



ARBOR VITAE

ECOLOGY • FORESTRY • LAND USE

LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

LAND at RACKERY FARM, LLAY



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Project name: Land at Rackery Farm, Llay

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Prepared by: William Prestwood BSc Director

Reviewed by: Phillipa Stirling MSc GradCIEEM

Requested by: Bleazard and Galletta

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO DEVELOPMENT

This land is the subject of a planning application for the construction of a farm shop and associated infrastructure. A Landscape Plan has been requested by the LPA and Arbor Vitae have been asked to set out proposals for the enhancement of the existing landscape and development of new landscape features.

1.2 DETAILS OF PROPOSED WORKS

The proposals include the construction of a new farm shop which will be constructed in a field to the north of the B5102 road. Access will be gained via an existing field entrance point although a visibility splay will need to be constructed by removal of a length of hedgerow.

A car park will be constructed to the west of the shop.

A site lay out plan is shown in Figure 1.

2 LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

2.1 SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES

A range of proposals are set out below which will protect and enhance existing features, provide for the creation of new features and incorporate measures to enhance biodiversity.

- Planting of native hedgerows.
- Planting of an area of native tree species to extend the area of mature trees to the west of the site.
- Planting of individual native specimen trees within the site to create parkland landscape.
- Planting of shrub beds within the site.
- Sowing of grass and wildflower meadow.
- Enhancement of existing woodland.

2.2 NEW NATIVE HEDGEROWS

A length of existing hedgerow will be removed along the road in order to create a visibility splay. This will be replanted approximately one metre



further back from the road. The remainder of the site boundary will also be planted with a native hedgerow to separate it from the remainder of the field to create both a visual barrier and wildlife corridor around the site.

The hedgerows will be planted in two parallel rows 45cms apart with an average of 6 plants per metre.

Species will include the following:

Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	60%
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	10%
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	10%
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	10%
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	5%
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	5%

All plants will be guarded against rabbits using spiral guards supported by bamboo canes. Plants will be kept weed free for three years and any losses replaced.

2.3 NEW NATIVE WOODLAND

An area between the car park and existing mature woodland to the west will be planted to form a new area of native woodland. This will both help to screen the development and will extend the area of woodland habitat in an area where woodland is sparse.

The area will cover approximately 0.35 hectares.

Species will include:

English oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	40%
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	15%
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	15%
Small leaved lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	10%
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	10%
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	5%
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	5%

Trees will be 60-90cms whips, planted at 2.5 metre intervals. All will be protected against rabbits using spiral guards or treeshelters, as appropriate. All trees will be maintained weed-free and any losses replaced

2.4 NATIVE SPECIMEN TREES

A total of 30 specimen trees will be planted within the site to provide screening, shade and shelter.

Species will include:

Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	5 No.
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	5
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	5
Small leaved lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	5
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	5
Crabapple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	5

Trees will be 6-8 cms girth (approximately 1.8- 2.4 m in height. They will be supported by timber stakes, tied and guarded against rabbits.

2.5 SHRUB BEDS

A number of shrub beds will be planted within the site e.g. on the edge of the car park area to provide screening, to soften hard landscape features and to provide additional habitat. Species will be largely native but include a range of nectar and seed-bearing shrubs.

Species will include the following:

Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	10%
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	10%
Wild privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	10%
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	10%
Buddleia	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	10%
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster lacteus</i>	10%
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	10%
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	10%
Berberis	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	10%
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	10%

2.6 WILDFLOWER GRASSLAND

Open areas within the vicinity of the shop will be sown with amenity grassland which will be kept closely mown. Two other areas will be sown and maintained as wild flower grassland. These will have the top 15cms of topsoil removed to reduce fertility and will then be cultivated and sown with Naturescape N1 grass and wildflower mixture. This will be managed by two

initial cuts following germination to reduce annual weeds and then left to grow to allow flowering and seeding. Cutting will be annual and all arisings removed.

