



WAYSIDE, WOODHOUSE LANE, BOTLEY,
SO50 2JD.

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS

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SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

- I.1 This ecological enhancement document and associated plan is provided in support of application ref F/25/98780 for the provision of a new access at Wayside, Woodhouse Lane, Botley, SO50 2JD (the site).
- I.2 The site is exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain however comment received by the Councils ecologist dated 04/02/2025 require ecological enhancements in line with the Councils Local Plan (2016 – 2036) Policy DM11 and paragraph 187d of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024).
- I.3 No Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has been undertaken however a walkover of the site and surroundings has been undertaken and therefore any enhancement is based on professional judgement regarding the existing habitats on and in close proximity to the site and their ability to support priority and protected species and specifically those identified. All enhancement proposed are proportionate to the scale of the development and appropriate to the species considered likely to be using the site now or in the future.
- I.4 The Councils ecologist has suggested the following construction timing and methods which must be followed:

Great Crested Newts

- I.5 Great crested newts are a European protected species. The animals and their eggs, breeding sites and resting places are protected by law. Should GCN's be found during the course of construction all works must cease and advice sought from a suitably licensed ecologist.

Nesting birds

- I.6 All wild bird species, their eggs and nests are protected by law. All vegetation clearance to be undertaken outside of nesting bird season (Late February – end of August). Where this is not possible all vegetation must be checked by a suitably experienced ecologist and should any active nest be found a 5m buffer established with no works until all chicks have fledged.

Hedgehogs

- I.7 Low level vegetation to be undertaken outside of hibernation season (March to November) and by hand to allow any hedgehogs or other species time to escape. This includes any log piles, areas of brash, plant pots and vegetation within the 'allotment' area of the site. Hedgehogs should not be handled however should a sick or injured hedgehog be found

during the course of the development please contact the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890 801 or a local rescue centre.

- I.8 A plan indicating location of all enhancements can be found at Appendix A.

SECTION 2 – ENHANCEMENTS

- 2.1 The UK is home to six native reptiles of which the slow worms and common lizards can be more commonly found in garden settings. The site is host to tussocky grass with areas of tree cover and hedgerows as well as areas of bare earth and log piles which may offer opportunities for reptiles.
- 2.2 Enhancements should be sited to the rear of the site where reptiles are less likely to come into conflict with people and traffic. The creation of log piles in the rear garden along the site boundaries will improve links to the off site habitats and provide additional habitat for basking, hibernating and foraging. Log piles should be sited in warm sunny locations and vegetation should be allowed to grow in and around the piles to provide increased shelter and attract more insects. These areas should be rotationally strimmed at the end of summer and again in spring but otherwise be left.

Figure 1. Example of a log pile with vegetative growth



Note. From Frog Life (n.d)

- 2.3 Hedgehogs may also utilise log piles for nesting however in addition a hedgehog house should be installed close to one of the log piles. These can either be constructed and details can be found at Appendix B or purchased.
- 2.4 To mitigate for the loss of the vegetated fence The Schwegler Swift Nest Box 17A (triple cavity) (or similar to be agreed in writing prior to installation) is to be installed on the northeast elevation of the property as indicated on the enhancement plan at Appendix A.

The boxes shall be tucked as far as practicable under the eaves in shaded area out of direct sunlight and away from windows and doors.

Figure 4. The Schwegler Swift Nest Box 17A (triple cavity)



- 2.5 Additional enhancements which may be of consideration could include a bug hotel, water butts, compost heaps and SuDS planters.
- 2.6 The use of chemicals (weedkillers, fertilisers etc) should be avoided as this will damage soil health, pollute water sources and be harmful to wildlife.
- 2.7 The Arboricultural impact assessment (Rowdens 27/01/2025) which accompanies the application indicates that 4 new trees should be planted on site to compensate for the loss of two Silver Birch. Replacement proposed are two no. Silver Birch and 2 no. Persian Ironwood. These are non-native ornamental trees, and it may be more appropriate to consider the planting of field maples or other small native trees.
- 2.8 The new trees should be planted in the rear garden and supplement the existing boundary treatment as indicated on the enhancement plan at Appendix A. Details of planting and management can be found at Appendix C.

