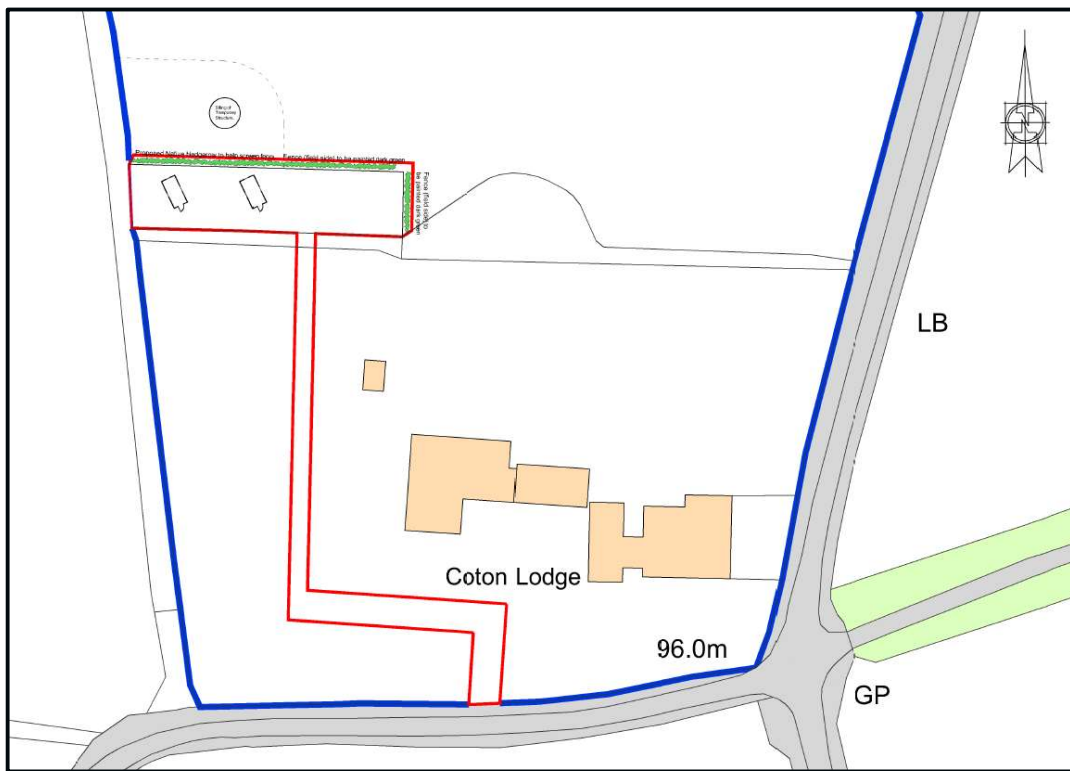


LANDSCAPING REPORT

PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TO SITE TWO SHEPHERDS HUTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ACORN WOOD SCHOOL



APPLICANT: Acorn Wood Independent School

DATE: January 2024

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared to accompany discharge of condition report for the siting of two shepherds huts at Acorn Wood Independent School in Coton.

This information has been compiled to address conditions 4 and 6 of detailed application 23/03428/FUL.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE LANDSCAPING SCHEME

The proposed landscaping looks to meet the objectives below:

- Provide sufficient connectivity to the wider area for local wildlife,
- To help integrate the proposed development into the wider landscape,
- To help integrate the proposed development in the visual setting,
- To help integrate the proposed development into the local landscape character and
- To create wildlife and biodiversity enhancements and habitats for local wildlife.

3.0 OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEME





The proposal will see the siting of two shepherds within a small area to the north of the school. The document looks to provide details on proposed planting and ecological enhancements.




4.0 PROPOSED PLANTING

Native Trees suited the area are proposed to be planted around the wider site.

4.1 SPECIES

Table 1: Proposed Planting

Name	Size
<p data-bbox="365 566 735 600">Rowan: <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="1042 566 1370 600">Half standard bare root</p>
<p data-bbox="357 896 743 929">Wild Cherry: <i>Prunus avium</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="1042 896 1370 929">Half standard bare root</p>
<p data-bbox="352 1193 748 1227">Silver Birch: <i>Betula Pendula</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="1042 1193 1370 1227">Half standard bare root</p>
<p data-bbox="349 1552 751 1585">Field Maple: <i>Acer campestre</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="1042 1552 1370 1585">Half standard bare root</p>
<p data-bbox="389 1977 711 2011">Elder: <i>Sambucus nigra</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1042 1977 1370 2011">Half standard bare root</p>

	
<p>Common Oak: <i>Quercus robur</i></p> 	<p>Half standard bare root</p>
<p>Grey Willow: <i>Salix cinera</i></p> 	<p>Half standard bare root</p>

4.2 SPECIFICATION

Trees will be planted between October and April in any given year; however, they are not to be planted into waterlogged areas or frozen ground.

