

St Nicholas Barn, Dunt Lane, Hurst RG10 0TA
Planning Conditions – Biodiversity Statement – BNG Area
Planning application number 223713

The area is a former menage (made in 2004 on part of a paddock) comprising Cotswold stone rubble over hardcore (the riding surface having been removed from site).

The area has been used for storage and access during the build phase.

We plan to create a BNG area that will marry with the existing landscape across and beyond the boundaries of the BNG area.

The St Nicholas Farm paddocks are referred to on the Ordnance Survey as 'The Water Meadows' for very good reason as they are frequently water-logged in the winter.

We will re-create the area of meadow with native wetland trees and other species that will bring a high level of biodiversity to the area.

Tying in the new landscaping with the existing schemes, which are of a similar nature, will bring only benefits to the site; the enlargement of an existing area of meadow with a broad spectrum of native flora and fauna.

See images 1-4 below for examples of the current meadow area on the site.

We have chosen native tree species that will thrive in the conditions and provide habitat and security for local and visiting wildlife. Except for the removal of pernicious weeds, the meadow area will be left to develop naturally rather than being specified, which will ensure only the most robust, locally relevant and successful species colonise the site.

This should happen within 1-2 seasons.

Paths will be mown through the meadow to allow enjoyment of the diversity of the site and to observe and protect its establishment.

Image 1 – BNG site (existing)



Image 2 – BNG site (existing)



Image 3 – existing meadow area



Image 4 – existing meadow area



Species glossary

***Acer campestre* - Field Maple**

Field maple is attractive to aphids and their predators, including many species of ladybird, hoverfly and bird. Lots of species of moth, such as the mocha, feed on its leaves. The flowers provide nectar and pollen sources for bees and birds, and small mammals eat the fruits.

***Alnus glutinosa* – Common Alder**

Alder is the food plant for the caterpillars of several moths including the alder kitten, pebble hook-tip, the autumnal and the blue-bordered carpet moth. Catkins provide an early source of nectar and pollen for bees, and the seeds are eaten by the siskin, redpoll and goldfinch.

***Betula nigra* – River Birch**

River Birch provides numerous benefits for wildlife by offering food, shelter, and nesting sites. Its seeds are a food source for various birds, squirrels, and small mammals. The tree's branches also serve as nesting spots for birds. Additionally, River Birch attracts pollinators and supports diverse insect populations, contributing to a healthy ecosystem.

***Corylus avellana* – Common Hazel**

Hazel trees offer significant benefits to wildlife. They provide food, shelter, and habitat for a wide range of species, including birds, mammals, insects, and fungi.

Hazelnuts are a valuable food source for numerous animals, including squirrels, woodpeckers, jays, mice, and dormice. The catkins also provide early pollen and nectar for insects like bees and butterflies. Hazel leaves are a food source for caterpillars of various moth species.

***Crataegus monogyna* – Hawthorn**

Hawthorn provides numerous benefits to wildlife, including food sources, nesting sites, and habitat for various species. Its flowers attract pollinators, like bees and hoverflies, while the red berries (haws) are a crucial food source for birds and small mammals. The dense, thorny branches also offer shelter and nesting sites for birds and other wildlife.

Prunus padus – *Bird Cherry*

Bird Cherry, provides significant benefits to wildlife by offering nectar and pollen from its flowers, food sources for birds and mammals from its fruits, and a habitat for various insects and birds through its dense foliage.

The fragrant spring flowers are a valuable early source of nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The small, black cherries are eaten by various birds, including blackbirds, thrushes, and warblers, as well as mammals like badgers, wood mice, and dormice. Bird Cherry provides nesting sites and shelter for birds within its dense foliage. Moth caterpillars feed on the leaves of the tree, providing food for a variety of insect species. Birds that eat the cherries play a crucial role in dispersing the seeds of the tree, contributing to its propagation.

Quercus robur – *English Oak*

English Oak offers significant benefits to wildlife, serving as both a food source and a vital habitat. Its acorns provide a crucial food supply for many species, including squirrels, jays, and badgers. Additionally, its branches, foliage, and hollows provide shelter and nesting sites for numerous birds, insects, and mammals.

Viburnum opulus – *Guelder Rose*

The Guelder rose offers significant benefits for wildlife, particularly for birds and pollinators. The plant's white flowers attract pollinators like bees and hoverflies, and its red berries provide a vital food source for birds, especially during colder months. The dense foliage also provides shelter for various small animals and birds.