APPENDIX A – ENHANCEMENTS PLAN



APPENDIX B – Hedgehog home instructions (from hedgehogstreet.org)

HEDGEHOG STREET
CITY OF WILDLIFE

Hedgehogs make hibernation nests in winter called 'hibernacula' – these can be under hedgerows, fallen logs or in areas of scrub like bramble. They are durable, insulated and help maintain humidity to prevent dehydration for the sleeping 'hog. They also make simpler day time nests for resting, sleeping, breeding and rearing young in over summer.

Your garden can provide lots of great nesting spots for 'hogs - under your shed, in compost heaps, shrubs, under leaf piles or under logs or spare building materials. But, sometimes hedgehogs need a helping hand. You can buy pre-built hedgehog houses online or in stores, or have a go at making your own - homemade houses tend to be more popular with our prickly visitors.

Any straw or dry leaves left outside will likely be taken in and used for bedding.

The simple DIY Hedgehog House

Take a spare plastic storage box, planter or milk crate (make sure it has holes) and flip it upside down. Make an entrance that's 13cm x 13cm and provide some bedding like dry leaves or pet straw. You can cover the rest of the box with some plastic sheeting and then cover with leaves/soil/grass cuttings.

Houses are best placed in sheltered locations, along boundaries, in back gardens and within 5m of the house. The presence of pets or predators doesn't appear to put off a local hedgehog from moving in.

It's best to clean my house in March/April when I've finished hibernating and before the breeding season as disturbing a mother can cause her to abandon her hoglets.

The tricky DIY Hedgehog House

Hedgehogs seem to love home-made houses made from untreated wood (ideally durable UK softwood species like larch, Douglas fir and red cedar). Don't nail the roof down (so that you can clean inside) and avoid using paint. Tunnels help stop predators or cats getting into the house and can be made of wood or bricks.

APPENDIX C – Tree planning and management

Trees

Planting

- For optimal chance of success planting should take place between October and April, avoiding frozen or waterlogged conditions.
- Planting will be of 60cm whips (approx.) and will require notch or pit planting methods.
- Prior to planting roots must be kept moist and covered at all times.
- Plant at a ground height to the same depth as it was growing previously as indicated by the soil mark on the root collar.
- All trees are to be staked and protected using wire mesh (not plastic coated) tree guards. All trees are to be double staked to protect against damage.
- Stakes should be larger than necessary and staked to the base of the root ball and as close as possible to it without causing damage. Where necessary stakes can be placed at a 45 degree angle positioned away from the prevailing wind.
- The stake should finish at a height no more than one third of the height of the tree. The tree should be attached loosely to the stake using a proprietary tree tie forming a figure of 8 or using a spacer to prevent chafing. Buckle ends should be against, and nailed to the stake (not the tree)
- Once staked and soil backfilled the ground around the trees should be compressed firmly. A gentle pull on the stem should indicate if this is adequate as the tree should not loosen.
- Mulch to be applied to a depth of 10cm in a 1m radius around the base of the tree to suppress weed growth and maintain soil conditions.
- Aftercare
- There shall be no use of herbicides on site.
- 4 weeks post planting all trees should be checked to ensure they are still firmly in the ground. Tread any loose trees to firm into the ground, check for any damaged tree protection, tighten ties and replace stakes as necessary. regular checks should be made every 6 months for the first 2 years or longer where trees have not stabilised or have failed and been replaced.

- Watering should take place each week during the growing season (50 litres per tree per week during the summer months and additional during any periods of drought) for the first 3 years after planting. Where possible harvested rainwater should be used.
- Mulching to a depth of 10cm and spot weeding within at least a 1m radius of all tree stems must be maintained for at least 3 years after planting.
- Pruning should take place 3 years after planting and establishment. Ideally pruning should take place between mid-June to August in the dormant season. Do not prune between February to May. Not all trees will need pruning, and some should be allowed to bush freely to create structural diversity and allow for year round fruiting.
- Any trees which have failed must be removed and replaced in accordance with the planting details above, within the next appropriate growing season. Where failure has occurred in clusters or in a particular pattern on the site the drainage and soil properties should be checked and issues remedied.