

**Mr Tom Cliffe**

Oak Mead,  
Golly,  
Burton Green,  
Rossett,  
Wrexham,  
LL12 0AL

## **Net Biodiversity Benefit Plan**

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Produced by



[www.wildbanksconservation.com](http://www.wildbanksconservation.com)

## Introduction

This document contains the details of a proportionate Net Biodiversity Benefit Plan by detailing the ecological mitigation and biodiversity enhancements that will be delivered through the development at Oak Mead, Golly, Burton Green, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0AL. It also details the required 5 year management of these ecological enhancements to ensure their success.

An Ecological Appraisal of the Site was carried out in July 2022 and a Report detailing the findings submitted as part of the planning application process. This Net Biodiversity Benefit Plan should be read in conjunction with that Report.

Development works at Oak Mead consist of the erection of two glamping pods, conversion of a section of existing wooden stable to bike storage and the re-roofing of the stable block and installation of access to the glamping pods. The land in its pre-development state is a heavily grazed horse pasture, part of which was historically a menage that has vegetated over. The Site is dominated by improved grassland and the only other habitat present is scattered scrub in small measure. Prior to the planned development, the site holds negligible potential for biodiversity, with the two mature oaks (*Quercus* spp.) on the entrance track being the only feature with high value for biodiversity.

The development has an obligation to increase the biodiversity potential of the site through the development and this document details the suggested biodiversity improvements to meet these obligations.

Briefly, the recommendations include:

- Creation of a 50m<sup>2</sup> area of native meadow
- Planting of native species to act as screen between the pods and within the Site
- Retaining length of uncut grassland on the northern boundary adjacent to the tree lined brook
- Planting of 50m hedge of native species between the southern site boundary and the existing residential building
- Erection of 2 bird boxes and 2 bat boxes.

## Grassland Improvements

The development plan includes the sewing of a small area of meadow between the two glamping pods and the establishment of uncut grassed margin on the northern boundary.

### Native meadow creation

The creation of a 50m<sup>2</sup> meadow area consisting of a diverse native wildflower and grass mixture will provide habitat that would support a higher diversity of invertebrates and small mammals.

The meadow should be sown with “**Emorsgate Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture EM2**”. This species mix is a perennial traditional meadow mix that is suitable for a wide range of soil types including those at Oak Mead. The mix consists of 15% wild flowers and 85% grasses and is detailed in table 1.

| <b>Table 1:</b>             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Species</b>              | <b>Common name</b>          |
| Common Knapweed             | <i>Centurea nigra</i>       |
| Wild Carrot                 | <i>Daucus carota</i>        |
| Meadowsweet                 | <i>Filipenula ulmaria</i>   |
| Lady's Bedstraw             | <i>Galium verum</i>         |
| Oxeye Daisy                 | <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> |
| Birdsfoot Trefoil           | <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>   |
| Musk Mallow                 | <i>Malva moschata</i>       |
| Ribwort Plantain            | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>  |
| Cowslip                     | <i>Primula veris</i>        |
| Meadow Buttercup            | <i>Ranunculus acris</i>     |
| Tufted Vetch                | <i>Vicia cracca</i>         |
| Common Bent                 | <i>Agriostis capillaris</i> |
| Crested Dogstail            | <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>  |
| Red Fescue                  | <i>Festuca Rubra</i>        |
| Smooth-stalked Meadow-grass | <i>Poa pratensis</i>        |

Before sewing, the ground will be prepared by removing any pervasive weeds and turning the topsoil over to a medium tilth. The seed will be laid in autumn or spring and will be firmed into the soil to ensure complete contact between seed and soil.

### Management:

The meadow will be cut once per year in early September. The cuttings will be left for up to 5 days to allow the seed to shed then it will be removed. After the first year, depending on how the meadow matures, it may be needed to spot treat any undesirable perennial weeds.

### Native planting to act as screen between pods

Shrub species will be planted to act as an informal screen between the pods. Species planted will be plants that benefit wildlife and provide a variety of opportunities for a range of species.

