

# Briefing Note



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Ref. 09030002  
Subject: St Michael's Convent, Ham Common (LPA Refs. 16/3552/FUL  
and 16/3553/LBC)

## Ecological enhancements for St Michael's Convent, Ham Common

As set out in the Ecology Assessment and Ecology Briefing Note (September 2016 and Feb 2017 respectively) and the two Design and Access Statements (submitted in September 2016 and Feb 2017), the proposed enhancements associated with the above scheme include:

- Bat boxes to be erected on suitable semi mature/mature trees within the site;
- Bird nest boxes on suitable trees within the site;
- Bird feeders;
- Standing dead wood and log piles (loggeries) for invertebrates, such as stag beetle;
- Long term protection of the Mulberry Tree;
- New native tree and hedgerow planting;
- Enhancements to walled garden, including raised herb and vegetable beds (insect attracting) and additional fruit trees (badger foraging);
- New orchard tree planting to replace gaps and provide a varied age structure, as well as a long term orchard management plan;
- New areas of native shrub planting with species known to benefit wildlife;
- New and improved areas of amenity lawn (using Emorsgate Flowering Lawn Mixture EL1);
- New areas of native wildflower grassland (a wildflower 'staircase') using Emorsgate Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture EM2;
- Buffers to badger setts (NB any temporary closures will require licences from Natural England);
- Sensitive lighting scheme to minimise light spillage; and
- Translocation of lawn in areas where the plant species listed in the Joint Nature Conservation Committee 'Lowland Dry Acid Grassland' Priority Habitat description are identified.

We hope you agree this is a comprehensive list of ecological enhancements to the site over and above the existing site condition. From our various discussions, you will be aware of the applicant's concerns about a pond as this potentially delivers negative impacts as well as positive advantages. However, if you are absolutely insistent that a pond is required, we are willing to accept a condition requiring the submission of details relating to this.

To cover the benefits outlined above, we are happy to accept a hard and soft landscaping condition, which would cover much of these ecological enhancements.