

Landscape Planting Scheme

Dog Field at Graigwood House, Malthouse Lane, Llantarnam, Newport, South Wales, NP44 3EE

Document Reference: GH-LPS-2025-001

Prepared: April 2025

Planning Application Reference: 24/0475 / PP-13103862

Condition Number: 4

1. Executive Summary

This comprehensive planting scheme outlines the proposed soft landscaping enhancements for the dog exercise field at Graigwood House. The scheme has been designed to discharge the relevant planning condition [4] whilst delivering measurable benefits including enhanced biodiversity, visual amenity improvements, ecological resilience, and effective landscape integration with the surrounding area.

The proposals prioritise native species selection to support local wildlife corridors and complement the existing landscape character of the wider Llantarnam area.

2. Site Context and Objectives

2.1 Site Description

The site comprises a dog exercise field located within the grounds of Graigwood House, bounded by existing fencing and adjacent to a natural watercourse (brook). The eastern portion of the field has been identified as suitable for

specimen tree planting, whilst perimeter areas will accommodate wildflower meadow establishment and native hedgerow planting.

2.2 Planting Objectives

- Enhance biodiversity through native species establishment
 - Provide natural screening and restore boundary definition
 - Create wildlife habitat and ecological corridors
 - Establish sustainable, low-maintenance landscape features
 - Integrate development with surrounding landscape character
 - Support pollinators and local fauna throughout the growing season
-

3. Proposed Tree Planting

Five carefully selected native specimen trees will be established in the eastern field area to provide shade, seasonal interest, and valuable wildlife habitat:

3.1 Tree Species and Specifications

Carpinus betulus (Common Hornbeam)

- Quantity: 1 specimen
- Size at planting: Height 350–400cm, Girth 12–14cm
- Characteristics: Excellent screening tree, attractive autumn colour, supports diverse wildlife
- Soil requirements: tolerant of various conditions

Salix caprea (Goat Willow)

- Quantity: 1 specimen
- Size at planting: Height 350–400cm, Girth 14–16cm

- Characteristics: Important early nectar source, supports numerous moth and butterfly species
- Soil requirements: Tolerant of waterlogged conditions, ideal for brook proximity

Sorbus stenophylla (Llanthony Whitebeam)

- Quantity: 3 specimens
- Size at planting: Height 300–350cm, Girth 12–14cm
- Characteristics: Endemic Welsh species, excellent wildlife value, distinctive foliage, endangered
- Soil requirements: Free-draining soils, full sun to partial shade

3.2 Tree Planting Methodology

- Planting period: November 2025 to March 2026 (dormant season)
- All trees supplied as advanced nursery stock with established root systems
- Planting pits excavated to 3x root ball width, incorporating organic matter
- Staking provided using adjustable tree stakes with protective guards
- 75mm depth organic mulch applied in 1.5m diameter circle around each tree
- Initial watering regime established for first growing season

4. Wildflower and Grassland Enhancement

Two distinct wildflower zones are proposed to maximise pollinator support and enhance the site's ecological value:

4.1 Nectar-Rich Grass & Wildflower Mix (external to field)

- Coverage: 20% of total site area
- Location: Fence line and brook boundary zones
- Purpose: Establish ecological corridor connections and boundary softening

- Seed mix specification: Native species blend including *Lotus corniculatus*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, and appropriate grass species – no need to exclude canine-toxic species
- Sowing period: March–April or September–October 2025

4.2 RHS–Approved Bee & Butterfly Mix

- Location: Low-traffic zones across the field interior
- Purpose: Extended flowering season nectar provision (March–October)
- Management: Annual assessment and supplementary seeding as required
- Species focus: Extended succession flowering including early, mid, and late season nectar sources – excluding canine-toxic species

4.3 Establishment and Management

- Site preparation including manual removal of perennial weeds
- Soil cultivation to fine tilth prior to sowing
- Sowing at manufacturer's recommended rates (typically 2–4g/m²)
- Initial establishment period: 12–18 months
- Management cutting regime: Annual late winter cut with arisings removed

5. Native Hedgerow Establishment

A substantial mixed native hedgerow [approximately 215m] will be established to provide long-term screening, habitat creation, and seasonal visual interest.

