

Sample Policies



Environment

11.4 Any proposals for planning permission should conserve and enhance biodiversity by the protecting the network of local ecological features and habitats. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance existing ecological corridors and landscape features (such as watercourses, hedgerows and tree-lines) for biodiversity, if appropriate, by:

- Protecting designated sites, protected species and ancient or species-rich hedgerows, grasslands and woodlands. Significant development proposals which are likely to have a direct or indirect adverse impact on local biodiversity will only be permitted provided an independent survey report which is supported by the Borough's Ecological adviser demonstrates that there are no alternatives with less harmful impacts, or that appropriate mitigation measures or, as a last resort, compensation measures can be provided to achieve a net enhancement to the site's biodiversity.
- Preserving ecological networks, and the migration and transit of flora and fauna. Development proposals should seek to maintain and enhance the connectivity of all green corridors wherever possible. Planning applications for new dwellings must clearly demonstrate how they have incorporated appropriate measures to secure the connectivity of the corridor and the freedom of movement for species on or through the site. Significant development proposals which may result in the loss of bird nesting habitat must include by way of mitigation within the new development suitable alternative nesting habitat.
- Protecting ancient trees or trees of arboricultural value.
- Promoting the mitigation, preservation, restoration and re-creation of wildlife habitats, and the protection and recovery of priority species. Where there is evidence of the existence of bats, badgers or other species protected by law, any survey or assessment which accompanies a development proposal must be undertaken at an appropriate time of year for the relevant species and must include proposals for the measures that will be taken by way of appropriate mitigation to minimise and compensate for any likely impact the development may have on them, in accordance with the requirements of the licence from Natural England.
- Providing a net gain in flora and fauna.
- Adopting best practice in Sustainable Urban Drainage.

