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Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

Cheping Gardens Retaining Wall
Cheping Gardens
Botley
Southampton
SO30 2FW

June 2026

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This report remains valid for 2 years from date of issue.		

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The views and opinions contained within the document are based on a reasonable timeframe between the completion of the survey and the commencement of any works. If there is any delay between the commencement of works that may conflict with timeframes laid out within this document, or have the potential to allow the ingress of protected species, a suitably qualified ecologist should be consulted.

It is the duty of care of the landowner/developer to act responsibly and comply with current environmental legislation if protected species are suspected or found prior to works.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (BEP) has been prepared to support proposals for the re-enforcement to an existing retaining wall which spans the rear boundary of the residential gardens of 1 to 19 Cheping Gardens & 5 to 41 Mortimer Road, Botley, SO30 2FW¹ (planning reference F/26/100693).

1.2. The BEP will support the discharge of Condition 4 of the Planning Consent which states;

Condition 4 - No development shall commence until a biodiversity enhancement plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To enhance biodiversity.

1.3. This document presents a strategy for biodiversity enhancement works both during and following the completion of the proposed development. Long-term management strategies for newly created habitats within the site are also provided, to ensure that the ecological value of the site is maintained in perpetuity to achieve enhancements to biodiversity on site.

1.4. This report has been informed by a Ecological Impact Assessment (Darwin Ecology, March 2025).

1.5. The post-development habitat enhancements on site will comprise:

- Wall- or tree-mounted bird boxes;
- Gaps in the fences at ground level, measuring approximately 15cm x 15cm to improve the connectivity of the gardens for reptile species, as well as for hedgehogs;
- A dedicated insect box, installed on a the south-facing wall;
- Two bee bricks, integrated on the south-facing wall.

1.6. The proposed plans informing this enhancement plan are shown in the **Appendix**.

1.7. General reasonable avoidance measures, and a wildlife sensitive lighting plan are proposed.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. This report aims to detail the biodiversity enhancements to be created as part of the scheme and provide details on how each habitat feature will be managed in perpetuity to achieve enhancements to biodiversity on site.

2.2. The primary objectives are as follows:

- To provide details of the type, size/number and location of each biodiversity enhancement feature or habitat to be created;

¹ OS Grid Reference SU 51126 12862

- To provide details of five years of aftercare, and details for future management and monitoring of post-development habitats;
- To ensure that no Schedule 9 plants or invasive non-native species are introduced to the site post-development;
- To provide a timescale for delivery of habitat creation and enhancement including green infrastructure.

2.3. The site owner will accept the responsibility and obligation for the implementation of the mitigation measures during landscaping works and the management plan post-construction. Should any parcels of land under this management plan be sold on, the new ownership will need to take on the management plan as an obligation. VIVID have confirmed that the land is not intended to be sold. However, should this situation arise in the future, the relevant agreement would be incorporated within the sale or lease agreement.

3. SITE OVERVIEW

- 3.1. The site is located in Botley, Hampshire, a market village approximately 8.50km from central Southampton. Directly north of the site is the village of Botley, and approximately 1.80km to the west is the town of Hedge End. The outskirts of Botley lie to the east.
- 3.2. The site comprises a Cribblock retaining wall between 19 suburban gardens (see **Figure 1**).
- 3.3. The wider landscape to the south comprises a rural mosaic of arable and pastoral fields divided by hedgerows and tree lines, and interspersed by parcels of woodland and scattered low-density residential developments. The River Hamble splits and runs to the south and east, flowing approximately 0.04km to the south of the site at its closest. The A334 bisects Botley, running approximately 0.017km north of the site. Botley station and its associated railway line run approximately 0.085km to the northeast.



Figure 1: Site location within the local landscape (Copyright Google Earth Pro 2026)

4. GENERAL SITE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1. All works within the site will need to be carefully controlled and monitored to ensure that impacts to the surrounding habitats and wildlife remain low. Clearance works will be carefully coordinated to ensure sensitive site works are undertaken, particularly with regard to reptiles, amphibians, birds and terrestrial mammals.
- 4.2. General site management will involve precautionary measures to safeguard species which may be moving through the site during clearance of habitats.

