Soft Landscaping Scheme

Berthengron Farm, Sontley, Wrexham, LL13 0UY

1) Soft Landscaping Plan

1.1 The planting of native species around the eastern and southern boundary of the proposed building are already established.

1.2 The hedgerow was planted in March 2022. The plants have become established and provide adequate screening for the development site.

1.3 The applicant created an earth bund to ensure that the proposed building will be screened. The bund provides additional height which in turn, provides more effective screening.

1.4 As confirmed by the Net Biodiversity Benefit plan, the established hedgerow around the proposed building was transplanted two years ago. All existing hedgerows and trees within and on the boundaries of the site are maintained. The hedgerow on the roadside provides sufficient screening and has not been impacted by the proposal.

1.5 The below plan shows the location of the native hedgerow planting in relation to the farmyard and proposed new building.



1.6 The below photographs provide evidence of the planting.









2) Hedgerow Planting

2.1 Native Hedgerow has been planted on the eastern and southern boundaries of the proposed site. The new hedgerows have been planted on top of a soil bund.

2.2 The hedgerow planting has comprised of the following species:

- Hawthorn,
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Hazel,
- Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*),
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*),
- Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*),
- Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*),
- Burdock (*Arctium lappa*),
- Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*),
- Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*)
- Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*)

2.3 The ruderal species within the hedgerow will be removed to encourage the growth of native hedging plants. In order to fill gaps within the hedgerow, a mix of smaller native tree and hedge species will be planted. The following plants will be planted within the gaps:

- Hawthorn
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*)
- Hazel
- Dog Rose (*Rosa canina agg.*)
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
- Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*)
- Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*)

2.4 The hedgerow has been planted in a staggered, mixed assortment. The plants were 80 – 100 cm bare root whips (1 + 1).

2.5 The fencing around the hedgerow has been put up to protect the plants from pest damage and livestock. This will assist with the screening of the

development, helping to integrate the new planting within the surrounding landscape.

2.6 The hedgerows get watered in times of dry weather and will receive slow-release fertiliser to aid growth at the end of the growing seasons.

3) Wildlife Enhancement

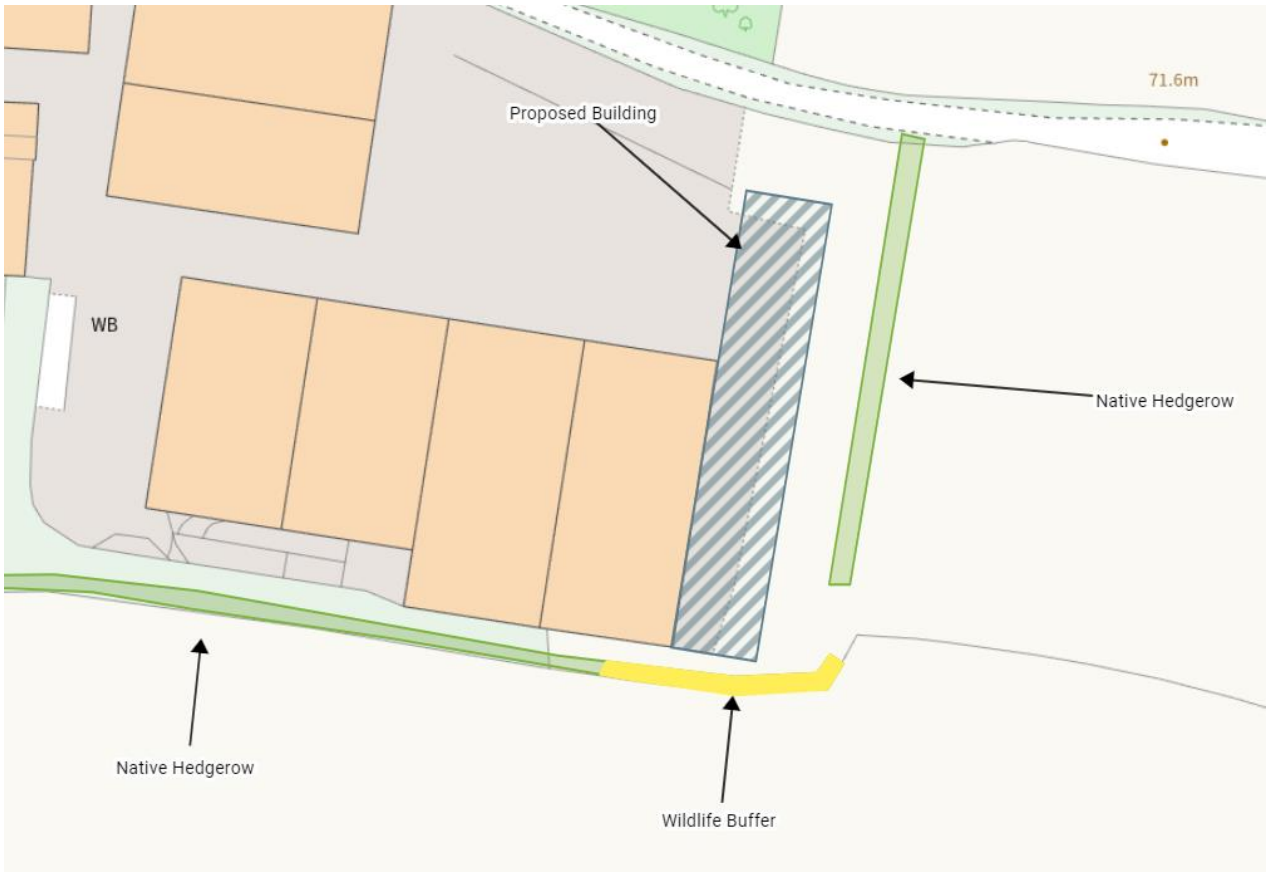
3.1 Artificial nesting features will be erected on the newly constructed building. The following boxes will be added:

