

TREE AND HEDGE PLANTING SCHEME
at
The Former Higher Birch School
Marland Fold
Rochdale
Lancashire
OL11 4RA

Client:

Mr Qumar Zaman of
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JCA Ref:

21778a/TT – Rev 1

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1 Introduction

1.1 Objectives of the Planting Scheme

- 1.1.1 A tree and hedge planting scheme has been requested by **Rochdale Borough Council** as a Condition of Planning Consent for the demolition and rebuilding of a brick boundary retaining wall together with the removal of trees at the **Former Higher Birch School, Marland Fold, Rochdale, OL11 4AF**.
- 1.1.2 As a result, this scheme has been designed to:
- Mitigate the loss of those trees requiring removal to allow for the damaged retaining wall to be demolished and rebuilt.
 - Introduce a more varied tree species into the site, so enhancing biodiversity.
 - Improve the overall age class of the trees on site, thus providing long term tree cover.

1.2 Terms of Reference

- 1.2.1 We are instructed by **Mr Kumar Zaman of Greenstone Construction Ltd.** to prepare a tree and hedge planting scheme.

1.3 The Site and the Existing Tree Population

- 1.3.1 The site is the former Higher Birch School, which has since been demolished. Planning permission for a residential housing scheme has been granted and construction activities on site are underway.
- 1.3.2 The site contains a good number of trees, especially around the perimeters to the north, east and south. The former driveway, which runs from Bolton Road (the A58) to the south-east, leading into the main site in a north-westerly direction, is densely treelined.
- 1.3.3 Tree species identified on site include Common Beech, Oak, Sycamore, Common Ash, Wych Elm, Lime, Hawthorn, Holly and Elder.
- 1.3.4 On the southern boundary of the site (adjacent to Marland Old Road) there is a retaining wall and several trees, predominantly Sycamore and Common Beech. The trees are growing at a higher elevation than Marland Old Road and have grown to a size where they are now damaging the wall. For safety reasons, and to allow for the retaining wall to be demolished and re-constructed, trees need to be removed.

2 Tree Planting Schedule

2.1 Tree Planting Position

2.1.1 Tree planting positions are shown on the attached plan at **Appendix 1**.

2.1.2 Trees have also been positioned:

- Where they are unlikely to conflict with other trees, as they attain their mature height and spread.
- To avoid conflict with the residential dwellings, which are under construction.
- Close to the site boundary, where they are easily visible by the passing public, so providing amenity.

2.2 Species Selection Objectives

2.2.1 The species have been selected for the following reasons:

- **To be in harmony with the existing trees on site and those within the surrounding area:** The majority of the chosen species are native to Britain (Crab-apple, Downy Birch, Field Maple, Rowan, Silver Birch and Whitebeam) and are in harmony with the local landscape. The non-native species included within the scheme (Japanese Maple and Japanese Flowering Cherry), have been selected as they are more suited to a garden environment and will offer something different visually.
- **To provide amenity:** A variety of species have been selected to replace the trees which are to be removed. These species offer a wider range of autumnal colours, attractive berries, spring flowers, interesting bark and leaves. As such, the site should be attractive throughout the seasons.
- **To enhance biodiversity and encourage and support wildlife:** Native species have been selected with a known attraction or benefit to local wildlife, with the aim of enhancing the ecological value of the site. The species selected will provide flowers, fruit, berries, seeds or nuts for wildlife, as well as offer shelter and/or nesting opportunities.
- **To improve the resilience of the tree population:** A variety of species from different taxonomic groups have been chosen, to provide improved resilience of the overall tree population in light of a changing climate and introduced tree diseases gaining prevalence.
- **Screening:** To provide useful screening where appropriate.

2.3 Tree Specifications

- 2.3.1 The following table details the specification for all the replacement trees. Consideration is given to availability, immediate impact, ease of installation and likelihood of successful establishment.
- 2.3.2 Trees should be container grown and selected according to guidelines BS: 3936: Part 1: 1992 - Nursery Stock. This will ensure that they are of good form and in good condition.
- 2.3.3 The following table details the specification for the newly planted trees:

Table 1: Individual Tree Planting – Container Grown.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Size at Purchase	No. Required
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Standard	1
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple	Standard	3
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Standard	2
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy Birch	Standard	2
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple	Standard	7
<i>Prunus 'Amanogawa' kanzan</i>	Flowering Japanese Cherry	Standard	8
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	Standard	1
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Standard	6
Total			30

Table 2: Hedge Planting; a single line planted at 30cm spacing (total length = 41m).

