Dixon's Academy, Newall Green HS, Greenbrow Rd, Manchester, M23 2SX

Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (Bat and Bird Box Plan)

August 2025



Ref 23-10490

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Revision	
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1 INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 LRP Ecology was instructed in August by Syntegra to create a bird and bat box plan for the new build – Dixon's Academy, Newall Green High School, Greenbrow Road, Manchester, M23 2XS (Grid ref: SJ 80861 87511), in to discharge a planning condition (Condition 28).

1.2 This report makes recommendations for enhancing the urban site for nesting birds and roosting bats. The client has recommended that the boxes go onto existing trees that are to be retained. Table 1 outlines the authors qualifications and experience.

Table 1. Author experience

Surveyor	Experience
John Blackburn BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIEEM	Fifteen years' experience in ecological consultancy, undertaking ecological surveys across the UK and abroad. Holds Natural England licences for Bats (level 2) great crested newt, barn owl, hazel dormice and white clawed crayfish. Has prepared and delivered mitigation licences for a wide variety of species and undertaken ECoW projects when required.

Legislation

European Protected Species (EPS)

1.3 Protected Species such as the great crested newt Triturus cristatus, otter Lutra lutra, dormouse Muscardinus avellanarius and all species of British bat (Vespertilionidae and Rhinolophidae) are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and receive full protection under Section 9. These species are also all listed as European Protected Species (EPS) on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (which implements the EC Directive 92/43/EEC in the United Kingdom) which gives them full protection under Regulation 53.

1.4 As a result of this statutory legislation, it is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill an EPS;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb an EPS in its place of rest/ breeding Site;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a EPS place of rest/ breeding Site (even if the EPS is not occupying the resting / breeding place at the time);
- Possess or sell or exchange an EPS (dead or alive) or part of an EPS.

1.5 The great crested newt, otter and seven species of British bat are included as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and as species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. This places a requirement for these species to be taken into consideration during the planning process with a view to conserving biodiversity.

1.6 It is an offence for anyone intentionally to kill, injure or handle a EPS, to possess a EPS (whether live or dead), disturb the roosting or resting place of a EPS, or sell or offer a EPS for sale without a licence. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by EPS for shelter, whether they are present or not.

Breeding birds

1.7 All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) from being killed, injured or captured whilst their nests and eggs are protected from being damaged, destroyed or taken. Some birds which are listed under Schedule 1 of the Act, such as barn owl Tyto alba, are given additional protection against disturbance.

2 MITIGATION MEASURES

Nesting Birds

2.1 No nesting birds was recorded during the surveys however the recommendation was made for precautionary measures on the eastern extent of the building, the aspect of the building facing the woodland.

2.2 It is recommended that works are undertaken outside of the bird breeding season. In the UK this is May- August (Inclusive), however in some urban areas species such as feral pigeons may nest all year round.

2.3 It is therefore recommended that a check for nesting birds is made no more than 24 hours prior to demolition. This check should be made by a suitably qualified and experience ecologist. If a nest is found a buffer zone of 5m should be left and regular checks made over a two-week period to determine the status of the nest. Once the last fledgling has left the nest, works can proceed in the buffered zone.

Bats

2.4 Post construction, if lighting is needed within the zones identified on Plan 1. as areas to be kept dark, a sensitive lighting scheme is recommended to minimize the amount of light spill. This may include the use of:

- light hoods or cowls,
- directional lighting designed to illuminate the target area only,
- movement sensors or time switches
- lights with no UV spectrum or low-pressure sodium lights
- low level bollard lighting in outside communal areas

2.5 See the Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note GN08/23 (BCT & Institute of Lighting Professionals, 2023) for further details.

3 BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS

Breeding Birds

3.1 Currently the site offers limited potential to nesting birds, however it is likely that common urban species are present in the area. It is recommended that four Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone nest boxes (Fig. 2) are installed retained trees away from lighting and windows. These are low lasting, low maintenance and are resistant to predators such as gray squirrels Sciurus carolinensis. These should be sited 2-3m of the ground and with a clear flight path.



Figure 1. Vivara Pro Sevill 32mm Woodstone nest box

Roosting Bats

3.2 New roosting opportunities can be created for bats through the provision of artificial roosts. It is recommended that two 2F Schwegler bat boxes are placed on suitable sizeable trees. Due to the small number of such trees in the area, only two can be recommended. These boxes will provide roosting opportunities to small number of common and widespread light tolerant bats that might be in the local area.



Figure 2. 1FQ Schwegler bat roost box


1FQ Schwegler Bat Roost x2
Vivara Pro Seville WoodStone Nest Box with 32mm Oval Hole x4
LRP ECOLOGY
Dixons Academy, Newall Green Manchester
Bird and Bat Box Plan
NTS @A3
JWB /
28/08/25
N
Plan 1.

4 REFERENCES

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