

Net Biodiversity Benefit Report - 1025 - Dog Walking, LL13 0LG

Address: Swallows Barn Gwalia Farm, Oswestry Road, Overton, Wrexham, LL13 0LG

The site currently has a perimeter agricultural stock fence that defines the boundary of the field. The intention is to replace this existing fence with the same size mesh but of 1.8m height for the protection of the dogs being walked. The land has now been securely enclosed with a 1.8m high post and wire fence, which was lawfully erected under the permitted development. The fence will enable people to walk with their dogs off the lead, without the worry of them being able to jump over. This service will particularly appeal to those owners who have dogs which may be nervous / antisocial, have poor recall, a disability or may be an area for initial puppy training away from other dogs.

The use of agricultural stock fencing will allow all-natural migration of rodents, hedgehogs and birds without restriction, and the height of this fence should enhance the security of those wild animals from predation. Furthermore, the lack of regular agricultural action will also improve wildlife habitat.

The grass will continue to be maintained and tractor access will be ensured to enable cutting for hay in the future when grass growth is at its peak, and to cut the grass to allow a suitable height for walking. This grass height will also be higher than that experienced under agricultural stock grazing, creating a better and safer habitat for smaller mammals. However, the visual agricultural appearance of the site will remain unchanged.

Dog waste bins will be placed by the access, within the perimeter of the fence and will be emptied twice weekly by the applicants. The waste will then be collected by a licensed waste contractor. Furthermore, the site will be inspected at regular intervals to ensure the site remains clean and clear from dog waste.

Within the perimeter fence there is a large oak tree, we intend on installing an owl box as well as 2-3 smaller bird boxes to home native species. These bird boxes will offer protection from predators and to shelter them during poor weather. These boxes will also offer a safe space to breed and in turn add to the native population.

Along the bottom of our fence line, we have added some additional soil to deter dogs from being able to dig under the fence. Due to the land being higher and lower fractionally in some places. With these build up soil beds we will plant some wildflowers. The soil bed is approximately 400 metres in length (the full boundary of the park) and approximately 30cm wide. We would use a mix of wild daffodils, primrose and bluebells however we are open to suggestions.

Our field is very square with 3/4 of the perimeter having native hedgerows. We have agreed if necessary to continue the hedgerow to cover the remaining 1/4. We would plant in a double staggered row with each plant being spaced in optimal fashion. (See attached photo of double staggered row) our hedgerow would comprise 80% Hawthorn - blackthorn (combined) 15% hazel - field maple (combined) 5% Holly. This hedgerow can be planted during the next few months to allow it to grow a healthy root system before the spring / summer arrives. We would closely monitor our hedgerow, replacing any dying sections if necessary and keep it free from weeds whilst it grows.

All in all, the anticipated results should be over and above that of our Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and are expected to be significantly better than estimated and will certainly ensure a Net Biodiversity Benefit (NBB).

Kyle Hall