Botanical Name	Common Name	Size at Purchase	No. Required
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Common Beech	Whips	136
Total			136

Please refer to **Appendix 2** for further details regarding the species chosen.

2.4 Tree and Hedge Planting Implementation

2.4.1 Recommendations for good tree planting practice are given below:

- **Planting Timing:** The tree planting will take place upon completion of the residential development and after the retaining wall has been repaired/replaced. This will avoid damage being caused to the trees from construction hazards, such as the re-grading of soils near roots or mechanical damage.

The planting scheme will ideally be implemented between October and April, as it will be easier to care for the trees as they will require less watering.

However, it is advised against planting the trees if the ground is waterlogged or frozen.

- **Ground Preparation:** To increase the survival chances and establishment of the planted trees, the planting areas should first be made up using a quality soil to a depth of 900mm (300mm topsoil and 600mm subsoil).
- **Planting Holes:** Planting holes will be excavated twice the diameter of the rootball and to a depth of 200mm below the bottom of the root ball. The sides of the hole will be roughened with a spade and no-fines aggregate laid at the base of the planting pit (to a depth of 200mm) to assist with drainage.

The new trees will be offered into the holes and backfilled using the excavated soil material. Soil ameliorants such as compost should **not** be added as this has been shown to be detrimental to successful establishment.

To avoid possible root damage being caused to the existing trees, the planting holes will be achieved using hand tools only. No mechanical rotavation is to be undertaken in the specified tree/hedge locations.

- **Staking:** Staking will be required to secure the tree and prevent losses within the first years of establishment. It may be necessary to angle the stakes in order to avoid damaging the rootball. All trees are to be staked at a height of no more than 1 metre.
- **Tree Ties:** Adjustable and flexible tree ties will be used. These are to be attached at a point no more than one third of the way up the stem. Ties should be inspected after one year and adjusted as required. Only if establishment is particularly slow should stakes remain in place longer than three growing seasons.
- **Mulching (trees and hedges):** A 1m diameter of bark mulch will be applied around each tree stem to a depth of 75mm. This will conserve water close to the soil surface, inhibit weed growth and protect the stems (bark) from mower or strimmer damage.
- **Tree Guards:** Tree guards are to be incorporated around the base of each stem to reduce pest damage throughout the winter months and to prevent mechanical damage from e.g. strimmers and mowers.

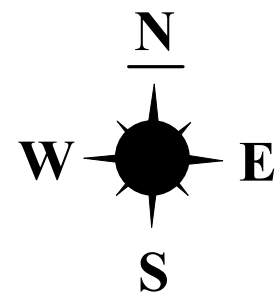
3 Root Membrane

- 3.1 The damage observed to the original retaining wall adjacent to Marland Old Road was a result of direct tree damage. As the trees growing adjacent to the wall matured in size, they came into direct contact with the wall and physically displaced it.
- 3.2 To prevent direct damage occurring to the new retaining wall, or the section of the existing retaining wall which remain undamaged, the planted trees will be set back further from the boundary.
- 3.3 In addition, a root membrane will also be installed in the ground between the retaining wall and the newly planted trees, to create a physical barrier. This will redirect tree roots away from the new retaining wall.
- 3.4 The root membrane will be installed prior to the trees being planted and a specialist company should be contacted regarding the available products and the installation process.
- 3.5 In overview, trenches will be excavated adjacent to where the trees will be planted (as indicated on the Site Plan at **Appendix 1**). Trench depths will need to be confirmed by the company installing the root membrane or a structural engineer, but depths circa 1.5m should suffice based on the species of tree being planted.
- 3.6 The trenches will be lined with a durable material (e.g. permeable barriers/material), which will allow water to pass through but will block or deflect tree roots.
- 3.7 The top of the root membrane will need to extend above ground level a little to prevent tree roots from potentially growing over/above the barrier.

