

St Andrew's Gardens, Gravesend, Kent

Ecological Impact Assessment

A report on behalf of

Gravesham Borough Council

Type of document (Version)	Rev 2
Revisions	Addition of veteran tree
Report reference	25-1301-EcIA-RT
Issue date	27 January 2026
Document prepared by	Ruth Testa MSc MCIEEM
Quality control/ checked by	Chris Turner BSc MCIEEM
Information Valid for	One year from the date of the report

Site Details

Site name	St Andrew's Gardens
Site location	Gravesend, Kent
Central OS grid reference	TQ 6484 7443
Client	Gravesham Borough Council
Report title	Ecological Impact Assessment



The content of this report that has been provided by Lakeway Ecological Consultancy Ltd. is true and has been prepared and submitted in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. Its contents are compliant with British Standard BS42020: 2013 Biodiversity Code of Practice for Planning and Development.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the stated client. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by Lakeway Ecological Consultancy, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by Lakeway Ecological Consultancy for any use of this report, other than for the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Lakeway Ecological Consultancy has exercised due care in preparing this report. It has not, unless specifically stated, independently verified information provided by others. No other warranty, express or implied, is made in relation to the content of this report and Lakeway Ecological Consultancy assumes no liability for any loss resulting from errors, omissions or misrepresentation made by others.

Any recommendation, opinion or finding stated in this report is based on circumstances and facts as they existed at the time that Lakeway Ecological Consultancy undertook the work. Nothing in this report constitutes legal opinion. If legal opinion is required, the advice of a qualified legal professional should be secured.



Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Description of Proposed Development	1
1.2	Aims and Objectives	1
1.3	Personnel	2
2	Methods	2
2.1	Ecological Scoping and Baseline Data Collection	2
2.2	Baseline Evaluation and Impact Assessment	4
3	Limitations	4
4	Results	4
4.1	Desk Study	4
4.2	Habitats and Flora	5
4.3	Fauna	7
5	Further Survey Work	8
6	Impact Assessment and Mitigation.....	8
6.1	Designated Sites	8
6.2	Habitats and Flora	8
6.3	Fauna	9
7	Enhancements	10
8	Summary and Conclusions	10
9	References.....	11

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Legislation.....	13
Appendix 2 – Enhancement Prescriptions.....	15



1 INTRODUCTION

This document has been produced by Ruth Testa MSc MCIEEM of Lakeway Ecological Consultancy Ltd. It presents an Ecological Impact Assessment for St Andrew's Gardens, Gravesend, Kent (central OS grid reference: TQ 6484 7443). The works were commissioned by Gravesham Borough Council and this report is intended to be submitted with a planning application.

The area within the application boundary is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.

1.1 Description of Proposed Development

Proposals include the relandscaping of an area of public open space. Plans are shown on the accompanying drawings issued by Mei Loci Landscape Architects.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

1.2.1 Field Survey Aims

The survey information contained within this report aims to:

- Establish whether the development will impact protected species or impact any habitats within the Site.
- Identify and provide context for any other protected species or habitats in the surrounding area which may be impacted by the proposals.
- Identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancements.

1.2.2 Report Objectives

The objectives of this report are to:

- Provide the client with sufficient information to fully inform them of their obligations.
- Present an assessment of the likely (significant) effects of the proposed development on ecological features.
- Allow the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to ascertain whether the proposal accords with relevant planning policy and legislation; and,
- Allow the LPA to write planning conditions (where necessary) to secure mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures.

Recommendations have been detailed following the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy in accordance with NPPF paragraph 175 (a) which states:

"If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused."

This report sets out additional measures which provide enhancements on the Site with the aim of providing a net-gain for biodiversity, which are in line with National and Local planning policy.

Relevant legislation is provided in **Appendix 1**.



1.3 Personnel

The habitat survey, site appraisal and reporting were carried out by Senior Ecologist Ruth Testa MSc. Ruth has 18 years professional experience of ecology and wildlife conservation in both the voluntary and private sectors. She has extensive experience of carrying out quantitative and qualitative ecological surveys, and both writing and peer reviewing ecological reports. Ruth is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM) and is bound by their professional Code of Conduct. Ruth is registered to use the Level 1 class licence to survey for bats (Natural England reference 2025-86080-CL17-BAT).