All bare rooted trees are to be soaked for 30 minutes prior to planting or container plants given plenty of water prior to removal from the pots.

Soil at the chosen locations is to be loosened to eliminate compaction and a hole is to be dug no deeper than the roots but 3no. times the diameter of the root network. The trees are to be placed in so that the first section of root is level with the soil surface. Larger specimens will be staked.

Soil is to be placed around the tree to ensure that there are no air pockets, once there are no air pockets, soil is to be firmed up and the plant to be watered.

4.3 PROTECTION

It is proposed to protect the proposed trees outlined on the landscaping plan will have a stake and proprietary tree tie alongside a shelter as discussed the below image illustrates this;



4.4 ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The establishment, the trees are to be maintained as per the schedule below;

Table 2: Tree Maintenance Schedule

Year	Month	Item
1	March	Shelters are to be checked and maintain as necessary
	April	Apply suitable foliar herbicide and keep are free of weeds for 1.2m around the tree
	Summer Months / dry weather	Water the trees with 30 – 50 litres of water per week during dry weather
	September	Shelters are to be checked and any weeds around the area to be removed
2	March	Shelters are to be checked and maintain as necessary
	April	Apply suitable foliar herbicide and keep are free of weeds for 1.2m around the tree
	Summer Months / dry weather	Water the trees with 30 – 50 litres of water per week during dry weather

	September	Weed the areas around the trees
	November	Shelters are to be checked and maintain as necessary and area to be weeded
3	January	Apply any residual herbicide as necessary
	March	Shelters are to be checked and maintain as necessary
	April	Apply a foliar herbicide
	Summer Months / dry weather	Water the trees with 30 – 50 litres of water per week during dry weather
	September	Weed the area around the trees
	November	Shelters are to be checked and maintain as necessary and area to be weeded
4	March	Shelters are to be checked and maintain as necessary
	April	Apply a foliar herbicide
5	Continual	Spot weeding and remove shelters

5.0 NEW HEDGES

New native hedging is proposed along the south-eastern boundary and part of the northern boundary.

5.1 SPECIES

The proposed hedge mix has been taken from the Ecological Appraisal.

Table 2: Hedge species schedule

Species	Name	Form	Height	Root	Density
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Whip	60-80cm	BR	5/lin m
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Whip	60-80cm	BR	5/lin m
Acer Campestre	Field Maple	Whip	60-80cm	BR	5/lin m
Malus sylvestris	Crab Apple	Whip	60-80cm	BR	5/lin m
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Whip	60-80cm	BR	5/lin m
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	Whip	60-80cm	BR	5/lin m
Rosa canina	Dog Rose	Whip	60-80cm	BR	5/lin m



5.2 SPECIFICATION

Handling and storage - Hedge Plants will be purchased as close to planting as possible, and it will be ensured that hedge plants will be planted within 2 weeks of their arrival on site. Plants will be stored standing prior to planting, in suitable bags to prevent the roots from drying out.

Plants will be stored under cover at all times to ensure they are kept at a lower temperature and remain frost free.

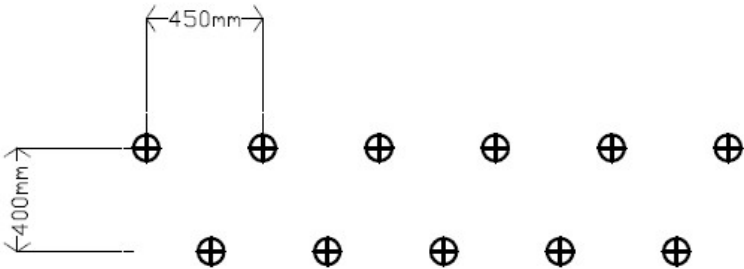
In the unfortunate circumstance time delays mean that plants will not be planted quickly, they will be 'heeled' into the ground until planting can commence. This is when plants are bundled into soil in a group and covered with loose soil.

A non-residual weedkiller should be applied to the area 4 weeks before planting.

Planting - It is proposed to plant the hedge using the notch method; a sharp spade is pushed into the ground close to its full depth and pushed away creating a small gap, the bare root plant is placed in and the space firmed in. The plants are to be firmed down to ensure that there are no air pockets and each plant requires thorough watering. It is proposed that within the garden areas and entrance that the bark mulch is placed around the hedge to help reduce failure rates by increasing moisture, suppressing weeds and protecting from moisture.

It is proposed to do the planting in mid – late Spring, Summer or early Autumn as hedge planting will not be carried out in when it has been raining heavily or when there is a strong, cold wind.