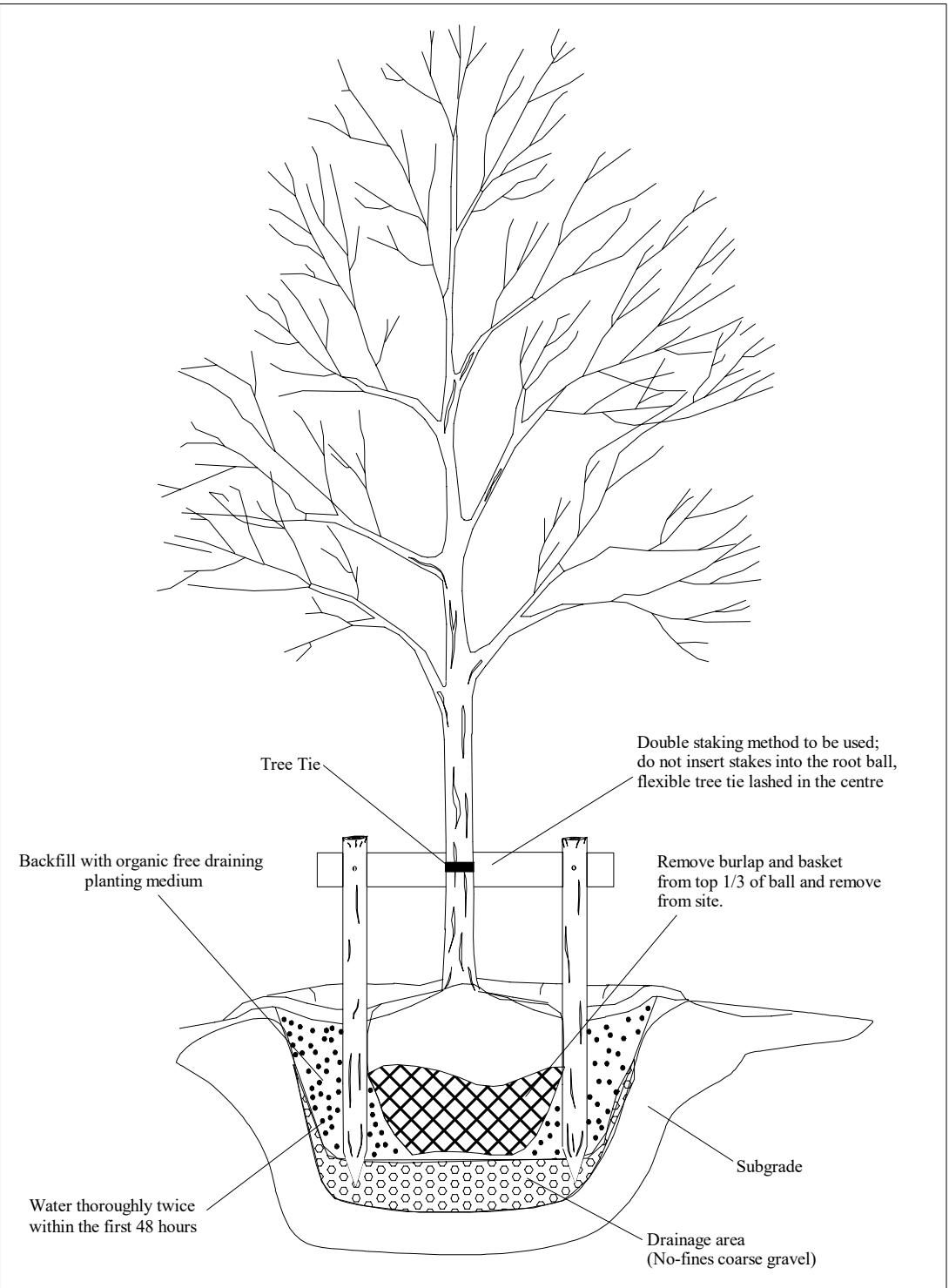
4 Aftercare

- 4.1 All newly planted trees are to be thoroughly watered immediately after planting (twice within the first 48 hours) and during any prolonged periods of dry weather.
- 4.2 Once planted, the trees should be inspected on an annual basis for signs of poor condition or damage. Any trees that die within the first 10 years after planting will be replaced with trees of the same species and size.
- 4.3 As the trees and hedge will be in private gardens, these will be the responsibility of the house owners in the future.
- 4.4 Any required pruning work should ideally be carried out between October and February, to avoid interference with the nesting bird season (March to September).
- 4.5 Any weeds found growing around the newly planted trees should be removed, in the subsequent years after planting. This will help with the uptake of valuable resources such as water, nutrients and light. This must be done manually without the use of herbicides.
- 4.6 The tree ties are to be inspected annually and adjusted where required. Tree ties and stakes should be completely removed within three years of planting unless establishment is deemed to be unusually slow.
- 4.7 New bark mulch should be applied around the base of each tree, to a depth of 75mm, each year for at least the first three years. This will conserve water close to the soil surface, inhibit weed growth and protect the stems (bark) from mower or strimmer damage.

Appendices



Inset 1: an example of planting a tree in an open area or grass strip



Appendix 1: Planting Scheme Plan

ADDRESS: Former Higher Birch School,
Marland Fold, Rochdale, OL11 4RA.
JCA REF: 21778a/TT - Rev 1

SCALE: 1:200

PAPER SIZE : A1

TREE PLANTING



Acer campestre
(Field Maple)



Acer palmatum
(Japanese Maple)



Betula pendula
(Silver Birch)



Betula pubescens
(Downy Birch)



Malus sylvestris
(Crab Apple)



Prunus 'Amanogawa' kanzan
(Flowering Japanese Cherry)



Sorbus aria
(Whitebeam)



Sorbus aucuparia
(Rowan)

