scale and extent of landscape treatments.
- As would be expected for any scheme of this size, the construction and operation of the NEMMDR scheme will result in some significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity, as identified in the LVIA which accompanied the planning application. Although more widespread in construction, those effects would be temporary. By year 1 of operation effects on visual amenity would be localised to the edge of Thorpe Arnold and users of Leicestershire Footpath F2, in close proximity. In part, the operational effects are limited by a largely favourable vertical alignment for much of the route, which reduces visibility of traffic and the highway within cuttings. Residual year 1 effects relate to sections on embankment and reflect the immaturity of mitigation planting in year 1, which at that stage will provide only limited screening. By year 15 planting would be highly effective in integrating the scheme into the landscape and reducing visibility and hence adverse effects on visual amenity.
- 5.1.3 Mitigation of the effects has been achieved in a proportionate way to achieve an effective degree of visual screening and landscape integration, as far as practicable and acknowledging that significant landscape and visual effects will remain. Land take to achieve the environmental mitigation is, in my professional opinion, required and in no way excessive for a scheme of this scale in the landscape and visual context. Particular attention has been paid to providing long term screening of sections of the route elevated on embankment, through use of woodland planting. I consider that this is apparent from the masterplan drawings and, as explained in the body of my proof of evidence, is substantially assisted by a favourable vertical alignment for much of the scheme, which allows a light touch of planting in sections of cutting.

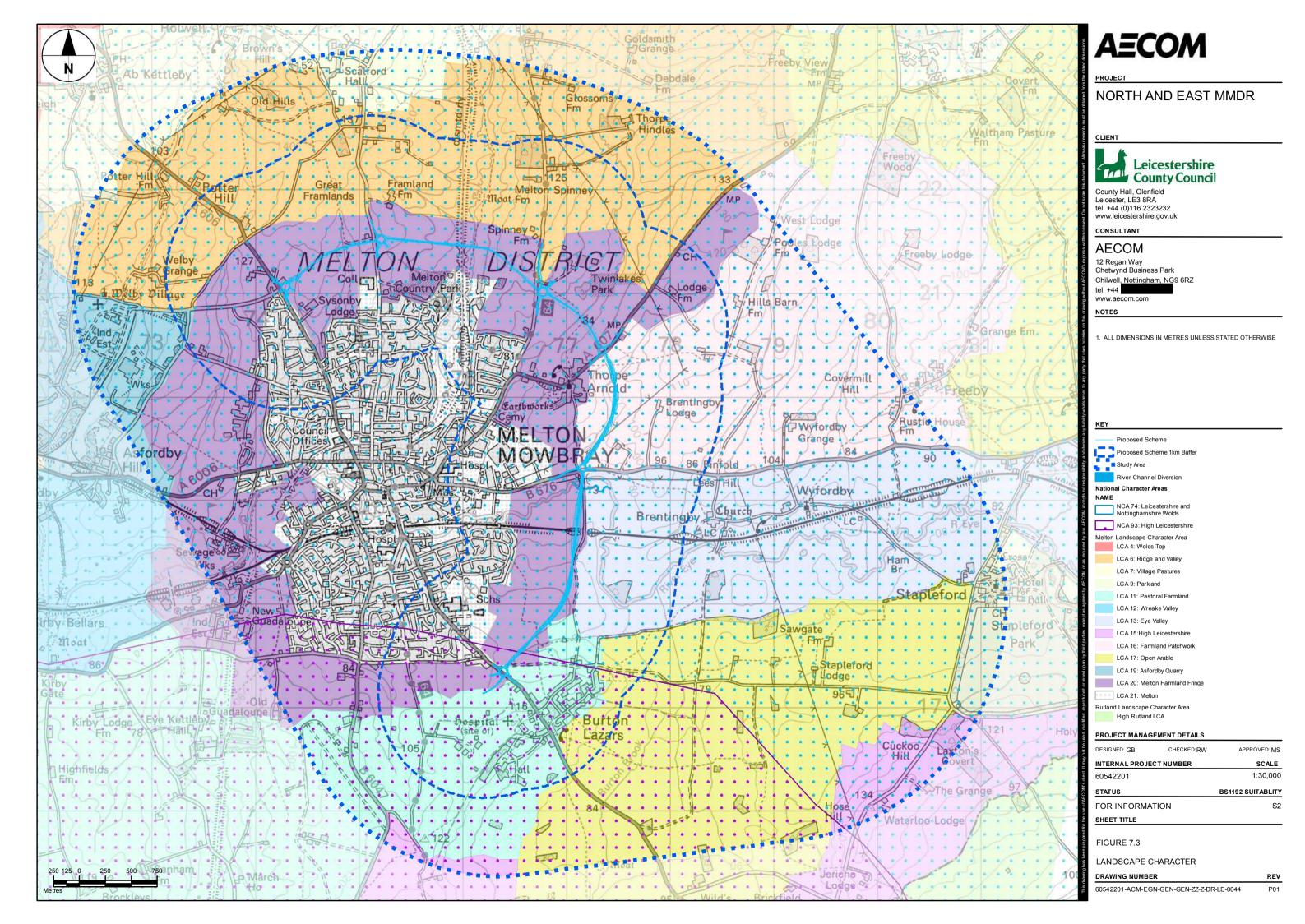
- 5.1.4 Elsewhere, the scale of woodland planting required to achieve screening and landscape integration has, through consultation with individual landowners, been reduced to accommodate access or to limit loss of agricultural or development land. Woodland planting has been used sparingly and in locations where there is the greatest potential for visual impact.
- 5.1.5 Overall, the series of detailed landscape masterplan drawings is a clear and justifiable response to the mitigation of the scheme and has been formulated through a multi-disciplinary approach, including consultation with LCC as the client, and third-party landowners. I consider that any amendments other than very localised and minor modifications would be unnecessary and detrimental to the successful mitigation of the scheme in this predominantly rural context. Without mitigation or if mitigation is further reduced in scale or extent, effects on landscape character and visual amenity would not be mitigated.

