Ecology Proposals at 5 Acre Field South of A522 & "Brookvale" Uttoxeter Road For Mr and Mrs

A.Graham Document Reference 5AFSB/08det/rev01

The planning Statement contained in this planning application explains the desire to introduce a balancing/attenuation pool to help control and improve water flow from the North of the A522 to the river Tean via the Brook which exists on the East boundary of the 5 acre field owned by Mr and Mrs A Graham.

The creation of the balancing attenuation pool creates an ideal opportunity to improve the visual, ecological and environmental amenity in the field and to the wider surroundings. In addition it will provide an ideal retreat for the water fowl that inhabit the river Tean locally in times of river flood and swollen water flows.

The proposal seeks to sympathetically provide habitat for a number of bird and mammal species together with colonisation by fish and the introduction of a number of forms of trees and plants to blend into the local landscape and take advantage of the contours and shape of the proposed pool.

The proposal is rather unique in that as well as providing much needed control of water flow in inclement weather together with relief further down the valley it has the following features:-

a.The pool lies within pasture land and can provide a natural drinking area for livestock

b.The pool has running water into it which will maintain high level of water quality and support many species including a wetland area at the point of water inlet

c.The pool has a varied shape to its perimeter from flat to gentle embankment allowing a variety of species to be planted including a reed bed which can be supported from the clear water runoff from the sceptic tank of the adjacent property "Brookvale".

The proposed details are described below and are shown on areas A to G on drawing No. 5AFSB/08/rev 01:-

Area A
Area A lies adjacent to the proposed live stock drinking area and will be planted with flowering hawthorn with an odd oak and birch to protect area B, a reed bed area from South westerly winds and to provide a natural barrier to the livestock.

Area B
The existing clear water run off from the sceptic tank that supports "Brookvale" to the North currently runs into a soak away. This will be modified and extended to reach the pool and the high level of nutrient should help support a reed bed to be planted with sweet grass, reed, canary grass and reed mace.

Area C
Area C is in the North East corner and will contain a diversion of the current North-South brook into the pool and with careful planting of common Alder, white willow and birch together with low level shrubs and grasses it is hoped to create a wetland area to attract wetland species to take habitat. The Southern end of the area is fixed by a weir to control the outflow from the pool back into the brook course at a controlled rate particularly in times of heavy rain fall. This then blends into the main embankment to the South described in Area D and E the lower and upper slopes.

Area D

Area D is the whole length of the lower slope of the South embankment to form the pool. It is proposed to plant this with scattered tres of birch, Scotts pine and hawthorn with scattered shrubs , heathers, scrub and hawthorn bushes. This should provide habitat for most local species of nesting birds including wood pigeon and the ground level planting should provide habitat for pheasant which are in abundance in the locality. The lower bank should be ideal for burrowing mammals including the local rabbits and badger.

Area E

Area E extends the upper slope to the South of the pool and will have the background of trees from area D so will be planted with lower growing species including hawthorn and other shrubs, gorse, broom, common heather, bell heather, bent grass and sheeps fescue. This should compliment the lower slope planting and provide water side habitat for water fowl such as moor hen and ducks both inhabitants of the river Tean.

Area F

It is proposed to create a shallow shelf area on the south edge of the pool approx. 2 m wide to be planted with marginal plants such a sedges, rushes, reed sweet grass, canary grass, yellow flag, burr reed and reed mace. This should provide habitat for water voles etc.

Area G

It is proposed to construct a small island in the middle of the pool using concrete man hole rings filled with earth and soil to prevent erosion which will improve the visual amenity to the proposal and provide protected safe habitat for water fowl when planted with willows and alders with ground cover shrubs and grasses.