HEDGE PLANTING

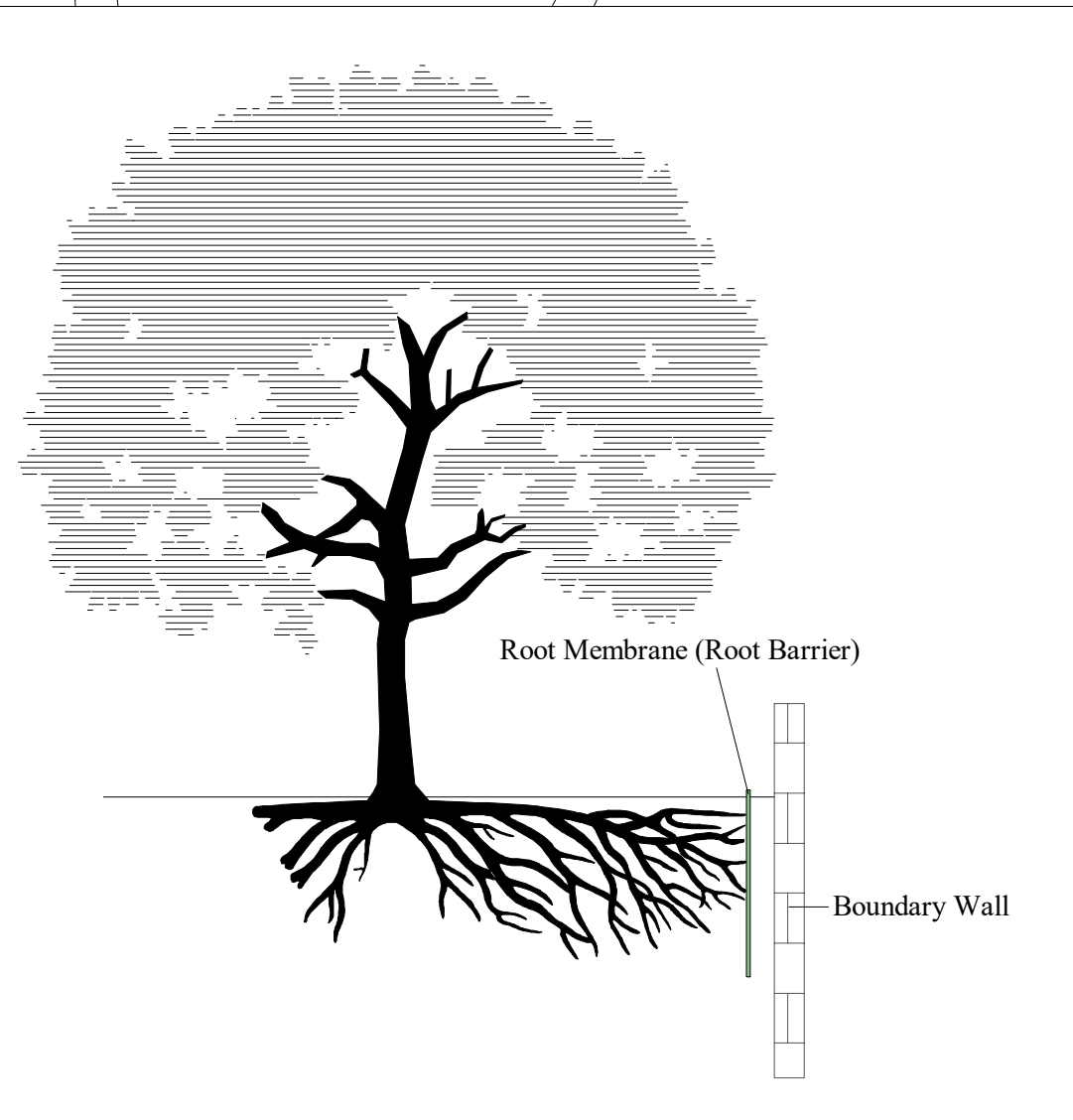