5.1 Species Composition

The hedgerow will comprise the following native species in mixed planting:

- *Prunus avium* (Wild Cherry) – 15% of total planting
- *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn) – 25% of total planting
- *Crataegus monogyna* (Common Hawthorn) – 30% of total planting

- *Corylus avellana* (Common Hazel) – 20% of total planting
- *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose) – 10% of total planting

5.2 Planting Specification

- Plant size: 40–60cm bare-root whips
- Planting density: 7 plants per linear metre
- Configuration: Staggered double row formation (300mm between rows)
- Plant spacing: 150mm centers within rows
- Protection: Individual spiral guards and biodegradable mulch mats
- Planting period: November 2025 to March 2026

5.3 Establishment Support

- Pre-planting site preparation including weed clearance
 - Soil improvement with organic matter incorporation where required
 - Post-planting watering during establishment period
 - Replacement of failed plants within 12 months (10% failure rate allowance)
-

6. Implementation Programme

6.1 Phase 1 – Site Preparation (September–October 2025)

- Wildflower area preparation and autumn sowing
- Localised sites prepared for tree and hedgerow planting
- Soil testing and amendment as required

6.2 Phase 2 – Dormant Season Planting (November 2025–March 2026)

- Tree planting with staking and mulching
- Hedgerow establishment with protection measures
- Spring wildflower sowing (March–April 2026 if not completed in autumn)

6.3 Phase 3 – Establishment Period (April 2026–April 2027)

- Regular monitoring and maintenance
 - Watering regime implementation
 - Replacement planting as required
-

7. Maintenance and Management

7.1 Year 1 Establishment

- Monthly monitoring during growing season
- Watering programme for trees and hedgerow during dry periods
- Weed control around newly planted specimens
- Adjustment of tree stakes and guards as required

7.2 Long-term Management

- Annual hedge trimming (alternate sides to maintain flowering/fruiting)
 - Tree maintenance including formative pruning as required
 - Wildflower area annual cut and arisings removal
 - 2 and 5-year management plan review and adaptation [with report submission to council]
-

8. Environmental Benefits and Compliance

This planting scheme delivers significant environmental enhancements including:

- Biodiversity Enhancement: Native species selection supports local wildlife populations and food webs
- Carbon Sequestration: Tree planting contributes to carbon capture and storage

- Habitat Creation: Diverse habitat provision for birds, mammals, invertebrates, and pollinators
- Landscape Integration: Appropriate species selection reflects local landscape character
- Sustainable Management: Low-maintenance approach ensuring long-term establishment success

The scheme fully addresses the requirements of the planning condition whilst exceeding minimum standards through comprehensive species diversity and professional implementation methodology.

9. Conclusion

This landscape planting scheme provides a robust framework for soft landscaping enhancement at Graigwood House, delivering measurable environmental benefits whilst satisfying planning requirements. The combination of specimen trees, wildflower meadows, and native hedgerow establishment will create a sustainable and wildlife-rich environment that enhances both the immediate site and wider landscape context.

Implementation during the optimal planting seasons of 2025–2026 will ensure successful establishment and long-term landscape maturity.

Document prepared by: Hannah James – British Dog Fields

Professional qualifications: BSc Ecological Resource Management, University of Newcastle upon Tyne