Appendix A Figures

Figure 7.1: ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY AND VIEWPOINTS

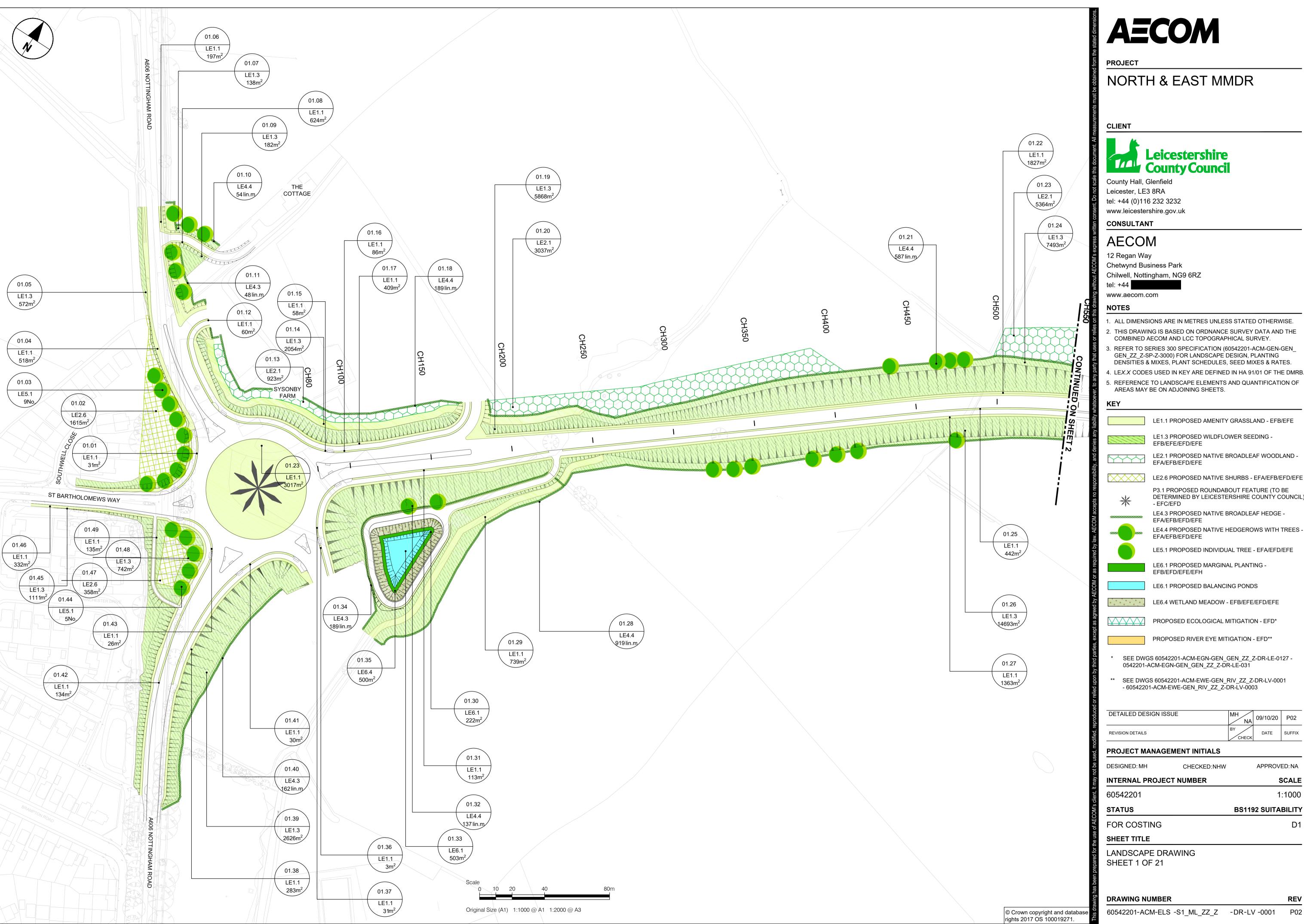
Figure 7.3: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER





