

Tree Planting & Design Services Case Study

New Campsite Proposal: The Willows Weymouth Dorset

I was contacted by a developer/builder client with regard to producing a planting proposal to assist a planning application for the creation of a low-density camping site in an arable field adjoining his property.

The site is located within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), therefore, it was important that the planting proposal related to the landscape character of the area. My client is also a passionate bee-keeper and required a range of trees and shrubs that would produce flowers throughout the cycle of the seasons.

The field was enclosed on three sides by established hedge boundaries consisting predominantly of blackthorn and hawthorn. My intention was to widen and extend the existing hedges, in order to create discrete, private camping bays, by planting a range of native tree and shrub species (and a limited number of non-native shrubs) which would provide seasonal interest and a consistent pollen source for foraging bees.

The open southern boundary would be planted with a wide shelter-belt of more vigorous native trees (aspen and alder) to screen a nearby road and reduce traffic noise. I suggested that the individual rows of these trees were periodically coppiced to prevent the trees becoming too tall and therefore maintain a low, dense, persistent screen for the proposed campsite and avoid any negative shading effects of the site in the long term.

My input with this project will not only give the campsite the strongest chance of gaining planning consent, but will ensure that the planting compliments the local character of the site; the local bee population has a seasonal food source, further habitats are created promoting biodiversity and the camper's experience is enhanced, through increased privacy and a feeling of seclusion; these benefits will increase year on year.

The proposal for the campsite is currently proceeding through the planning process.