

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

The landscape strategy seeks to integrate the development into the enclosed, wooded and hedged character of the local landscape, while strengthening boundary screening and ecological connectivity.

Retain the existing landform, including the screening effect of the ridgeline broadly aligned with Bramble Lane. Avoid unnecessary regrading or artificial bunding.

Retain and protect existing boundary vegetation and trees throughout construction, reinforcing gaps where required with locally native planting.

Establish a broad, irregular belt of mixed native scrub around the exposed boundaries to filter views of the development and reflect the local pattern of hedgerows, copses and wooded field edges.

Provide a diverse hazel-rich planting structure incorporating hawthorn, holly, blackthorn, beech, rowan, field maple, crab apple and dog rose. Holly, beech and ivy will provide additional winter screening.

Incorporate native honeysuckle, ivy and controlled patches of bramble through the boundary planting to increase structural diversity and provide potential feeding, nesting and movement habitat for hazel dormouse.

Establish native trees in irregular groups and at varied spacing, using common oak, silver birch, rowan and field maple. Trees should reinforce the boundary structure without creating a formal avenue or affecting access visibility.

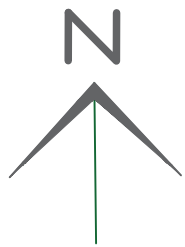
Reinforce the native hedgerow network to create continuous habitat connections around the site. Access gaps should be limited to those necessary for the development, with post-and-rail gates and rural boundary treatments used where appropriate.

Establish and manage areas of neutral grassland using an appropriate locally native seed mix. Management should encourage a varied sward through reduced cutting and the removal of arisings, while amenity grass should be confined to areas requiring regular access or use.

Hardstanding should be limited to the access, parking and operational areas shown. Surfacing, fencing and gates should use simple, visually recessive materials appropriate to the rural setting.

Planting should be maintained to form a dense but naturalistic boundary structure. Failed plants should be replaced during the establishment period, with hedgerow and scrub cutting undertaken rotationally so that flowering, fruiting and winter cover are retained.

Any external lighting should be low-level, warm in colour and directed away from boundary hedgerows, scrub and trees to retain dark ecological corridors.



Notes:
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DEVELOPMENT SITE AREA 4900m²

BUILDINGS 310m²
u1b5

HARD SURFACE 2650m²
u1b6

MODIFIED GRASS
g4 1205m² poor condition

MIXED NATIVE SCRUB
h3h 645m² moderate condition

OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND
g3c poor condition 90m²

NATIVE TREE 7no
u1d.201 small moderate condition

RETAINED TREE
u1d.32 small moderate condition

LINEAR HABITATS

NATIVE HEDGE 185m
h2a6 poor condition

BOUNDARY SCREEN PLANTING PALETTE			
Local native species suitable for freely draining, slightly acidic loamy soils, providing landscape screening and habitat connectivity for hazel dormouse.			
Planting layer	Species	Proportion / spacing	Landscape and ecological function
Canopy trees	Common oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	40% of trees	Long-term canopy; locally characteristic and rich in invertebrate life.
	Silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	30% of trees	Suited to freely draining acidic soils; relatively rapid establishment.
	Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	20% of trees	Acid-soil character with flowers and seasonal berries.
	Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)	10% of trees	Local hedgerow character and seasonal diversity.
	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	30%	Core dormouse understorey; nuts, dense cover and nesting material.
Shrub matrix	Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	15%	Dense screening with spring blossom and autumn berries.
	Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	15%	Native evergreen; year-round screening, shelter and berries.
	Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)	10%	Dense cover, early blossom and fruit; keep away from access points.
	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	10%	Retains winter foliage within the lower screen; suited to this soil.
	Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	5%	Multi-stem structure with flowers and berries.
	Crab apple (<i>Malus sylvestris</i>)	5%	Local hedgerow character with blossom and fruit.
	Dog rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>)	5%	Scrambling cover with flowers and hips.
	Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)	5%	Dense foliage and lower-canopy diversity.
	Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>)	1 plant per 3-5 m	Dormouse food, cover and material for nest construction.
Climbers / edge	Common ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	1 plant per 5-8 m	Evergreen cover with late nectar and winter berries.
	Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.)	Retained in intermittent patches	Dense foraging and nesting cover along the quieter outer edge.
Planting note: Use plants of local Sussex provenance and UK-sourced and grown stock where available. Plant trees at irregular 8-12 m intervals and shrubs in staggered rows at approximately 1 m centres. Honeysuckle, ivy and bramble are additional to the shrub percentages.			

REV: DESCRIPTION: BY: DATE:

STATUS: PLANNING ISSUE

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