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# *Soft Landscaping Proposal*

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## Purpose

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The purpose of this proposal is to detail the soft landscaping proposal for the Glamping site at Stouslie Farm, Hawick. This report has considered all recommendations provided by the Landscape architect from the Scottish Borders council planning department.

This document should be used together with both the **3D visuals and Landscape Layout Drawing** which have been uploaded separately.

## Planning Department Recommendation

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The Landscape Architect from the Scottish Borders council commented...

*"The development of three pods in this rural location will have a modest level of visual intrusion, given the remote location and limit number of roads or locations where it will be visible from. While there is a hedge and roadside trees to the north forming a backdrop to the site, I consider that some more robust planting proposals would better settle the pods into the immediate landscape, including a hedge along the inside of the drystone wall and some tree planting to create a degree of separation between the pods as well as providing some shelter and privacy at this elevated location. This would help the proposal to be assimilated into the wider landscape.*

*A more comprehensive planting scheme using, as far as possible, native species such as a mixed native hedge and a native tree mix should be a condition of consent. The entrance detail should be as low-key as possible to fit with the existing character of the immediate farmed landscape."*

It was also noted from the Planning Officer assigned to our application that:

*Any site landscaping would take a considerable period of time (possibly 10 -15 years) to mature to help to screen and assimilate the development into the landscape.*

## Existing Landscape

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The proposed glamping pod site is currently situated along the north side of a grazed field where there are currently no trees, hedges or shrubs. A drystone wall runs the length of the north side of the field. Stouslie Schoolhouse and stables are situated on the west side of the field and a mixed native hedge is planted along the south and east side of the field.

The entrance to the site will be constructed by removing a 6m section of the drystone wall onto the unnamed public road. The opposing side of the road is lined with Beech trees and green Beech hedging. This provides the site with a beautiful backdrop and shelter instead of an open landscape.

Please see **Appendix A** - Existing Landscape photograph

## New Landscape Proposal

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In conjunction with the recommendations set out by the Landscape Architect we consulted with a local Forestry contractor to examine the site and advise upon the best native trees and hedging to be used in the development of the Glamping site. Please see the **Landscape Layout Drawing** detailing the location of all new plantings and **3D visuals** created to provide a scaled illustration of what the landscaping and site will look like upon planting.

As an extension to the existing landscape we propose to plant a native Green Beech hedge 4 metres from the inside of the drystone wall. This will run the length of the site and continue down the length of each pod therefore creating three individual garden areas and a degree of separation between all pods. This hedge will also be planted along the bottom of the car park area to conceal parked cars.

When purchased the bare rooted Beech plants will already be 3 years old with a height of between 1 to 1.25m. A double staggered planting design will be used in order to create a dense hedge providing a windbreak and privacy to the site. A basic fence will be erected either side of the Beech hedge with rabbit netting to prevent destruction of the hedge. Please see 'Tree/Hedge Analysis' for a further details and estimated growth rates of all plantings.

The gap between the drystone wall and the hedge will become a path and will be laid with stone chippings with a small gate breaking the hedge line into the entrance of each pod. Small native garden flowers will also be planted along the edge of the drystone wall. During our on-site consultation with our local Forestry contractor it was recommended that the Beech hedge should be planted at least 3 metres off the drystone wall as the roots of the hedge would most likely, over time, damage the structure of the wall and make the maintenance of both the wall and hedge more difficult in the future.

There will be mix of native trees planted including

- 3 Rowan trees along the hedge line partitioning each pod.
- 2 Hazel trees and 1 Wild Cherry tree along the hedge line bordering the south side of the car park.
- 1 Hazel tree and 1 Wild Cherry tree at the end of the hedge line running in parallel with the drystone wall.

Upon planting, all root ball trees will already be at least 1.5 metres in height for the Hazel and between 2.5 to 4 metres tall for the Rowan and Wild Cherry. Please see **Appendix B** to see the size of trees upon planting and **3D visual** for a scaled illustration of trees when planted on comparison to the Glamping pod. In most cases, the trees will already be taller than the Glamping pod which is 2.6 metres in height. They will provide shelter, privacy and help to assimilate the pods into the wider landscape.

