

 Reading Borough Council		Biodiversity Net Gain - Mitigation Strategy
	Job No.	2856-2022
	Issued Date:	31 October 2025
PROPERTY SERVICES, CIVIC OFFICES, BRIDGE STREET, READING RG1 2LU	Revision:	02 – Dec 2025

Project Title:	Reading Crematorium - 2022 Cremators Replacement Works
Applicant:	Reading Borough Council / Henley Road Cemetery and Reading Crematorium
Issued by:	Property Services, Property & Asset Management, Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU

Biodiversity Net Gain - Mitigation Strategy
 at
 READING CREMATORIUM & HENLEY ROAD CEMETERY,
 CAVERSHAM, READING

Biodiversity Net Gain Mitigation Strategy

Address:

Henley Road Cemetery and Reading Crematorium 55 All Hallows Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 5LP

To support delivery of the statutory **10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)** requirement, we propose the following enhancement:

Tree Planting Specification:

- Species: *Sorbus aucuparia* (Mountain Ash)
- Quantity: 3
- Origin: UK Native
- Size: 45 L root ball, 120 mm girth
- Location: As shown on the drawing

These trees have been selected for their native status, contribution to habitat diversity, and ability to provide nectar, berries, and shelter for birds and invertebrates, thereby increasing site biodiversity value.

The planting has been incorporated into the updated DEFRA Biodiversity Metric, which demonstrates that the overall scheme achieves a minimum of 10% net gain. A maintenance plan is included to ensure establishment and long-term ecological benefit.

Supporting Documents Submitted:

- Plan showing tree positions
- Biodiversity Metric Calculation
- Planting Specification, Method and Maintenance

We trust this satisfies Reading Borough Council's requirements for biodiversity enhancement under the Environment Act 2021.

Planting Specification, Method and Maintenance

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- Origin: UK Native
- Size: 45 L root ball, 120 mm girth
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Planting Method:

- Excavate pit at least 1.5× root ball diameter and depth to accommodate root ball without distortion.
- Backfill with topsoil mixed with organic matter; ensure firming without compaction.
- Install double stakes with crossbar and adjustable ties to secure tree.
- Apply 75 mm mulch layer around base, keeping clear of stem.
- Install watering bags for each tree.
- Water thoroughly after planting and maintain regular watering during establishment period.

Maintenance:

- Water weekly until the trees are established, and for a minimum of two years.
- Inspect ties and stakes every 3 months; adjust or remove after 2 years.
- Replace mulch annually.
- Any tree failures within 5 years will be replaced with similar size and species.