Ecological Supervision

- 4.3. Immediately prior to any works on site, the wall must be subject to an inspection by a suitably qualified and licensed bat ecologist to ensure as far as possible that no bats are present. This check will also include a search for reptiles, amphibians, and nesting birds, as there is potential for these species to be present within the cribblock.
- 4.4. A receptor area must also be identified and agreed so that any animals found can be moved to a suitable and safe habitat

Protection of Wildlife

- 4.5. To protect reptiles, amphibians and small mammals such as hedgehogs, standard mitigation and reasonable avoidance measures will be followed, including;
 - Any ground vegetation within the application boundary should be maintained to a short sward length before the works begins to prevent the habitat becoming suitable wildlife refugia.
 - Should the vegetation grow longer than 30cm then any vegetation clearance should be done by hand and only during the reptile key active season (March-September, inclusive). Weather should be 9°C or higher, and dry with no strong winds. This will allow active reptiles or amphibians to move to more suitable habitat nearby, if they are present within the working area.
 - Should vegetation grow to above 15cm vegetation removal should occur as a two-stage cut. The initial cut should be done by hand and reduce the vegetation to a height of 15cm. This should then be left overnight to allow for the dispersal of any amphibians and reptiles present. The second cut should occur the next day in weather suitable for reptiles and amphibians. Both cuts should be overseen by a suitably qualified ecologist.
 - In addition, any areas of rubble/debris around the site should also be cleared by hand. This destructive clearance must be undertaken outside of the hibernation period (ideally September to avoid breeding bird season) to ensure that any individuals on site are active during the search.
 - In order to prevent creating suitable refuges for reptiles, amphibians and hedgehogs during construction, all stored materials should be raised off the ground on pallets or

skids. Aggregates, such as gravel or sand, must be delivered in bulk bags and stored on pallettes.

- Any excavations or trenches on site must be covered whilst works are paused (such as overnight), or a ramp should be provided in order to prevent animals from becoming trapped.
- All works will be undertaken during the day.
- In the event a reptile, amphibian or hedgehog is discovered on site during the construction phase then all works must stop and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted.

Breeding birds

- 4.6. Building work or removal of vegetation within the site has potential to harm or disturb breeding birds. It is recommended that works take place outside of the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive for most species in the UK). If these works must take place during the nesting bird season then a pre-works check by a suitably qualified ecologist will be conducted to ensure that no active nests are present. If active nests are recorded, a suitable buffer will be retained around these until all chicks have fledged (to be confirmed by a suitably qualified ecologist).

5. BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Introduction

- 5.1. The nesting features to be installed post-completion of works are described below and their locations indicated in **Figure 2**. They must be installed during the construction phase.

Birds

- 5.2. Four wall- or tree-mounted bird boxes suitable for species likely present within the gardens must be installed. The boxes recommended for installation on site are detailed below.
- 1 x RSPB Apex classic nest box
 - 1 x RSPB Apex starling nest box
 - 1 x RSPB Robin and wren diamond nest box
 - 1 x RSPB Sparrow terrace nest box (on an external wall)
- 5.3. Bird boxes are recommended to be installed where they will be safe from predation by cats, not in full sun so they do not get too hot for young birds and protected from rain and winds. As the wall faces south but the ideal aspect for bird boxes is facing north and east, locating bird boxes within the wall is not appropriate. Therefore, bird boxes will be installed within the gardens of the houses or in the wooded area adjacent to Num 1.



RSPB Apex classic nest box



RSPB Apex starling nest box



RSPB Robin and wren diamond nest box



RSPB Sparrow terrace nest box

Wildlife highways

- 5.4. Gaps in the fences at ground level, measuring approximately 15cm x 15cm will improve the connectivity of the gardens for reptiles, amphibians and hedgehogs.



