Biodiversity Statement

Site: 34 North Hill Drive, Romford, RM3 9AQ

Proposal: Proposed dropped kerb and vehicle crossover to an existing residential driveway

1. Existing site and proposed works

The property has an existing paved driveway used for off-street parking. The proposal is to lower the existing raised kerb and undertake associated alterations to the paved public footway to provide a formal vehicle crossover from North Hill Drive. No alterations to the dwelling or existing driveway are proposed. The draft planning application records an application site area of 17.05 square metres.

2. Existing biodiversity and anticipated effects

The proposed works are confined to the existing kerb and paved footway. No removal of grass, garden areas, trees, hedges or other vegetation is proposed. On this basis, the works are not expected to result in the loss of vegetated habitat or a material adverse effect on biodiversity. This assessment is based on the stated scope of the works and does not constitute an ecological survey.

3. Avoidance and mitigation

Works will be limited to the area needed for the crossover. Existing vegetation will be retained and any disturbed paved surfaces reinstated in accordance with the highway authority's requirements. If vegetation or other potentially sensitive features are identified before works commence, the potential impacts will be reviewed.

4. Biodiversity net gain exemption

The applicant considers that the proposal falls within the exemption for development with a site area of 0.2 hectares or less, provided that no on-site priority habitat is adversely affected. The draft application records 17.05 square metres, which is below this threshold. The proposed works affect existing hard surfaces and do not include vegetation removal. The exemption is relied upon subject to confirmation of the application boundary and the absence of adverse effects on any on-site priority habitat. Accordingly, a statutory biodiversity metric and off-site biodiversity credits are not proposed.

5. Conclusion

The proposed dropped kerb and vehicle crossover will serve an existing paved residential driveway. Given the limited extent of works to existing hard surfaces and the absence of proposed vegetation removal, significant adverse biodiversity effects are not anticipated. The applicant requests that the local planning authority consider the stated biodiversity net gain exemption when validating and determining the application.