Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan

Community Nurses Centre

Beechmount, Manchester

February 2024

Prepared for: Montrial Ltd

Report prepared by: Verity Webster BSc (Hons) MSc CEcol CMIEEM

1. Introduction

1.1 Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan

1.1.1 This Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) sets out the aims, objectives and measures to be implemented to ensure the retention of the ecological functionality, and the enhancement of land at the Community Nurses Centre, Beech Mount, Manchester, M9 5XS.

1.1.2 A site-specific approach is provided to ensure that wildlife present, or likely present in the area is supported, with the intention of increasing overall biodiversity on site.

1.1.3 The BEMP is a 5-year proposal and should be reviewed and, if appropriate, updated following this period.

1.1.4 The overall aim is to conserve and enhance habitats present or create new habitat to improve opportunities for wildlife and to ensure retention of ecological functionality of the site, whilst ensuring this is easy to maintain long-term. This enhancement will contribute to the establishment and retention long-term of functional wildlife areas that will form part of an ecological network in the wider landscape, supporting targets of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF2, 2018).

1.2 Ecological Baseline – Pre-development

1.2.1 The following habitat types are present on site:

- Building
- Hard Standing
- Modified grassland
- Sparse shrubs

1.2.2 The modified grassland present on site is composed of species typical of this habitat; perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), and dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.) with sparse bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.)

1.2.3 The sparse shrubs comprise buddlia (*Buddlia davidii*) on the western boundary. There is ivy (*Hedera helix*) along the northern wall.

1.2.4 At present the site supports a low level of interest ecologically. The proposals provide the opportunity to enhance the functionality of the site for wildlife including foraging bats, hedgehog and nesting birds.

Table 1: Species/Taxa considered

Species	Retention of ecological functionality	Compensation and Enhancement
Bats	Creation of roosting opportunities to replace the potential features that may be present in the existing building.	Installation of bat roost boxes to enhance roosting opportunities.
Birds	The shrubs on site and the building, have some limited potential for nesting birds. This will be retained by creating new nesting opportunities.	Installation of bird boxes to compensate for the loss of shrubs, and creation of hedgerow to improve opportunities for nesting birds.
Hedgehog	Retention of access and foraging habitat for hedgehog.	Creation of a Hedgehog Highway

2. Biodiversity Compensation and Enhancement

2.1 Provision of Bat Boxes



Beaumaris Woodstone Bat Box

2.1.1 Integration of bat boxes and bat access tiles into the refurbished building will increase the capacity of the site to support these species groups.

2.1.2 A total of four Beaumaris Woodstone Bat Boxes are attached to the walls of the newly refurbished building. The boxes will be will be installed on the east and west elevation. Under the eaves would be appropriate.

2.1.3 Four bat access slates will be installed in the newly repaired roof to allow bats to roost between the slates and the lining (Appendix A). Note that 1F Bitumen roof lining must be used beneath the access slates. See Figure 1.

2.2 Provision of Bird Boxes

2.2.1 The installation of bird boxes will increase the capacity of the site to support these species groups.

2.2.2 Six Vivara Pro WoodStone house sparrow nest boxes are proposed for installation close to the proposed hedgerow along the north elevation of the building under the eaves, or high on the wall face, and on the fence behind the hedgerow. This position will allow the birds to find protection in the hedgerow.



VivaraPro WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Box

2.2.3 House sparrows are a Species of Principle Importance under the NERC Act, 2006 and are on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern due to their decline in the UK. House sparrows nest in groups, so the boxes will be grouped together near the dense vegetation to facilitate the needs of this species.

2.2.4 Six Vivara Pro WoodStone swift nest boxes will be installed under the eaves of the building on the south and east elevations. These should be grouped as swifts are communal nesters. Swifts are a Species of Principle Importance under the NERC Act, 2006 and are on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern due to their decline in the UK. This building is tall enough to be favourable to this bird species.



