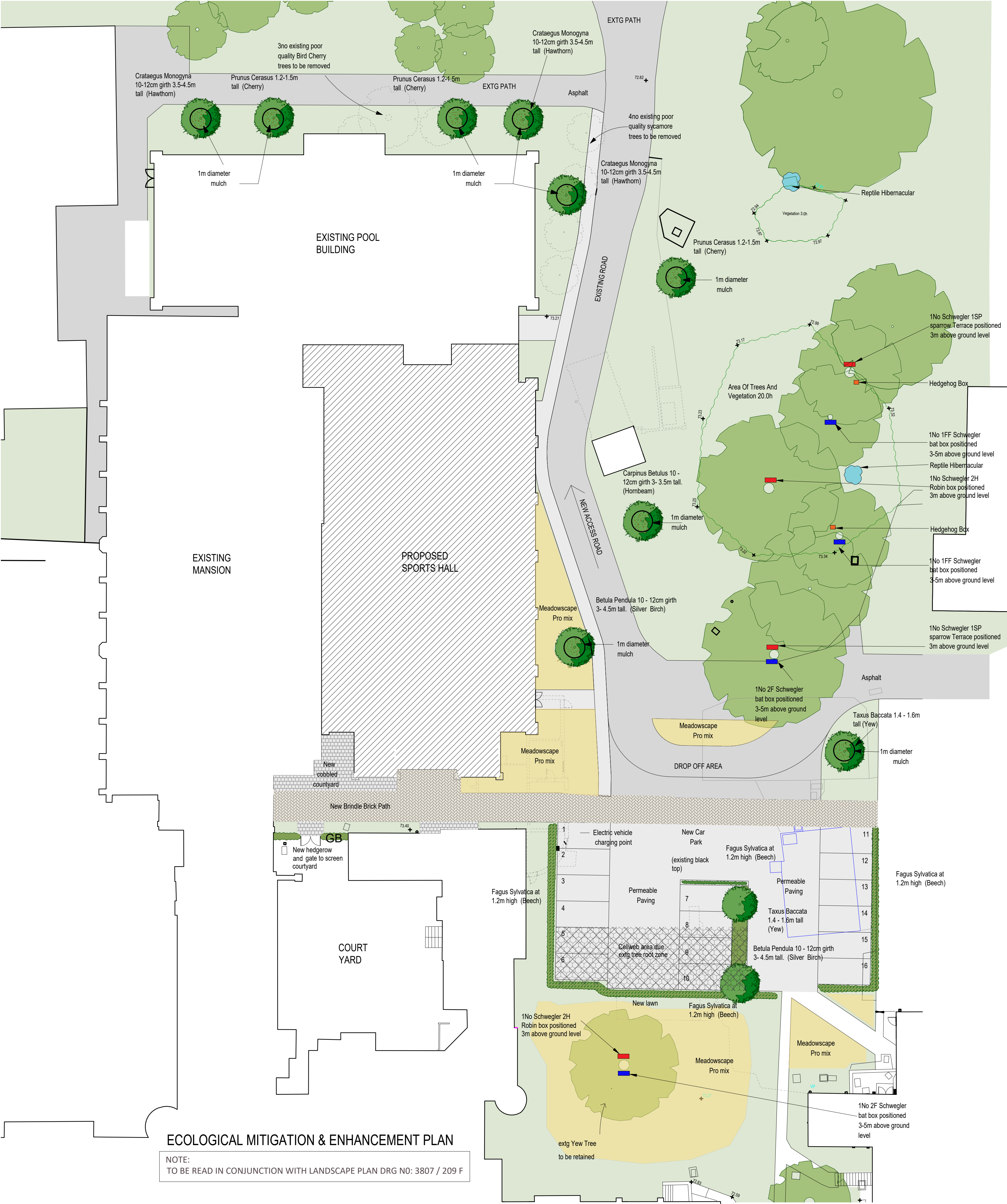
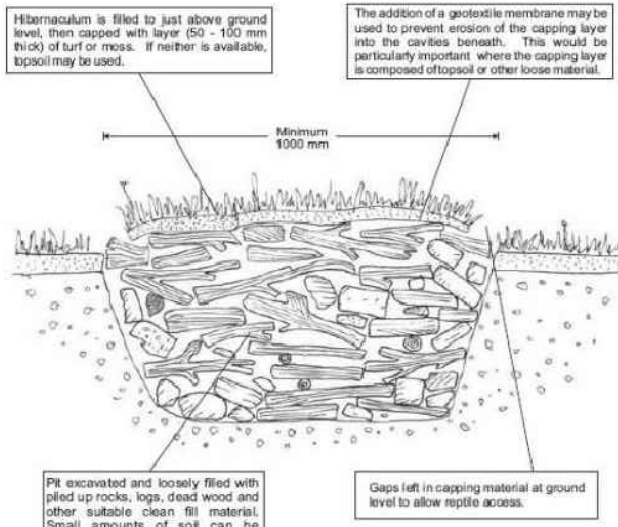




