ecological**report**

outlining biodiversity enhancements to be implemented

at

5 Essex avenue
Manchester
M20 6AN

July 2024



bringing **e**cological **e**xcellence **t**o **l**ocal **e**nvironments

Prepared by:

Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants Limited
Mowpin Lodge
New Road
Haigh
WN2 1PF

Tel: 07880 733977
e-mail: info@whistlingbeetle.co.uk
website: www.whistlingbeetle.co.uk



bringing **e**cological **e**xcellence **t**o **l**ocal **e**nvironments

Registered in England & Wales – Company Registration Number 5391850



This Report was prepared by Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants for the sole and exclusive use of the Client and for the specific purpose for which Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants was commissioned as defined in Section1 of this Report.

Nothing contained in this Report shall be construed to give any rights or benefits to anyone other than the Client and Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants, and all duties and responsibilities undertaken are for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Client and not for the benefit of any other party.

Contents

		Page
1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Biodiversity Enhancement Plan	1
3.0	Breeding Birds	1
4.0	Hedgehogs	2
5.0	Native Tree Species	2
6.0	Summary	3
7.0	Closure	3
8.0	References	4

Appendix 1
Bat Box *Drawing Number 5EA/SL/WB/01*
Sparrow Boxes *Info Sheet Sparrow terrace box*

Appendix 2
Hedgehog Enhancement Measures

Appendix 3
Native Tree Species

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Biodiversity Enhancement Plan has been specifically developed for 5 Essex Avenue, Manchester. M20 6AN

1.2 The enhancement plan is to fulfil the following -
Condition 12
Prior to first occupation of the dwellinghouse hereby approved, a scheme for the enhancement of the site for biodiversity purposes shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority. The agreed scheme shall be implemented in accordance with a timescale to be agreed and retained and maintained thereafter.
Reason -*To promote biodiversity, pursuant to policy EN15 of the Manchester Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).*

2.0 Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

2.1 To fulfil condition 12 Grants of Planning Permission to enhance roosting opportunities for bats and birds the following measures will be implemented.

- The siting of a permanent Habibat 03 bat box in a suitable location on the building.
  (see Appendix 1 Drawing Number 5EA/SL/WB/01)

- The siting of one Habibat Terraced Sparrow Box in suitable locations on the building. *(see Appendix 1 Info Sheet Sparrow terrace box)*

2.2 The Habibat Bat Box is a large, solid box made of insulating concrete with an internal roost space. *The Habibat box is suitable for species which are most commonly found roosting in buildings in the UK, such as Pipistrelle, Natterer's, Whiskered, and Brandt's bats.*

2.3 Habibat Terraced Sparrow Box. The Habibat Terraced Sparrow Box is a solid box made of insulating concrete which provides an internal roost space and can be seamlessly integrated into the fabric of a building as it is built or renovated. The access hole in specifically design to accommodate sparrows.

3.0 Breeding Birds

3.1 As all wild birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and subsequent amendments) during the bird breeding season any demolition works should, if possible, be undertaken. If ground clearance works fall within April to September (inclusive) it is recommended that an ecologist conducts a check for nesting birds across the site in advance of any works commencing. Once complete, should no active nests be identified, a five-day window will allow for site works to commence. Should works cease at any point for more than five days then further checks for nesting birds should be undertaken

3.3 Please note that birds can nest outside the bird-breeding season and therefore should any nests be identified or suspected to be present on site at any time, then works should cease and an ecologist contacted to attend site and provide advice on appropriate working methods.

4.0 Hedgehogs

4.1 **Legislation**
Hedgehogs are listed as a UK 'Priority Species' under S41 of the NERC Act (2006). They also have limited protection under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, which means they cannot be caught or trapped without a licence. The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act (1996) prohibits cruel activities and mistreating of hedgehogs.
The timing and method of habitat clearance has an impact on hedgehogs but will need to be balanced with other biodiversity needs.

4.2 Bramble disturbance is least hazardous in autumn to avoid the bird breeding season, the bulk of hedgehog breeding, and hibernation. Hedgehogs are generally absent from long grass in winter, making this the least hazardous time for cutting, but this isn't necessarily the best time to cut wildlife meadows. Rotational cutting is recommended so that there's always an area left unstrimmed for insects to feed on and hedgehogs to nest in.
A high-cut, low-cut method allows nest checks in-between, and increasing the blade height of mowers will minimise risks. Ensure all machine users are trained to be hedgehog aware.