Vivara Pro WoodStone Swift Nest Box

2.3 Planting of Native-Species Hedgerow and Trees

2.3.1 A native species hedgerow will be planted along the southeast boundary of the site.

2.3.2 The benefits of planting hedgerow on the site include:

- Their function as a barrier.
- Acting as a screen and acting as a filter for noise and air pollution.
- Providing valuable habitat for wildlife and connectivity between different areas.
- Improving wellbeing by providing structural green space.

2.3.3 The new hedgerows will be planted composed of native species that produce berries and provide protective cover and food sources for passerine birds. In particular, the hedgerows will provide habitat for house sparrow, a declining species of Principal Importance (NERC Act, 2006).



Native species mixed hedgerow

2.3.4 Species recommended for hedgerow planting comprise: Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) as a major component, with complementary field maple (*Acer campestre*) guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*).

2.3.5 Modified grassland will be present on the south and west sides of the hedgerow.

2.3.6 Small, manageable trees will be planted to complement the green space, comprising native species birch (*Betula pendula*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).

Sourcing plants

2.3.7 The plants should be sourced from local garden centres within 20km of the site.

2.3.8 Shrubs and trees should be bought in 5L pots and will be 60-80cm in height.

2.3.9 Pots are recommended over bare root-produce, as bare roots require planting immediately.

2.4 Provision of the Hedgehog Highway

2.4.1 Wooden fencing around the site will be raised approximately 13cm above the ground in at least 4 locations on each boundary to allow movement of wildlife beneath. Alternatively, at least two holes can be created each of the fenced boundaries 13cm x 13cm to allow access for wildlife.



Figure 1 – Indicative location of the proposed enhancement.

