

**Bio-Diversity Action Plan for
Avecote, Kings Head Lane, Withington, Cheltenham. GL54 5BE
Ref Planning Approval 20/03130/FUL**

This plan is based on the Ecological Assessment carried out by CTM Wildlife on 23rd March, 2021 and the associated Habitat Enhancement notes of 31st August 2020.

For the purposes of this plan the plot will be divided into the meadow land which retains agricultural land status and the residential land on which the new house, Avecote, is being built.

All actions are designed to increase the number and variety of habitats for wildlife and subsequently improve the biodiversity and number of species of both fauna and flora found on site.

Meadow Land

Formally grazed by sheep and comprised of rather coarse grass with some bare ground where dumped rubble has been removed by us in 2020. The vegetation is primarily coarse grasses with some meadow buttercup, hogweed, cow parsley, white clover and a small amount of cowslip. Stock proof fencing is on the boundaries although that on the north and east boundaries will be repaired as part of this project.

To enhance this area:

Action	By when	Comments
Seed bare earth with a species rich mix to establish a greater diversity of flowering plants and subsequently insects and small mammals.	Autumn 2020 (Completed)	Seeded with a mix from Glorious Cotswold Grasslands (c/o Harvey Sherwood) originating from Jeremy Clarkson's meadows and those at Wittington.
Overseed coarse grassland as above.	Spring and Autumn 2022	
Plant 12+ traditional variety fruit trees offering food and shelter to many species of wildlife whilst preserving the traditional Gloucestershire orchard; eg fungi, lichens, herbivorous insects, ants, spiders, wasps, ladybirds, birds, and small mammals including bats.	Winter 2020/21 (Completed)	6 apples, 3 pears, 3 plums, 1 cherry, 1 almond and 1 walnut tree all planted. Sourced mainly from Lodge Farm Nursery, Glos.
Manage grassland without use of fertilisers through hay-cutting and collecting in order to establish a richer variety of species.	Ongoing	First cut October 2021.

The Domestic Area/ Old Farmyard

Formerly a yard used to store machinery and house some livestock. Piles of rubble, brash and general rubbish/household waste had accumulated over the years. A wooden shed will be retained but other concrete buildings have been demolished and removed as per the Planning Approval. The northern boundary (shared with properties on the main road) is an established mixed hedge with few gaps. The other boundaries were formerly mixed hedging but have not been maintained and have now largely disappeared. There are mature trees comprising several ash and hazels on the west boundary, a single rowan and a single horse chestnut. See arboreal report.

To enhance this area:

Action	By when	Comments
Remove or coppice and replant trees as per the arboreal report and landscape plan ensuring no loss of tree habitats whilst widening the variety of trees.	Spring 2023	Tree removal and coppicing of mature hazels completed September 2021
Replant and infill hedges with a wider variety of native hedging to encourage insects and small mammals.	Spring 2023	Plan to commence in-fill planting winter 2021/22.
Install 2 bird boxes, bat box, owl box and hedgehog box.	Summer 2022	Plan to site ready for spring 2022
Repair roof to the wooden shed with high level 'access' to encourage bat use.	Summer 2022	
Install 3 swift bricks to elevations of house.	Spring 2022	Done as part of the house build
Install one bat tube.	Spring 2022	Will consult expert for best location.
Develop a wildlife pond and wetland area, a new habitat for this site.	Summer 2023	Plan to excavate as part of the landscaping in 2022.
Retain some areas of old and broken stone walling to encourage amphibians, snakes and a wider variety of insects.	Summer 2022	Walling has essentially disappeared but some areas of broken down stonework will be retained on the west boundary.
Establish both lawn areas and areas of longer grass within the garden to encourage species diversity.	Autumn 2023	Ongoing management by appropriate mowing.

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