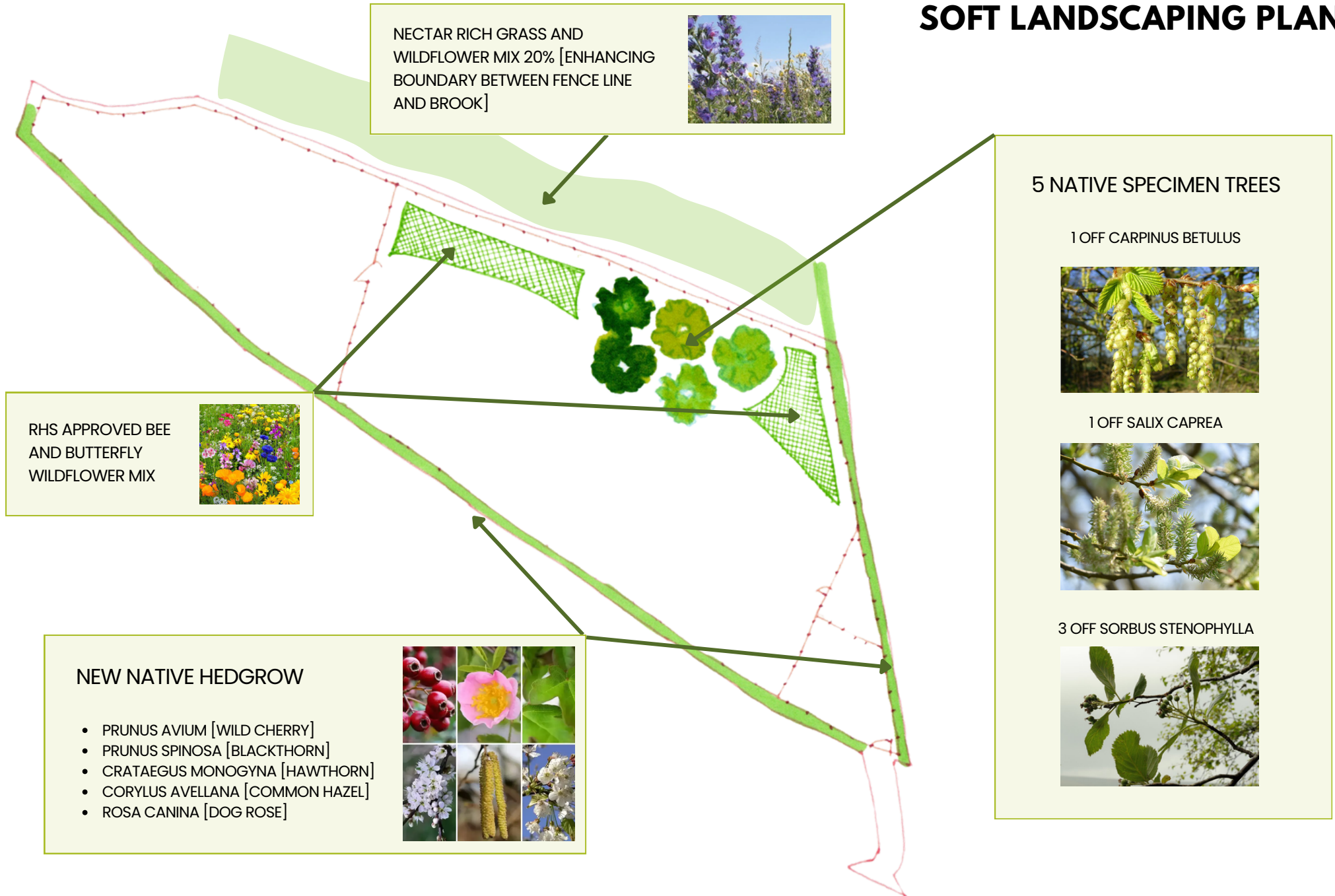
Contact details: hannah@britishdogfields.com

Appendix A – Soft Landscaping Plan

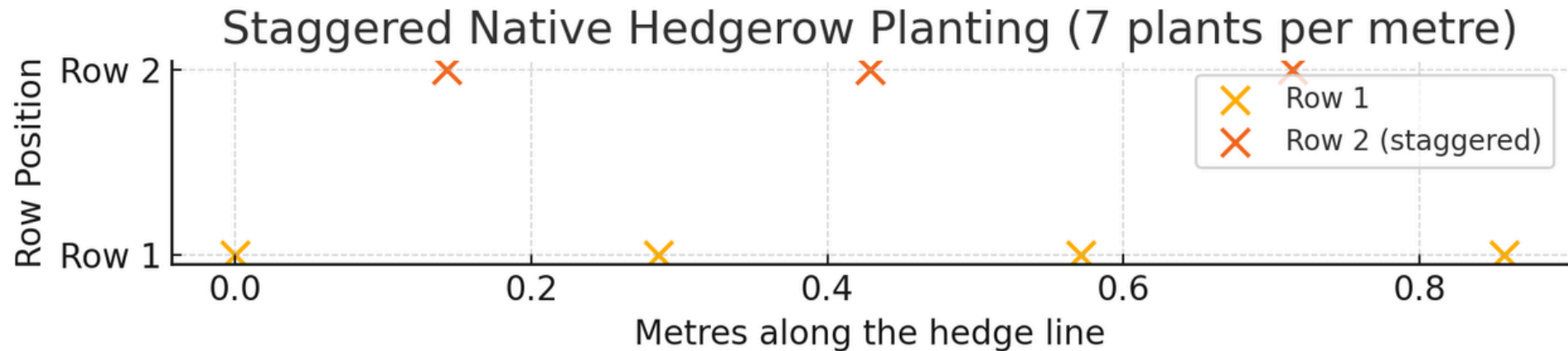
Appendix B – Hedgerow Planting Plan

APPENDIX A:

CWMBRAN DOG FIELD SOFT LANDSCAPING PLAN



APPENDIX B



Species Composition

The hedgerow will comprise the following native species in mixed planting:

- *Prunus avium* (Wild Cherry) - 15% of total planting
- *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn) - 25% of total planting
- *Crataegus monogyna* (Common Hawthorn) - 30% of total planting
- *Corylus avellana* (Common Hazel) - 20% of total planting
- *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose) - 10% of total planting

