

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT METHOD STATEMENT

Planning Application: 2022/62/93757

Site: Land East of 2 Ashleigh Dale, Kirklees

Local Planning Authority: Kirklees Council

1. Introduction

Planning permission (Application Reference 2022/62/93757) was granted by Kirklees Council in March 2023 for the erection of two dwellings with associated car parking, landscaping and vehicular access on land east of 2 Ashleigh Dale.

Condition 3 of the planning permission requires the submission and written approval of a Biodiversity Enhancement Method Statement prior to the first occupation of the approved dwellings.

This Method Statement has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Condition 3 and demonstrates how the development will provide meaningful and long-term biodiversity enhancements in accordance with:

- Policy LP30 of the Kirklees Local Plan;
- Principle 9 of the Housebuilders Design Guide SPD; and
- Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The ecological enhancements proposed are intended to provide a measurable improvement in habitat value, increase opportunities for protected and priority species, and strengthen ecological connectivity both within the development site and with the surrounding landscape.

2. Purpose and Conservation Objectives

The principal objectives of the biodiversity enhancement strategy are to:

- Increase habitat diversity across the development site.
- Provide additional nesting and roosting opportunities for birds and bats.
- Encourage the movement and shelter of hedgehogs and other small mammals.
- Enhance native planting to provide food sources, nesting habitat and wildlife corridors.
- Strengthen ecological links with the adjacent woodland under the ownership of the site owners.
- Deliver long-term biodiversity benefits through appropriate management and maintenance.

A significant ecological asset associated with the site is the existing area of established woodland, which remains within the ownership of the applicant. This woodland provides valuable habitat for birds, bats, mammals and invertebrates and is further enhanced by a natural stream running along the base of the small valley. The woodland and watercourse already form an established ecological corridor within the wider landscape, and the proposed enhancements within the development site have been designed to complement and reinforce this existing habitat network.

3. Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

The ecological enhancement features will be located generally as follows:

Feature	Quantity	Proposed Location
Integrated Bird Boxes	Minimum 2	Incorporated within external elevations of both dwellings
Integrated Bat Boxes	Minimum 2	Incorporated within upper elevations of both dwellings
Hedgehog Access Points	Minimum 4	Distributed within boundary fencing between gardens and side boundaries
Native Hedgerows	Side boundaries	Hawthorn and Blackthorn planting
Existing Woodland	Retained	Existing woodland to eastern/southern extent under applicant ownership

The locations shown above should be read alongside the approved site layout and landscaping drawings. See 22-116 Site Plan



Rockery area to promote wildlife and proposed planting.



Lawned area retained with rear planting of shrubs

4. Existing Woodland

The applicant retains ownership of the adjacent established woodland beyond the development site.

This woodland forms an important ecological resource and contributes significantly to local biodiversity through the provision of:

- mature trees;
- woodland ground flora;
- deadwood habitat;
- foraging habitat for birds and bats;
- habitat for small mammals;
- an existing stream running through the base of the valley which further enhances habitat diversity.

The proposed development has been designed to complement this existing natural environment through the installation of wildlife features and additional native planting that strengthens ecological links between the development and the woodland.

No works are proposed that would adversely affect the woodland or associated watercourse.



Existing Woodland to the North

5. Maintenance

To ensure long-term biodiversity gains, the following maintenance regime will be implemented.

Bird and Bat Boxes

- retained permanently;
- replaced if damaged.

Native Hedgerows

- watered during establishment;
- weed control undertaken during the first three growing seasons;
- failed plants replaced annually during the first five years;
- managed using sympathetic trimming outside the bird nesting season wherever practicable.

Woodland

The adjacent woodland will remain under the ownership of the applicant and new owners and will continue to be retained and managed as an important ecological asset, preserving its existing biodiversity value and maintaining the stream corridor and associated habitats.

6. Conclusion

The biodiversity enhancement measures proposed within this Method Statement provide meaningful ecological improvements that exceed the minimum requirements of Condition 3.

The combination of:

- integrated bat and bird boxes;
- hedgehog-friendly boundary treatments;
- additional native Hawthorn and Blackthorn hedgerow planting;
- retention of the adjacent woodland and stream corridor; and
- long-term maintenance commitments,

will enhance habitat quality, improve ecological connectivity and provide lasting biodiversity benefits for the site.

The proposed measures are considered appropriate for the scale and nature of the development and will contribute positively towards the objectives of Policy LP30 of the Kirklees Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.