

Ecological Proposals

An ecological appraisal was carried out in April 2023 and recommendations were made to offset the potential impacts of the proposed construction. These mitigation recommendations have been included within the design proposals and include:

- a) Provision of bird and bat boxes suitably located by an ecologist. Bird boxes should include House Sparrow, Swift and/or House Martin;
- b) Provision of lawn habitats derived from the existing grasslands on site by use of top soil in the two areas of grassland;
- c)Provision of a mixed a native species hedgerow around the boundaries of the proposed gardens, joining existing off site woody vegetation would provide new linear routes through the landscape and would be a benefit to biodiversity locally;
- e) Planting of native deciduous trees and shrubs as part of garden landscaping;
- f) Wildlife friendly ornamental planting (ie pollinator friendly species) to be created in landscaping borders;
- g) Provision of a pond/wetland feature in the gardens;
- h) Retention and enhancement of remaining grassland areas of the wider landholding
- i) Removal of tipped materials from the site, particularly the grassland.
- j) Management of native species hedges for wildlife, with reduced cutting on rotation.

Biodiversity Enhancement:

The creation of native species hedgerows along the boundary of the gardens and around the wider site will deliver a valuable enhancement for the site and will provide mitigation for the loss of habitats over the site. The existing fir hedges near the western boundary and within the site will be removed once the adjacent native hedge has grown tall enough to provide visual enclosure. The hedges are likely to improve connectivity for bat foraging and the movement of mammals and insects, whilst providing an important food source for resident, migratory and over-wintering birds. The following species mix provides a variety of native species that are typical of the local landscape and have been included in the hedge mix: hawthorn Crataegus monogyna blackthorn - Prunus spinosa, hazel - Corylus avellana, grey willow - Salix cinerea subs Oleifolia, field maple Acer campestre, Buckthorn - Rhamnus cathartica, Holly - Ilex aquifolium.

In order to create a better visual splay for the entrance drive some of the existing boundary hedge adjacent to the entrance from Winchester Road will be removed. This will be replaced by native wildflower grass (mown as required) along the road edge, with native woodland species planted in the space behind filling the gap created with the removal of the fir hedge adjacent to the proposed new native hedge.

Reptiles and amphibians: Areas of the paddock will be allowed to develop a tall grassland edge habitat to attract reptiles. Where trees are felled or pruned, the arisings will be used to create reptile hibernacula and dead wood piles, located at the edges of the paddocks where the grass remains tall

Lighting
Floodlighting to be avoided, with the used of directional lights shining away from the eastern boundary tree line and off-site hedgerows. Low level lighting to be used in the gardens and driveways.

Boundary Treatment

Individual gardens will be enclosed where adjacent to the road and footpath with a 1.5m high simple timber post and rail fence with stock fencing. Where possible this will be set within a native hedge, with the hedge whips planted in a staggered row on either side of the fence with the aim of eventually the fence being covered by the hedge. Where not possible, the fence will be located on the outside of the hedge.

Where the hedge to Winchester Road is removed and replaced with woodland planting and a new native hedge, a 1.5m high simple timber post and rail fence with stock fencing will be included as above.



Post and rail fence with hedge



Mixed native hedge

Paving

The outer 6m of the driveway where it meets the carriageway will be surfaced with a permeable block paving such as Marshalls Tegula or stone cobble blocks. This will be laid on a permeable hardcore base to minimise water runoff into the highway.

The inner area of the driveway will be paved with a retained gravel system such as Cellweb Gopla or similar, where the gravel is retained in a cellular product to minimise gravel movement and to create a surface suitable to take vehicular loading. Where vehicular loading is not expected the surface may be loose gravel.



Marshalls Tegula



Geosynthetics golpla or similar retained gravel system



LandShape			01794 367224 07564 161553 www.landshapedesign.com	
Client	Old Oak Farm	Drawn By	H. Palmer	Date Oct 25 2023
Project				Rev. B: sightlines added
Title	Landscape Strategy	Scale	1:300@A1	L179/B01