

Development Management Handbook: Landscape and Habitat Management Plan Roseburn Corridor

Planning Committee
15 May 2008

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present the Landscape and Habitat Management Plan for the Roseburn Corridor in respect of the Edinburgh Tram Project for Committee approval.

2 Summary

- 2.1 The Landscape and Habitat Management Plan for the Roseburn corridor sets out appropriate protection and mitigation measures as the tram is constructed, together with a sustainable long term management plan.

3 Main Report

The Edinburgh Tram (Line One) Act 2006

- 3.1 The Edinburgh Tram (Line One) Act 2006 (the Act), states in Section 68, Landscape and Habitat Management Plan part (1) that "The authorised undertaker shall not commence any of the scheduled works described as Work No. 12 in schedule 1 until the Landscape and Habitat Management Plan has been submitted to and approved by the planning authority."
- 3.2 The Act places a duty on the undertaker to provide the following:
- (a) details of the trees to be removed and retained, including any proposed pruning, lopping and topping of trees to be retained and the species, specification and location of any replacement trees;
 - (b) details of the proposed accesses and finishes of such accesses to and from the tramroad and the cycle track and walkway adjacent to the tramroad, all comprised in Work No. 12;
 - (c) the locations of noise barriers, fences, lighting and other street furniture;

- (d) details of the location and species of existing planting to be retained;
- (e) schedules and plans of proposed planting, including details of species, sizes, proposed numbers, planting density and location;
- (f) proposals for maintaining the landscaping; and
- (g) a plan, to be annexed as a confidential annex to the landscape and habitat management plan, to mitigate any adverse impact on the habitat of badgers.

And in Section 68 (3) that:

The authorised undertaker shall employ all reasonably practicable means to ensure that:

- (a) not less than one tree is planted for each tree that is removed;
- (b) the tramroad comprised in Work No. 12 is constructed of a track form having a significant proportion of its surface finish in grass or similar;
- (c) there is at least one access point adequate for use by emergency vehicles for each third of the cycle track and walkway adjacent to the tramroad comprised in Work No. 12;
- (d) there is no detrimental impact on the adequacy of the existing drainage system comprised in Work No. 12.

And in Section 68 (4) that:

Prior to the submission of the landscape and habitat management plan to the planning authority for approval in accordance with subsection (1) of this section, the authorised undertaker shall consult with Scottish Natural Heritage and the emergency services in the preparation of the Landscape and Habitat Management Plan.

The Landscape and Habitat Management Plan

3.3 The response from the undertakers to the Act was to instruct consultants to develop a technical working document that purified the requirements of the Act. This document sets out the principle of the management of the Roseburn Corridor by providing the following:

- A full and detailed tree and shrub survey. This identifies all existing tree and scrub individually by giving each a unique tag number. This survey goes on to identify species, size, condition and management recommendations. This survey also explains whether the tree or shrub will be required to be felled as a consequence of Tram construction. A total of 467 have been identified for removal with replacement planting of 2665 trees being planted. A net gain of 2198 trees and shrubs will be achieved.

- Details of the proposed accesses and finishes of such accesses to and from the tramroad and the cycle track and walkway adjacent to the tramroad are as identified in the landscape plans. The important element is that the track bed will be grass surfaced. Other surfaces will be traditional black top.
- The locations of noise barriers, fences, lighting and other street furniture. Through the design process of the running stock and the tram bed, it is concluded that the emitted noise from the Tram would be no greater than the maximum decibel rating identified in the Parliamentary Bill, so no noise barriers will be required. The lighting and street furniture will be dealt with during the process of prior approval.
- The details of the location and species of existing planting to be retained. This is contained within the drawings titled, Soft Landscaping Plans Section 2A Sheet 3 of 3 and Soft Landscaping Plans Section 3A Sheet 1 through to 10. This should be read in conjunction with the tree survey found in 5.1 "Existing trees".
- The proposals for maintaining the landscaping, as detailed in section 3.6 of the LHMP titled "Landscape Management".
- A plan, to be annexed as a confidential annex to the landscape and habitat management plan, to mitigate any adverse impact on the habitat of badgers. A detailed document has been produced titled "Badger Mitigation Plan for the Roseburn Corridor" Doc Ref: ULE90130-03-REP-00174 V3. As badgers are protected in terms of Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended) it does not allow sensitive material that may allow for the future persecution of the species to be placed in the public domain. The proposal has been agreed in principle with Scottish Natural Heritage who as statutory licensing body will ensure that the proposals will be satisfactorily robust and they will have the final say on the appropriateness to meet the licensing requirements, to allow the proposals to be fully implemented.
- The requirement that not less than one tree is planted for each tree that is removed. A total of 467 have been identified for removal with replacement planting of 2665 trees being proposed. A net gain of 2198 trees and shrubs will be achieved.
- The tramroad comprised in Work No. 12 is constructed of a track form having a significant proportion of its surface finish in grass or similar. The tramroad will have grass throughout the Roseburn Corridor. This is identified in the drawings titled, Soft Landscaping Plans Section 2A Sheet 3 of 3 and Soft Landscaping Plans Section 3A Sheet 1 through to 10.
- The requirement that there is at least one access point adequate for use by emergency vehicles for each third of the cycle track and walkway adjacent to the tramroad comprised in Work No. 12. This is identified in Roseburn Corridor – Maintenance and Access Strategy.