Shrub species to include

- Crab apple
- Buddlea
- Hebe
- Dogwood
- Guelder rose
- Elder

Guard specification:

Each tree planted will be guarded using a “**Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Tree Shelter Guard**” and the holly will be guarded using “**Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shrub Shelter Guard**”. Both will have wooden stakes and re-usable cable ties. These guards are plastic free and biodegradable, making them a more sustainable option than tradition plastic guard types.

Perennial planting beneath the shrubs will also be carried out and will include planting of heather, rudbeckia, bergamot, echinacea, or similar species with a variety of flower shapes providing nectar rich plants to benefit a wide range of invertabrates.

#### Long grassed margin

A 3m wide strip (approximately 120m<sup>2</sup>) of uncut grassland adjacent to the brook and tree line on the northern boundary of the site will be created. This area will be left to grow naturally and not sown at present. The vegetation will not be cut each year but left to fall and create a thatch of dead material that creates valuable opportunities for small mammals. This should be maintained through the pulling of pervasive weeds and may benefit from the sewing of additional seed to diversify the sward in year 2 if the species composition is considered poor.

Management:

Hand pulling or spot treatment of perennial persistent weeds, such as docks, thistles, nettles and rosebay willowherb.

## **Hedge**

Planting of a 50m hedge running roughly east-west across the southern boundary of the site. This hedge will help to section off the glamping area from the retained horse paddock and residential home. Additionally, this hedge will have value for the enhancement of biodiversity in the area. The below specification should be followed for the planting and subsequent management of the hedge to fulfil the enhancement of biodiversity withing the development.

The hedge will consist of the planting mix shown in table 2. Plants used will be of a minimum of 1 + 1 age (40-60cm) and will be planted at a density of 6 per metre in double staggered row.

| <b>Table 2:</b>           |                    |                       |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Species</b>            | <b>Common name</b> | <b>Proportion (%)</b> |
| <i>Crageatus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn           | 25                    |
| <i>Prunus spinosa</i>     | Blackthorn         | 35                    |

|                         |             |    |
|-------------------------|-------------|----|
| <i>Acer campestra</i>   | Field maple | 15 |
| <i>Rosa canina</i>      | Dog rose    | 5  |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel       | 10 |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>  | Holly       | 5  |
| <i>Viburnum opulus</i>  | Gelder rose | 5  |

#### Guard specification:

Each tree planted will be guarded using a “**Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Tree Shelter Guard**” and the holly will be guarded using “**Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shrub Shelter Guard**”. Both will have wooden stakes and re-usable cable ties. These guards are plastic free and biodegradable, making them a more sustainable option than tradition plastic guard types.

#### Management:

The hedge will be protected from any grazing of any livestock by fencing if required. A yearly check of the hedge will take place during the summer. This check will include the replacement of any broken stakes or guards and note any dead trees. Trees that have failed will be replaced the following winter.

#### Bird boxes

To additionally meet the requirement of increasing the potential for biodiversity though the development, two bird boxes will be installed on the stable/bike storage building (See figure 1). These boxes will be:

1 x **2H Shwegler robin box** (or equivalent)

&

1 x **Vivara pro Seville Woodstone nestbox with 32mm hole** (or equivalent)