This report has been peer reviewed by Principal Ecologist Chris Turner BSc MCIEEM. Chris has 14 years professional experience as an ecological consultant. He has extensive experience in quantitative field surveys and assessments and with expertise in habitats, although primarily a specialist in the mitigation of impacts to legally protected species.

Chris is registered to use a Level 2 class licence to survey for bats (Natural England reference 2025-86083-CL18-BAT) a Level 1 class licence to survey for hazel dormouse (Natural England reference 2026-87639-CL10a-DOR) and a class licence to survey for barn owl (Natural England reference 2026-87640-CL29-OWL).

2 METHODS

2.1 Ecological Scoping and Baseline Data Collection

A desk study and extended Phase-1 habitat survey were undertaken in January 2026, based upon the potential impacts of the development.

2.1.1 Desk Study

The following sources were searched on 9th January 2026 to provide geographical context and to assess whether the proposals have the potential to impact other protected species or sites:

- 🌐 The Government's mapping website MAGIC (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>) was used to search for internationally designated sites within 5km, and for European Protected Species licences issued by Natural England in the surrounding area since 2008, over a 2km radius.
- 🌐 MAGIC was also searched for priority habitats and statutory sites designated for nature conservation within 2km.
- 🌐 Aerial photography (<https://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>) was reviewed to assess connectivity between the Site and areas in the local landscape which may be of importance for protected species (wildlife corridors).

2.1.2 Extended Phase-1 Habitat Survey

A site walkover was undertaken in accordance with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology (JNCC 2010) on 12th January 2026 when weather conditions were clear and dry with good visibility.

All habitats within the Site were identified, described and mapped during the field survey, and an indicative botanical species list compiled. Plant names follow Stace (2019). The survey was extended to highlight the potential presence of protected and priority species in accordance with CIEEM's Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2017). This involved a search to identify the presence or potential



presence of notable and protected species such as breeding birds, badger *Meles meles*, hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, bats, reptiles and amphibians.

Where access allowed, adjacent habitats were also considered in order to assess possible impacts of the proposal in a wider context.

A baseline UK Habitat Classification Plan is included as **Figure 1** and photographs are provided throughout.

2.1.3 Preliminary Roost Assessment

The trees were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats on 12th January 2026. The survey was carried out by Senior Ecologist Ruth Testa MSc MCIEEM. Ruth is registered to use a Level 1 class licence to survey for bats (Natural England ref: 2025-86080-CL17-BAT).

The trees were assessed externally for signs of bats and points where bats could gain access. Close focusing binoculars, and high-powered torch were used where appropriate. A search was made for features which could provide suitable roosting spaces for bats, such as rot holes and flaking bark. Any direct signs (such as staining or droppings) as well as features of potential value to bats were noted on hand drawn maps.

In line with best practice guidance (Collins, 2016), the trees were prescribed a category based on their potential to support roosting bats as detailed in **Table 1**. Older guidance was used due to its ability to be more descriptive, however, guidance on survey methodology in Collins, 2023 was used to conduct the survey.

Table 1: Bat Roost Potential (as detailed in Collins, 2016)

Suitability	Description of bat roosting potential (trees)
Negligible	Negligible habitat feature/s likely to be used by roosting bats
Low	A tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.
Moderate	A tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. Unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).
High	A tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger number of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.
Roost	Known or confirmed roost



2.2 Baseline Evaluation and Impact Assessment

Determining the geographical importance of ecological features was undertaken in accordance with CIEEM's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (CIEEM, 2018). Where uncertainty exists, a precautionary approach has been adopted. In addition to the geographic frames of reference recommended in the CIEEM guidelines, an additional category of 'Site Importance' has been included to account for features that are of some value in the context of the Site but are not considered to be of sufficient value to be categorised as 'Local Importance'.