- The requirement that there is no detrimental impact on the adequacy of the existing drainage system comprised in Work No. 12. The drainage system as designed will have no negative effect on the drainage on the surrounding area. Indeed, the system as proposed will have a positive influence on the drainage.

Consultation

3.4 The Landscape and Habitat Management Plan has undergone a process of public consultation before being finalised. The list of consultees included representatives from the SNH and wildlife groups, Lothian and Borders Police, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Services, neighbourhood partnerships, community councils, amenity associations and other groups identified with an interest the route. This was carried out by engaging in a number of open workshops in December 2007.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications for the Council outwith the scope of the Tram project arising from the proposed Landscape and Habitat Management Plan.

5 Conclusion

5.1 The Landscape and Habitat Management Plan, as presented, meets the requirements of the Act and sets out the protection and mitigation measures to be followed in the construction of this section of the tram system. It also sets a framework for a long term sustainable management plan that will be to the environmental benefit of the City.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the Landscape and Habitat Management Plan for the Roseburn Corridor.



Dave Anderson
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Appendices 1. Location of Roseburn Corridor - Map

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Wards affected Corstorphine/Murrayfield
Inverleith

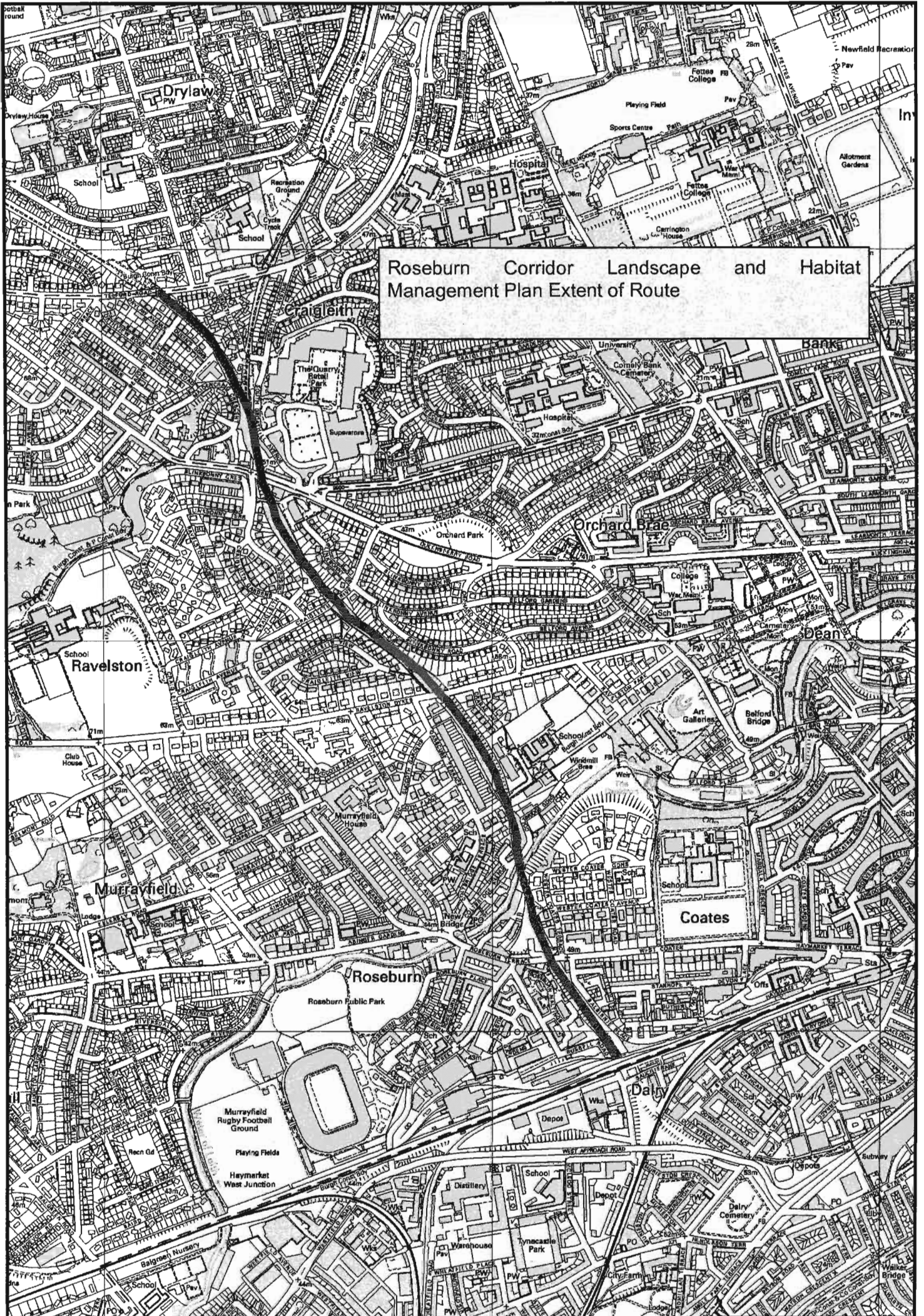
Background 1. Landscape and Habitat Management
Plan Roseburn Corridor

Papers

2. Roseburn Corridor – Maintenance
and Access Strategy

3. Edinburgh Tram (Line One) Act 2006 – Section 68

4 Report to Planning Committee: 'Edinburgh Tram Project: delegated
powers', 18 May 2006



Roseburn Corridor Landscape and Habitat Management Plan Extent of Route