Surrounding the left hand side and back of the decking where the hot tub will be situated we intend to plant a native living willow hedge. This comes in the form of a living willow

panel at 2 metres in height creating an immediate screen and a fully height matured instant hedge within months of planting. Please see **Appendix C** for Living Willow case example.

Along the top of the banking and in front of the pods daffodils will be planted together with other flowers in the garden area.

Albeit out of scope of the planning approval we have decided to fence off the banking area in front of the pods from grazing cattle to create a new herb rich habitat for local wildlife and insects by planting native wild flowers. We also intend to extend the hedge line along the south of the car park across to the entrance of the field and plant other trees including native Purple Beech to add contrast to the existing Green Beech trees, Silver Birch and Hazel. We have included this to help build context to what the landscape will look like once completed.

During the development of this landscape proposal we have tried our best to accommodate every recommendation set out by the council by:

- planting mixed native trees, hedges and shrubs that will blend into the current landscape but will also enhance the natural environment.
- planting a native Green Beech hedge along the length of the site 4 metres from the inside of the drystone wall.
- planting a native Green Beech hedge and native trees down the length of each pod creating privacy, shelter in the form of a wind break and a degree of separation between all pods
- using plants that are already fairly mature in order to create an instant impact without the need to wait 10-15 years for the development. In this case, the living willow hedge will already be at full maturity within 4 months of planting. The Beech hedge will already be 3 years old and based on estimated growth rates will be at full height within 3/4 years and by planting trees that are already 2.5 metres or greater in height they will be taller than the overall height of the actual pods within only a couple of years. We can therefore assimilate and settle the pods into the wider landscape much quicker and in some cases instantly.

We hope that this proposal is deemed suitable and want to work closely with the council to put forward the best landscape design possible. All suggestions for improvement are more than welcome.

## Tree and Plant Analysis

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This section provides a thorough analysis of all proposed planting including:

- Type
- Description
- Benefits to environment, wildlife and insects
- Estimated Growth rate
- Planting Density

Information gathered to complete this section was compiled through our onsite consultation with the local Forestry contractor, discussions with Cheviot Trees Nursery and online research using websites such as the Woodland Trust and Royal Horticultural Society. Please see **Appendix D** for a detailed list of all researched online source material.

### 1. Green Beech Hedge

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#### Description

The Green Beech hedge is also known as *Fagus Sylvatica* and is a popular native British Hedge. It has green glossy leaves in spring and summer with very small flowers that usually remain unseen due to the size of the leaves. Despite being deciduous the leaves remain on the hedge turning this into a beautiful copper and brown hedge during the winter.



#### Benefits

- Green Beech forms a dense barrier that is great for soundproofing and shelter in the form of a windbreak
- Green Beech is already established behind the site along the other side of the road. by continuing the use of this hedge type it will blend into the wider landscape with ease.
- Easy to maintain
- Fast growing - average growth rate of 40cm per year
- It provides shelter throughout the year and a rich food source for local wildlife when very small nuts ripen in the autumn
- Although deciduous it retains its leaves all year round

#### Estimated Growth Rate

It is widely detailed that the Green Beech is a fast growing hedge with an average growth rate of 40 cm per year.

A 3 year old bare rooted hedge will be planted having already achieved a height of between 1m to 1.2m. We do not anticipate this hedge to achieve its full average growth rate in the first year as it will take time to establish in a new environment. That being said it will still grow therefore we have reflected this in the estimated growth table below. It should also be noted that other factors such as the weather will also have an impact upon the growth rate achieved by the hedge once planted.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Height at start of year</b>	<b>Estimated growth rate</b>	<b>Height of plant at the end of the year</b>
Year 1 (first planted)	1m to 1.2m	20 cm	1.2m to 1.4m
Year 2	1.2m to 1.4m	40 cm	1.6m to 1.8m
Year 3	1.6m to 1.8m	40 cm	2m to 2.2m
Year 4	2m to 2.2m	40 cm	2.4m to 2.6m

Should the optimal growth rate be achieved by the end of year 3 we would prefer to cut the hedge back to 1.8m (6ft). As the pods are only 2.6m in height we feel this height would provide an appropriate level of cover to both shelter and assimilate the pods into the landscape.

#### **Planting Density**

A double staggered planting design will be used to create a dense hedge therefore 5 plants per 1 metre will be planted.