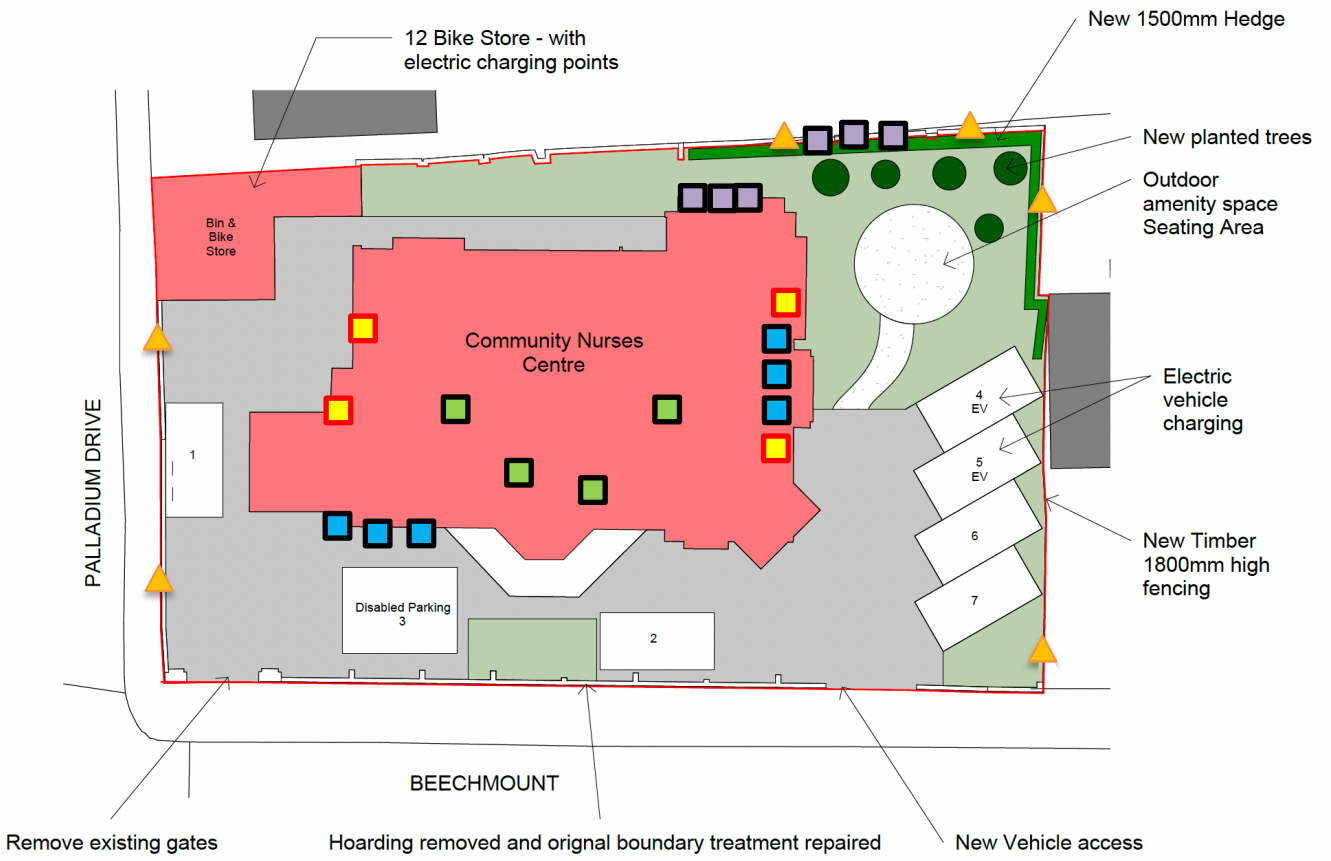


Image edited from Site Existing and Proposed. Project Number GSS23079 Dwg. No. 502. 07/02/2024 Bat and Bird Boxes not to scale. Positioning is approximate.

Key

- Bat box
- Bat Access Slate
- Swift nest box
- House Sparrow nest box
- Hedgehog access points

3. Installation and Maintenance of bird and bat boxes

3.0.1 Installation of the bird and bat boxes will take place at the completion of the building construction works to minimise the risk of disturbance to nesting birds.

3.0.2 Bat boxes do not need to be maintained. The bat boxes are durable and self-cleaning.

3.0.3 Bird boxes should ideally be cleaned out once per year in the Autumn following bird nesting season (bird nesting season is generally March – August inclusive).

4. Establishment and Management of Hedgerows and Trees

Preparation works:

4.0.1 Preparation of the ground for new hedgerows, shrubs and trees is important to ensure the health and long-term success of the hedgerow:

- Remove existing ground vegetation
- Dig over the soil
- Ensure newly planted hedgerows are protected from trampling by people and machinery by using fencing
- Use mulch around and between the base of new plants to prevent growth of competitive grasses.

Planting whips:

4.0.2 Hedgerow whips should be planted in a double staggered row 30-40cm apart, with the two rows 50cm apart. There should be approximately 7 plants per meter.

4.0.3 Planting season is from mid-November – mid-March.

Hedgerow Aftercare

4.0.4 Suppression of weed growth may be required to prevent smothering of the new hedgerow plants.

4.0.5 It may be necessary to interplant the hedgerow the following season if some plants have not taken.

4.0.6 For the first three years the hedgerow should be trimmed back to encourage low lateral growth of branches.

4.0.7 Growth of the hedgerow should be trimmed back by half in the first 3 years.

4.0.8 The hedgerow will not be established for 3-5 years.

4.0.9 Ideally the new hedgerows will establish to be 2-3m in height with an A-shaped profile. This allows for maximum sun exposure and can be cut with a flail mower.

4.0.10 After 3-5 years the new hedgerows can be treated as 'established' hedgerows.

Table 1: Management of Hedgerows / Boundary Planting From Year 1-5

Hedgerow Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
New Hedgerows: Shrubs only	Plant new plants. Suppress weeds	Replace where necessary. Prune back new growth 50%	*Prune back new growth 50%	Avoid pruning – only if necessary	Prune one side only and follow management for Established Hedgerows
Established Hedgerows	Once established hedgerows should ideally be pruned on each side in alternative years to allow growth and protection for wildlife. The top of the hedgerow can be trimmed annually.				

*Pruning should take place in autumn to avoid bird-nesting season unless it is evident (for example when plants are very young) that no birds are nesting or if a nesting bird check has been undertaken by a suitably qualified individual.

