

Report : Net Biodiversity Benefit:
Car park at Glebe Farm,
Bronington, Whitchurch SY13 3HU

Reference : SP/2836/22.2

Date : 20 October 2022

Client : Mr. S. Parker
Glebe Farm
Bronington
Whitchurch
SY13 3HU

Purpose : To inform Wrexham County Borough Council Planning Application P/2022/0496:
Creation of car parking area (in retrospect)

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The information, data, evidence, advice and opinions which I have prepared and provided is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional bona fide opinions.

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**Net Biodiversity Benefit:
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1. Introduction

A car park of compacted aggregate exists within the northwest area of Glebe Farm, centred at approximate National Grid Reference (NGR) 347355, 338850.

Wrexham County Borough Council is currently considering a retrospective Planning Application (reference P/2022/0496) for the creation of the car parking area.

Prior to the car park being created, according to Mr. S. Parker, the area of the land was short (Horse) grazed grassland (and this is supported by viewing freely available (on-line) aerial photographs of the location of the car park).

Should Planning Application P/2022/0496 be approved, Mr. S. Parker proposes to create a 5m wide landscaped area within the north of the car park and to carry out the planting of trees and hedge so that the scheme results in a net gain for wildlife.

In October 2022 Star Ecology was commissioned by Mr. S. Parker, the owner of Glebe Farm, to carry out a survey of the car park and its boundaries and to provide a tree and hedge planting and management schedule.

2. Existing habitat

The car park is formed of compacted aggregate and is bounded by:

- a hedge with trees at the north;
- (equestrian) fences at the east and south; and,
- a small area of rough grass, shrubs and trees and (equestrian) fences, at the west.

Trees growing along the north and west boundaries include Common Lime, Oak (*Quercus* sp.) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

The north boundary hedge is formed of Dogrose (*Rosa canina* agg.), Elder, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel and Sycamore with gaps of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and/or Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

The hedge appears to be annually flailed (or similar) and is mostly about 1.5m high - although there are some clumps of Hawthorn and Hazel between 3 – 5m high.

The north part of the west boundary has a single fence; the south part is double-fenced and a clump of Oak is present between the fences. The clump of Oak is roughly 1.5m high and appears to be annually flailed (or similar).

The small area of rough grass with trees and saplings west boundary includes Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) and Common Lime (*Tilia x europaea*) trees and shrubs of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*).

3. Proposed habitat

The following is proposed:

- a) Existing trees, shrubs and hedge plants will be retained.
- b) The car park surface from within the north boundary will be removed (by roughly 5m) to create an area of rough grassland. The width of the grassland area will taper to about 1m wide at the east to allow the continued use of an existing gateway. Bare ground resulting from the removal of the car park aggregate surface will be sown with 'Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture EM3' produced by Emorsgate Seeds. The grassland will be sown and maintained in accordance with the instructions/recommendations provided by Emorsgate Seeds.
- c) The new area of grass within the north boundary and the existing area of grass within the west boundary will not be mown between 1 March and 15 August inclusive. As a minimum, the grass will be mown between 15 August and 1 September and cut vegetation will be removed.
- d) A minimum of 15 native fruit trees of local provenance will be planted within the areas of grass within north and west boundaries. Tree species will include:
 - 3no. Bramley apple (*Malus domestica* 'Bramley's Seedling')
 - 3no. Shropshire Prune Damson (*Prunus insititia* 'Shropshire Prune')
 - 3no. Cherry (*Prunus* sp./var.)
 - 3no. Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*)
 - 3no. Pitmaston pineapple Apple (*Malus domestica* 'Pitmaston pineapple')
- e) Gaps within the north boundary hedge will be planted with a mixture of Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn and Hazel.
- f) A new hedge will be planted along the west boundary. The existing clump of Oak will remain and the new hedge will be planted with Blackthorn, Guelder-rose, Field Maple, Hawthorn and Hazel.
- g) The supplementary planted north boundary hedge and the new west boundary hedge will be (annually) trimmed to a minimum height of 2m.

4. Conclusion

The wildlife value of the car park is low and it appears likely that - prior to the creation of the car park - the wildlife value of the parcel of land was also low.

The proposed scheme will not require the removal of existing trees, shrubs or hedge and will result in the:

- creation of a botanically diverse area of grassland
- creation of a mixed native tree species orchard
- creation of a west boundary hedge
- improvement to the north boundary hedge

The implementation of the proposed scheme will result in the car park and its boundaries having a higher wildlife value than that of the existing.