Appendix B Landscape Masterplan Figures

60542201-ACM-ELS-S1_ML_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0001-P02 to 60542201-ACM-ELS-S1_ML_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0021-P02



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- . REFER TO SERIES 300 SPECIFICATION (60542201-ACM-GEN-GEN_ GEN_ZZ_Z-SP-Z-3000) FOR LANDSCAPE DESIGN, PLANTING
- 5. REFERENCE TO LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS AND QUANTIFICATION OF AREAS MAY BE ON ADJOINING SHEETS.

LE1.1 PROPOSED AMENITY GRASSLAND - EFB/EFE

LE1.3 PROPOSED WILDFLOWER SEEDING -

EFB/EFE/EFD/EFE

LE2.1 PROPOSED NATIVE BROADLEAF WOODLAND -EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE

LE2.6 PROPOSED NATIVE SHURBS - EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE

P3.1 PROPOSED ROUNDABOUT FEATURE (TO BE DETERMINED BY LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL) - EFC/EFD

LE4.3 PROPOSED NATIVE BROADLEAF HEDGE -EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE

EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE LE5.1 PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL TREE - EFA/EFD/EFE

LE6.1 PROPOSED MARGINAL PLANTING -EFB/EFD/EFE/EFH

LE6.1 PROPOSED BALANCING PONDS LE6.4 WETLAND MEADOW - EFB/EFE/EFD/EFE

PROPOSED ECOLOGICAL MITIGATION - EFD*

PROPOSED RIVER EYE MITIGATION - EFD**

- SEE DWGS 60542201-ACM-EGN-GEN_GEN_ZZ_Z-DR-LE-0127 -0542201-ACM-EGN-GEN_GEN_ZZ_Z-DR-LE-031
- SEE DWGS 60542201-ACM-EWE-GEN_RIV_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0001 - 60542201-ACM-EWE-GEN_RIV_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0003