This report provides an assessment of the likely presence of any legally-protected or notable species based on the habitats present and the known affiliations of species with those habitats and their distribution across the UK. The assessment draws on the findings of the site visit and the contextual information from the desk study.

3 LIMITATIONS

Care has been taken to ensure that balanced advice is provided on the information available and collected during the study periods, and within the resources available for the project. However, the possibility of important ecological features being missed due to survey timings, absence during surveys or the year of survey cannot be ruled out. In addition, the lack of evidence or records of protected species on Site does not preclude their presence from Site.

All areas of the Site were accessible to survey. Whilst the survey was undertaken during the winter, the trees were fully visible without their leaves, and it was possible to obtain an accurate assessment of both grassland type and condition.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Desk Study

The search of <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> returned one record of EPS (Bats) licences granted within 2km of the Site since 2008. This concerned impacts to roosting sites of brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and soprano pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus* bats, c.2km north of the Site.

No EPS licences for impacts to dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* or great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* were returned within 2km of the Site.

Thames and Estuary Marshes Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site lies 2.5km east and north of the Site. The site is designated for its internationally important populations of Annex 1 bird species, including dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, red knot *Calidris canutus*, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, black-tailed godwit (Icelandic subspecies) *Limosa limosa islandica*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, pied avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* and common redshank *Tringa totanus*. The site is of **international** importance for nature conservation.

No nationally designated sites lie within 2km.

The Site lies within numerous Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones (IRZ).

The Site lies within the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS) area for the Thames and Estuary Marshes SPA and Ramsar site.

Areas of mudflat priority habitat lie directly adjacent to the Site at the base of the seawall. The estuary substrate is formed of sand and gravel, with some man made substrates to the west of the Site.

Owing to the small scale of the proposals, and limited impacts, it is considered that consultation with the Local Biological Records Centre would add little value to the assessment.

4.2 Habitats and Flora

The Site comprises approximately 0.235ha of public open space, comprising trees, amenity grassland and hardstanding. It lies on the northern edge of Gravesend, with the Thames estuary forming the northern boundary (with a sea wall) and urban areas to all other aspects. The Site is poorly connected to semi-natural habitats due to its location; however, the blue corridor is well defined, and leads to the wider landscape. A location plan is provided as **Diagram 1** below. Photographs are included in the text.



Diagram 1: Site Location (© Bing Maps)

Table 1: Habitat Descriptions

Habitat Description	Photograph
Modified grassland The Site is an area of public open space with amenity grassland being the dominant habitat. Species present include; perennial rye <i>Lolium perenne</i>, Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i>, ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>, common daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i>, smooth sow thistle <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>, bittercress <i>Cardamine</i> sp., rough hawkbit <i>Leontodon hispidus</i> and dandelion <i>Taraxacum</i> agg. The sward was varied in height, with an average of 3 species per m², and large areas of bare ground.	

Habitat Description	Photograph
Individual trees A number of individual trees are present within the Site boundary. These include silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i>, Norway maple <i>Acer platanoides</i>, and weeping willow <i>Salix babylonica</i>. The willow is classed as a veteran tree.	
Non-native hedgerow A non-native hedgerow c. 1.5m high is present to the southern boundary, on the western end of the Site.	
Ornamental planting An area of ornamental planting is present in the west of the Site. Species include holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i>, amongst other non-native species.	

Habitat Description	Photograph
Hard standing Areas of hardstanding and paving are present throughout the Site.	

4.3 Fauna

4.3.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment

Overall, the trees presented **negligible** potential for roosting bats.

None of the trees present on Site contained suitable roosting features for bats, with no flaking bark, lifted ivy plates or suitably sheltered rot holes. It is considered that the Site presents negligible potential for roosting bats.

Table 2 provides a simple assessment of the relative likelihood of any other legally protected species being present within the site.