## 2. Living Willow Hedge

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### **Description**

Native Living Willow is also known as *Salix*. It is one of nature's colourful and adaptable building materials. A Living Willow hedge or fedge is supplied in pre assembled sections for easy planting and creates an instant hedge. Please see **Appendix C** for a Living willow hedge case example.

### **Benefits**

- Instant impact upon the landscape as hedge will be installed at full height of 2m
- Creates a privacy screen
- Creates shelter in the form of a windbreak
- Fast growing up to 2m per year. Cuttings taken to maintain the hedge will used elsewhere on the farm in order to create windbreaks in other fields further enhancing the wider landscape of the area.
- Provides food and shelter for birds and insects

### **Estimated Growth Rate**

The living willow will be installed at a height of 2 metres. From planting we will need to trim back this hedge during summer and winter in order to keep its shape and structure due to the rate at which it grows. The hedge will have a fully established rooting system within 2 years.

### **Planting Density**

Living Willow panels are bought preassembled at 2m in height and 1m long. A total of 12 panels will be required for each pod and 36 panels in total.

### 3. Rowan Tree

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#### Description

The Rowan Tree also known as *Sorbus Aucuparia* is a native Scottish tree. Mature trees can grow up to 15m tall. It has delicate green leaves bearing white clusters of creamy white flowers in the spring providing pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects. In autumn bright red berries develop providing a rich source of food for birds.



#### Benefits

- Bought at a minimum of 2.5 metres this tree will already be of equal height or taller than the glamping pod. It will therefore help to blend the pods into the surrounding landscape.
- Displays beautiful colours throughout the year enhancing the existing landscape.
- Flowers and berries provide a rich food source for bees, insects and birds.
- Provides shelter for both the pods and local wildlife in the area.

#### Estimated Growth Rate

As with all trees they will of course take years in which to fully mature to their full potential height. That being said, as the tree will be planted at a minimum of 2.5m in height it will have an immediate impact upon the landscape. The Rowan tree will grow at an average rate of 30 cm (1 ft) per year. We do not anticipate this tree to achieve its full average growth rate in the first year as it will take time to establish in a new environment. It should also be noted that other factors such as the weather will also have an impact upon the growth rate achieved by the hedge once planted.

Year	Height at start of year	Estimated growth rate	Height of plant at the end of the year
Year 1 (First planted)	2.5m	10 cm	2.6m
Year 2	2.6m	30 cm	2.9m
Year 3	2.9m	30 cm	3.2m
Year 4	3.2m	30 cm	3.5m

#### Planting Density

In total there will be 3x Rowan trees planted, 1x Rowan tree down each hedge partition.

## 4. Wild Cherry Tree

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### Description

The Wild Cherry tree also known as *Prunus avium* is deemed to be the prettiest native British tree. Mature trees can grow up to 18m tall. It has oval green toothed leaves that fade into a deep orange in autumn. Beautiful white flowers are develop in spring that soon turn into deep red cherries after pollination by insects.



### Benefits

- Bought at a minimum of 2.5 metres this tree will already be of equal height or taller than the height of the Glamping pod. It will therefore help to blend the pods into the surrounding landscape.
- Displays beautiful colours all throughout the year enhancing the existing landscape.
- Flowers and cherries provide a rich food source for bees, insects, birds as well as other mammals such as badgers.
- Provides shelter local wildlife.

### Estimated Growth Rate

As with all trees they will of course take years in which to fully mature to their full potential height. That being said, as this tree will be planted at a minimum height of 2.5m it will have an immediate impact upon the landscape. The Wild Cherry tree will grow at an average rate of 50 cm (1.75 ft) per year. We do not anticipate this tree to achieve its full average growth rate in the first year as it will take time to establish itself in a new environment. It should also be noted that other factors such as the weather will also have an impact upon the growth rate achieved by the hedge once planted.

Year	Height at start of year	Estimated growth rate	Height of plant at the end of the year
Year 1 (First planted)	2.5m	20 cm	2.7m
Year 2	2.7m	50 cm	3.2m
Year 3	3.2m	50 cm	3.7m
Year 4	3.7m	50 cm	4.2m

### Planting Density

In total there will be 2x Wild Cherry trees planted. One along the hedge line bordering the car park and the other at the end of the site and hedge line running parallel with the drystone wall.

