

15 DEC 2016

## Paul Smith Associates

Chartered Town and Country Planners

Mrs Charlotte Atkins, Principal Planning Officer, Planning Services, Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane, Hereford.

My ref: PMS/H/Wood/16/04

12 December 2016

FAO Mrs Charlotte Atkins

Dear Mrs Atkins.

Re: Proposed Change of Use of Land to Residential Curtilage. Retention of Garden Room, Raised Decking, Timber Stairs and Associated Engineering Works. 11 Hartland Close, Hereford. HR2 7SL

I refer to the current planning application for the above proposed development and to my recent submission to you of an Ecological Assessment produced by Willder Ecology.

I enclose three copies of an Indicative Planting Scheme Plan produced by Pengethley Nurseries and Garden Centre for your consideration. The indicative planting plan refers in the last paragraph to the possible installation of a green living roof. Such a roof is not proposed as it would exceed the structural capabilities of the current garden room roof and is not necessary for ecological or landscape purposes. This landscape scheme is not meant to be definitive although it does demonstrate that this site can be landscaped in a way to mitigate the current visual presence of the site and development whilst enhancing its ecological value. Specifically, however, the proposal is to plant a 'fedge' — a tall fast growing natural screen - across the existing timber balustrading which would reduce the presence of this development in the host environment. (See Appendix 5 of the Ecological Assessment for details of the fedge).

Please come back to me if you need more information.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Smith MRTPI

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## Planting Scheme Plan

These notes are designed to inform the client on the varieties of plants used within the design. A brief plant description has been included.

I have estimated in good faith the approx number of plants required to use within the scheme. A more accurate number will be made upon measuring and marking the site.

Salix chysomcoma (weeping golden willow) – Widely distributed along the river wye in
Herefordshire the golden willow is a weeping tree with grandeur. It eventually will become
quite a large tree which will help disguise a lot of the wooden structures in the garden. The
one planted on the bank also help to hold the soil in place with its strong root growth. The
willow planted beyond the fence will help to dry out the damp ground.

In the plan I have allowed for 2 trees, any more I feel would be unrealistic in the area to be planted.

• Ilex aquafolium (common holly) – There is currently a large amount of holly along the right hand side of the garden (from the bottom of the bank looking up.) I believe this to be common holly. Planting more common holly should hopefully increase the chances of producing berries - (common holly has either male or female flowers, which you cannot determine which you have until it is in flower.) Holly is an excellent food source for birds, rodents and large herbivores when they produce red berries, these only appear on female plants. The greater number of holly plants, the greater the chance of red berries.

In the plan I have allowed for 10/12 plants. The length is approximately 11 - 12 meters and i would advise planting no closer the 1 meter apart. This will allow space for good plant management in the first 3-5 years, and eventually it will all "knit" together and become an excellent screen

Salix viminalis (basket willow) – A naturally multi stemmed, fast growing, deciduous shrub
commonly used for basketry due to the incredible manageability of its young stems. It is one
of the most common varieties of willow used in "fedge structures" and it use in this is design
is to create a living hedge to help disguise the decking structure and blend the log cabin in
with its surroundings.

In the design i would allow for approx 20 whips per 1 metre to create a lattice structure so approx 120/150 whips may be required. The figure is an educated estimate and i would take further advice from fedge contractors/ nursery men before committing to an exact figure.

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Crategus monogyna (common hawthorn) – Hawthorn is an incredibly versatile plant which makes it incredibly useful for hedging. Is forms a dense hedge and it spines are a useful stock and human proof deterrent. It is said that Hawthorn can support more than 300 different types of insects making it excellent value for wildlife. It is commonly planted throughout Herefordshire.

In the plan I have allowed for a double staggered hedge, therefore each whip would have about 1 foot circumference. This means approx 12 plants either side of the bottom gate. Depending on the size and feathering of the whips this figure could be slightly higher.

 Corylus aveliana (common hazel) — Common hazel is a common woodland shrub throughout Europe. It is incredibly versatile, can be coppiced and is an important food source for both invertebrates and vertebrates.

In the plan I have planted hazel and field maple together to make an informal hedge along the left hand side and either side or the stairs. I suggest that 2/3 planted should be hazels, so approximately 40 plants, depending on the size and branching of the young plants.

Acer campestre (field maple) – Field maple is a classic hedgerow plant. It can be grown as an
ornamental shrub, is has good autumn colour and is very easy to grow and maintain

In the plan I have planted hazel and field maple together to make an informal hedge along the left hand side and either side or the stairs. I suggest that 1/3 planted should be field maples, so approximately 20 plants, depending on the size and branching of the young plants.

Ilex "Golden King" — Although the name does not suggest it Ilex Golden King is actually a
female holly. It had gold and green variegated leaves and produces red berries. With the
large amount of common holly (existing and newly planted) i believe the addition of a few of
these plants will give the garden additional height to help blend the log cabin in with the rest
of the garden and add more interest to the garden.

In the garden i have allowed for 6 Golden Kings. You can buy formal, trimmed 'pyramid' shaped Golden Kings, however i would suggest planting bushy ones to keep it in keeping with the garden and its general surroundings.

• Amelanchier lamarckii I(snowy mespilus) — A small yet incredibly tough and graceful bushy tree/large shrub, Amelachiers are brilliant plants for difficult planting conditions. They grow in wet or dry soils, sun or shade and are good for attracting wildlife to the garden. I have suggested an informal group should be planted at the bottom of the garden, either side of the gate. This is because that area is always going to be wet in the winter and my concern is that you need to plant something which is going to be in keeping with the area, is going to tolerate the growing conditions and add to the diversity of the garden. I believe this will do the job.