2.7 ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING WOODLAND AND POOLS

An area of existing woodland and pools to the west of the site will be managed to enhance its value for wildlife. A management plan will be produced for this area and will include the following:

- Planting of understorey native shrubs
- Planting of native woodland herbaceous species such as bluebells
- Planting of selected aquatic and marginal plants in pools
- Erection of bat and bird boxes
- Installation of a walkway to allow visitor access from shop site

FIGURE 1 SITE LAYOUT PLAN

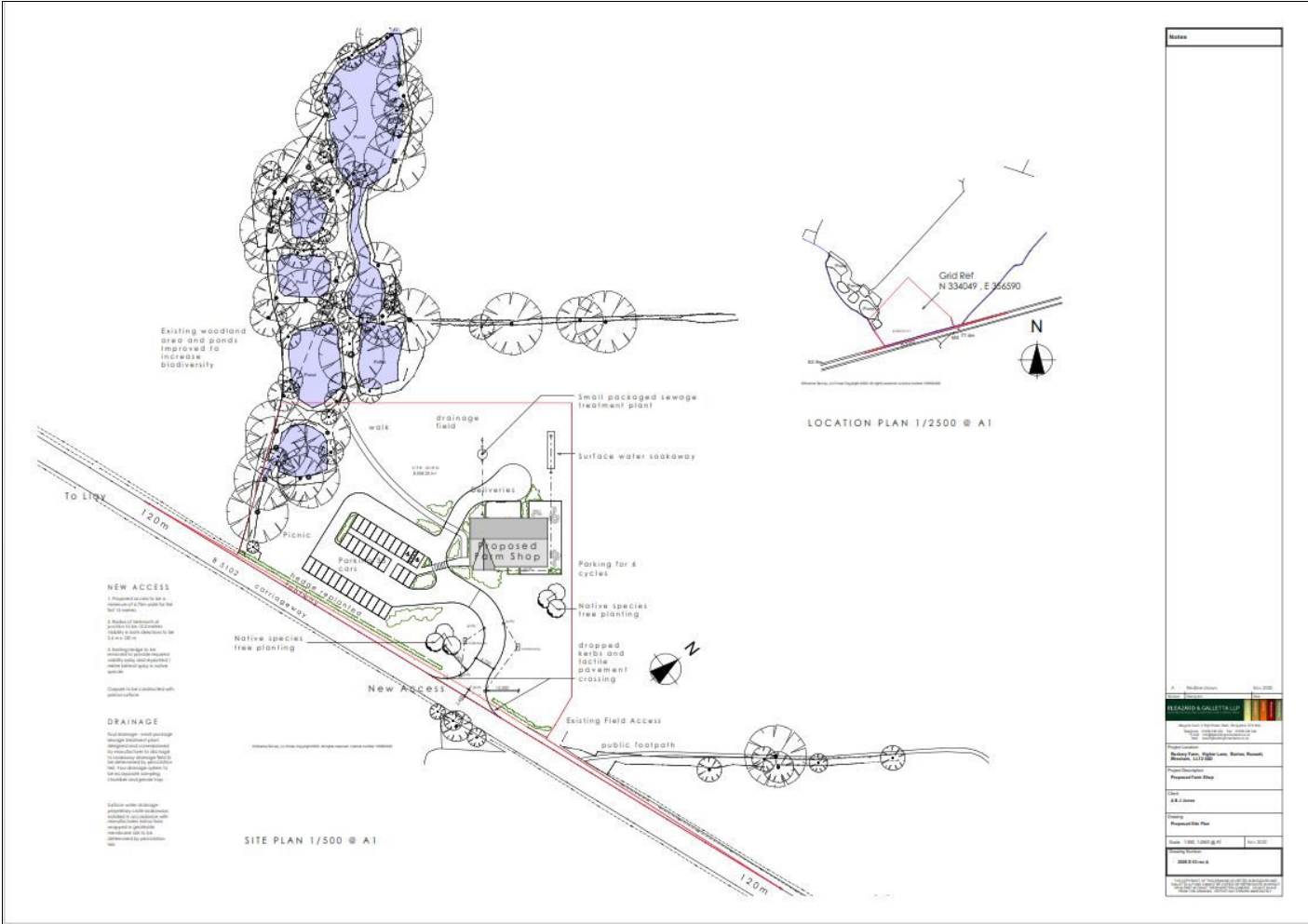


FIGURE 2 LANDSCAPE PLAN



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