Table 2: Significance of any legally protected species within the development site

Status	Species	Comments	Geographic importance
Habs Regs Annex 2 WCA Schedule 5	Bats (foraging)	The Site is of low value for bats affording no potential roosting sites and only poor opportunities for foraging. The low plant diversity and uniform sward is unlikely to provide habitat for invertebrate prey species. However, the river corridor does provide a strong linear feature for commuting bats, and it is possible that they traverse the Site from time to time	Site
Badgers Act (1992)	Badger	No confirmed or suspected badger setts were located during the survey and no evidence of badger foraging activity was seen. The wider landscape (off-Site) does not provides suitable sett building habitat and terrain and it is considered that there is no potential for this species.	n/a
WCA & Schedule 1	Barn Owl	There is no suitable habitat for either nesting or foraging and this species is considered to be absent from the Site.	n/a
WCA & Schedule 1	Breeding birds	An assemblage of passerines/ near passerines, are likely to be present within the trees and hedgerows. It is likely that feral pigeon were attempting to nest in the Leylandii (off-Site) at the time of survey. Whilst the Site is within 2.5km of the Thames Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site, the habitats within the Site itself are not suitable for the species assemblage associated	Site



Status	Species	Comments	Geographic importance
		with the SPA/ Ramsar, although they may use the adjacent mudflat habitat for feeding.	
Habs Regs Annex 2 WCA Schedule 5	Great crested newt	There are no suitable habitats within the Site for this species, and the surrounding habitat is unsuitable for dispersing individuals. It is considered that they are absent from the Site.	n/a
Habs Regs Annex 2 WCA Schedule 5	Hazel dormouse	Whilst the non-native hedgerows present some potential for this species, the habitats are limited in extent and do not connect to the wider landscape. It is therefore considered that they are absent from the Site.	n/a
Habs Regs Annex 2 & WCA Schedule 5	Aquatic and semi-aquatic mammals including otter and water vole	There are no suitable habitats within the Site for these species. Whilst the Site is adjacent to the River Thames, the presence of these species is precluded due to the steep drop from Site to river habitats.	n/a
Habs Regs Annex 2 and WCA Schedule 5	Reptiles & amphibians	There is limited potential for reptiles and common amphibians within the Site, due to its disconnect from wider semi-natural habitats.	n/a
WCA Schedule 6	Terrestrial mammals including hedgehog	There is some potential shelter for hedgehogs within the Site and some limited foraging potential within grassland.	Site

5 FURTHER SURVEY WORK

It is considered that the survey effort reported above is sufficient to provide an assessment of the likely significant effects of the development proposals on ecological features and to inform the mitigation strategy detailed below. No further ecological survey work is considered necessary in order to determine the current planning application and the results are considered valid for one year.

If there are changes to the proposals or if any significant amount of time has passed since the date of this report, a re-appraisal may be required.

6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

6.1 Designated Sites

No impacts are predicted to designated sites owing to the small scale of the proposals and the distance of the Site from any designated sites.

The Site lies within the SAMMS for Thames Estuary and Marshes, however as there are no new residential dwellings proposed, no mitigation payment is required.

The Site lies within IRZ for SSSI, but does not meet the requirements for further consultation with Natural England.

6.2 Habitats and Flora

As the vast majority of the Site comprises modified grassland, it is of low ecological value. However, the presence of a number of trees in an urban setting increases its value to low-moderate value. The loss of



some of the grassland to make way for ornamental planting and reconfigured pathways and seating is not considered significant. All the existing trees will be retained.

There will, however be impacts to 12m of non-native hedgerow. As the hedgerow is non-native, it is not a high-quality hedgerow habitat. Nevertheless, this loss would be minor adverse at the site level in the absence of mitigation and cannot be avoided.

To compensate for this loss the hedgerow will be replaced by a new, native species hedgerow. This will be in the region of 10m long and will more than compensate for the loss of poor-quality hedge along the northern boundary, such that a significant net-gain will be achieved and residual effects will be positive. Planting recommendations are provided in **Appendix 3**.

6.3 Fauna

6.3.1 Bats

The Site presented negligible potential for roosting bats and so no adverse effects are predicted.