Example of a gap in the fence suitable for hedgehogs

Invertebrates

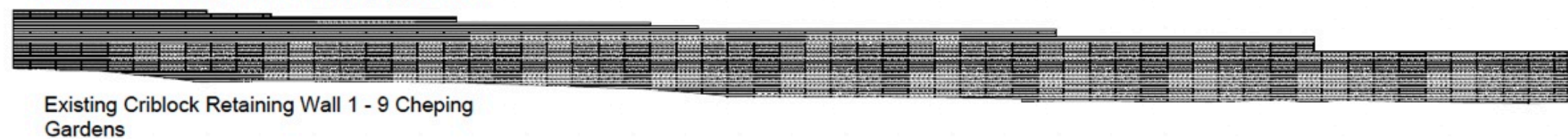
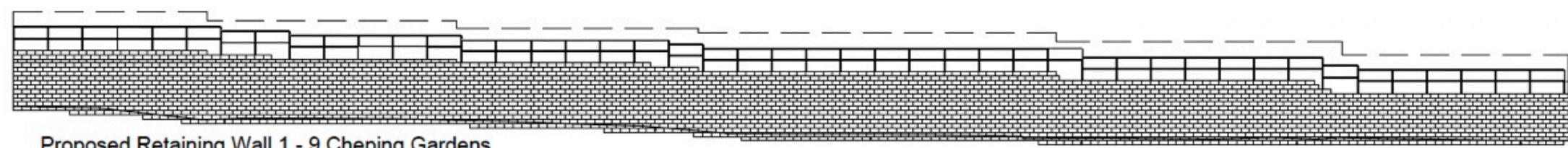
- 5.5. A dedicated insect box, such as the Woodstone Insect Block, should be installed on the south-facing wall.
- 5.6. In addition, two bee bricks, such as the Green & Blue Bee Brick, will be integrated on the south-facing wall.
- 5.7. Ongoing maintenance of the bird boxes will be the responsibilities of the individual occupiers of the properties present on the site. An occupier leaflet has been created to to be distributed to the occupiers (see **Appendix 1**).



Woodstone Insect Block



Green & Blue Bee Brick



Hedgehog Highway Gate (indicative locations)



Bird Box



Bee brick



Insect block



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Project: Cheping Gardens
Retaining Wall

Figure 2: Biodiversity
Enhancements

Date: June 2026

*NOTE Areas are indicative and are not shown to exact scale.

6. ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AND REMEDIAL ACTION

- 6.1. On completion of the development, a compliance check will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist to ensure that protected species features have been created correctly and are establishing. Where habitats or features have not established successfully, the ecologist will provide advice with regards rectifying any issues.
- 6.2. Bird boxes will be checked and cleared if needed between October - January (outside of bird nesting season). Ongoing maintenance of the bird boxes will be the responsibilities of the individual occupiers of the properties present on the site. An occupier leaflet has been created to be distributed to the occupiers (see **Appendix 1**).
- 6.3. After the initial five years post-development, this management plan (with any necessary amendments identified during those first five years) will be complied with in perpetuity.

7. REFERENCES

Darwin Ecology (2025). Ecological Impact Assessment - *Cheping Gardens Retaining Wall*. Darwin Ecology Ltd.

Darwin Ecology (2026) Construction Environmental Management Plan - *Cheping Gardens Retaining Wall*. Darwin Ecology Ltd.

8. APPENDIX 1 - HOMEOWNER LEAFLET

The retaining wall within the gardens of Cheping Gardens requires substantial repair.

As part of these works, biodiversity enhancements will be added to create opportunities for wildlife.

These measures include bird boxes, insect blocks, and hedgehog holes.

It is the responsibility of the home occupier to ensure these features are maintained.



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This leaflet was prepared for the residents of Cheping Gardens, Botley, Southampton, SO30 2FW.

It is the duty of care of the landowner/occupier to act responsibly and comply with current environmental legislation.

July 2026



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Cheping Gardens Home Occupiers Information



A guide to the maintenance of
biodiversity features in your
garden

Bird Boxes

You may have one of the following in your garden:

- RSPB Apex classic nest box
- RSPB Apex starling nest box
- RSPB Robin and wren diamond nest box
- RSPB Sparrow terrace nest box



These require minimal maintenance, which should occur outside of the breeding bird period (October to January), to clear them of old nesting material, and complete any repairs required.

Insect Blocks



The provision of insect boxes and bug hotels provide a valuable resource for invertebrates, providing suitable nesting habitat for important native pollinators. They can also provide opportunities for a wide range of species to shelter and over-winter during the colder months.

Woodstone Insect Blocks have been installed on the retaining wall. These require maintenance to replace any tubes that have fallen out or degraded with wet weather. It is your responsibility to replace these tubes with hollow lengths of bamboo.

Hedgehog Holes

You may find a gap in your fence line at ground level, measuring approximately 15cm x 15cm.

These have been added to improve the connectivity of the gardens for reptiles, amphibians and hedgehogs.

These gaps should not be blocked or filled in at any time, and it is your responsibility to make sure they remain open.

