Green Infrastructure Statement

Planning application – P/2024/1411

Proposal: Erection of the Agricultural Building
Location: Burgess Lane, Penley

The proposed erection of the agricultural building at Burgess Lane, Penley, has been carefully planned to ensure it aligns with and enhances the existing green infrastructure on the site. The site already benefits from well-established hedgerows consisting of blackthorn, hawthorn, and various tree species, which contribute to the biodiversity and ecological value of the area.

Proactive measures have already been taken to protect and enhance the site's natural environment. A fenced-off area has been created to prevent cattle from entering the adjacent woodland, which has established a wildlife corridor. This corridor not only supports biodiversity but also mitigates pollution risks to the nearby watercourse, improving water quality and ecological resilience.

The proposed building will be located on an existing yard area, ensuring there is no adverse impact on the green infrastructure already in place. Additionally, the development will incorporate further enhancements to the site's ecological value. This will include the planting of additional hedgerows and trees to create a more diverse habitat for wildlife.

Proposed New Hedge Planting

As part of the enhancements to the site's green infrastructure, a new hedgerow will be established, incorporating a diverse mix of native species. The selected species include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), and field rose (*Rosa arvensis*). This mix has been chosen for its ecological value and contribution to biodiversity.

Benefits for Biodiversity:

1. **Hawthorn**
    - Provides dense cover for nesting birds, such as blackbirds and robins.
    - Produces blossoms that attract pollinators like bees and butterflies in spring.
    - Offers berries in autumn, a vital food source for birds and small mammals.
2. **Blackthorn**
    - Early blossoms provide one of the first nectar sources for pollinators emerging from hibernation.
    - The dense, thorny structure offers excellent nesting sites for birds and refuge for small mammals.
    - Sloes (fruit) are a key autumn food source for wildlife, including birds and mammals.
3. **Hazel**
    - Supports a variety of species, including caterpillars of several moths.
    - Produces nuts, a critical food resource for squirrels, dormice, and other mammals.

    - The coppiced stems can provide shelter for insects and small animals.

4. **Field Maple**
    - Its flowers attract bees and other pollinators, while its seeds are consumed by birds and mammals.
    - The leaves support aphids and caterpillars, which in turn are a food source for birds.
    - Adds structural diversity to the hedge, benefiting a wider range of species.
5. **Field Rose**
    - The climbing structure creates additional cover and nesting opportunities for birds.
    - Flowers support pollinators, while hips provide a valuable winter food source for birds and small mammals.

Ecological Contributions:

- **Habitat Creation:** The hedgerow will serve as a linear habitat, providing shelter, food, and nesting opportunities for a wide array of wildlife, including birds, insects, and mammals.
- **Wildlife Corridor:** It will act as a connective feature, allowing species to move safely across the landscape and linking existing habitats.
- **Pollinator Support:** Flowering species will enhance the foraging opportunities for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, which are essential for maintaining local ecosystems.
- **Seasonal Resources:** The hedge will provide year-round benefits, from spring blossoms for pollinators to autumn fruits and winter shelter for wildlife.

The creation of this diverse hedgerow will not only complement the existing green infrastructure but also enhance the site's overall ecological value, supporting a thriving and interconnected natural environment.

This commitment to maintaining and enhancing green infrastructure aligns with local planning policies and environmental best practices. For further details, please refer to the accompanying site plan, which illustrates the location of the proposed building and the planned enhancements to the green infrastructure.

By implementing these measures, we are confident that the development will complement and improve the existing ecological network while supporting agricultural productivity.