

ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Land Adjacent to 1 Russet Close, Uxbridge UB10 0ST Erection of 2 x Semi-Detached Dwellings

1. Introduction

This statement has been prepared to demonstrate that the proposed development complies with ecological legislation, the Environment Act 2021 (Biodiversity Net Gain), and relevant local planning policy requirements of the London Borough of Hillingdon.

The application is supported by:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) dated 9th December 2025

PEA - Land Adjacent To 1 Russet...

- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment dated 27th January 2026
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2. Baseline Ecological Conditions

The site comprises approximately 0.03ha of unmanaged modified grassland enclosed within a small triangular urban plot.

Key findings of the PEA confirm:

- No statutory or non-statutory designated sites within influencing distance.
- No irreplaceable habitats present.
- No buildings or trees within the red line boundary suitable for bat roosting.
- No ponds within 500m of the site.
- No invasive species recorded.

The habitat present (modified grassland) is of low distinctiveness, albeit assessed as being in “good” condition under the statutory metric.

The ecological value of the site is therefore limited and typical of small, urban brownfield plots.

3. On-Site Biodiversity Enhancements

Notwithstanding the off-site contribution, biodiversity enhancements are incorporated within the proposed development in accordance with best practice and the recommendations of the PEA.

3.1 Integrated Bird Nesting Features

- Minimum **2 no. integrated bird bricks**
- Installed at high level within the building fabric
- Suitable for swift / sparrow / tit species

These will provide permanent nesting opportunities within the urban environment.

3.2 Integrated Bat Roosting Features

- Minimum **2 no. integrated bat boxes** (e.g. Habitat / Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box or similar approved)
- Installed at 3–5m height
- Positioned away from artificial lighting
- South or south-west facing with clear flight path

These measures will enhance local roosting opportunities for common pipistrelle species.

3.3 Lighting Strategy

A low impact lighting approach will be implemented:

- Warm white lighting (<2700K)
- Directional down-lighting only
- No upward light spill
- No illumination of boundary vegetation

This will protect retained habitats and maintain dark corridors.

3.4 Hedgehog Connectivity

- Hedgehog access gaps (130mm x 130mm) incorporated into boundary fencing

This will allow continued movement of small mammals between gardens.

3.5 Landscaping Enhancements

- Native shrub planting
- Pollinator-friendly species within private gardens
- No artificial grass

These measures improve foraging opportunities for invertebrates and birds.

4. Construction Phase Precautionary Measures

Precautionary working methods will be implemented during site clearance and construction, including:

- Staged vegetation clearance (strim to 150mm and leave overnight before full removal)

- Excavations covered overnight or fitted with escape ramps
- Pollution prevention measures
- Appropriate storage and disposal of chemicals (COSHH compliant)

These measures ensure protection of reptiles, amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals, in accordance with PEA recommendations.