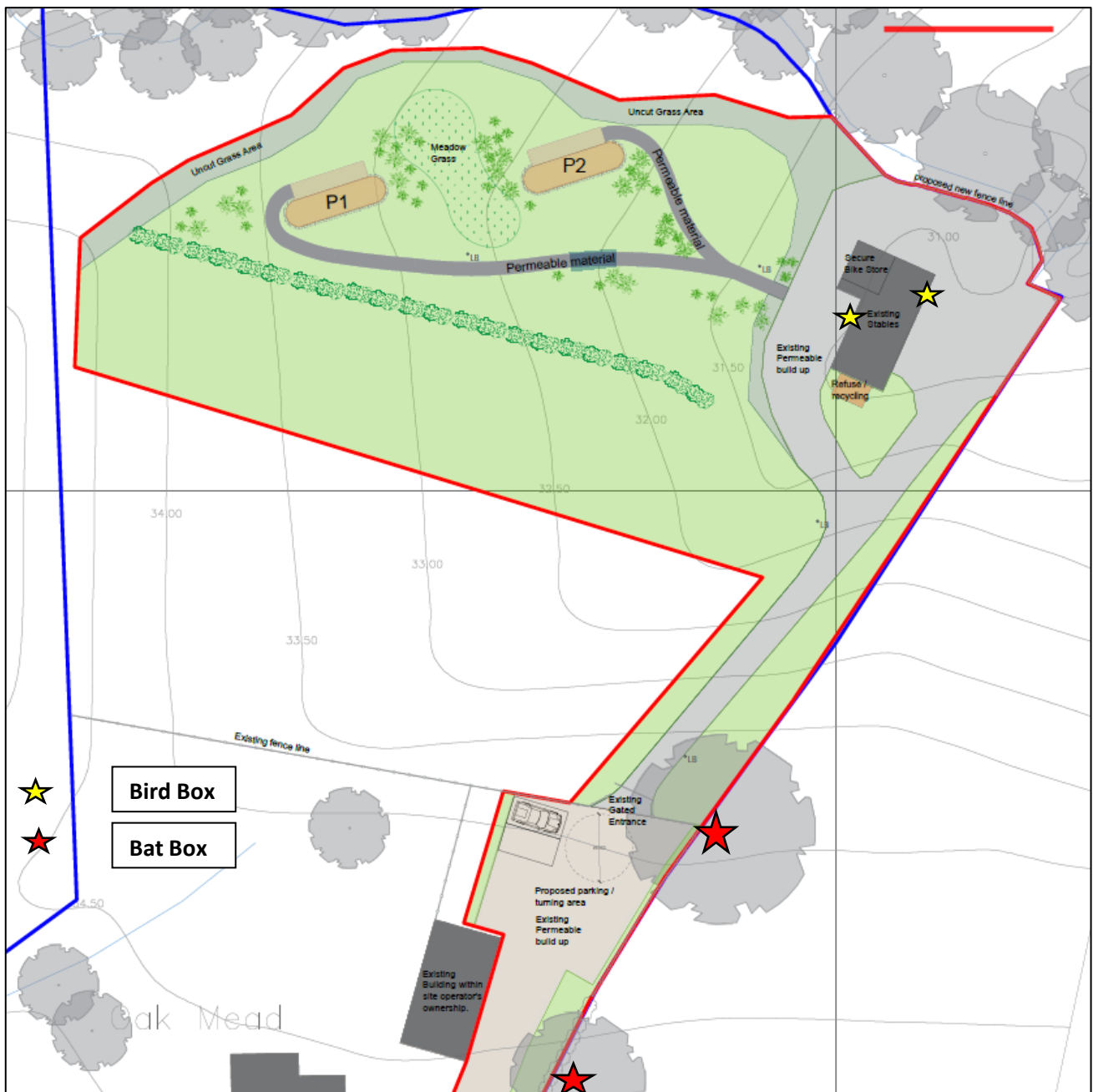
The addition of these boxes will provide nesting habitat for birds which was not provided by the site previous to the development, and will therefore increase the biodiversity potential of the site.

#### Bat boxes

Two bat boxes will also be erected. These will be placed within the trees on the east of the entrance track, as shown in figure 1. The bat boxes will both be of **2F Shwegler bat box** (or equivalent) design.

By including bat box installation within the development, new roosting opportunities for bats within the site will be established. Bats are schedule 1 protected species in the UK, and a large number of these species are also UK BAP species requiring conservation work for their continued survival.

**Figures** Figure 1: The development layout plan with the location of the bat and bird boxes added.



# Maintenance Calendar 2022-2026

[illegible]