

Conservation Areas

These are areas of "special architectural or historic interest" which the Council have named so that they can be "preserved or enhanced". There are currently 26 Conservation Areas in the borough. Many are groups or streets of buildings with a particular style and age, often with good street trees and well defined boundaries. Listed buildings, Bedford Park and Gunnersbury Park Garden Estate also have special restrictions.

Adding trees, and protecting the existing ones has often been a way of keeping - and increasing - the special character. Hedges around the gardens, or walls along the street are often part of the detailed attractiveness, relating to the style and period of the houses and other buildings.

The character will be lost if front gardens and boundaries are removed. Bringing the car into the front garden will downgrade the appearance and feeling of special quality, especially where attractive gateways and paths to front doors disappear.

Cross-overs and the loss of verges reduce character. A forecourt with at least some planting can make a huge difference to the colour, texture and pleasantness of the area. In a conservation area it is particularly to retain original hard landscaping and enclosing boundaries and to use sympathetic materials and styles.



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Contact Information

For planning and conservation area enquiries:

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Email: planningcomments@hounslow.gov.uk

For crossover application enquiries:

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Tel: 020 8583 4910

For enquires about landscaping and attracting wildlife to your garden:

CIP (Parks and Open Spaces)
Feltham Airparcs Leisure Centre
Uxbridge Road, Hanworth TW13 5EG
Tel: 020 8894 2677
Email: com.serv@cip.org.uk

Centre for Wildlife Gardening:

28 Marsden Road, East Dulwich SE15 4EE
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Or visit the London Wildlife Trust website at www.wildlondon.org.uk

For all other enquiries:

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YOUR FRONT GARDEN
Save It, Don't Pave It!





Your Front Garden – Save it, don't pave it!

In recent years there has been a tendency to pave over front gardens to provide off-road parking spaces, or to create low-maintenance, minimalist gardens.

Removing the soft-landscaping of lawns and flower beds and replacing them with block paving and concrete can make a street look bleak and unwelcoming.

It also removes the many positive impacts of front gardens.

Your front garden is the first thing visitors to your home will see, so it is important that it looks good. However, there is more to front gardens than looks alone.

For example, front gardens provide valuable wildlife habitat and can even help reduce the risks of flooding. Here are some of the vital roles performed by front gardens:

- **Protection against flooding** – Soft-surfaced front gardens play an important role in absorbing rainwater. The growing tendency to cover front gardens results in the rainwater flowing directly into the over pressured sewage system, and increases the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall.
- **Wildlife habitat** – A sensitively maintained front garden provides feeding and nesting opportunities for birds, such as robins and blackbirds, and supports other garden wildlife including hedgehogs, butterflies and bees. Specific types of plants can attract wildlife to your garden. For example, catmint is good for insects, especially bees. See photos for other examples.
- **Temperature regulation** – Plants release water vapour, which helps to cool the air. However, if the plants are removed and replaced with bricks and concrete, the effect is reversed, resulting in increased temperatures. This has the knock-on effect of reducing air quality by increasing the negative impacts of pollen and pollutants.
- **Protection against subsidence** – Keeping soft, permeable surfaces in the front garden reduces the risk of the soils drying out, protecting against subsidence.
- **Amenity and house prices** – Roads with attractive front gardens have a more pleasant character and generally benefit from higher property prices.



Stonecrop



Heather

Alternatives to hard surfacing

There are alternatives to block paving and concrete. Gravel is a cheap way to surface your front garden, and if it is placed on top of permeable hardcore, water will be able to penetrate and some plants, for example heather and stonecrop, are ideal for gravel gardens.

If you need to park a car in your front garden, you only need to pave an area big enough for the car. You could just pave the wheel tracks and plant low growing vegetation between them. Small trees, shrubs and containers of plants will brighten up the front of your house and require little maintenance. If you have limited space for plants, you can construct a pergola over the parking area and grow plants such as clematis and honeysuckle up it.



Catmint



Clematis



Geranium