Bare Rooted native species, typically 40-60cm high are to be planted in 2no. rows, at a space of 450mm between plants and 400m between rows as per the below diagram. Bare roots will be dipped in 'RootGrow' (or similar product) to encourage development of root system and plant hedge in species groups of 3-5.



Establishment - The hedge needs to be regularly maintained and be free from weeds and grass until circa three years old.

Until established the hedge is to be watered twice per week to prevent any them from drying out, however, as within the first year, plants are very susceptible to both over and under watering. As such the watering will be altered as necessary.

The hedge is to be fertilised annually using organic matter or an inorganic fertiliser.

5.3 PROTECTION

It is proposed to protect the plants within the hedge using 45cm rabbit spiral guards (Tubex spiral guards, or similar), as pictured below;

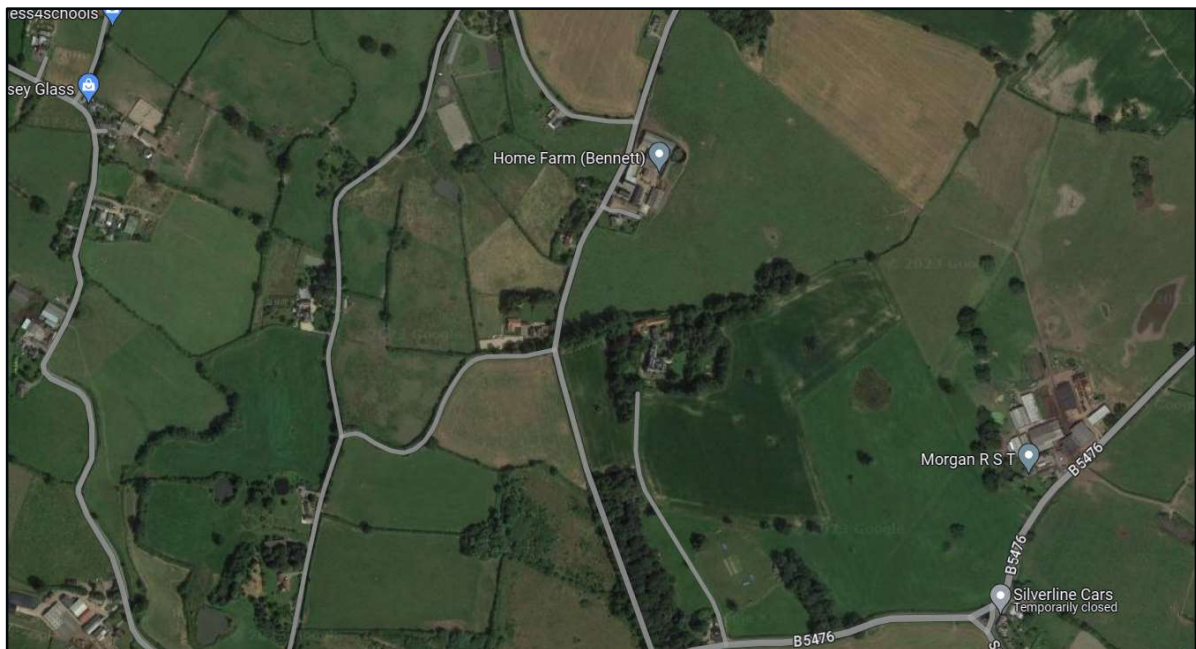


6.0 BIODIVERSITY

Key objective of the landscaping design is to enhance the site's biodiversity, this will be achieved through improving the connectivity throughout the site with additional tree planting and other enhancements.

6.1 CONNECTIVITY TO THE LOCAL AREA

The enclosed landscaping plan alongside the aerial image below confirms that the site is connected to the wider area by hedges within the wider countryside.



The proposed planting to would create additional habitat adjacent to existing spinney / woodland to the immediate east.

6.2 ENHANCEMENTS

To protect foraging opportunities for birds and other local wildlife will be placed throughout the site which would include (in line with condition 6 of the permission):

- 3x Schwegler 2F – Bat Box



- 1x Schwegler – 10 Swallow Nest Cup



- 1x Schwegler 9A – House Martin Nest box



- 1x Schwegler 1B – Bird Box



- 3x Swift Bricks – the units are not suitable for a swift brick and it is not considered practical to replace bricks in the buildings but the Vivara Pro WoodStone Swift Nest Box is proposed



