

BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT

'RAMCREST', LOWFORD HILL, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8ER

PROPOSED REPLACEMENT DWELLING

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Introduction

In considering the proposals for the replacement dwelling at 'Ramcrest' we are mindful of the opportunities that exist for enhancing the biodiversity of the site and including measures within the build which will encourage wildlife and provide habitats.

This statement outlines the measures to be incorporated throughout the proposed development.

Creating and Enhancing Habitat

- Incorporate native species planting or planting with demonstrable wildlife value;
- Create a pond (Link to [Froglife Guidance here](#));
- Retain and create deadwood habitats e.g. log piles;
- Plant trees including fruit trees such as cherry, apple and pear and those with early spring blossom such as hawthorn and blackthorn;
- Plant species given in the [Royal Horticultural Societies \(RHS\) "Perfect for Pollinators"](#) list, preference being given to native species;
- Create biodiverse roofs on new buildings where structurally viable or incorporate green walls with climbing plants e.g. honeysuckle;
- Incorporate native species rich hedgerows in preference to close board fencing where appropriate, species such as; blackthorn, beech, hawthorn, hornbeam, dog rose, field maple, holly, hazel and wild privet; and
- Create areas of native wildflower 'meadow' planting or incorporate wildflowers which grow well in lawns such as lady's bedstraw, rough hawkbit, oxeye daisy, bird's-foot-trefoil, cowslip, selfheal, meadow buttercup and red clover.

Encouraging diverse Species within the development

Target Species	Within landscaped areas	Within building fabric/building mounted
Birds	Establish native planting particularly berry and seed producing trees and shrubs. Provision of tree / wall mounted bird nest boxes e.g. Schwegler 1B (or similar)	Incorporation of bird nesting features into the building fabric, for example for swifts. Swift boxes have been shown to also be used by the red-listed house sparrow and starling and are the favoured option. Swift bricks/boxes should be installed under an overhang or under the eaves or on walls facing north, northeast or north-west out of direct sunlight to give it protection from weather and heat. It should be sited at least 5 metres above ground, with clear adjacent airspace (a similar amount of clear drop below them) so the Swifts can access it in high-speed direct flight. They should not be placed directly above windows and doors. The specification, number and location of the boxes should be shown on a plan and relevant elevation drawings.

Bats	Bat friendly planting (BCT Guidance here) Provision of bat boxes (Schwegler type or similar – made from woodcrete for longevity) at a minimum height of 3m in an open sunny position.	Incorporate bat roosting features into the building fabric e.g. bat boxes at least 4-5m above the ground, close to hedge and tree lines, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to sun for part of the day (usually S/SW).
Hedgehog	Consider post and rail fencing and/or hedgerow planting in place of close board fencing. Where close board fencing is required provide hedgehog gaps (13cmx13cm) in gravel boards.	
Invertebrates – including Insects	Create biodiverse roofs on new buildings Create mosaic of scrub, hedges, grassland Create pond(s) with shallow sides Retain and create deadwood habitats Plant trees with early spring blossom such as hawthorn, blackthorn and willow Create ‘insect hotels’ Incorporate plant species given in the Royal Horticultural Societies (RHS) “Perfect for Pollinators” list	Provide bee bricks built into building fabric. These should be located on a south facing elevation, in a warm sunny spot. They need to be placed at least 1 metre from ground level with no upward height limit.