



**Ecological Enhancements Strategy**  
**Orchard Street, Newhall, Swadlincote**  
**December 2021**

## **Notice to readers**

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# 1.0 Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 Absolute Ecology was commissioned to undertake an Ecological Enhancement Strategy for a proposed development land off Orchard Street, Newhall, Swadlincote, DE11 0HU. Grid reference SK28845 20888.
- 1.2 Previous ecological surveys have been conducted such as Preliminary Ecological Appraisal 2020 & 2018
- 1.3 The published National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) replaces Planning Policy Statements (e.g. PPS9) and sets out current Government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation. Planners are required to set criteria-based policies against which proposals for development that may affect legally protected species will be judged. The NPPF promotes sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity, with an emphasis on maintaining ecological networks at a landscape level.
- 1.4 The aim of the Ecological Enhancement Strategy is to mitigate any ecological loss. Absolute Ecology will conduct an inspection of the new features installed and constructed also Absolute Ecology will be available during the construction phase of the ecology enhancements for guidance to the client. Prior to construction of the ecological enhancements a pre-site meeting would take place to provide a tool box talk on the construction of the ecological enhancements to give further clarity to what is required. This report will be provided to the site staff for guidance.

## Location Map



**Grid Reference: SK28845 20888**

## **2.0 Ecological Enhancement**

2.1 To compensate for the loss of biodiversity the creation of fauna species habitat such as bats/birds/hedgehog/Reptile & Amphibian habitat to be created but also to use native plant and tree species, recommendations are given to enhance the site for the future benefit of biodiversity.

2.2 Management Aims and Objectives Conserving and enhancing ecological value

- Safeguarding and enhancing biological features on site.
- Maintain the connectivity of habitats within the site and to adjacent sites.
- Ensure invasive species on site are controlled and do not colonise the site further.
- Establish an awareness within the public of the sites wildlife value.

2.3 Well established health and safety procedures

- Establishing and maintaining health and safety procedures for the management and maintenance of the site to comply with all relevant legislation and guidance.

## Bat Boxes Instillation

2.4 The development will incorporate a total of 5, 1FR Bat Box will be incorporated into new buildings. Further information about providing access for roosting bats. It is recommended that bat boxes, such as the Bat Box are to be installed facing south-east to south-west position, most species will use higher positioned boxes (around 5m high), although brown long-eared bats may use a box 1.5m above the ground. metres above the ground Use headless or domed nails not fully hammered home to allow the tree growth.

- Five 1FR Schwegler Bat Tube Bat Box will be installed to provide summer opportunities.
- Boxes will not be placed in an overly exposed position on the wall. Crucially, the box entrances should face boxes facing from south-east to south-west allow the sun to fall on each box for part of the day. During very hot days a south-facing box may overheat, but the other boxes should have some shade.
- 2-year post monitoring of the bat boxes should be undertaken to monitor the usage.
- Once discovered, a bat roost is protected by law and must not be disturbed.
- It is envisaged that bat box monitoring should be undertaken by the site owners who will require a licensed bat worker to inspect the boxes in order to conform with current guidance and legislation.
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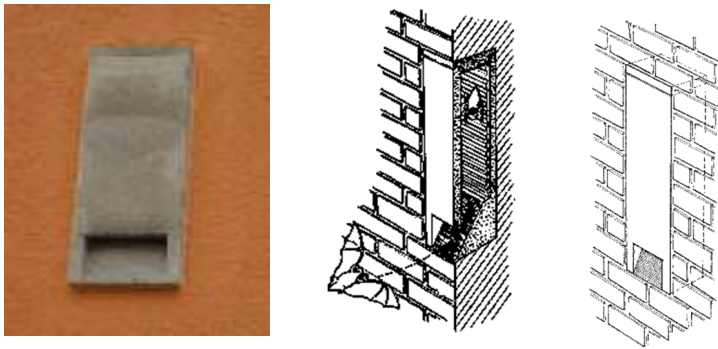
**Table 1: Bat box to be incorporated into the re/development**

| Bat boxes                                                                           | Type and Quantity                                                                                                                                                                     | Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><b>5 x 1FR Schwegler Bat Tube</b></p> <p>Dimensions: Height 47.5cm x Width 20cm x Depth 12.5cm.</p> <p>* Entrance: Height 9cm x Width 15cm x Depth 2cm.</p> <p>* Weight: 9.8kg</p> | <p>The 1FR Schwegler Bat Tube meets the behavioural characteristics of bat species that inhabit buildings. The bat box has been designed to maintain ideal climate conditions inside. This allows the animals to either hang onto the wooden rear.</p> <p>Purchase: <a href="#">Bat Boxes   NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment</a></p> |

