

**OAK TREE FARM, CRAWLBOYS LANE,
LUDGERSHALL, WILTSHIRE, SP11 9PL**

**IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**On behalf of
MR HOWARD SCRUSE**

April 2021

REF: 21.1253

REV:



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APPOINTMENT

WH Landscape Consultancy Ltd (**WHLandscape**) has been appointed by Mr Howard Scruse to produce a Landscape Implementation and Management Plan for the proposed Residential and Agricultural Development at Oak Tree Farm, Crawlboys Lane, Ludgershall, Wiltshire.

This plan has been prepared by: Ellie Sims BA (Hons) MA

Checked by: Will Harley BSc (Hons) CMLI

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ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL

WHL-1253-01: BARN DEVELOPMENT – LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

WHL-1253-02: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document provides the landscape works implementation and management proposals for the proposed planting associated with the barn and residential development at Oak Tree Farm, Ludgershall. The aims are to mitigate the effects of the development and enhance the site and its setting, while providing biodiversity and habitat enhancement through a comprehensive landscape scheme.

1.2 A focus of the proposals will be the retention, enhancement and management of the existing vegetation on and surrounding the development area, in particular the tree and hedge cover across the site, and on its boundaries. The new planting scheme provided in this document will aim to replicate the existing landscape structure across the area surrounding the site, as well as creating structure within the residential development area. Enhancements to the local green infrastructure will be provided by the proposed landscaping, which will also off-set the removal of sycamore tree on the north-eastern boundary.

1.3 Planting will be undertaken during the first planting season after the completion of the proposed development and the implementation of hard landscaping proposals.

2. EXISTING VEGETATION

2.1 TREES

2.1.1 There are 9 individual trees located within the development area, which have been included in the Tree Survey and Tree Protection Plan. The trees assessed are established oaks and sycamores which form the dominant species of mature trees in the area.

2.1.2 The majority of the trees located within, and on the boundary of the site will be retained and managed as appropriate, however an *Acer pseudoplatanus* (sycamore) will be removed due to its condition. It has been noted that two mature *Quercus robur* (oak) have been identified in the Tree Survey and Tree Protection Plan as in need of significant crown reduction work.

2.1.3 The existing trees on and around the site to be retained will need to be regularly inspected and may from time to time require some remedial work. Please see the Tree Survey and Tree Protection Plan produced by Seb Macleod (April 2021) for full details of works to the trees within the development area.

2.1.4 EXISTING TREES – PRE-COMMENCEMENT MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

- Retained existing trees will be inspected before development begins on the site, and any work carried out as necessary prior to development. After construction has been completed the trees will be inspected on an annual basis and any necessary work carried out;
- Any trees bordering a publicly accessible area must be checked on a regular basis to make sure that they are in a sound condition.

3. TREE PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 GROUND PREPARATION

- Trees will be planted as detailed in documents *Barn Development – Landscape Strategy* and *Residential Development – Landscape Strategy* plan (see drawings WHL-1253-01 and WHL-1253-02). All trees will comprise pot grown or rootballed stock and will be planted during the planting season (i.e. between November and March) when the ground is neither frozen nor waterlogged. If the ground is dry the plants will be watered to ground capacity on planting.
- Tree pits will be 200mm wider in diameter and 200mm deeper than the root spread. 200gm of slow release fertiliser will be added to each tree pit.

3.2 PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS

Tree Species							
Plan Ref.	Scientific name	Common name	Specification	Girth (cm)	Approx. height (m)	Clear stem height (m)	No.
Ac	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	Extra Heavy Standard	14-16	4.00/4.50	Min 2.00	2
MJD	<i>Malus 'John Downie'</i>	Crab apple 'John Downie'	Extra Heavy Standard	14-16	4.00/4.50	Min 2.00	3
Pp	<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird cherry	Extra Heavy Standard	14-16	4.00/4.50	Min 2.00	1
Qr	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak	Extra Heavy Standard	14-16	4.00/4.50	Min 2.00	8
Sar	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Common whitebeam	Extra Heavy Standard	14-16	4.00/4.50	Min 2.00	1
Sa	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Extra Heavy Standard	14-16	4.00/4.50	Min 2.00	1

Trees will be single staked, and mesh guarded to prevent damage.