4.3 Mosaic grass management provides the mix of long grass, short turf, open soil and tussocks needed for foraging and day nesting. Developing nectar sources and herbaceous vegetation provides the diverse microhabitats needed for the invertebrates hedgehogs rely upon. Edge habitat is especially important as hedgehogs often navigate landscapes by following linear features

4.4 Hedgehog Highways
Link parcels of land by ensuring boundaries are permeable to hedgehogs. Hedging or hedgehog-sized holes in fencing or walls help create Hedgehog Highways. Ground-level boundary holes should measure 13x13cm and should link as many neighbouring pieces of land as possible. These are easy to include for most fencing contractors, and both wooden and concrete hedgehog-friendly gravel boards can be purchased from some suppliers ready-made. Cinder blocks or piping can be used to deter use by pets.

In the interest of best ecological practice, between October and March, any piles of wood or suitable materials should be checked for hibernating hedgehogs before disturbance. Any hedgehogs found should ideally be left alone. If this is not possible, the hedgehog should be carefully and safely relocated to suitable habitat away from the development site.
(see Appendix 2 Hedgehog Enhancement Measures)

5.0 Native Tree Species

5.1 If any trees are to be planted on site it is recommended to enhance the site's biodiversity by using native species. A list of suggested species with information is available in Appendix 3.

6.0 The inclusion of a permanent Bat Box Features and Terraced Sparrow Boxes within suitable elevations of the building fulfils Condition 12 of the Planning Grant. The implementation of these enhancements will provide a significant net gain to the biodiversity of the site.

7.0 Closure

This report has been prepared by Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

The information presented in this report provides guidance to reduce the risk of offences under UK law. However, Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants Limited is not a legal practice and disclaims any responsibility to the client and others for actions that lead to offences being caused, whether or not the guidance contained in this report is followed. Interpretation of UK legislation is presented in good faith; however for the avoidance of doubt, we recommend that specialist legal advice is sought.

This report is the copyright of Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants Ltd.
Unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person is prohibited.



© whistling beetle ecological consultants. July 2024

8.0 References

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004) Bat mitigation guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough.
Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & Mcleish, A.P. (2004) Bat Workers' Manual. JNCC, Peterborough.

Bat Conservation Trust (2007) Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines. BCT, London.

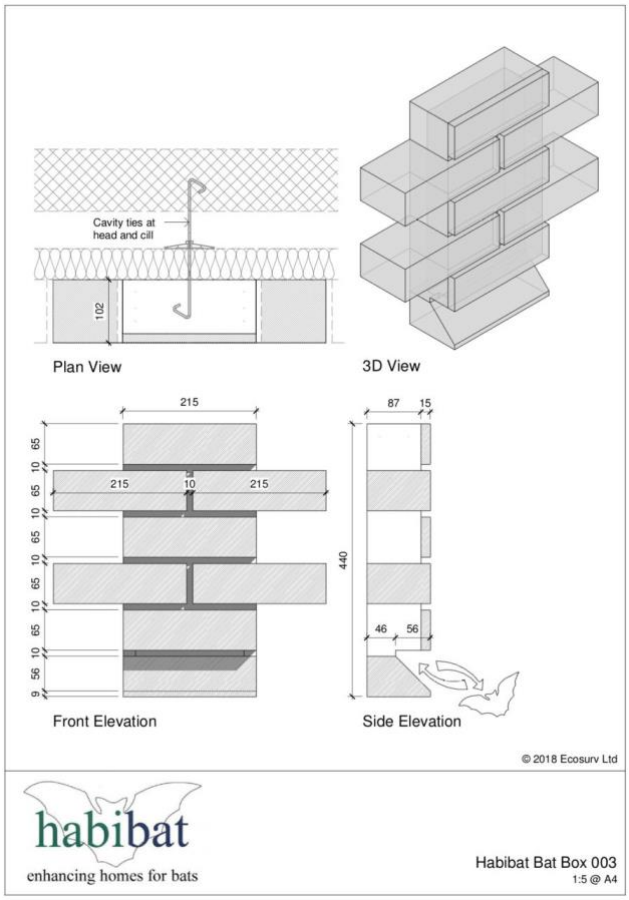
Natural England (2015) Bats: surveys and mitigation for development projects. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bats-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) produces a series of guides, including a nest box guide.

Natural England (2015) Wild birds: surveys and mitigation for development projects. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wild-birds-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects

English Nature (1995). Habitat creation – a critical guide (English Nature Science No 21). English Nature, Peterborough.

Appendix 1





Habibat Bat Box 003 detail faced with brick to match as determined by architect

The bat box will be located in a suitable position near the gable apex on the west elevation of the building.

