

# The Carbon Garden

## Ecological Enhancement

For planning condition **U0176272 Ecological Enhancement**

**A (1)** The recommendations of table 23 (see below) of the Surrey Wildlife Trust Ecology Services Ecology Report (dated 20th September 2023) will be followed.

See garden plan at the end of this report for locations of individual items.

**A (2)** Removal/control of non-native invasive species.

The area of the site is currently maintained as a garden within the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew so there are few invasive non-native species. If any do exist they are removed on a regular basis by manual weeding, and will continue to be removed as part of the maintenance of the new landscape.

**From the Surrey Wildlife Trust Ecology Services Ecology Report:**

**Table 23: Biodiversity enhancement features.**

| Feature type           | Species suitability                | Where to place   | Number of features required |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Log piles              | Amphibians and reptiles            | Other woodland; mixed and other neutral grassland                            | 2                           |
| Invertebrate bug hotel | Range of species                   | Within retained or created neutral grassland.                                | 1                           |
| Hedgehog house         | West European Hedgehog             | Within retained or created other neutral grass or created modified grassland | 1                           |
| Bird boxes             | Suitable for a range of song birds | Mounted on retained trees  | 3                           |

### **Log Piles:**

Two log piles will be created in the 'other woodland' habitat along the northern boundary of the site, in a damp, shady spot. These will be replenished as the logs degrade, to ensure the habitat remains suitable.

Sturdy sticks will be pushed into the ground on both sides of the logs, to stop them rolling away. The biggest logs will be placed towards the bottom of the pile. Gaps between the logs will be filled with dry leaves. The log pile will be watered during dry spells, if necessary, to keep it damp. Logs will be sourced from within Kew Gardens, as material becomes available.

### **Invertebrate bug hotel:**

One bug hotel will be installed in the wildflower meadow, near the native hedgerow. It will be in a south-facing sunny position to best attract insect species.

A second bug hotel will be placed in a more shady position (tbc) to attract a different range of species.

Dimensions (not including mounting pole): 15 x 11 x 79 cm (L x W x H).

Mounting pole height: 71 cm.

The bug hotel will be visible to visitors, from the path, and contribute to the story of the garden. In particular it will highlight the importance of biodiversity, and the risks to it from climate change.

Materials, such as straw, dead leaves, loose bark and nesting tubes, will be replenished or replaced as necessary, in late winter/early spring.



### **Hedgehog House:**

One hedgehog house will be placed near the edge of the wildflower meadow, away from the path and close to the canopy edge of the existing silver lime tree.

The Hogilo hedgehog home is made from recycled plastic and FSC wood. It's been checked by hedgehog carers for suitability, has built-in air ventilation, internal tunnel for protection and a lift and twist lid making it secure but easy for cleaning if necessary. If a hedgehog is in residence, the house will not be disturbed at any time.

Approx 23 x 52 x 40cm



Hedgehog House

### **Bird boxes**

Three bird boxes will be attached to existing trees at approx. 2.5-3m above ground. The openings will face north or east and the placing will ensure a clear flight path to the entry hole.



### **RSPB Classic nest box**

Width 20cm | Depth 16cm | Height 22cm | 32mm entry hole

These nestboxes will be cleaned and old nests removed in the autumn, ideally from September onwards, as long as the nest is no longer active. Boiling water will kill any remaining parasites, and the box will be allowed to dry out before reattaching to the tree. A small handful of clean hay or wood shavings (not straw) will be placed in the box once it's totally dry.