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT INITIALS

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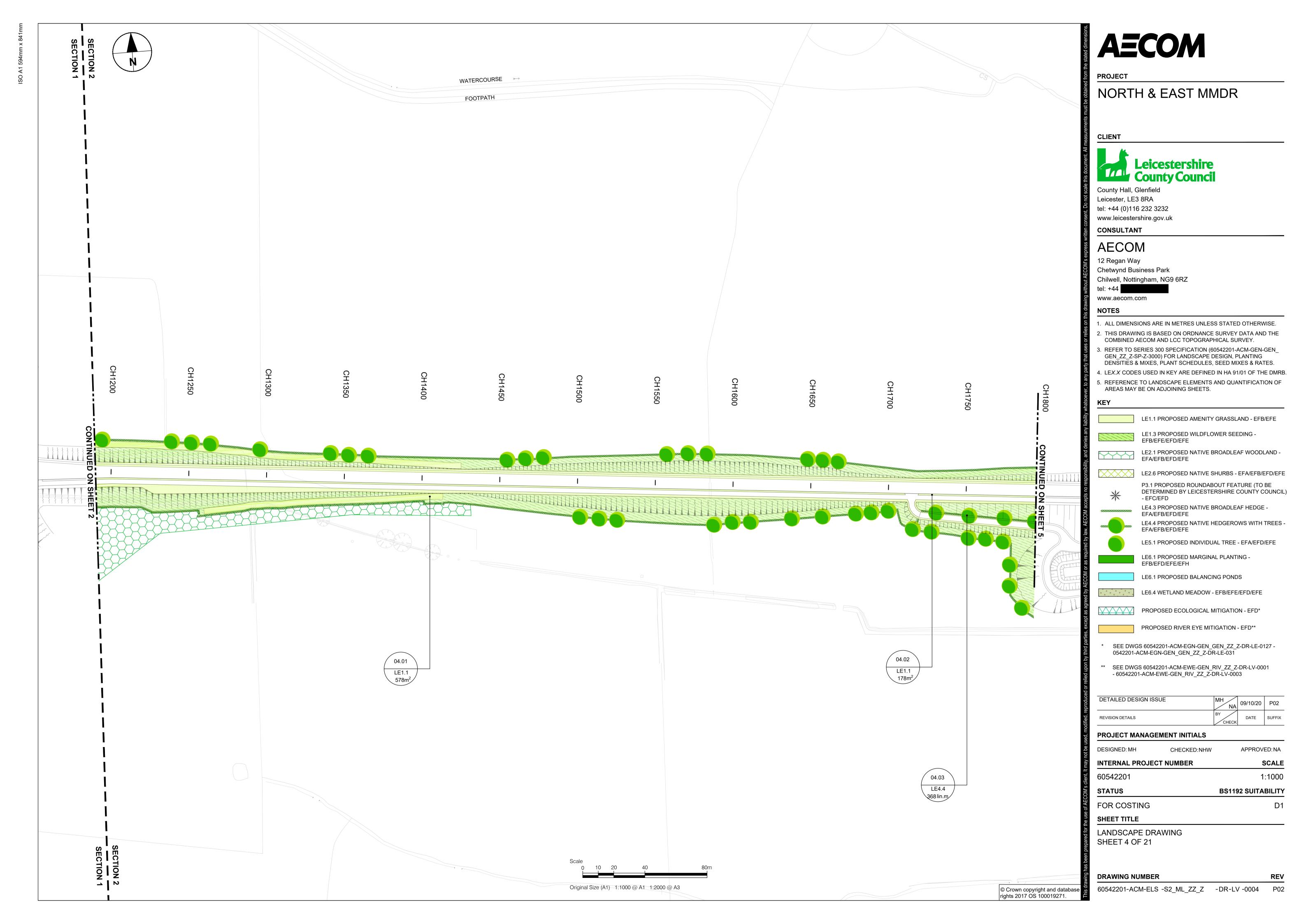
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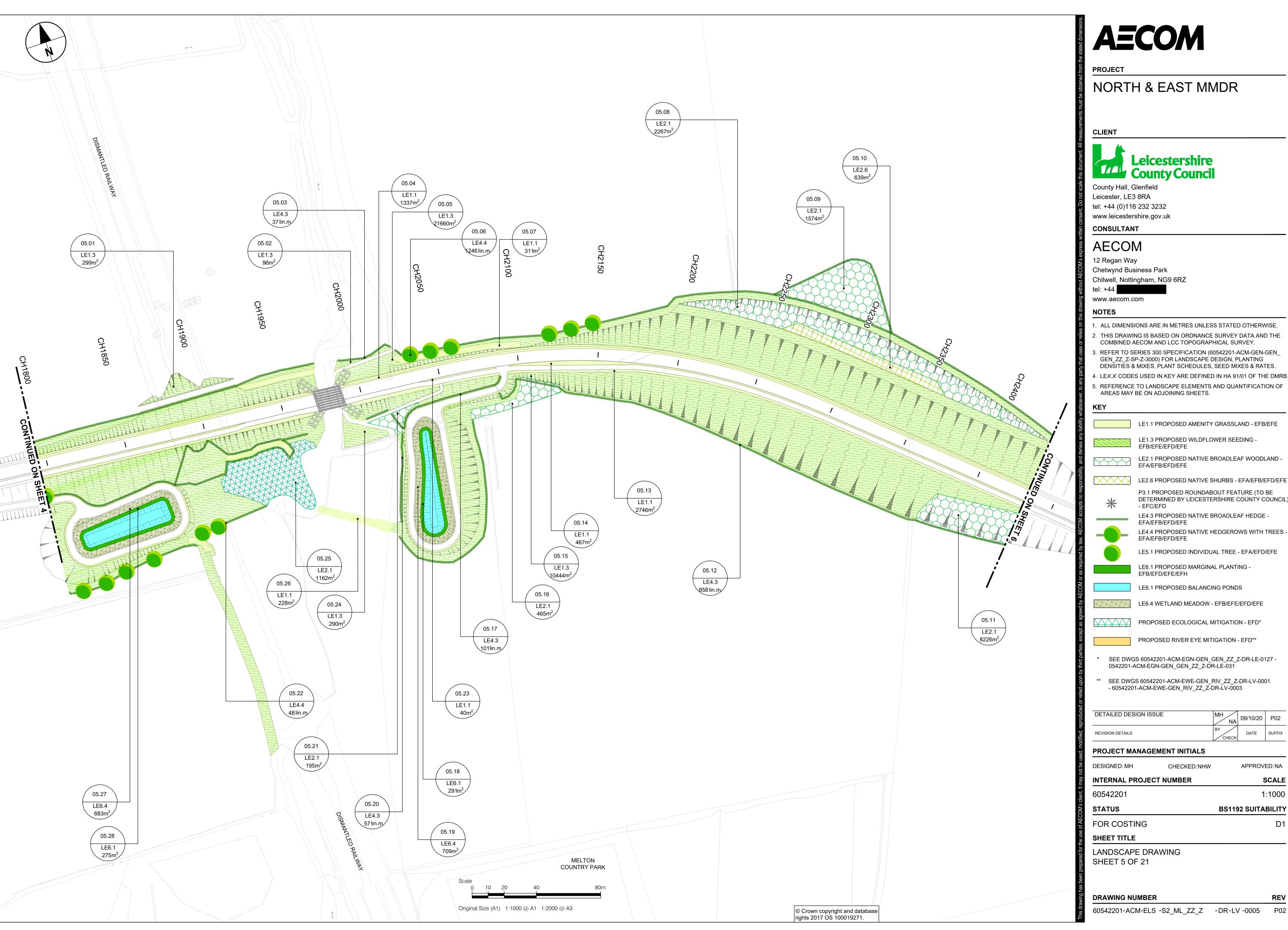
LANDSCAPE DRAWING