Project: 5 Essex Avenue, Manchester, M20 6AN	Drawing Number 5EA/BBox/WB/01	whistlingbeetle ecological consultants
Title: Biodiversity Enhancement Measures: Bats	Date July 2024	
	Scale N/A	

House Sparrow Nest Boxes
Type 1: Woodcrete
Supplier: Wildcare Ltd





Woodstone House Sparrow Box
This house sparrow terrace nesting box is manufactured from a mix of concrete and wood fibres. WoodStone® nest boxes safeguard against attacks from predators including woodpeckers, cats and squirrels. The material insulates the nest which creates a more consistent internal temperature than an ordinary wooden box. The sparrow terrace can be built into brickwork or fixed onto a garden wall etc.

House sparrows will nest in groups and colonies, this sparrow box has two chambers, you can add / build-in more sparrow nesting boxes to create colony nesting. This sparrow terrace is suitable for house sparrow and tree sparrows.

Sparrow Terrace Box Specifications:

Hole Size: oval
Width 29cm
Height 21cm
Length 16cm
Weight 7.0kg
Material Woodstone
10 Year Manufacturers Guarantee

Contact details

Website: https://www.wildcare.co.uk

Telephone: 01451 833 181

Email: For sales & enquiries: sales@wildcare.co.uk

House Sparrow Nest Boxes
Type 2: Brick
Supplier: Bird Brick Houses



The Standard box
Our Standard nesting boxes are suitable for House Sparrows and members of the Tit family. The single entrance hole allows the entire internal area to be available for nesting and roosting. The aperture size will vary according to the target species (see The Design) and box fronts can be removable (4 stainless steel screws) if required.



Sparrow terrace box
This has the same external dimensions as the standard box but has two entrance holes and two separate compartments – ideal for the sociable nature of house sparrows. The terrace box is also suitable for Redstarts, Black Redstarts and Wagtails.

All boxes can be supplied with bricks fitted in stretcher bond (half bond) and quarter bond (Flemish, English, both standard and garden wall bonds). Boxes can also be supplied without bricks for fitting into render walls and incorporating into stonework. The fronts have a stainless steel mesh to aid adhesion and are retained with stainless steel screws. All boxes have drainage holes.

Contact details

Website: https://www.birdbrickhouses.co.uk

Telephone: 01323 488732 / 483227

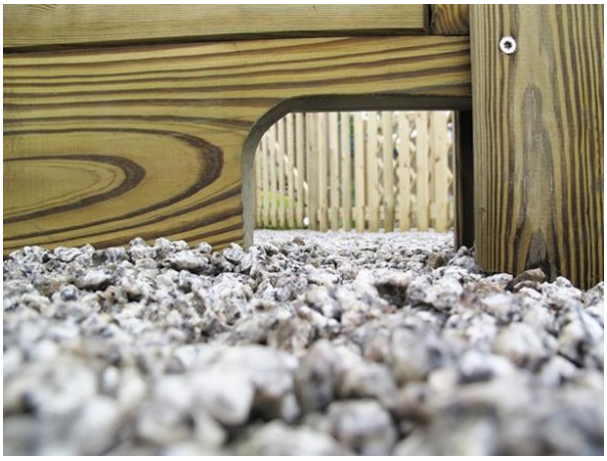
Email: enquiries@birdbrickhouses.co.uk

Appendix 2

Hedgehog Friendly Fencing Examples













There are a number of hedgehog access opportunities available from several national suppliers.

Project: 5 Essex avenue, Manchester, M20 6AN	Drawing Number 16N/HH/WB/01	whistlingbeetle ecological consultants
Title: Hedgehog Enhancement Measures	Date July 2024	
	Scale N/A	

Appendix 3

Tree Species for uplifting a sites biodiversity value.

Key

N = native; O = non-native; D = deciduous, E = evergreen,

Extreme conditions tolerated: W = wet, Dr = dry

Specific soil type: Cl = clay; C= chalk

Common alder, Alnus glutinosa. Full height 22m (70 ft), suitable for hedge.

Can provide a home and food to at least 90 insect species. Small woody cone-like fruit is important food for birds such as goldfinch, siskin and redpoll

N, D, W, Cl

Ash, Fraxinus excelsior. Eventual height 40m (130 ft)

Flowers provide nectar for insects, the seeds or 'keys' are food for birds and small mammals. Over 41 associated insect species.

N, D, C

Quaking Aspen, Populus tremula. Eventual height 20m (65ft)

Aspen colonises new ground and is quick to grow. The leaves move in a magical way, immortalized in the poem 'Lady of Shallot'- 'willows whiten, aspens quiver, little breezes dusk and shiver'. Over 90 associated insect species.

