

NATURE CONSERVATION MEASURES

71 Villiers Avenue, Surbiton KT5 8BE

25.10.23

Design Brief / Planning Background

The following landscape details are submitted in support of a planning application ref. **21/01234/ARM** to the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, which was granted approval by the Council on 5 August 2021 for:

The approval of Reserved Matters (Landscaping and Access) following approval of Outline Planning Permission ref: **19/01873/OUT** (Demolition of existing building and garage and erection of 3 storey building with basement to create 8 flats with associated bin, cycle and parking provision) granted under Appeal ref: **APP/Z5630/W/20/3246194** dated 16/12/2020.

Permission was granted subject to details pursuant to the discharge of conditions:

Condition 6: Nature Conservation

Before the commencement of above ground works a scheme to enhance the nature conservation interest of the site has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented in full prior to beneficial occupation of the development.

Reason: To safeguard the biodiversity and nature conservation value of the site, in accordance with policy G6 of the London Plan 2021 and policies CS3 and DM6 of the LDF Core Strategy 2012.

Nature Conservation Enhancement

The approved landscaping plan under planning reference 21/01234/ARM, which is set to be implemented on the site.

Given the substantial size of the plot and the forthcoming landscaping project, we recognize the existing potential for wildlife habitat. To enhance nature conservation, we propose the installation of below listed measures:

Bat Boxes: Beaumaris Woodstone Bat boxes will be positioned at elevated at heights ranging from 3 to 6 meters above ground level. These installations will be placed in open, sunny positions, providing safe roosting spaces for bats.

Bird Boxes: NHBS Wooden Bird Boxes will be placed on the buildings, situated at heights between 2 to 4 meters above ground level. The entrance of the bird boxes will be oriented to face between the north and east to shield against strong sunlight and prevailing winds.

Hedgehog Gates: Eco Hedgehog Hole Fence plates will be affixed at the base of each run of fencing, extending to the rear gardens. These openings will facilitate safe passage for hedgehogs and contribute to their overall well-being.

Insect House: The National Trust Hexagon Insect House will find its home in the garden, on walls, sheds, or balconies up to three stories high. The ideal placement is in a sunny, sheltered location near vegetation, with a preference for not exceeding a height of 2 meters. This insect house will provide a habitat for various beneficial insects.

The establishment of these features, coupled with the approved landscaping, will significantly boost the nature conservation value of our site. Moreover, it will create vital connections with the broader network of "green corridors" in back gardens, ultimately benefiting biodiversity in

our local environment.

Annual Tree Maintenance

All plants are to be maintained until established. A 1 metre diameter area surrounding the tree will be kept free from grass, weeds and rubbish at all times. Mulched areas will be topped up as necessary to maintain 75mm depth.

Newly-planted trees are to be watered during April to September. The intervals between watering is to be fortnightly with additional visits if there has been no rainfall within a weekly period. Watering bags will be filled with 90 Litres of water (for slow release) per visit. Any depressed or panned-down areas will be lightly forked.

Each tree will be checked to make sure it is growing healthily. All dead, damaged, crossing or diseased branches will be removed. Any arising suckers will be removed from the clear stem. Any wounds shall be neatly pared back to sound wood in accordance with BS 3998. Trees which have been loosened by the wind or frost shall be re-firmed.

Each stake and tie will be checked and adjusted, re-fixed or renewed as necessary to ensure that no damage occurs to any tree and that each tree is being supporting in the intended manner. All stakes and ties will be removed after two years / or after trees have rooted successfully.

Appendix 1 - Professional résumé

I am Trevor Heaps, director of Trevor Heaps Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd. I am a Chartered Arboriculturist, a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association (AA) and hold a First-Class Honours Degree in Arboriculture.

Professional training

Arboriculture and Bats: Scoping Surveys for Arborists (BCT & AA) – October 2017

Tree Science (AA) – June 2016

OPM (Oak Processionary Moth) Training (FC) – May 2016

Visual Tree Assessment (Arboricultural Association) - October 2015

Trees and the Law (Dr Charles Mynors) - June 2015

Mortgage (Home Buyers) Report Writing (LANTRA / CAS) - February 2015

Tree Preservation Orders - effective application (LANTRA / CAS) - November 2014

Professional Tree Inspection 3-day course (LANTRA / AA) - July 2014

Arboricultural Consultancy Course (AA) - May 2014

Further down the subsidence trail 1-day course (AA) - April 2013

Getting to grips with subsidence 1-day course (AA) - November 2012

AA – Arboricultural Association BCT – Bat Conservation Trust CAS – Consulting Arborist
Society FC – Forestry Commission