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- . LEX.X CODES USED IN KEY ARE DEFINED IN HA 91/01 OF THE DMRB.
- 5. REFERENCE TO LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS AND QUANTIFICATION OF AREAS MAY BE ON ADJOINING SHEETS.

LE1.1 PROPOSED AMENITY GRASSLAND - EFB/EFE

LE1.3 PROPOSED WILDFLOWER SEEDING -EFB/EFE/EFD/EFE

LE2.1 PROPOSED NATIVE BROADLEAF WOODLAND -EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE

LE2.6 PROPOSED NATIVE SHURBS - EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE P3.1 PROPOSED ROUNDABOUT FEATURE (TO BE

> LE4.3 PROPOSED NATIVE BROADLEAF HEDGE -EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE

EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE LE5.1 PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL TREE - EFA/EFD/EFE

LE6.1 PROPOSED MARGINAL PLANTING -EFB/EFD/EFE/EFH

LE6.1 PROPOSED BALANCING PONDS

LE6.4 WETLAND MEADOW - EFB/EFE/EFD/EFE

PROPOSED RIVER EYE MITIGATION - EFD**

SEE DWGS 60542201-ACM-EGN-GEN_GEN_ZZ_Z-DR-LE-0127 -0542201-ACM-EGN-GEN_GEN_ZZ_Z-DR-LE-031

SEE DWGS 60542201-ACM-EWE-GEN_RIV_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0001 - 60542201-ACM-EWE-GEN_RIV_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0003