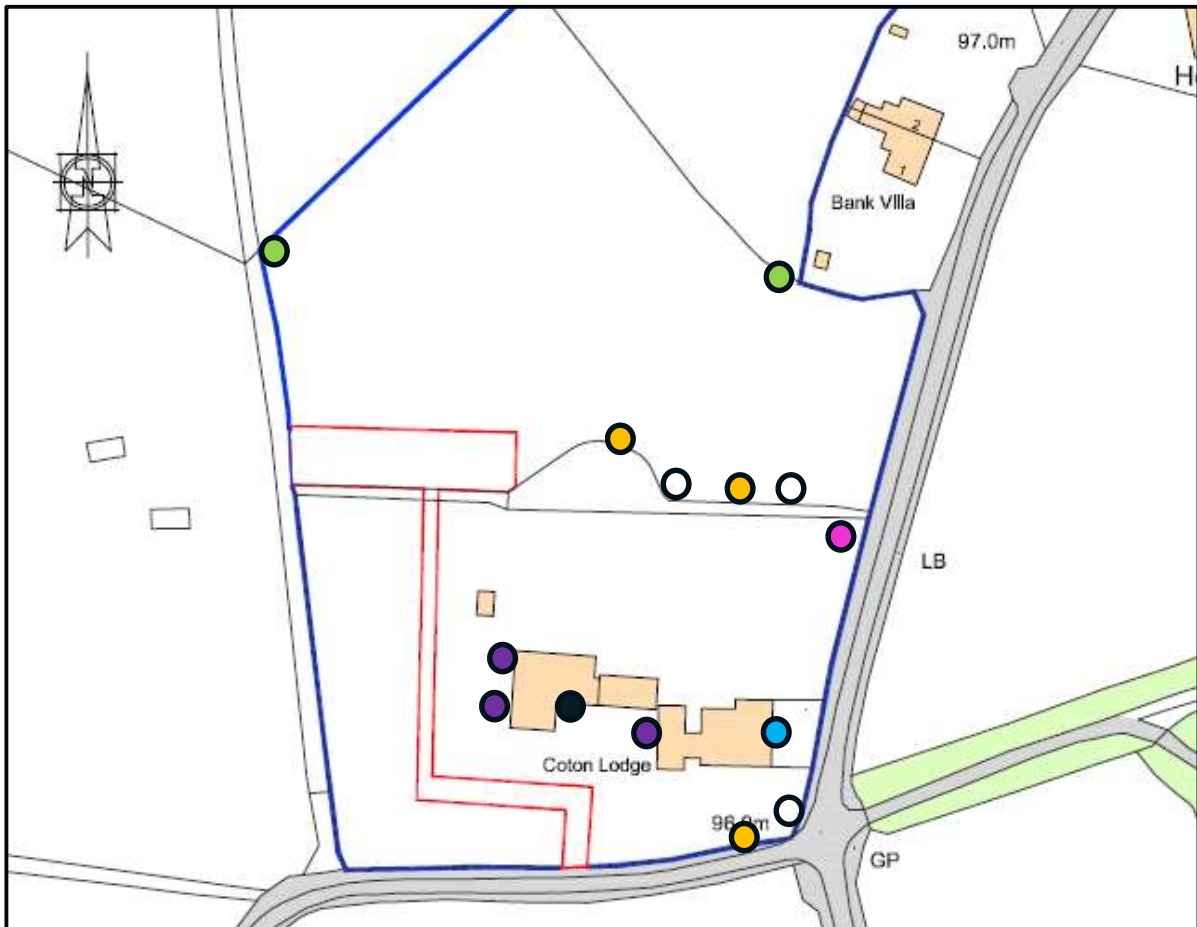
- 2x Schwegler Hedgehog Domes



- 1x Invertebrate House



All Bat Boxes will be located 3m above ground and all bird Boxes 2m above ground



- Schwegler 2F – Bat Boxes
- Schwegler – 10 Swallow Nest Cup
- Schwegler 9A – House Martin Nest box
- Schwegler Schwegler 1B – Bird Box
- Schwegler Vivara Pro WoodStone Swift Nest Box
- Schwegler Hedgehog Domes
- Invertebrate House

7.0 LIGHTING

External lighting will be in accordance with BCT Guidance (BCT Guidance Note 08/18) to ensure minimal impact on bats and their commuting and foraging areas. It is proposed to use downlights, thus keeping the horizontal spread of lighting to be kept to a minimum. There will be a light by the entrance door to each property.

All external lighting proposed will be below 10 lux, orientated towards the ground and controlled by PIR (Passive Infra-red), set on a short timer.

2700°K to 3000°K LED light bulbs will be used, which will provide a warm white light, which will have the least impact on bats and invertebrates.

The proposed external lighting will be directed away from any vegetated boundary features to retain dark corridors for commuting bats, plus there will be no direct illumination of any enhancement features erected for bats.

The external lighting will be kept to a minimum and only positioned outside of the doorways of the huts.