## 5. Hazel Tree

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### Description

The Hazel tree also known as *Corylus avellana* and is a native Scottish tree. Mature trees can grow up to 12m tall however they can also be maintained to act as a shrub. It has small green oval shaped leaves that turn yellow in autumn before falling off. Yellow catkin flowers are produced from mid February and hazelnuts begin to fruit in late autumn.



### Benefits

- Bought at 1.5 to 2 metres in height this tree will have an immediate impact upon the landscape.
- Displays beautiful colours all throughout the year enhancing the existing landscape.
- Catkin flowers and hazelnuts provide a rich food source and shelter for bees, insects, birds as well as other mammals such as squirrels and voles.
- It will conceal the car park area from view and help to assimilate the proposed development into the wider landscape.

### Estimated Growth Rate

As with all trees they will of course take years in which to fully mature to their full potential height. The Hazel tree will grow at an average rate of 30-60 cm per year. We do not anticipate it to achieve its full average growth rate in the first year as it will take time to establish in a new environment. It should also be noted that other factors such as the weather will also have an impact upon the growth rate achieved by the hedge once planted.

Year	Height at start of year	Estimated growth rate	Height of plant at the end of the year
Year 1 (First planted)	1.5m	20 cm	1.7m
Year 2	1.7m	40 cm	2.1m
Year 3	2.1m	40 cm	2.5m
Year 4	2.5m	40 cm	2.9m

### Planting Density

In total there will be 3x Hazel trees planted. 2x Hazel tree will be planted along the hedge line at the bottom of the car park and 1x hazel tree will be planted at the end of the hedge line running parallel with the drystone wall.

## Schedule of Trees and Plants Summary

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Please see below a summarised breakdown of all trees, hedges and shrubs that will be planted including numbers required and planting density.

Species	Plant height when purchased	Number of plants	Planting density
Green Beech Hedge	1m to 1.2m	500 approx	5 plants per metre
Living Willow Hedge	2m panel	36 x 1 metre panels	n/a
Rowan Tree	2.5m	3	n/a
Wild Cherry Tree	2.5m	2	n/a
Hazel Tree	1.5m	3	n/a

## Programme for completion

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After the groundwork has been completed landscaping will begin. We will source all hedges, trees and plants locally. Our local Forestry contractor will be employed to complete the planting.

### **Beech Hedge**

A trench will be dug at 30cm deep and 60cm wide. A double staggered row design will be utilised in order to create a thick hedge at a density of 5 plants per metre. Rows will be planted 40cm apart at 33cm spacings. One row will be offset from the other by 16-17cm. Once planted the area will be mulched, a basic fence will be erected either side of the hedge with rabbit netting to protect the young plants while they are established.

### **Living Willow Hedge**

The panels will be planted into a 60cm deep trench. Regular watering or a trickle irrigation system will be fitted for the first 2 years of growth.

### **Trees**

Holes will be dug just a little deeper than the container the tree was potted in and at twice the diameter. Roots to be teased out long the side of the root ball and planted into the hole. The hole will be filled with soil, a stake will be erected and the area will be mulched. A wire net will frame the tree in order to protect it from hares and deer.

## Ongoing Maintenance

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### **Beech Hedge**

In the first 2 years of planting there will be little to no maintenance required. The area around the hedge will be weeded and in dry periods the hedge will be watered.

After the 3rd year or when deemed necessary the hedge will be trimmed back to a height of 1.8m (6ft) once per year.

### **Living Willow Hedge**

A drip irrigation system or regular watering will be conducted during the summer months of the first 2 years after planting. In year 1, summer trimming will be completed in order to maintain the height of the hedge as it is so fast growing.

During the winter and on an annual basis thereafter the hedge will be cut back to a height of 2m tall. Cuttings taken will be planted elsewhere on the farm to provide windbreaks in other fields. Fertiliser will be applied annually in the winter if required.

### **Rowan and Wild Cherry trees**

On an annual basis the area around the tree will be weeded however given that these trees fall into Pruning group 1 on the RHS website little to no pruning will be required.

### **Hazel tree**

After 5 years Hazel will be coppiced during the winter to invigorate growth. It will grow back quickly and be more vibrant and full in response.

It should be noted that any trees which die in the first 5 years of operation will be replaced like for like.

