

Marcie Rejwerska
Case Officer
Reading Borough Council

May 3, 2024

Dear Marcie,

Re: Ecology Consultee comments for 122 Kidmore Road, Caversham (Planning ref.: 240149)

I am writing on behalf of the applicant to address the comments made by Cathy Holwill (RBC Ecology Consultations) in their consultee response on the 7th March 2024. As requested, this letter provides information demonstrating how the application will achieve a net gain in biodiversity as follows:

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric (i.e. the latest DEFRA metric) calculates the losses and gains in biodiversity unit value resulting from the proposed development. The biodiversity metric tool has been used to demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity in accordance with Policy EN12 of the RBC Local Plan which states that *'on all sites, development should not result in a net loss of biodiversity [...], and should provide a net gain for biodiversity wherever possible.'*

A site walkover on the 15th April 2024 classified the following baseline habitats: developed land – sealed surface; vegetated garden; and two medium urban trees (see **Figure 1** below). The Block Plan by HAC Designs (22048.S.PP-08, Rev E) was used as a guide for the post-development habitats and shows that a small area of vegetated garden (15m²) will be lost to the increased footprint of the replacement dwelling (see **Figure 2** below). However, the biodiversity metric tool demonstrates that no net loss of biodiversity and a small BNG can be achieved by planting a small tree in the garden.

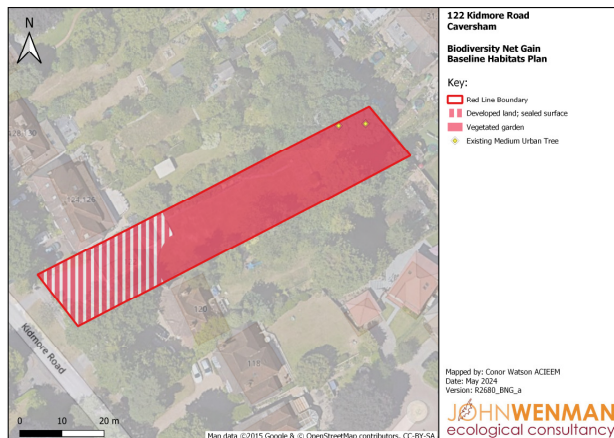


Figure 1. Baseline Habitats Plan (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric).

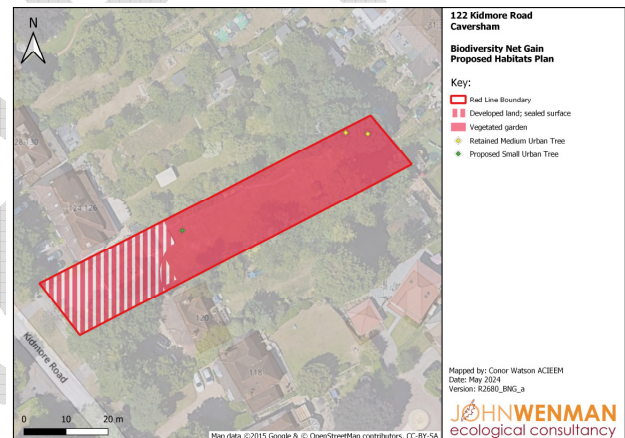


Figure 2. Proposed Habitats Plan (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric).

The biodiversity metric tool demonstrates that a total on-site net change of 1.92% in habitat units is feasible – please refer to '122 Kidmore Road, Caversham – The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (R2680_BNG_a)' enclosed separately.

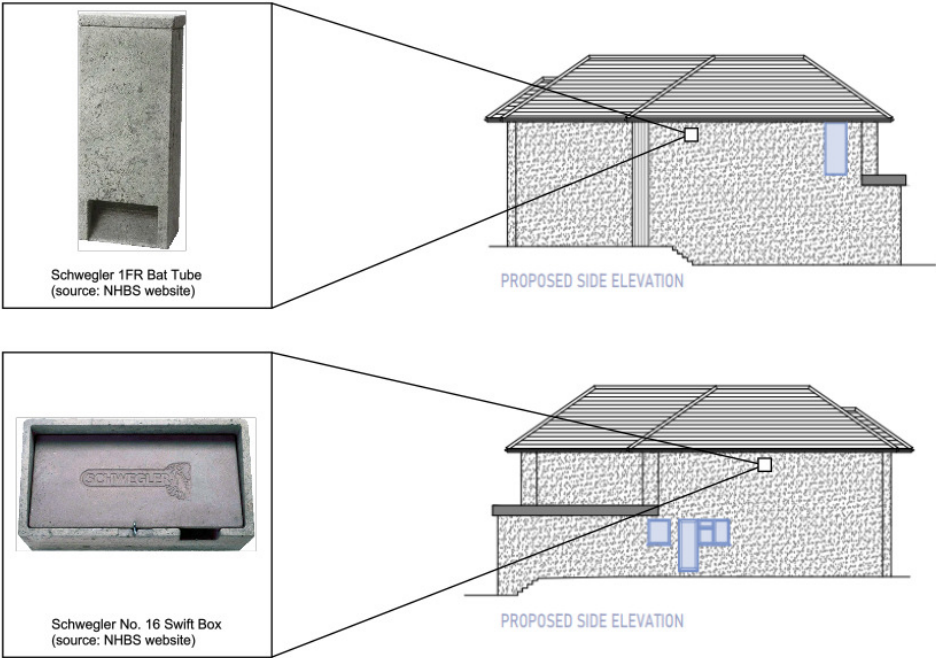
Biodiversity Enhancements

The consultee response stated that *'enhancements for wildlife are recommended (such as integrated bird and bat boxes and wildlife friendly planting).'* As such, one Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube and one Schwegler No. 16 Swift Box (or approved functional equivalents) will be incorporated into the fabric of the replacement dwelling (see **Figure 3** overleaf). In line with the recommendation of wildlife friendly planting, the small tree to be planted for BNG will be a fruit tree of local provenance (e.g. apple). The applicant has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring the implementation of these enhancements. The integrated boxes are designed to be long-lasting and do not require any maintenance; the initial aftercare and long-term maintenance of the planted tree will be covered by the regular upkeep of the garden by the householder.

Should you require any additional information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Watson BSc(Hons) ACIEEM
Senior Ecologist



Drawn by:	Date:	Scale:	122 Kidmore Road Caversham	JOHNWENMAN ecological consultancy
CW	May 2024	Not to scale	Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (Elevations drawing: HAC Designs / 22048.S.PP-06, Rev D)	

Figure 3. Biodiversity Enhancement Plan.