3.3 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

- The planting will be checked at regular intervals. Plants will be firmed up following planting and, if necessary, until established. Any plants which die, become diseased or damaged will be replaced.
- Until the plants are established they will be watered to ground capacity during dry periods.
- Weeding around plants will be carried out by hand or by the spot application of glyphosate, taking care not to spray the stems, until the plants are well established.
- Limited formative pruning will be necessary to ensure that healthy and balanced crowns develop.
- Mature and established trees will be inspected on an annual basis and any necessary work performed.

4. HEDGE PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT

4.1 GROUND PREPARATION

- Planting of bare-rooted stock is to be carried out between November and March; however, pot-grown plants can be planted throughout the year. Planting shall take place during frost

free conditions when the site is not waterlogged. No machinery will over-run the grassed and treed areas adjacent to the planting areas.

- All invasive and pernicious weeds will be removed from the site before works commence. Clearance will be restricted to glyphosate weed killers and hand weeding.
- All planting beds will be free from weeds and waste materials. The ground will be cultivated to full depth with the addition of slow release fertiliser or well-rotted manure. All plants are to be thoroughly soaked immediately prior to planting.

4.2 PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS – MIXED NATIVE HEDGE

Mixed Native Hedge Species				
Scientific name	Common name	Specification	Height (cm)	%
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	Bare Root Whip	80-100	10
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	Bare Root Whip	80-100	10
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Bare Root Whip	80-100	40
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	Pot-grown (3L)	60-80	5
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	Bare Root Whip	60-100	10
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	Buckthorn	Bare Root Whip	60-80	10
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	Bare Root Whip	60-80	5

Hedge plants will be planted in a double staggered row at 45cm centres and will be individually staked with bamboo and guarded with spiral guards.

Single Species Hedge				
Scientific name	Common name	Specification	Height (cm)	No.
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	Bare Root Whip	80-100	203

Hedge plants will be planted in a double staggered row at 45cm centres and will be individually staked with bamboo and guarded with spiral guards.

4.4 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

- The planting will be checked at regular intervals and any damaged stakes, canes and ties replaced. Plants will be firmed up following planting and, if necessary, until established. Any plants which die, become diseased or damaged will be replaced.
- Until the plants are established they will be watered to ground capacity during dry periods.

- Weeding around planted areas will be carried out by hand or by the spot application of glyphosate, taking care not to spray the tree and shrub stems, until the plants are well established.
- Pruning will be required to ensure the growth of strong shrub planting and will be carried out once the plants are well established, normally in the second year, but dependent on growth rates.
- Cutting should take place in February to maximise retention of any berries for bird foraging.
- Guards and stakes will be removed once the plants are well established.

5. SHRUB PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT

5.1 GROUND PREPARATION

- Planting shall take place during frost free conditions when the site is not waterlogged. Planting is to be carried out either during the spring between March and May, or Autumn between October and November. Note: Container-grown plants can be planted at any time of the year but are easier to care for if planted in autumn, as they need less watering than those planted in spring or summer.
- All invasive and pernicious weeds will be removed from the site before works commence. Clearance will be restricted to glyphosate weed killers and hand weeding.
- All planting beds will be free from weeds and waste materials. The ground will be cultivated to full depth with the additional of slow release fertiliser or well-rotted manure. All plants are to be thoroughly soaked immediately prior to planting.
- Plant in a hole just deep and wide enough to set the rootball in, leaving the bases of the stems, or the shoots above ground. Hand firm soil back around stem.
- Water the ground well even if already moist as this will settle the soil and prevent desiccation.
- Plants to be mulched to 5cm depth, avoiding stems.

5.2 PLANTING SPECIFICATION

Shade Tolerant Shrub Species Mix 1				
Scientific name	Common name	Specification	Density (m ²)	No.
<i>Daphne pontica</i>	Twin-flowered daphne	Pot- grown (2ltr)	1	22
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Emerald Gaiety'	Spindle	Pot- grown (2ltr)	1	22

<i>Hebe</i> 'Baby Marie'	Hebe 'Baby Marie'	Pot- grown (2ltr)	3	66
<i>Hypericum</i> 'Hidcote'	David viburnum	Pot- grown (2ltr)	1	22
<i>Skimmia</i> x <i>confusa</i> 'Kew Green'	Skimmia 'Kew Green'	Pot- grown (2ltr)	1	22
Total:				154

5.3 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

- The planting will be checked at regular intervals and any damaged stakes, canes and ties replaced. Plants will be firmed up following planting and, if necessary, until established. Any plants which die, become diseased or damaged will be replaced.
- Until the plants are established, they will be watered to ground capacity during dry periods.
- Weeding around planted areas will be carried out by hand or by the spot application of glyphosate, taking care not to spray the tree and shrub stems, until the plants are well established.
- Pruning will be required to ensure the growth of strong shrub planting and will be carried out once the plants are well established, normally in the second year, but dependent on growth rates.
- Cutting should take place in February to maximise retention of any berries for bird foraging.