It is probable that local bat populations forage and commute through the Site from time to time and although the Site is not considered to be a particularly important feature in the landscape, inappropriate lighting risks causing a barrier to foraging bats. Any additional lighting (beyond that already present) should be downwards pointing, and avoid illuminating trees or the river corridor to the north.

6.3.2 Breeding Birds

The hedgerows, ornamental planting and trees provide good bird nesting habitat. In the absence of mitigation, vegetation clearance has the potential to result in the killing or injury of birds and destruction of active nests, which would be an offence under UK legislation.

As the hedgerow will be impacted (with removal of 12m), and some ornamental shrubs are likely to be removed, works should be completed outside of the bird nesting season which runs from **March-August inclusive**. If this is not possible, then works must be preceded by a check of the hedgerows for breeding birds by a suitably qualified ecologist. If any active nests are found, a suitable buffer must be created until the chicks have fledged and the nest is no longer considered active. If nests are found outside of the bird breeding season, then works must cease immediately and advice must be sought from an ecologist.

New tree and hedge planting and ongoing management of retained habitats during operation will enhance the Site for nesting birds such that residual effects will be positive.

6.3.3 Other Protected/ Notable Species

The loss of habitat within the development footprint is not considered to significantly affect the availability of habitat for invertebrates or other mammals in the context of the local landscape and no specific mitigation is necessary. However, wildlife including hedgehogs may cross the Site. Therefore, best practice measures must be employed to avoid harm to wildlife during enabling/ construction and any pipe work should be capped overnight and any pits/ trenches covered or a means of escape provided. The layout provides continuity around the Site such that wildlife will be able to traverse the Site during operation and the habitat management recommendations and additional planting will benefit wildlife such that residual effects will be positive.



7 ENHANCEMENTS

The compensation described above aims to ensure no net-loss in biodiversity caused by development. In addition, the following features will be installed, to provide a net-gain in biodiversity, in line with Local and National policy:

- 🌳 Planting of 16 new broadleaved trees within the Site.

8 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The information provided within this report is considered sufficient to assess the potential impacts from the development at the Site and to allow the Local Planning Authority to write conditions, where necessary, to ensure that there are no adverse effects on ecological features from the development as proposed.

A careful approach to ground works and vegetation removal is recommended, to avoid/minimise impacts to habitats and nesting birds. A carefully considered lighting scheme will ensure no adverse effects to foraging and commuting bats.

Enhancement measures have been recommended with the aim of providing a net biodiversity gain, contributing to the aims of NPPF and local policy. Overall, the development will provide a net-gain in biodiversity by increasing the number of habitats on Site as demonstrated by the accompanying BNG Assessment.



9 REFERENCES

Bat Conservation Trust/ Institute of Lighting Professional (2023) *Guidance Note 08/23 - Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK*. Bats and the Built Environment Series.

BSI (2013) BS42020: 2013 *Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development*. British Standards Institution, London, UK.

CIEEM (2018) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal* version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Survey for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

DEFRA (2011) *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services*.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a Technique for Environmental Audit*. Reprinted by JNCC, Peterborough.

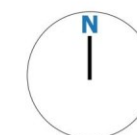
Lakeway Ecology (2026) 25-1301-BNG-RT Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment – St Andrews Gardens

Stace, C. (2019) *New Flora of the British Isles* (4th Edition). C&M Floristics, Middlewood Green.



Key

- Site Boundary
- Scattered Broadleaved Trees
- Non-native hedgerow
- g4 - modified grassland
- u1 - ornamental planting
- u1b6 - other developed land
- Veteran tree (irreplaceable habitat)



0 10 20 m

Copyright
Scale 1:500 @A4

Google

Figure 1:

Baseline UK Habitat Classification Plan

Project:

St Andrews Gardens

Client:

Gravesham Borough Council

Date:

27/01/2026

Ref:

25-1301-P1

Drawn by:

RT

Revision:

2



Appendix 1 – Legislation

Habitat and Species Legislation

Species and habitats receive legal protection in the UK under various legislation, including:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
- The Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- The Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000;
- The Hedgerows Regulations 1997;
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

Where relevant, this report takes into account the legislative protection afforded to specific habitats and species.

