

STATEMENT REGARDING BIODIVERSITY VALUE AND CANOPY COVER - REAR OF 11 WOLSELEY ROAD

18 July 2024

This statement has been produced at the request of the council to comment on the provision of tree planting and soft landscaping, and their relationship to biodiversity value and site canopy cover.

Landscape Biodiversity Changes

The existing site is predominantly heavily shaded, low-quality understorey, largely void of ground cover (i.e. predominantly bare earth with dense covering of intact dead coniferous leaves). A small section of the site is low value lawn grass.

The proposed scheme aims to improve site biodiversity by utilising a Bauder meadow grass green roof system, designed to provide high biodiversity value. This is anticipated to make up 80-90% of the proposed soft landscaping, with the remaining areas consisting of more-ornamental shrub plantings. The use of this system in conjunction with an increase in the area of site soft landscaping by 104% clearly results in a positive net biodiversity change within the site.

Site Area	195 m ²
Existing Hard Landscaping	140.3 m ²
Existing Soft Landscaping	54.7 m ²
Proposed Hard Landscaping	83.4 m ²
Proposed Soft Landscaping	111.6 m ²
Change in Hard Landscaping	-56.9 m ²
Change in Soft Landscaping	+56.9 m ²
Percentage Change in Hard Landscaping	-41%
Percentage Change in Soft Landscaping	104%

Table showing differences between existing and proposed landscape types

Tree Canopy Cover

A loss of multiple low-quality laurel, a magnolia grandiflora, and a heavily suppressed holly tree will be lost as part of the scheme. The biodiversity value provided by these trees is considered to be low; laurel and magnolia are both non-native species, which support little wildlife in the UK. Whilst holly is a native tree, in its current suppressed state, its contribution is considered very limited.

Three new native trees are proposed as part of the scheme. Two silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and a field maple (*Acer campestre*) have been selected for planting owing to their suitability for growing in close proximity to structures and their high biodiversity value. Both trees should be at least 3-3.5m tall at the time of planting, with a stem girth of 12-14cm.

It is expected that all three trees will reach an ultimate height of 7-12m with a branch spread (radius) of at least 3-4m within 25 years.

On this basis, the proposed planting of the 3 new trees will result in an $85m^2$ to $151m^2$ contribution to site canopy cover. This equates to a site canopy cover of 43-77%.

Yours Faithfully,

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