N, D

Beech, Fagus sylvaticus. Eventual height 36m (120 ft), suitable for hedge.

Richly coloured autumn leaves and beech nuts, or 'masts', provide food for many birds such as tits, chaffinches, nuthatches, as well as squirrels and mice throughout the winter. Over 64 associated insect species.

N, D, C

Wild Cherry, Prunus avium. Eventual height 9-12m (30-40 ft)

Bright red fruit are popular for birds and mammals in early summer. Scented white flowers are attractive to bees and flies in the spring.

N, D

Bird Cherry, Prunus padus. Eventual height 6-9m, (20-30ft)

Beautiful white to pale pink blossom fill the air with almond fragrance in the spring. Attractive to bees and flies. Bitter black/red fruit, are eaten by birds. Common along streams and watery areas in North of England and Scotland.

N, D, W

Cotoneaster, Cotoneaster frigidus. Eventual height 9m (30ft), suitable for hedge.

Sweet scented flowers are borne early summer, popular with many insects, followed by a mass of scarlet berries in the autumn. These are much loved by birds including the waxwing and pheasant. C.horizontalis is very popular with bees in the spring.

O, D

Crabapple, Malus sylvestris. Eventual height 9m (30ft)

Pretty pink or white flowers in the spring, followed by small bitter fruit in the autumn. Many mammals such as foxes and badgers, as well as birds, enjoy the fruit. Over 90 associated insect species.

N, D

Buckthorn, Rhamnus Eventual height 5m (16ft), suitable for hedge.

The small yellow flowers of the Purging Buckthorn in spring provide food for the brimstone butterfly, whose caterpillars also feed on the leaves. Black berries in the autumn are borne on the female plant and are enjoyed by birds and small mammals.

N, D,C

Hawthorn, Crataegus monogyna. Eventual height: 8m (26ft), suitable for hedge.

A small tree or shrub. Heavily scented white flowers in early spring are much loved by bees and other insects. The bright red berries, called ‘haws’ are a favourite food in winter for many birds including fieldfares and redwings. Leaves are food for the brimstone moth and oak eggar moth. As a hedge, it is a fast growing and sturdy plant, and can be 'laid'. 149 associated insect species. The midland hawthorn, Crataegus oxycanthoides, is more tolerant of shade and heavy clay soil.

N, D

Hazel, Corylus avellana. Eventual height 6m (20ft), suitable for hedge.

Classed as a tree or shrub, regular coppicing will keep the tree quite short. Nuts and leaves provide a great deal of food for birds and mammals, including the now rare dormouse.

N, D, W, C

Holly, Ilex aquifolium. Eventual height 20m (65ft), suitable for hedge. The small, pale green scented flowers attract butterflies, bees and other insects, in late spring/early summer. Long-lasting red berries are important winter food for many birds including the thrush and small mammals. Spiny, glossy leaves are eaten by caterpillars of the holly blue butterfly. It is important to have both a female and a male tree for the development of berries.

N, E

Hornbeam, Carpinus betulus. Eventual height 24m (80ft) , suitable for hedge.

Dead leaves remain overwinter when grown as a hedge, rather than leaving a bare framework. Seeds are important food source for squirrels and birds.

N, D

Small-leaved Lime, Tilia cordata. Eventual height 22m (70ft), suitable for hedge.

This can be grown as a hedge, with sweet smelling flowers that are highly attractive to bees early summer. Host to 31 insect species. Commonly found in limestone regions in England and Wales.

N, D

English Oak, Quercus robur. Eventual height 35m (115ft) , suitable for hedge.

Can provide home for more than 284 species of associated insects. Although lofty at full height, this tree can be pollarded, or coppiced, and can also be ‘laid’ to make a hedge. Long lived.

N, D

Rowan, Sorbus aucuparia. Eventual height 12m (40 ft)

Sweet smelling flowers in the spring attract many insects. Orange berries in the autumn are an important food source for many birds and small mammals such as hedgehogs. Over 28 associated insect species. Can survive in exposed situations.

N, D, W

Silver birch, Betula pendula. Eventual height 15m (50 ft)

A beautiful tree, with silvery-white bark. Suitable for small gardens. Older trees play host to bracket fungi and birds such as woodpeckers. Supports 229 associated insect species. Seeds popular with over-wintering birds and small mammals.

N, D

White willow, Salix alba. Eventual height 18m (60 ft), suitable for hedge.

Flourishes beside water; useful in reducing soil erosion. Over 200 associated insect species.

N, D, W

Registered in England & Wales – Company Registration Number 5391850

© whistling beetle ecological consultants. 2000 - 2023.