National Planning Policy Framework 2023

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how local planning authorities should incorporate them into their own policies and plans. Chapter 15 of the NPPF contains several policies targeted at enhancing the natural environment and requires local authorities to consider how impacts on biodiversity can be minimised and provide net gains in biodiversity. Paragraph 170 states that:

“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;*
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;*
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;*
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and*
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.”*

Additional Planning Practice Guidance (PPGs) supports the NPPF and includes guidance on:

- Landscape;
- Biodiversity, ecosystems and green infrastructure; and
- Brownfield land, soils and agricultural land.



Gravesham Local Biodiversity Strategy

The Gravesham Local Biodiversity Strategy 2025-2030 sets out strategic objectives to enhance biodiversity across the council area. Relevant strategies that were considered as part of this report include:

- 🌿 Safeguard biodiversity.
- 🌿 Enhancing biodiversity and benefits

UK Biodiversity Framework 2024

The UK Biodiversity Framework (UKBF) has been developed in response to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), agreed at the Fifteen Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2022.

The UK Biodiversity Framework has been produced through the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group (4CBG), which is the lead governance body for the UKBF, and which includes representatives from DAERA, Defra, Scottish Government, and Welsh Government, with JNCC providing an independent secretariat role.

Through the UKBF, the four countries will agree on activities where joint action between them four countries is required to implement the GBF.

The UK Biodiversity Framework was published in May 2024. It supersedes the previous Framework (the UK Post-2010 UK Biodiversity Framework), which was developed following agreement of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 'Aichi targets'.

Kent Biodiversity Strategy

The Kent Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2045 takes into account the objectives and targets of the former UK BAP and translates these within a local context. The Plan contains action plans for 17 key habitats and 13 key species, which are a consideration in planning decisions. They will be integrated into the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Appendix 2 – Enhancement Prescriptions

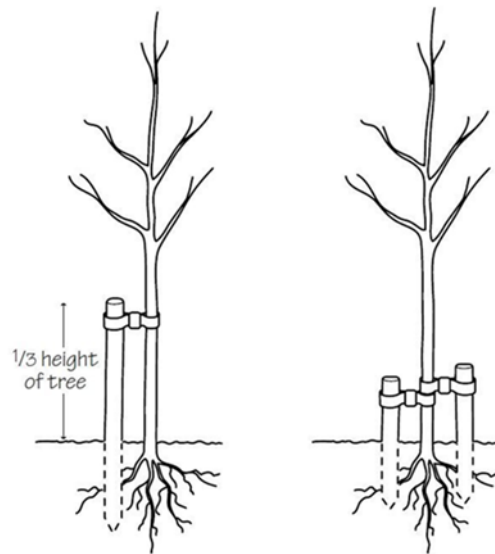
Tree planting

11 new trees will be planted.

Trees planted will be 6/8cm standards.

All tree planting works & tree husbandry should be carried out in accordance with BS8545 2014: Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape.

All small / feathered trees to be protected by min. 1200mm high x 80-110mm dia. proprietary biodegradable tree guard/shelter and secured in place with min. 25mm square treated softwood timber stake and fixed with plastic cable ties. Larger/half-standard trees should be staked as shown.



Hedgerow

Plants to be feathered. Planted in double staggered rows with 330mm between plants and 400mm between rows. Plants to be notched into the ground. All single stem thicket transplants to be protected by min. 450mm high x 50mm proprietary plastic spiral guards secured with min. 12-14lb x 900mm long bamboo cane.

Recommended species percentages for planting:

-  Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) 25%
-  Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) 25%
-  Hazel (*Corlyus avellana*) 25%
-  Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) 25%

Additional planting of a selection of the following will be undertaken to further enhance the hedgerows as appropriate:

-  Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*)
-  Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
-  Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*)

Management

New hedge plants are to be allowed to grow to an approximate height of 1.5m. New planting to be trimmed every year to ensure dense vegetation. Hedge cutting to take place during November-February (outside bird nesting periods).