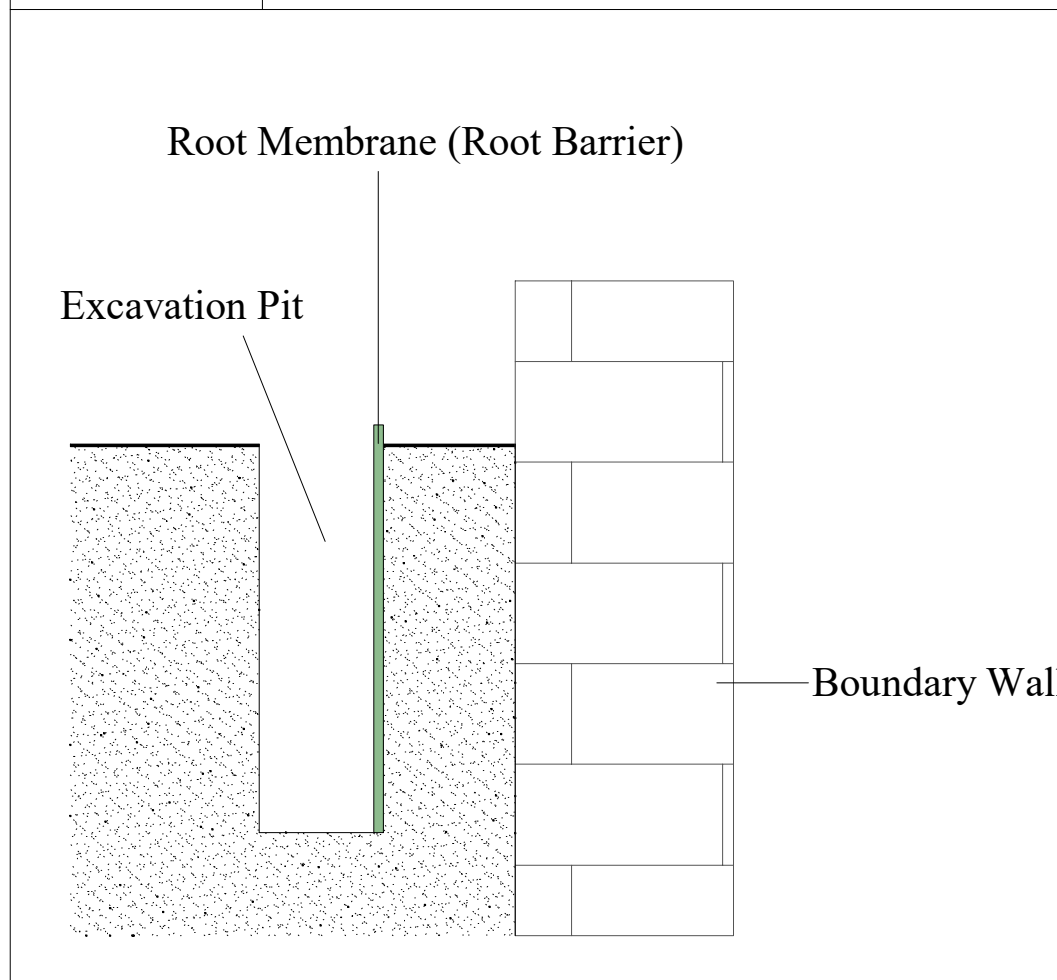


