

Pondtail wood Landscape Appraisal for application case number SDNP/21/05567/FUL

The site is located on the B2117 Muddleswood Road in West Sussex, 1.1km west of the A23 Brighton Road and 2km southwest of the village of Albourne. The footprint of the building is situated within a rural location surrounded immediately by woodland as well as a pond just to the east, with agricultural fields and further pockets of woodland making up the wider surrounds. The Singing Hills Golf Course and Aviation Trading Estate is approximately 300m to the North, Locks Green Farm 0.5km to the East and the Ginger Fox Public House 0.5km to the West.

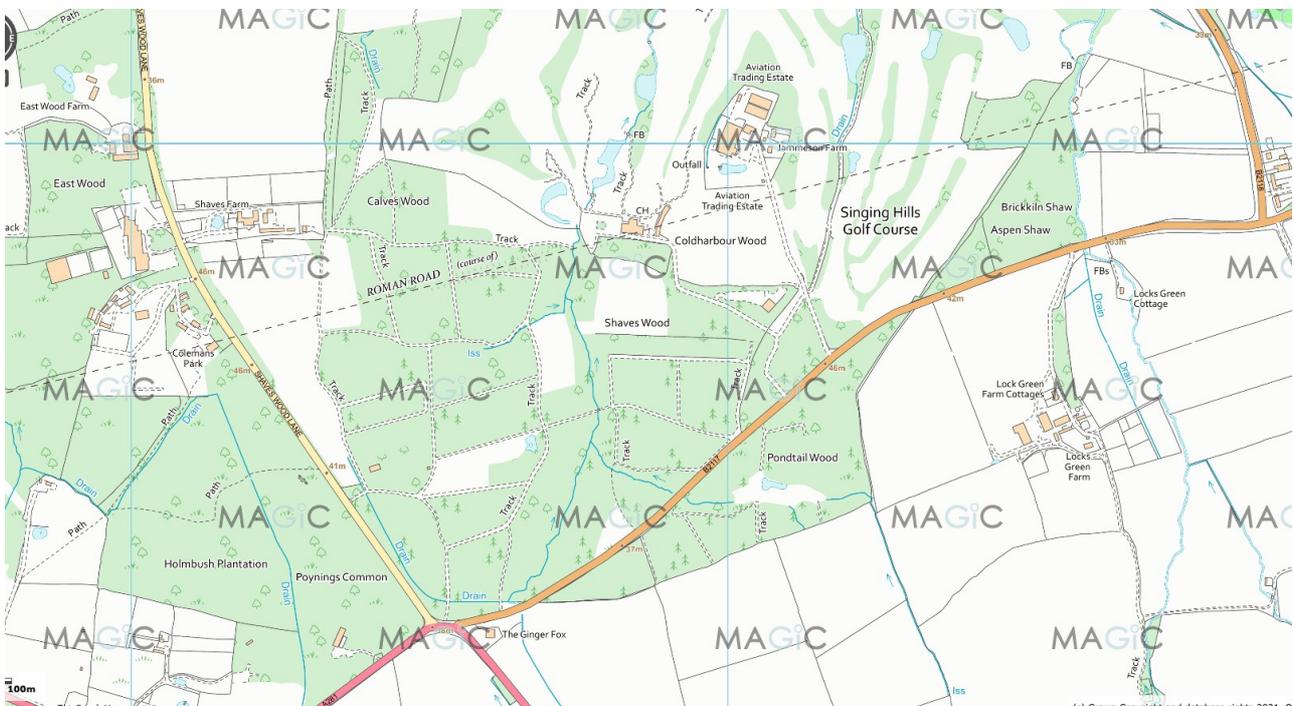
The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TQ 26056 14443.

During the design stages of the structure, consideration has been given to all aspects of the proposed barn in order to create an appropriately secure, adequately sized and aesthetically pleasing finish.

