

Design Statement

The timber storage and processing yard has been laid out and designed to provide a safe working environment, which minimises the visual impact on the landscape and works to improve the biodiversity of the natural environment.

The topography of the site will be altered through a cut and fill process, to provide a level site area, allowing for safe storage of timber and provide suitable locations for the processing buildings. The surplus earth will be utilised to create mounds to the east, south and south west boundaries, reducing the visual impact of the yard. The mounds will be planted with a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees to improve the aesthetics, offer further screening and encourage greater biodiversity.

To the west and north of the site there will be new wildlife hedgerows planted, consisting of a mixture hawthorn, blackthorn and elder, again to improve the visual impact and provide a natural habitat for nesting birds and small mammals.

The main vehicle and timber store areas will have a permeable crushed stone base forming a safe surface, while allowing rainwater to naturally percolate.

The site entrance has been located to ensure the longest sightlines can be achieved across land owned by the applicant. This will require levels being reduced to the south west of the entrance and new fencing being positioned behind the sightlines. The new access road will be tarmacked with 1.8m high gates located at the road head, after the weighbridge. A heavy duty Aco drain will be located at the site entrance to prevent any run off on to the highway. The Aco drain will be connected to a surface water interceptor, then to a soakaway system to be located a minimum of 5 metres distance from the highway.

There will be 3 buildings on site, and two main areas for timber storage. The main building will be the chipping shed, which is an agricultural barn with precast concrete wall panels and profiled metal clad wall and roof panels. Located to the rear will be the smaller timber processing shed, clad in larch timber to the front and south west, with profiled metal cladding to the rear and north east elevation.

The temporary office & staff facility building will be housed in a portacabin, to be clad in larch vertical timbers. The building will provide welfare facilities which will be connected to waste tanks that will be emptied on a regular basis by a commercial company.

The chipping and processing sheds will have solar panels installed on the south west side of their roofs. The electricity generated will be used on site, with any excess power diverted back into the grid.

The timber storage areas have been located to minimise their visual impact and to ensure a safe environment for vehicles and machinery to load and unload.

Rainwater water from the chipping and processing shed roofs will be collected and stored, in a below ground rainwater harvesting tank, for grey water use on site. The harvesting tank is to be connected to a soakaway, to accommodate excess rainwater.

Designated parking zones, with turning areas have been located to the west of the site, for both staff and visitor parking, as well as heavy goods vehicles.