

Preliminary Ecological Statement & Biodiversity Declaration

Site Address: 89 Loddon Bridge Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4AE

Proposal: Planning application for the relocation of an existing dropped kerb / vehicle crossover.

Date: June 2026

1. Introduction & Scope of Works

This statement has been prepared to support the householder/highway planning application for the relocation of the dropped kerb servicing number 89 Loddon Bridge Road. The proposed works comprise solely of:

- The excavation and lowering of a standard concrete kerblane.
- The resurfacing/strengthening of a small section of the existing public tarmac footway.
- Minor realignments at the immediate boundary boundary junction where it meets the existing gravel/hardstanding driveway.

2. Habitat Assessment & Site Context

An assessment of the application site and local context confirms the following baseline environment:

- **Impact Zone:** The physical footprint of the development is entirely restricted to artificial, heavily modified habitats, specifically asphalt/tarmac footway, concrete kerbing, and a well-established gravel driveway.

- **Vegetation:** No mature trees are present. The area behind the timber post-and-rail fence consists entirely of low-level garden shrubs and low-value residential frontage.
- **Designated Sites:** The site does not fall within or immediately adjacent to any European Protected Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), or Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

3. Protected Species Risk Assessment

Due to the lack of suitable natural habitats, the risk to protected species is deemed negligible:

- **Bats:** The proposal involves no modifications to roofs, mature trees, or structures capable of supporting roosting bats. No artificial lighting changes are proposed.
- **Great Crested Newts (GCN):** There is no standing water on the site, and the gravel and paved surfaces provide no food or shelter for wildlife.

4. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Status

Under the Environment Act 2021 framework implemented in 2024, small-scale householder developments or minor highway works that do not impact priority habitats and fall under the de minimis threshold (affecting less than 9m² of non-zero baseline habitat) are **exempt** from mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain regulations. The proposal affects 0m² of distinct natural habitat.

5. Conclusion & Mitigation

The proposed development represents a negligible ecological footprint with no foreseeable negative impacts on local biodiversity