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To: [Curley, Jane](#)
Cc: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\); "chris.bean@wardell-armstrong.com"](#)
Subject: DOC/2021/0061 - Wredon Quarry, Ashbourne Road, Rue Hill - landscaping scheme
Date: 14 October 2021 15:05:10

Jane

As a result of advice and recommendations from Kate Dewey at SWT, it has been agreed that the emphasis of the development landscaping scheme should be the retention and management of existing calcareous grassland (including scrub removal and control) and translocation/creation of new areas of calcareous grassland with subsequent management, in accordance with the LEMP (Version 3.1) approved under the full planning permission SMD/2019/0768. This permission also includes Condition 10 requiring the submission, approval, implementation and maintenance of a landscape planting plan to be based on the principles of the approved LEMP, and this current Discharge of Conditions application now seeks to meet the submission/approval elements of Condition 10.

Accordingly, the submitted landscape plan no longer includes the previously proposed tree and hedge planting within the application site, as it was agreed that this would reduce the area available for grassland and also encourage unwanted scrub encroachment of grassland. This approach is considered appropriate, not least in recognition of the priority for retaining, creating and managing the grassland, but also because the approved development would allow for the retention of the existing woodland belt along the northern edge of the site which in conjunction with landform would retain screening of the site and the development from the A52 Ashbourne Road.

However, to still provide mitigation for scrub and trees which would be removed, the landscaping scheme now submitted proposes an area of new native trees/fruit trees together with an enclosing new native hedgerow, around the helicopter landing pad area in the adjacent field to the south-east which comprises mown amenity grassland of relatively low biodiversity value. The proposed species and planting size specifications etc for the tree and hedgerow planting are considered appropriate, and the planting plan can be approved to discharge Condition 10. This condition already provides for subsequent implementation and maintenance of new planting, so no further conditions are required in this regard.

I would request that the following informative note be included on the decision notice to provide advice on future maintenance of the new hedgerow:

1. It is noted that one appropriate component of the new hedgerow species mix is native Crab Apple, and it is suggested that any future maintenance of the hedgerow (whether traditional hedgelaying or side/top trimming) should allow for a good number of the Crab Apples to be left to grow on as standard hedgerow trees rather than routinely trimmed in with the main body of the hedge, and the same could also be applied to a few of the Common Hawthorn. In addition to providing more structural, visual and habitat diversity, this would importantly allow these standard trees to achieve the mature form usually necessary for fruiting. Therefore it is suggested that suitable individual plants of these species, ideally at irregular spacing along the hedgerow for more natural effect, should be fitted with high-visibility tags to discourage their cutting during any hedgerow

maintenance operations, with relevant maintenance staff/contractors being advised accordingly as to their purpose.

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