



## Habitat Enhancement - Overview

The new proposals for Pasture Farm House offer a variety of opportunities to improve the biodiversity potential of the site.

Whilst the main aim is for improvements on site it is also a high priority to link the grounds to the surrounding countryside helping enrich the local wildlife and ecological value of the area.

Following is an overview of the key areas that will be focused on and implemented to help bring about these improvements and some of the benefits they will bring.

New trees will be planted throughout the gardens creating wildlife islands and contributing to the general character and identity of the surrounding area and Dinton.

New & extended mixed borders will be planted with a diverse range of plants improving biodiversity and consequently supporting a wider range of flora and fauna throughout the year.

The pool will be treated naturally via air source heat pumps, or similar, to avoid the use of chemicals and the risk of them contaminating the surrounding ground.

A new, mixed native hedge will be planted along the boundary extending the network of hedges predominant in the surrounding countryside. Visually this will add to the continuity and character of the area. Ecologically the hedges are of particular value to a wide range of wildlife. Amongst other benefits they create green corridors and connections to the surrounding countryside, nesting areas for birds, shelter and forage to name a few.

Wild flower meadows will be established to encourage a richer variety of plants which, in turn, will attract an increasingly diverse range of birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and invertebrates.

A wild flower mix suited to the conditions and area will be selected and one that reflects many of the local wildflowers and grasses. A mix with different levels of planting will be established which, in turn, will provide specific microclimates for certain insects.

The meadow will be left to run high in the summer with mown paths or tracks. Alternating sections will be cut low in midsummer to improve foraging for birds of prey and other animals and to create areas for reptiles to bask in the sun. Varying strips will also be left uncut at the meadow edges to offer winter shelter and forage.

Gaps in the existing beech hedge will be replanted to offer better shelter and passage through the area.

An extended vegetable garden offers the opportunity to improve biodiversity and micro-climates locally. New compost heaps allow for the potential to be self sustaining. Garden waste can be recycled and reused in beds. The compost bins also offer a range of habitats for a selection of animals, fungi and micro-organisms.

Retain existing piles of stone and arisings. These offer potential to support reptiles and other wildlife, especially when considered in combination with the nearby hedgrows, shelter belts and meadows.

New fruit trees in the orchard will provide wildlife islands, nesting sites for birds and a range of food sources. They will also offer a link to the shelter belt at the eastern and southern boundaries.

The shelter belt at the south of the garden will be extended and improved. New trees will be planted of varying habits and heights to create an environment similar to a woodland edge and to introduce a more diverse habitat structure and larger range of species. In turn this will support a wider selection of fauna and flora. A shrub and field layer will also be introduced improving the richness of habitats on offer. Their continued management will be reviewed to initiate a cycle of habitat creation and renewal ensuring the ecological dynamics within the belt is always evolving.

On a smaller scale fallen trees and branches will be left as piles of twigs and leaves to form micro-habitats for a huge variety of wildlife and fungi.

Scale Bar:

0 5 10 15 20 25 M

**Project Title:** Pasture Farmhouse, Dinton, HP17

**Drawing Title:** Habitat Enhancement

**Sheet Size & Scale:** not to scale

**Dwg No:** HP135/114 **Date:** 26.11.20 **Rev:**

### Notes:

1. All dimensions are in millimeters unless otherwise indicated.
2. Any discrepancies are to be brought to the immediate notice of the Landscape Architect.
3. The drawing is not to be scaled.
4. Paving lines are indicative only and represent the intended paving pattern.
5. No machine excavation or storage of materials within tree Root Protection Areas. No tree roots are to be cut or damaged.



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