

Ecological Enhancement Report

Prepared by: Arthian Ltd.
For: Portakabin Ltd.
Site: Emmer Green Kindergarten
Date: 14/09/2026
Project Ref: 324293
Issue: 1.0

1. Introduction

1.1 Brief

Portakabin Ltd. (the Client) has submitted a planning application for the permanent installation of a single storey modular classroom (the Proposed Development) at 85 Grove Road, Reading, RG4 8LJ (the Site). Following the application, the local authority has requested an additional ecology document, to include:

- Ecological enhancement measures demonstrating biodiversity gains and site improvements; and
- Any supporting ecological information to assess those measures.

The Client has requested that Arthian produce an ecological enhancement plan and accompanying text to fulfil the above requirements.

The Client has provided a Proposed Location, Block and Landscape Plan which has been used to inform this document. An accompanying Ecological Enhancement Plan has been prepared and is presented in Appendix A.

1.2 Site Description and Location

The Site is situated within the grounds of Emmer Green Kindergarten and comprises a small area of managed amenity grassland and hardstanding within a predominantly urban setting. There are no mature trees or hedgerow on Site. The surrounding landscape is characterised by residential development, roads, gardens, scattered trees and areas of ornamental planting. The town centre of Reading is c. 3km south of the Site.

2. Ecological Enhancement Measures

2.1 Bird Box

Two Schwegler Bird Home 1MR's (or similar, approved by an ecologist) bird boxes will be installed on the eastern and northern facing walls to avoid direct sunlight, and at a height of approximately 2-4m above the ground level. Entrances will have clear flight paths, free of clutter and/or vegetation. The Schwegler Bird Home 1MR is suitable for a range of bird species including great tit (*Parus major*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), marsh tit (*Poecile palustris*), coal tit (*Periparus ater*) and crested tits (*Lophophanes cristatus*), common redstarts (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*), tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and house sparrow (*Passer*

domesticus). All bird boxes can be installed by the appointed management company and do not require the presence of an ecologist. See Ecological Enhancement Plan in Appendix A for locations of the bird boxes.

2.2 Native Hedgerow

A native hedgerow will be planted along the southern and western boundaries of the Site, totalling c. 34m in length. The use of native, berry-producing species will provide foraging, nesting and shelter opportunities for birds, while flowering species will offer nectar and pollen resources for pollinating invertebrates. Although the Proposed Location, Block and Landscape Plan does not specify species, a suitable mix/species could include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*).

3. Ecological Enhancement Management Prescriptions

3.1 Bird Box

Bird boxes will be inspected annually outside of breeding bird season (September – February) to assess the condition and ensure holes remain unobstructed. Damaged or missing bird boxes will be repaired or replaced on a like-for-like basis. Bird boxes should be inspected and cleaned annually between September and January, outside of the bird breeding season. Any old nesting material and debris should be removed to minimise the risk of parasite infestation and disease, thereby maintaining suitable nesting conditions for breeding birds. Inspections and maintenance can be carried out by the appointed management company, and do not require an ecologists' assistance, but one can be contacted for advice if required.

3.2 Native Hedgerow

The below table details the management prescriptions for native hedgerows.

Table 1: Native Hedgerow Management

Prescription	Years 1-5 (Establishment)	Year 6+
Hedgerow health inspection.	Twice annually (spring and autumn).	Annually in growing season (April – September).
Maintenance of stakes, ties and guards.	Twice annually (spring and autumn).	Remove once hedgerow established.
Formative pruning.	Annually outside of breeding bird season (September – February). If this is not possible, an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) presence is required.	Once every three years and outside of breeding bird season. If this is not possible, an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) presence is required.
Replacement planting. Replace any dead, diseased or damaged plants with the same species and specification to maintain design composition.	As required, replacement in autumn or winter.	As required, replacement in autumn or winter.
Watering	As required during establishment and drought.	During exceptional drought only.
Remove litter and debris to maintain visual quality and prevent plant damage.	Quarterly.	Quarterly.
Weed removal by hand.	Twice a year in the growing season, evenly spaced out.	Twice a year in the growing season, evenly spaced out.



Quality Assurance

Issue Record

Revision	Description	Date	Author	Reviewer	Approver
1.0	First issue to client	14/09/2026	JD	NM	NM



Appendix A – Ecological Enhancement Plan



Ecological Enhancement Plan

Portakabin Ltd.

Emmer Green
Kindergarten

Key:

- Application Boundary
- Area owned by the school but not in the application
- Bird Box
- Native Hedgerow



Project Number: 324293	Scale at A3:
Drawn By: JD	1:166.022807
Reviewed By: NM	Version:Final
Projection: OSGB 1936/British National Grid - EPSG 27700	Issue Date: 14/09/2026