ECOLOGICAL MITIGATION & ENHANCEMENT PLAN

NOTE:
TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH LANDSCAPE PLAN DRG NO: 3807 / 209 F



Source: Highways Agency (2005) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges: Volume 10
Section 4 Part 7 – Nature Conservation Advice in Relation to Roads and Reptiles



Reptile Hibernaculum

Waste material such as log piles, brash and rocks used to create hibernacula and regugia for common reptile



1FF Schwegler Bat Box



2F Schwegler Bat Box



Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace



Schwegler 2H Robin Box

GENERAL NOTES:

In order to enhance nesting opportunities for birds x4 nest boxes (x4 Schwegler type or similar) will be installed on suitable existing vegetation to be retained. All boxes should be made from woodcrete, such as Schwegler boxes, and be installed according to best practice. Locations for the bird boxes are shown on the plan. All bird nesting boxes that have been installed should be cleaned out once a year, to be completed during the winter months.

In order to enhance roosting opportunities for bats x4 bat boxes (x2 Schwegler type 2F and x2 Schwegler type 1FF, or similar) will be installed on suitable existing vegetation to be retained. All boxes should be made from woodcrete, such as Schwegler boxes, and be installed according to best practice. Bat boxes do not require regular cleaning, although periodic maintenance checks should be carried out (Note: any works/checks to bat boxes might require a licensed bat worker).

A number of log piles and compost heaps will be created in suitable locations around the site. The log piles and compost heaps will be added to as and when required to ensure a continuation of organic material at different stages of decay. These will provide refugia for reptiles and amphibians, as well as providing hibernacula during the winter months as indicated on the plan.

Deadwood is an essential habitat for many species, especially reptiles, invertebrates, bryophytes and fungi. Removal of deadwood and 'tidying-up' leads to relatively sterile conditions and takes away an essential habitat. Where possible, all wood from windblown, or arising from management operations, should be left on-site in suitable locations in log piles or as low brash and reptile refugia. In some cases it can be used as a material in appropriate management tasks on the site, including the creation of 'dead' hedges to restrict access to any sensitive areas.

As part of the overall landscape treatment of the site, new planting will be carried out (refer to detailed Landscaping Plan 3807-209F). Such planting will aim to use native species, but where using native species is not practicable then species of known value for wildlife can be used. In particular, flowering plants will be of benefit to invertebrate species and shrubs and trees may provide nesting opportunities for birds once they become established.

Rubbish or debris in any form conveys a lack of respect, which can encourage further casual disposal. Some litter can also present a safety risk or be lethal to small mammals and some invertebrates and it must be cleared on a regular and systematic basis. This will reflect the responsibilities and requirements placed on landowners and managers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Garden waste of any description can introduce additional nutrients and other elements to the soil. It upsets the natural balance of habitats into which it is introduced, can introduce non-native invasive species, can smother important wildflowers and can encourage pests, such as rats. Any vegetation deposited within the existing or newly created habitats must be cleared on a regular and systematic basis and either deposited off-site in accordance with the waste regulatory regime or retained on-site in designated compost areas.

There will be a general presumption against the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers. By their very nature, all such chemicals are potentially damaging to the environment to a greater or lesser extent, can lead to impoverishment of habitats and may be a danger to the public. Consequently, such use will be restricted to essential tasks when other management methods are inappropriate or have failed. Application of chemicals must be undertaken by staff or contractors with current certification of competence.

Specific Habitat Prescriptions

Trees & Hedgerows
A number of new trees will be planted on the site to complement the established trees to be retained. Once established, the new trees will provide an improved food source for a variety of wildlife, including insects and birds and bird nesting opportunities. The boundary vegetation will be supplemented with hedgerow planting using locally native species.

Management – annual check of new planting to be undertaken, with replacement planting carried out where necessary. Once established, the trees may need periodic pruning and/or pollarding, with any arising's retained on-site either as low brash or as chippings to act as a mulch, where practicable to do so. Weeding will be carried out where necessary to ensure new planting establishes. Cutting of hedgerows will be carried out on a rotational basis with only a third cut in any one year, where practicable to do so. Any cutting/pruning will be timed during the late winter months. Late January/early February is ideal as the majority of the berries have been eaten, but before the onset of the main bird nesting season. The addition of brash/log piles at the base of the hedgerows will provide shelter and overwintering sites for invertebrates and other wildlife.

Semi-improved Grassland

The grassland areas on the site were previously cut for haylage/silage and will now be managed less intensively to provide hay meadow/wildflower type habitat. The grassland will provide suitable habitat for a variety of wildlife, including invertebrates. As previously stated, any planting/sowing should aim to use native species of local provenance, which have the most value for wildlife.