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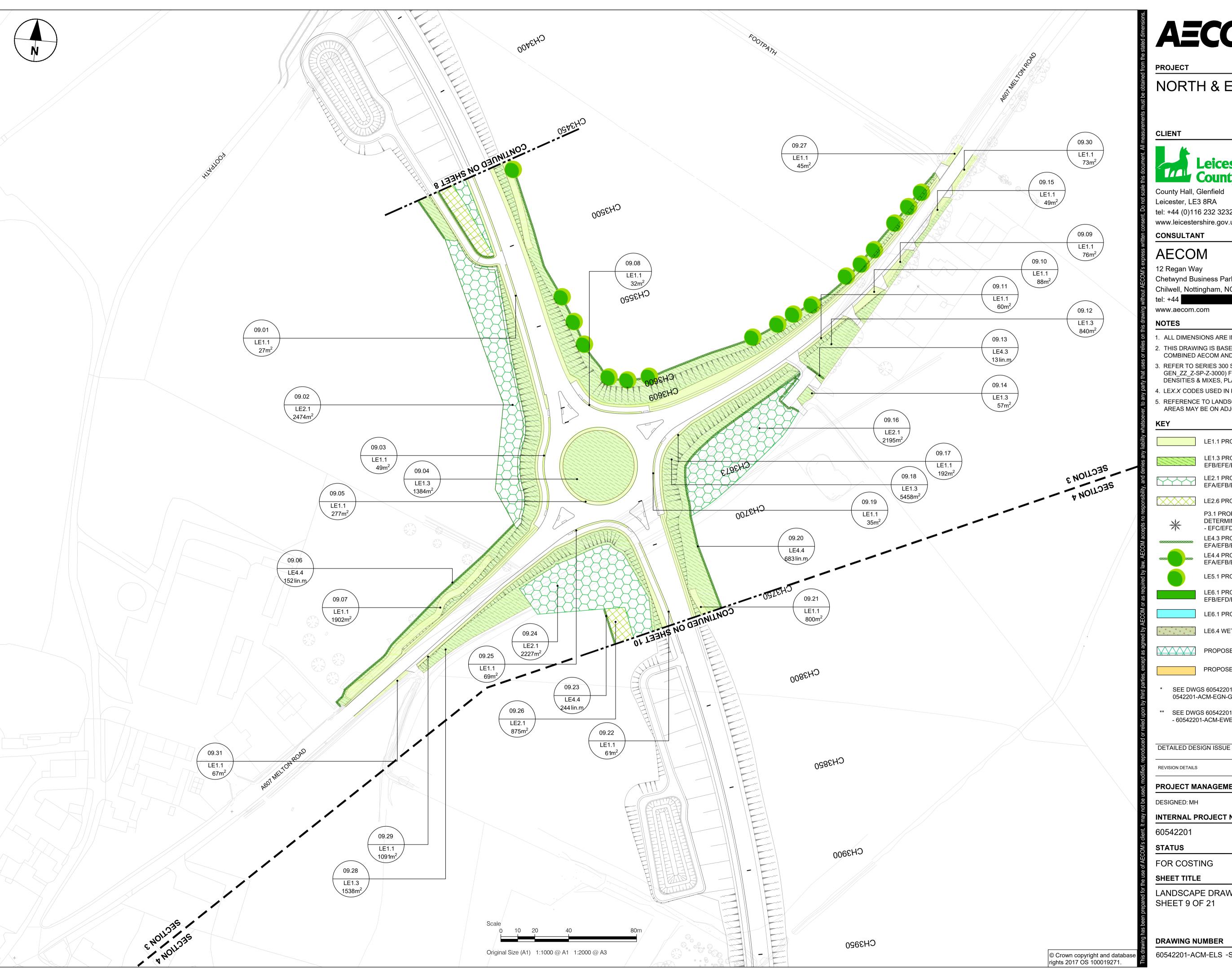
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EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE

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LE2.6 PROPOSED NATIVE SHURBS - EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE

P3.1 PROPOSED ROUNDABOUT FEATURE (TO BE - EFC/EFD

LE4.3 PROPOSED NATIVE BROADLEAF HEDGE -EFA/EFB/EFD/EFE LE4.4 PROPOSED NATIVE HEDGEROWS WITH TREES -

LE5.1 PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL TREE - EFA/EFD/EFE

LE6.1 PROPOSED MARGINAL PLANTING -EFB/EFD/EFE/EFH

LE6.1 PROPOSED BALANCING PONDS

LE6.4 WETLAND MEADOW - EFB/EFE/EFD/EFE

PROPOSED ECOLOGICAL MITIGATION - EFD*

PROPOSED RIVER EYE MITIGATION - EFD**

- SEE DWGS 60542201-ACM-EGN-GEN_GEN_ZZ_Z-DR-LE-0127 -0542201-ACM-EGN-GEN_GEN_ZZ_Z-DR-LE-031
- SEE DWGS 60542201-ACM-EWE-GEN_RIV_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0001 60542201-ACM-EWE-GEN_RIV_ZZ_Z-DR-LV-0003

