

Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

Oakfields, St Brides, Newport

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document has been prepared to discharge the planning condition requiring the submission and implementation of a scheme for biodiversity enhancement at the site.
- 1.2. The proposed measures seek to provide a net ecological benefit through additional planting and the installation of wildlife features. The scheme is designed to support pollinating insects, birds and small mammals in accordance with the principles of Future Wales Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure.

2. Orchard Planting

- 2.1. A small orchard is proposed within the site through the planting of fruit trees. These trees will provide seasonal blossom for pollinating insects and fruit which will act as a food source for birds and small mammals.
- 2.2. The proposed planting includes:

Apple Trees (*Malus domestica*)

- Golden Delicious
- Jonagold
- Cox's Orange Pippin
- Fiesta
- Bramley's Seedling
- Braeburn

Pear Trees (*Pyrus communis*)

- Concorde
- Williams Bon Chrétien

Cherry Trees (*Prunus*)

- Morello
- Prunus 'Amanogawa'

- 2.3. In total 15 fruit trees are proposed to be planted across the site forming a small orchard area which will provide long-term biodiversity benefits.

3. Wildlife Enhancement Features

- 3.1. Additional biodiversity measures are proposed to provide nesting and shelter opportunities for wildlife.

The following features will be installed:

- 6 bird nesting boxes suitable sparrows, blue tits and robins.
- 3 hedgehog houses providing shelter opportunities for hedgehogs and other small mammals.

- 3.2. These features will increase habitat opportunities and improve ecological diversity within the site.

4. Implementation and Management

- 4.1. The orchard planting and wildlife enhancement features will be installed as part of the ongoing management of the site.
- 4.2. The fruit trees will be planted during the appropriate planting season and will be maintained in accordance with good horticultural practice to ensure successful establishment and long-term growth.
- 4.3. Any trees that fail, die or become seriously diseased within the first five years of planting will be replaced with trees of the same species, or a suitable alternative fruiting species, during the next available planting season.
- 4.4. Bird boxes and hedgehog houses will be installed in suitable locations within the site and will be retained and maintained thereafter to ensure they continue to provide nesting and shelter opportunities for wildlife.
- 4.5. The proposed measures will contribute to the long-term ecological value of the site through the provision of flowering and fruiting trees alongside additional nesting and shelter opportunities for local wildlife.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. The proposed orchard planting and wildlife enhancement features will provide meaningful ecological benefits through the introduction of flowering and fruiting trees alongside additional nesting and shelter opportunities for wildlife.
- 5.2. The orchard trees will provide seasonal blossom which supports pollinating insects and fruit which can be utilised by birds and small mammals, whilst the bird boxes and hedgehog houses will create additional habitat opportunities within the site.
- 5.3. Taken together, these measures will contribute to enhancing the ecological value of the site and support local biodiversity. The proposals therefore deliver biodiversity enhancement in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition and the objectives of Future Wales Policy 9.