- 1 Open fronted bird box
- 1 Hole fronted bird box
- 3 Swallow nest cups
- 1 Woodstone Beaumaris bat box

3.2 The plan below sets out the location for the proposed boxes.



3.3 In addition, a wildlife buffer is proposed to the south of the building.



3.4 The wildlife buffer will be created on the embankment (shown above in yellow). The embankment is to be seeded with a seed mix containing plant species such as Common Poppy (Papaver rhoeas), Cornflower (Centaurea cyanus), Common Knapweed (Centaurea nigra), Ox-eye Daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare), Meadow Buttercup (Ranunculus acris), Scabious sp, Bird's-foot Trefoil (Lotus corniculatus) and Yarrow (Achillea millefolium).

4) Long-term Management Plan

4.1 A long-term management plan has been considered. This will ensure that plants remain healthy and landscape enhancements created as a result of this proposal protected. Any plants which die after planting, will be replaced.

4.2 All hedging plants will be monitored for a minimum of 5 years to check establishment. If die-back or failure to establish occurs, then the applicant will plant replacements. Re-planting will replace the original species and be of a similar size. Once established, the tree guards will be removed if they have not degraded fully.

4.3 Following any cold or windy conditions, the planting will be inspected, and appropriate care will be taken if the plants require firming up or cover.

4.4 An annual inspection of trees and shrubs shall be undertaken in September of each subsequent year after planting to assess the condition and prepare a list of necessary remedial work and replacement planting. Replacement planting shall be implemented in accordance with the planning requirements for all areas of the site and in perpetuity.

4.5 Replacement tree and shrub planting shall take place in the following November-February, dormant winter period during suitable weather conditions. All stocks shall be the same size and species as originally specified.

4.6 All pruning work, whether on newly planted material or existing vegetation, shall be carried out in accordance with BS 3998 where applicable.

4.7 Although trimming will keep hedgerows in good condition for a number of years, occasional restoration work is necessary to prevent gaps developing of hedges turning into a line of trees. When required, hedgerow restoration will be performed in the inter by one of the following methods;

- Coppicing (cutting the stems at ground level) is the best method of restoration if the hedge is too overgrown to be laid because the stems are too thick.

- Laying (cutting stems part way through and interweaving them along the hedge line) has a less drastic effect on wildlife and maintains the character of the landscape but needs skilled labour.

4.8 All proposed nesting boxes will be retained and maintained for the lifetime of the development.