6. GRASS PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT

6.1 GROUND PREPARATION

A workable seedbed with a medium tilth will need to be created. This may require two cultivations. The first will bury unwanted ground cover and bring less fertile material to the surface. The second will be a cultivation to create the tilth. It may be necessary to return to site even after seeding in order to remove any invasive species such as docks, thistles, mare's tail or brambles. These should either be manually removed or individually chemically treated. Cultivation work will be carried out when the soil moisture level is reasonably low, allowing the soil to crumble.

6.2 SOWING SPECIFICATIONS

Amenity Grassed Areas and Garden Lawns - Emorsgate EG22 – Strong Lawn Grass Mixture		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Percentage (%)
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent	5
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Slender-creeping red-fescue	50

<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial ryegrass	25
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth-stalked meadow-grass	20

Paddocks and Grazing Pasture - Emorsgate EG26 – Standard Old Fashioned Grazing Mixture		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Percentage (%)
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dogtail	12
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	9
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Slender-creeping red-fescue	12
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial ryegrass	35
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller cat's-tail	6
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth-stalked meadow-grass	9
<i>Schendonorus pratensis</i>	Meadow fescue	12
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Wild red clover	3
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Small leaved white clover	2

6.3 SOWING

- Amenity grassed areas and garden lawns - Seed should be sown from late summer to mid-autumn at a rate of 25gm/m².
- Paddocks and grazing pasture - Seed should be sown from late summer to mid-autumn at a rate of 4gm/m².
- After sowing, it is recommended that the area is lightly raked and watered.
- The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. To get an even distribution and avoid running out, divide the seed into two or more parts and sow in overlapping sections. Do not incorporate or cover the seed but firm in with a roll, or by treading, to give good soil/seed contact.

6.4 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Amenity Grassed Areas and Garden Lawn

- Protect the newly sown seed from birds and prevent public access onto the soil;
- Keep grass watered in dry conditions;
- Weed the area by hand, removing any weeds before they flower;
- When the new lawn is 5cm (2in) high, cut with a rotary mower to 2.5cm (1in). Ensure that the bulb foliage has begun to die back before spring and summer mowing takes place. Carefully rake up the clippings. Do this for the next four cuts;
- Once established introduce a regular growing season mowing regime.

Paddocks and Grazing Pasture

- **First Year Management:-** After sowing, avoid livestock grazing for around 6 – 10 weeks to allow the grass to establish, and grow to around 10cm. Light grazing can then be undertaken, preferably by sheep as they have lighter feet and nibble grass back neatly to encourage the grass to thicken up. Avoid grazing if the soil is saturated with water. Alternatively, top the initial growth to encourage thickening of the sward and restrict weed growth. If topped, remove or disperse cuttings so as not to leave mulched patches which will kill young grass.
- **After First Year Management:-**
 - Once the sward is well established with good ground cover and strong roots livestock can be introduced to freely graze as appropriate to the season and amount of growth. Do not overstock to avoid damage to the sward, and over-grazing, with the aim to keep a height of at least 5cm through the grazing period. Remove animals from pastures if the ground is wet or waterlogged as their hooves will destroy the sward and churn up the ground.
 - Top any un-grazed tall growth with a rotary or flail mower each year in late June to early July. This will help to keep weeds at bay and even the sward, inhibiting tussock formation. If nesting birds are using the pasture, delay topping until they have fledged in late July. Chain harrow in early spring once the ground dries to even out mole hills, remove grass and reinvigorate the sward. Over-seed any significant bare areas.