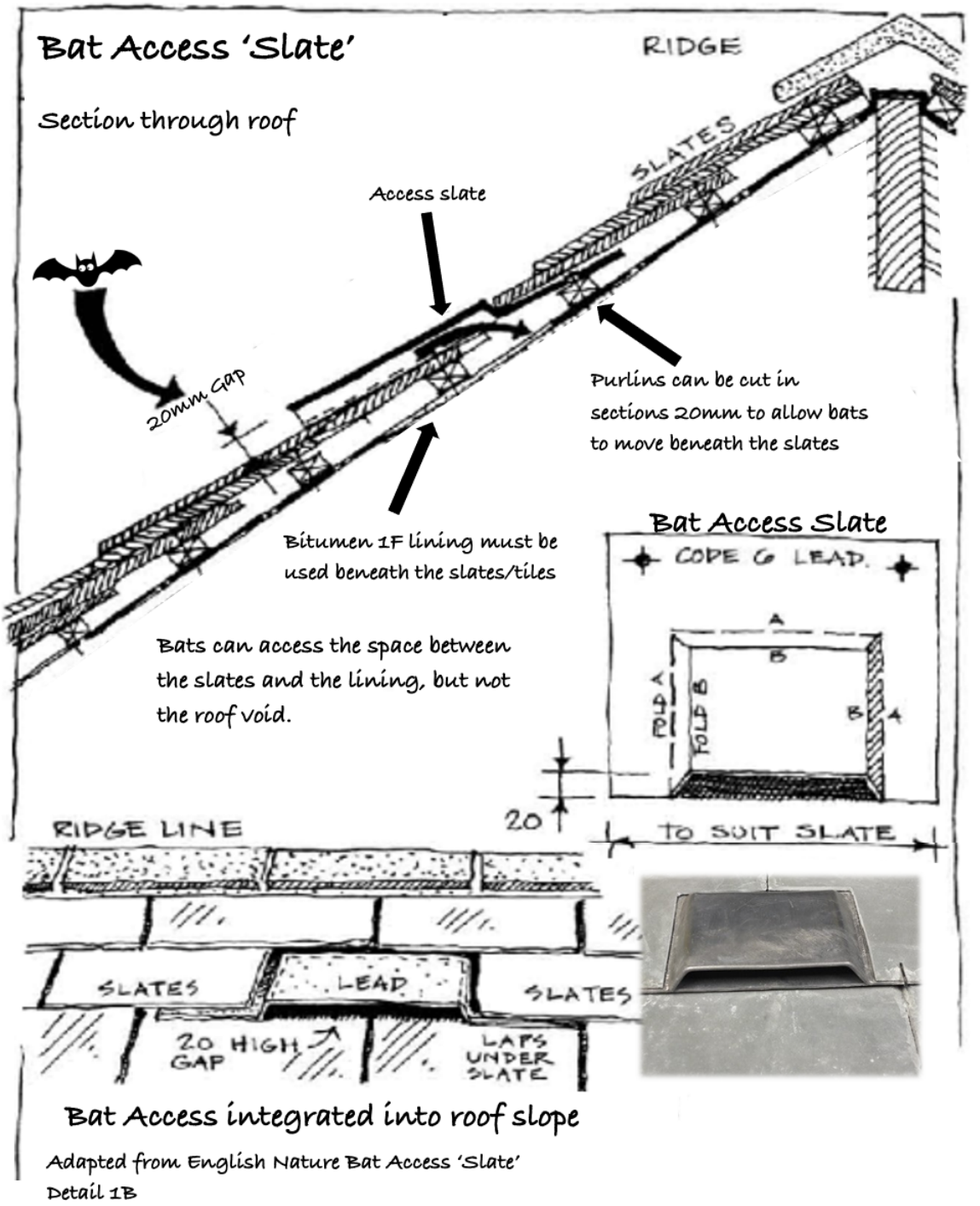
5. Potential Constraints

5.0.1 Potential constraints to enhancement and maintenance of the site include:

- Potential vandalism/damage to vegetation
- Poor weather conditions over winter/spring in year 1 and 2

5.0.2 Monitoring of the site and review of the management plan throughout the 5-year period will be undertaken such that alterations to management regime or maintenance can be undertaken.

Appendix A



Adapted from English Nature Bat Access 'Slate' Detail 1B