## Appendix A - Existing Landscape photograph

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## Appendix B - Size of tree upon planting

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1. **Rowan tree**, *Sorbus Aucuparia*, at between 3m to 4m tall. Already taller than the Glamping pods which are 2.6m in height.

Image taken from Barcham trees link: <https://www.barcham.co.uk/products>



2. **Wild Cherry tree**, *Prunus Avium*, at between 3m to 4m tall. Already taller than the Glamping pods which are 2.6m in height.

Image taken from Barcham trees link: <https://www.barcham.co.uk/products/prunus-avium>



3. **Hazel tree**, *Sorbus Aucuparia*, at between 1.5m to 2m tall. The smallest of the trees but is still at least 5ft tall upon planting.

Image taken from Barcham trees link: <https://www.barcham.co.uk/products/Corylus-avellana-multi-stem>



## Appendix C - Living Willow instant hedge example

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[http://www.etsluk.com/images/drumoak\\_project\\_profile.pdf](http://www.etsluk.com/images/drumoak_project_profile.pdf)



# The Green Barrier™

*Patented Design & Construction*

<b>Project Profile:</b>	Drumoak, Aberdeen
<b>Client:</b>	Stewart Milne Homes
<b>Detail:</b>	215mtrs length x 2.5mtrs high non acoustic Green Barrier, complete with irrigation system.
<b>Objective:</b>	To screen new residential area from busy road
<b>Construction date:</b>	April 2006



The site next to an A road, before installation of the Green Barrier.



Excavating 600mm deep trench through the top of the earth bund.



The Green Barrier in living Willow after completion. New growth will appear in spring.



The willow barrier is producing lush growth only 4 months after planting.

With acknowledgement to Stewart Milne Homes.

## Appendix D - Online Research Sources

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### **Green Beech Hedge**

- Beech Hedge information pack including photos, planting information and key facts:  
<https://www.hedgenursery.co.uk/common-beech.html>
- How to plant and maintain a Beech hedge  
<https://www.ashridgetrees.co.uk/gardening-advice/how-to-plant-hedge/how-to-plant-beech-hedging>

### **Living Willow Hedge**

- Non acoustic green barrier hedge in living willow fact sheet  
[http://www.etsluk.com/non\\_acoustic\\_green\\_barriers.html](http://www.etsluk.com/non_acoustic_green_barriers.html)
- Green Barrier in living willow maintenance sheet:  
[http://www.etsluk.com/green\\_barrier\\_maintenance.html](http://www.etsluk.com/green_barrier_maintenance.html)
- Living Willow profile  
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=588>

### **Rowan Tree**

- Rowan tree information pack including photos, key facts, short video 'a year in the life of a Rowan tree' and value to the environment and wildlife:  
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/rowan/>
- Average Growth rate:  
[https://www.hedging.co.uk/acatalog/product\\_10247.html](https://www.hedging.co.uk/acatalog/product_10247.html)
- How to plant a potted tree:  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/plant\\_tree1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/plant_tree1.shtml)
- Tree Maintenance and pruning:  
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=549>
- Size of Rowan tree upon planting:  
<https://www.barcham.co.uk/products/sorbus-aucuparia>

### **Wild Cherry Tree**

- Wild Cherry tree information pack including photos, key facts, short video 'a year in the life of a Rowan tree' and value to the environment and wildlife:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/rowan/>

- Average Growth rate:

[https://www.hedging.co.uk/acatalog/product\\_10165.html](https://www.hedging.co.uk/acatalog/product_10165.html)

- How to plant a potted tree:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/plant\\_tree1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/plant_tree1.shtml)

- Size of Wild Cherry upon purchase:

<https://www.barcham.co.uk/products/prunus-avium>

### **Hazel Tree**

- Hazel tree information pack including photos, key facts, short video 'a year in the life of a Hazel tree' and value to the environment and wildlife:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/hazel/>

- Guide on how to maintain has a shrub rather than a tree:

<https://www.growveg.co.uk/guides/a-guide-to-growing-your-own-hazelnuts/>

- Short key facts information pack:

[https://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/4511/Corylus-avellana-\(F\)/Details](https://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/4511/Corylus-avellana-(F)/Details)

- Ongoing Maintenance and Pruning:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=161>

- Size of Hazel upon purchase:

<https://www.barcham.co.uk/products/Corylus-avellana-multi-stem>