KEY:

- See drawing WHL-1253-01 Barn Development - Landscape Strategy

Existing vegetation

- Tree
- Tree to be removed
- Hedge

Proposed vegetation

- Tree
- Mixed native hedge
- Hornbeam hedge
- Shrub planting
- Planting bed
- Amenity grass
- Pasture

Other

- Building to be demolished
- Wall
- Post and wire fence

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Project:
Oak Tree Farm, Ludgershall

On behalf of:
Mr Howard Scrusse

Drawing title:
Housing Development - Landscape Strategy

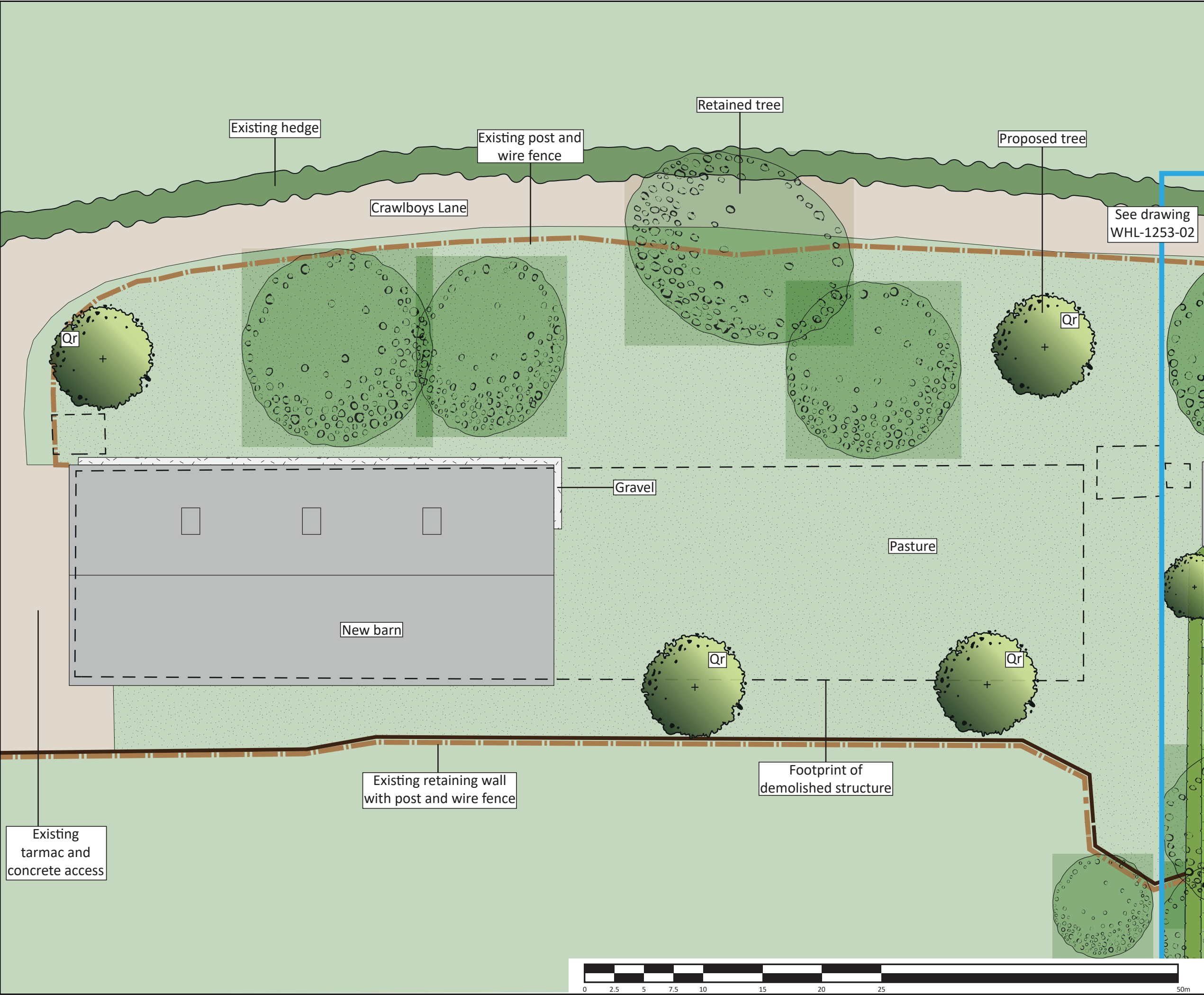
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Scale:
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Rev:
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KEY:

- Site
- See drawing WHL-1253-02 Housing Development - Landscape Strategy

Existing vegetation

- Tree
- Hedge

Proposed vegetation

- Tree
- Mixed native hedge
- Amenity grass
- Pasture

Other

- Building to be demolished
- Wall
- Post and wire fence

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