Management – grass should be cut on an annual basis late in the year once flowers have set seed and certain invertebrates have completed their life cycle, but preferably on a rotational basis to allow certain areas to remain uncut in any one year. Arisings/mowings should be left in-situ for a few days to allow seed to drop to the ground but then it is important to collect and remove arisings to reduce soil fertility, favourable to wildflowers, and either removed off site or deposited in dedicated composting areas on site. Periodic clearance of scrub will be required to maintain the open nature of the grassland, with all arisings retained as low brash in suitable locations on the site. Where required, additional measures to encourage wildflowers, such as using yellow rattle to control the dominance of grasses and providing space for wildflowers to grow, will be implemented.

Amenity Landscaping

Soft Landscaping will comprise amenity grassland and tree and shrub planting. It is anticipated that the amenity grassland areas will be well-maintained and, as such, will provide limited wildlife value, although certain species will forage on this type of habitat, and the trees and shrubs will provide bird nesting habitat and a food source and shelter for a variety of wildlife once established.

Management of the grassland areas will be by regular mowing to maintain a short sward suitable for amenity use, with all arisings removed off site or deposited in dedicated composting areas. Annual checks of any newly planted trees should be carried out, with replacement planting carried out where necessary. Once established, trees may need periodic pruning and/or pollarding, with any arisings retained on-site as a mixture of log piles, low brash and chippings to act as mulch, where practicable to do so. Weeding will be carried out where necessary to ensure new planting establishes. The shrub planting areas will require minimal maintenance, with occasional weeding and pruning of plants where necessary and should be covered with mulch for water retention, which will aid flower/nectar production. Regular dead-heading of flowers will encourage further flowering, improving the supply of nectar for butterflies and other insects.

The timing of any management should be carried out during the late winter months. January/February is ideal as the majority of the berries have been eaten but is before the onset of the main bird nesting season.

RESPONSIBILITIES

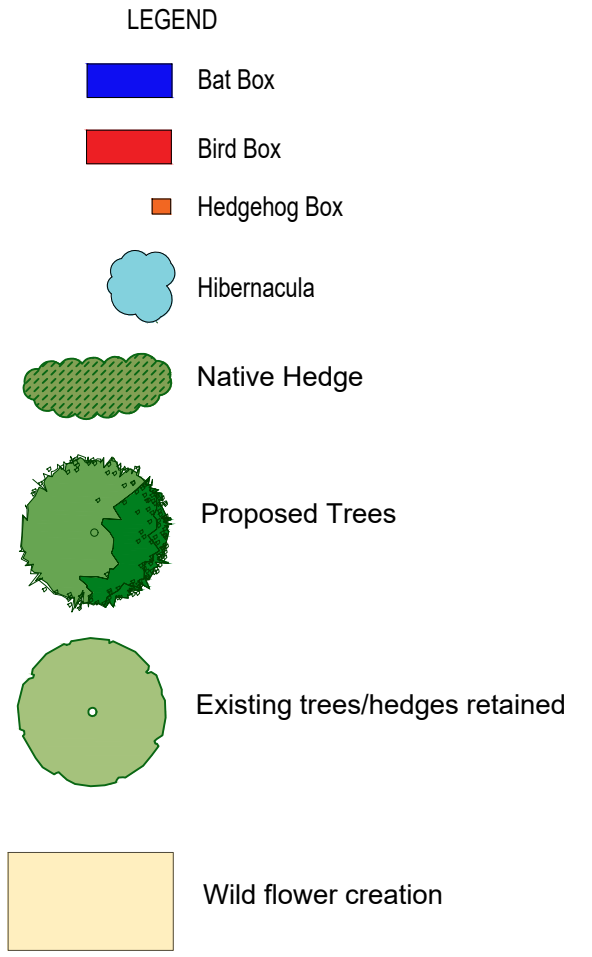
The School (Reddam House Berkshire Ltd) will be responsible for the implementation of the measures detailed within this document, although specialist contractors may be appointed for certain tasks as necessary.

Monitoring and Review

This management plan should be implemented for the first 5 years post-completion as a minimum. All of the management areas will be visited and evaluated on an annual basis to determine the effectiveness of the prescriptions and to identify any amendments or additional measures that may be necessary to the management plan. Maintenance checks of the site will be carried out on a more regular basis by the appointed contractor.



Hedgehog box positioned beneath hedgerows and boundaries in shady areas



REV	COMMENTS	DATE

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CLIENT	Reddam House (Berkshire)Ltd
PROJECT	New Sports Hall at Reddam House Bearwood Rd, Sindlesham, Wokingham RG41
DRAWING	Ecological Mitigation & Enhancement
STATUS	Planning
SCALE	1: 200
DRAWN	PB
CHECKED	NO
NO	3807/226
REV	

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DATE June2024