



Proposed Sports Development: Biodiversity

Woodland

Lancashire is one of the least wooded counties in Britain with around only 5% of its area being woodland compared with the UK average of approximately 12%. The development proposes the planting of approximately 4,000 - 5,000 trees and shrubs and the transplanting of up to 500 trees. New planting will represent a 100% increase in tree cover on site and will meet the objectives of national and regional forest strategies.



A new pond, similar to this, will provide a rich diversity of habitats for plants and animals and enrich local amenity.



Broad meadows will be created on all areas of informal grassland on site margins and embankments using modern techniques, and will provide a rich colourful display and habitat.



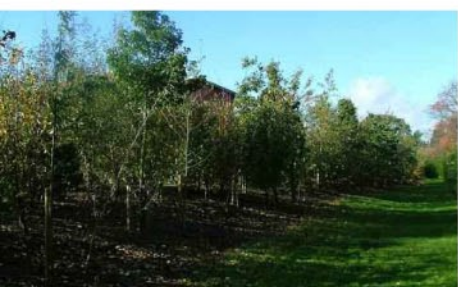
Ruff Wood is an important local resource which will be enhanced by the creation of new woodland on site with similar species structure and widen the local ecological network.



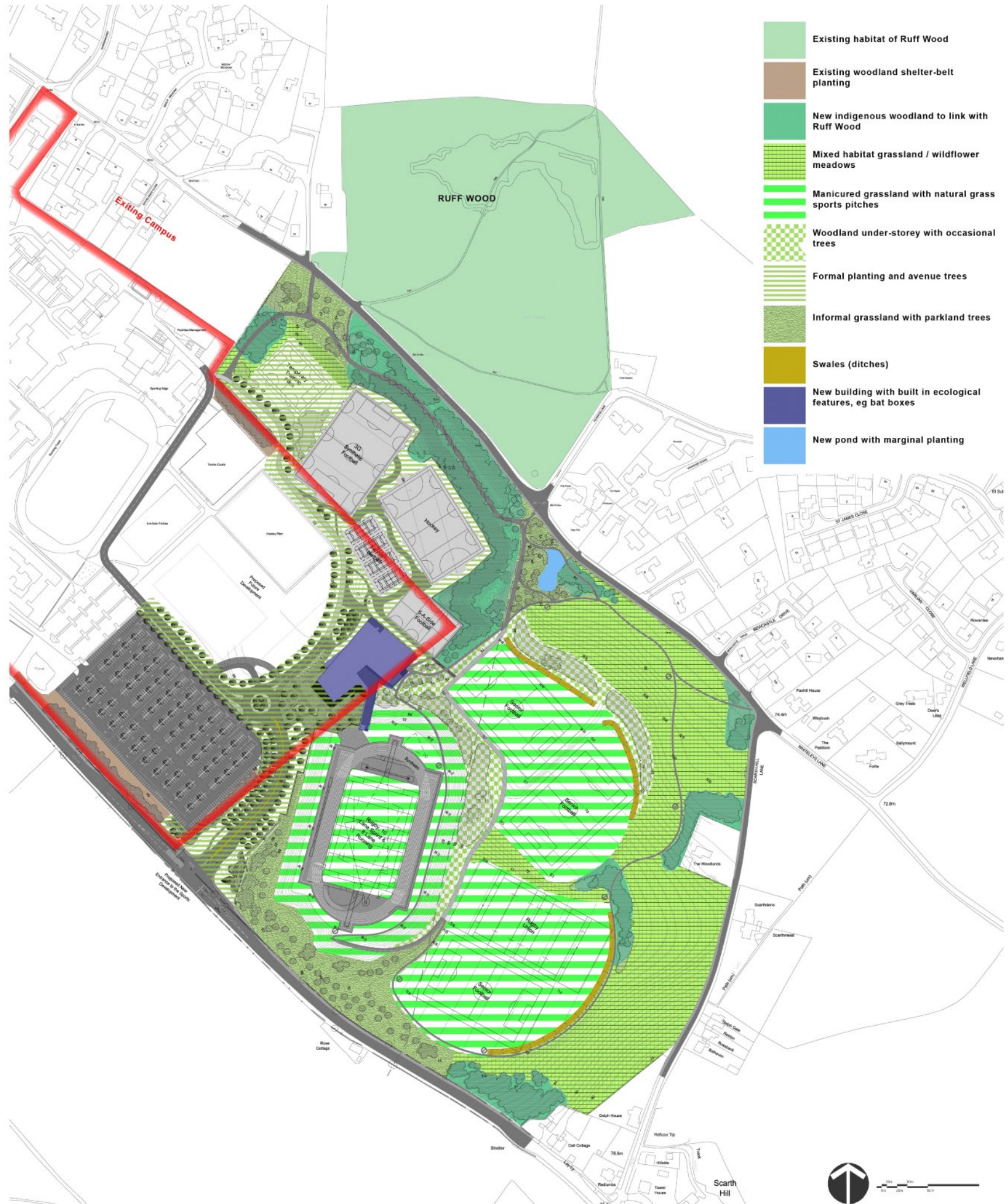
Common ornamental plants such as this berberis will provide excellent food and nectar sources for local insects and provide a colourful display.



Wildflower grassland will provide a valuable feeding area for a diversity of bird species, such as the seed-eating goldfinch.



New plantations will be designed to utilise existing material and will be planted to maximise age structure.



The project will create a rich, diverse landscape which will be managed in a sustainable way to enhance local amenity and wildlife opportunities. It will do this by:

- o Relocation of existing trees and hedgerows to help create new woodland areas
- o Creation of new woodland which will:
 - o Provide a link with ruff wood and strengthen local wildlife corridors
 - o Increase local biodiversity
 - o Use a variety of native species sourced locally
 - o Enhance visual amenity and the ecological value of the tree population by providing winter cover, berries and nesting and roosting sites for both birds and mammals.

- o Creation of open swales(ditches) as part of the surface water drainage system to enhance habitat diversity and minimise risk of flooding
- o Creation of large areas of wildflower meadow, providing a rich habitat for plants, insects, small mammals and birds and providing a colourful spectacle for local residents and visitors
- o Provide a new wildlife pond which will enhance local biodiversity, especially plants, invertebrates and amphibians and help stem the loss of this important habitat in Lancashire
- o Use plants of recognised wildlife value thereby creating a good source of pollen and nectar for bees and berries for birds.