

Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan

Site: 191 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DW

Proposal: Conversion of semi-detached dwelling into 4 self-contained flats

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1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) supports the planning application for the conversion of 191 Leigh Road into four flats. The purpose of this plan is to ensure measurable biodiversity improvements in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Environment Act 2021, and Eastleigh Borough Council's Local Plan policies.

2. Baseline Conditions

The site currently comprises a semi-detached residential dwelling with a modest garden to the rear and a small frontage for parking/driveway. Habitats are limited to amenity grass, some ornamental shrubs, and fencing. No notable ecological features or designations exist within the site boundary. The site therefore currently has low ecological value.

3. Proposed Biodiversity Enhancements

The following measures will be incorporated to enhance biodiversity on-site:

– Retention of Existing Rear Boundary Hedge

The existing hedge along the rear garden boundary will be retained, protected during works, and incorporated into the long-term management plan. This ensures continuity of habitat for nesting birds, pollinators, and small mammals.

– Native Trees & Shrubs

At least 2 small native trees (Rowan, Crab Apple, or Field Maple) will be planted in the rear garden, with additional native hedge planting where gaps exist.

– Wildflower Borders

Pollinator-friendly wildflower planting will be established along rear garden margins and/or front garden edges where feasible.

– Climbing Plants

Climbers such as honeysuckle, ivy, or clematis will be planted along fencing and side elevations to

provide vertical greenery.

– Bird and Bat Features

Two integrated swift or sparrow boxes will be installed on suitable elevations, and one integrated bat brick will be incorporated on the rear or side elevation.

– Hedgehog Highways

130mm × 130mm gaps will be created in boundary fencing to allow hedgehog movement between gardens.

– Insect Habitat

A bug hotel/log pile will be positioned within the rear garden to provide habitat for invertebrates.

– Rainwater Butt

A water butt will be installed to reduce surface water runoff and provide a water source for wildlife.

4. Management & Maintenance

- Trees & shrubs: watered in first two summers; replacements provided if planting fails.
- Wildflower areas: cut once annually in late summer, with arisings removed.
- Hedges: trimmed every 2–3 years, outside bird nesting season.
- Bird/bat boxes: inspected annually (bat box by qualified ecologist).
- Insect/log piles: left undisturbed except for safety checks.
- Hedgehog holes: retained permanently and not blocked.

5. Monitoring

Post-completion checks at years 1, 5, and 10 will confirm habitat establishment. A management company or freeholder will be responsible for adaptive management if features underperform.

6. Responsibilities & Timescales

- Developer: install biodiversity measures during construction.
- Residents/Management Company: maintain measures for minimum of 30 years.
- All measures to be implemented prior to first occupation of the flats.

7. Conclusion

Through retention of the rear boundary hedge, new native planting, and wildlife features, the scheme will transform a site of low ecological value into a small but valuable urban wildlife

resource, consistent with local and national biodiversity policy.