GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT & BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Proposed change of use from public open space to residential garden at 19 Lower School Drive.

27/04/2026

1. Project overview & objectives

This statement supports the landscape enhancement of an existing residential garden. The primary objective is to incorporate an area of public open space land into residential garden and transition from a traditional hi-maintenance landscape to a functional green network that supports local pollinators, birds and small mammals while improving local climate resilience (water management and cooling).

2. Site Context

The current site consists of gravelled areas, composting area, panel fence and shrubbery/trees.

Retained features: The Prunus and Sorbus (Rowan) trees will be retained, as will the windmill palm in the existing garden. The lonicera nitida will be retained and incorporated into the proposed native hedging layout.

3. Proposed Enhancements (The 'Green infrastructure')

To encourage wildlife and improve biodiversity, the following features will be integrated into the design:

Boundary Treatment:

Native hedging to be planted in front of the boundary fence at the ratio of 25% of each including Beech, Hornbeam, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly and Wild Rose. This will provide shelter for birds and small mammals, flowers for pollinators and a sustainable food source for local wildlife.

Polinators Focused Planting:

The addition of a lawned area with approximately 33% of meadow grass with perennial wild/flowers will provide nectar sources from early spring to late autumn. The meadow grass will provide a microhabitat for insects & beetles. Native shrubs will include Buddleia & Lavendar to attract pollinators.

Vertical Greening:

Installation of a trellis system on the South facing garage wall featuring climbing plants such as Ivy & Honeysuckle to provide nesting sites for birds and cooling for the building.

Sustainable Water Management:

A small wildlife pond with a sloped beach for entry/exit will be installed to provide a permanent water source.

Rainwater will be diverted from the flat roof and greenhouse roof via water butts to irrigate the garden during dry spells.

Planting of Trees:

2 new additional trees will be planted to compensate for the removal of 1 existing tree in the existing planting scheme. Options include Elder and Malus (Crab Apple) which will provide shelter for birds and small mammals and also berries for birds. The addition of tress will also contribute towards flood management by reducing surface water runoff.

Nesting & Sheltering:

4 integrated bird boxes will be installed around the garden (specific to House Sparrows & Bluetits).

A bug hotel & log pile will be located in a shaded corner to support invertebrates and amphibians.

Boundary Connectivity:

Creating 'Hedgehog highways' by installing 13cm x 13cm gravel board gaps in proposed fencing to allow passage for small mammals between areas.

4. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Summary

Through the conversion of approximately 30sqm of gravelled garden to lawn & meadow grass and the addition of structural diversity (trees, shrubs and hedging) along with the adoption of approximately 78sqm of POS soft landscaping, the project aims to deliver a significant uplift in biodiversity units. Our target is to increase the biodiversity by around 25%-30% by creating a beneficial ecosystem that will support local wildlife. The removal of non-porous surfaces in favour of soft landscaping will also reduce surface water runoff.

5. Long Term Management

The landscape will be managed using organic principles this includes:

Phased pruning of hedges to avoid bird nesting season (March-August)

Leaving 'wild corners' of long grass over winter to provide habitat for hibernating insects & Hedgehogs.