Time table of Bat Box Instillation

| METHOD            | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun  | Jul  | Aug | Sept |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| Install Bat Boxes |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |
| Post Monitoring   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2022 | 2023 |     |      |





Example of positioned Bat Box

## Bird Nests

2.5 Similar to bats, bird habitats, including nesting and roosting sites, are diminishing or have disappeared altogether due to changes in the landscape, environment and building techniques. Consequently, the provision of boxes for birds will provide supplementary nesting sites that are relatively safe from predators, close to feeding areas, and give essential winter protection for roosting birds. A range of designs are available to suit most species, including garden species, birds of prey and colonial nesting species, for both trees and buildings. Colonial nesting species, such as House Sparrows, which are currently facing a dramatic decline, suffer from a lack of suitable buildings in which to nest. Moulded woodcrete boxes can be used to form a network of contiguous boxes favoured by the species. Additionally, nesting baskets can be used to encourage birds of prey to areas where they have not previously nested. Health risks from breeding birds generally relate to Feral Pigeons and Starlings, and require direct contact with nesting material, dried faeces etc., within confined spaces. Consequently, the public health risk relating to encouraging nesting birds on the new development is considered to be negligible.

- The Swift nest boxes will be positioned on the new dwellings
- All the bird boxes will be positioned at least 5 metres high under an overhand or eaves. the front of the nest box should be angled vertically or slightly downwards to prevent rain from entering the nest box. Make sure it is sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Use galvanized or stainless steel screws or nails that will not rust
- The swallow nest box can be fixed on to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall. It is suitable for all types of houses, ideally place the terrace 5 metres or more above the ground. Either install on the surface of the wall using the plugs and screws provided, or install directly into the wall (see the images tab for illustrations). Cleaning is advisable but not necessary. The front panel can be removed by turning the screw hook.
- Nesting birds may be present in the buildings during the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive). If works on these areas are planned during these months, then a prior check for nesting birds should be undertaken by an ecologist. Any active nests that are found must not be moved until fledglings have dispersed.

**Table 2: Bird boxes to be incorporated into the new development**

Purchase at [WoodStone Swift Nest Box | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment](#)

| Bird Boxes                                                                          | Type and Quantity                 | Information                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>8 x Swift Nest Box</b>         | The Woodstone Swift Nest Box. The FSC certified WoodStone Swift Nest Box is constructed entirely out of WoodStone meaning it is long lasting and won't rot away like a traditional wooden nest box |
|                                                                                     | Width: 38cm                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                     | Height: 24.5cm                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                     | Depth: 26.5cm                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                     | Weight: 6kg                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                     | Material: FSC certified WoodStone |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

Time table of Swift nesting boxes instillation

| METHOD                                                  | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun  | Jul  | Aug | Sept |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| Install Bird Boxes                                      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |
| Post monitoring will be in line with Bat Box Monitoring |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2022 | 2023 |     |      |



## Hedgehogs

The once common hedgehog is now under threat from development and habitat loss caused by the reduction of hedgerows and increase in intensification of our agricultural landscapes.

In just the last 10 years, hedgehog numbers have fallen by 30%, and there are now thought to be fewer than one million left in the UK. They are disappearing from our countryside as fast as tigers are worldwide.

To provide potential habitat for hedgehogs in the local are Schwegler Hedgehog domes could be placed alongside the eastern boundary of the site in line with the adjacent allotments preferable within the hedgerows to minimize disturbance and predators. Access points will be made at ground level at 13cm x 13cm (5 inches) holes in walls or fences will let hedgehogs have un restricted access.

- The Hedgehog Domes will be place on the outside of the residential gardens and placed under vegetation for extra cover.

| Bird Boxes                                                                                                                                                              | Type & Quantity           | Information                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | <b>5 x Hedgehog domes</b> | Hedgehog Dome, which provides year round accommodation, including hibernation quarters. |

Time table of hedgehog instillation

| METHOD                              | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Install Reptile & amphibian Habitat |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |





### 3.0 References

Bat Conservation Trust's Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines (Collins (ed.), 2016),

BSBI (2008). *BSBI 2007 List*. [Online]. Available at: <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/html/database.html> [accessed on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010].

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