Since taking ownership of the site in December 2019 we have continued the maintenance and management of the 2000 newly planted trees which were part of an enforcement notice requirement placed upon a previous owner. The saplings are a mixture of native broadleaf trees, as well as Scots Pine which makes up the majority of the existing 9.6 acres of woodland.

Whilst the suppliers of the agricultural barn finish the external walls of the building with box profile steel sheeting in Juniper Green colour, we plan to over clad the wall with sawn pine vertical boarding, sourced and cut on-site. Being a natural material, timber cladding has a warm, comforting and eye-catching appearance, enhancing the overall aesthetic of the building. By using the same species of timber to clad the walls as found on the site, a matching of the spectrum of natural tones can be achieved, with colour evolving as the wood weathers and ages.

Pondtail wood has direct road frontage onto the B2117 Muddleswood road but the site of the proposed structure will not be visible to passing traffic/members of the public. This positioning has been carefully selected to not only cause minimal visual impact and safeguard existing views but also to utilise the existing landscape character and levels to allow for a build that has minimal disturbance on existing ground conditions.



Map showing Pondtail wood and surrounding area

To date the area has been managed with the use of equipment kept off-site but this does involve multiple trips, something we endeavour to keep to a minimum so as not to negatively impact the existing traffic within the area. With the approval of the 10 year felling licence at Pondtail, there is the requirement for additional equipment and machinery to be used and the current storage arrangements will be unsuitable. That said, we are keen to improve the existing site office and collection of sheds and materials which are not in-keeping with the character of the woodland. The proposed barn with its vertical, external cladding sourced from the Scots Pine growing on the site, will create far less visual impact and assist in creating tranquility and symmetry.



Existing site office/storage container

In addition to the design features chosen and in line with advice received from the Ecologists in their Eco Systems Services Statement, we will be installing Bird & Bat boxes as well as Owl nest boxes on the building and within the surrounding woodland to help boost habitats for existing and visiting wildlife species.

Bat Boxes

Example	Type	Dimension D x W x H (cm)	Target Species	Location
	2F Schwegler Bat Box (General Purpose) with or without Double Front Panel	16 x 16 x 33	Without panel: Particularly successful with brown long-eared bat. Also used by noctule. With panel: Ideal for crevice-dwelling species: pipistrelles, Myotis species (particularly Daubenton's), Leisler's and serotine.	On trees or buildings and at a height of 3 to 6m. In open sunny positions and in groups of 3 to 5 facing different directions. Please note that once bats have inhabited a roost site they may only be disturbed by licensed bat workers.
	Chavenage Bat Box	10 x 18 x 38	Small crevice-dwelling bats e.g. pipistrelles.	On trees in gardens or woodland and also on house walls. 2.5 - 5m high on a building, mature tree or vegetation line (trees/tall hedge) or on a feeding/flight route in partial daytime sun. Please note that once bats have inhabited a roost site they may only be disturbed by licensed bat workers.

Bird Boxes

Example	Type	Dimension D x W x H (cm)	Target Species	Location
	Schwegler Nest Box 1B Hole-fronted 26mm entrance hole	16 x 16 x 23	Multi-purpose, including: blue-, marsh-, coal and crested tit and possibly wren. All other species are prevented from using the nest box due to the smaller entrance hole.	Suitable walls or semi-mature/mature trees and shrubs; attached to a tree trunk or hung from branches. Ideal points include discrete areas away from predators, such as against walls, plant and metal supports.
	Schwegler Bird House 32mm entrance hole	15 x 21 x 33	Multi-purpose, including: great-, blue-, marsh- and coal tit, redstart, nuthatch, pied flycatcher and sparrows.	Fixed to a semi-mature/mature tree trunk, wall or fence using the hanging bracket on the back. Between 1.5 m and 3 m high, and should be sited higher if your area has a particularly high cat population.

Bird and Bat Box designs provided by Phlorum – Ecology Consultants



Photo showing an example of a barn which has been clad externally with vertical pine boarding