Fagus sylvatica
(Common Beech)



Arboricultural & Ecological Consultants

Root Membrane (Root Barrier) Locations:
to be installed prior to the trees being planted.



Existing Trees

Marland Old Road

Site Boundary: New Retaining Wall

Site Boundary:
Existing Retaining Wall

Marland Fold

Appendix 2: The Tree Species Chosen

Species	Wildlife Benefits
<i>Acer campestre</i> Field Maple	A native tree with a light, airy crown, providing good medium canopy cover. The leaves are particularly attractive to aphids and their predators (and subsequent mammalian/bird predators). Positioned away from the main dwellings to avoid future conflict.
<i>Acer palmatum</i> Japanese Maple	A small, attractive ornamental tree which is suitable for a garden location. Whilst not native to the UK, birds often find shelter and potential nesting sites amidst the branches, while various insects are attracted to the flowers, aiding pollination.
<i>Betula pendula</i> Silver Birch	A native tree, positioned to provide amenity adjacent to Old Marland Fold. Silver Birch have small, triangular shaped leaves and an open canopy, producing light, dappled shade, which makes them suitable for a garden setting. They are a great habitat for numerous insect species. The leaves attract aphids which are a food source for ladybirds and other insects.
<i>Betula pubescens</i> Downy Birch	A native tree, positioned to provide amenity adjacent to Old Marland Fold. Downy Birch have an open canopy, which makes them suitable for a garden setting. They provide food and habitat for more numerous insect species. The leaves attract aphids, providing food for ladybirds and other species further up the food chain.
<i>Malus sylvestris</i> Crab Apple	The native Apple which provides good pollen and nectar opportunities for bees and other insects early in the season, before many other flowers have come out. The fruits are eaten by a wide range of mammals and birds, including Mice, Voles, Foxes and Badgers.
<i>Prunus</i> <i>'Amanogawa'</i> <i>kanzan</i> Flowering Japanese Cherry	A small, narrow growing fastigate tree which is suitable for a garden setting. Whilst not native to the UK, its flowers contain pollen and nectar, which is used by insects such as bees, butterflies and beetles, as well as small birds.

<i>Sorbus aria</i> Whitebeam	A native tree with a light airy crown, similar in some respects to Maples. The flowers are pollinated by insects and the berries provide food for birds. Planted away from the main dwellings.
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> Rowan	A small native tree which is suitable for a garden location. The flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects and the berries provide an important source of food for birds in the autumn.
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> Common Beech	A native species, to be planted as a hedge to provide screening adjacent to Old Marland Fold. A Beech hedge will provide food and shelter for wildlife and offers a great habitat for garden birds.

I hope that this scheme and methodology provides all the necessary information, but should any further advice be needed please do not hesitate to contact the author.

Signed

T. Thwaites

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12th May 2025

For and on behalf of ***JCA Ltd***

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Advice for Local Authorities and Social Housing

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- Specialist Decay Detection
- Landscape and Orchard Design

Tree Health and Pest and Disease Management

- Pest and Disease Surveys
- Tree Health Checks
- Disease Mitigation and Control

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Ecological Pre-Planning Services

- Phase 1 Habitat Surveys
- Great Crested Newt eDNA Sampling
- Protected Species: Bat, Wintering and Nesting Bird, Badger, Amphibian, Otter, Water Vole, White-Clawed Crayfish, Dormice and Reptile Surveys.
- Preparation for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Invasive Species Surveys
- Code for Sustainable Homes

Ecological Post-Planning Services

- Biodiversity Enhancement Plans
- Protected Species Mitigation
- Ecological Management (Bat and Bird box installation and inspection)

HEAD QUARTERS:

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