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LANDSCAPE DRAWING SHEET 9 OF 21

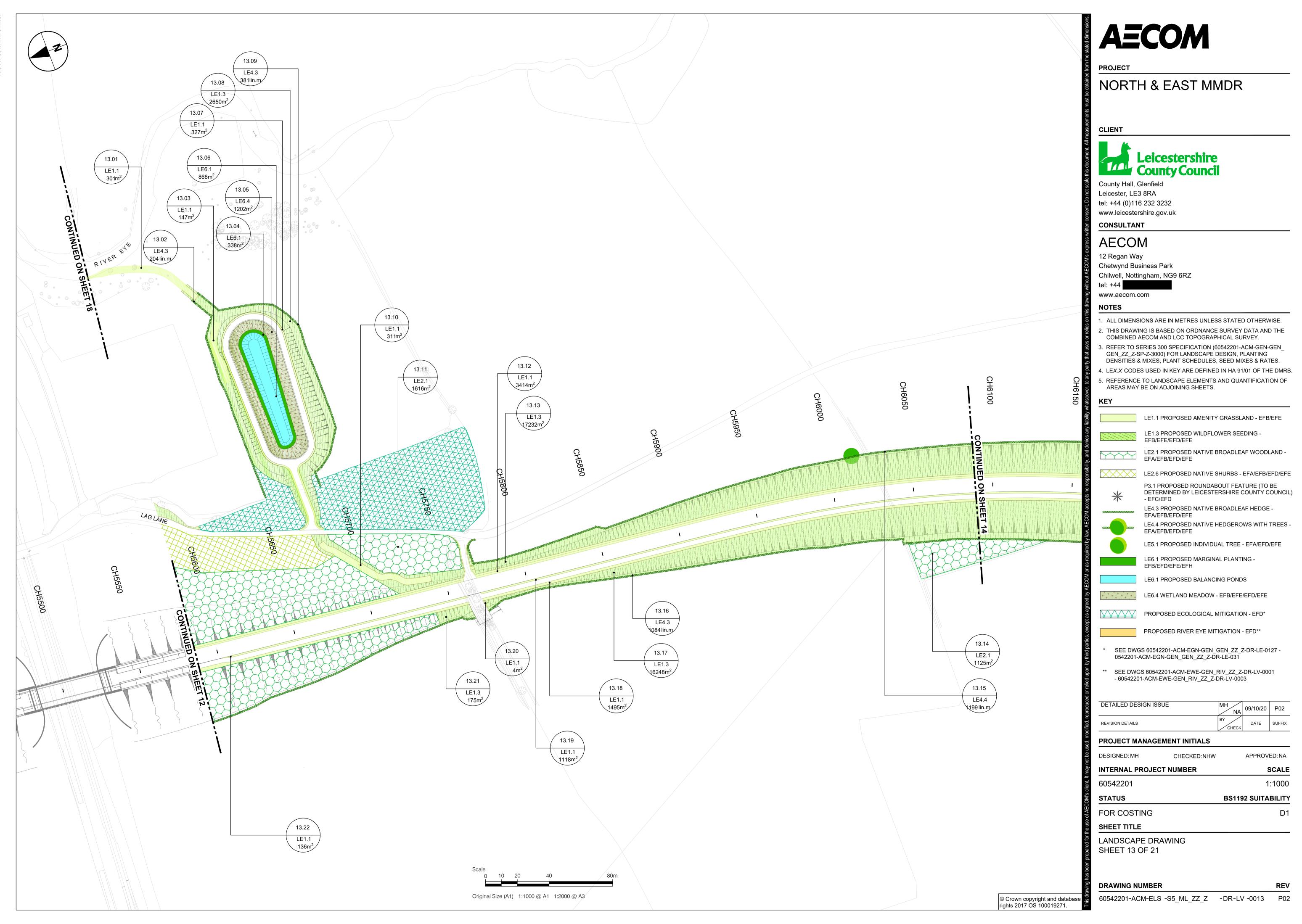
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