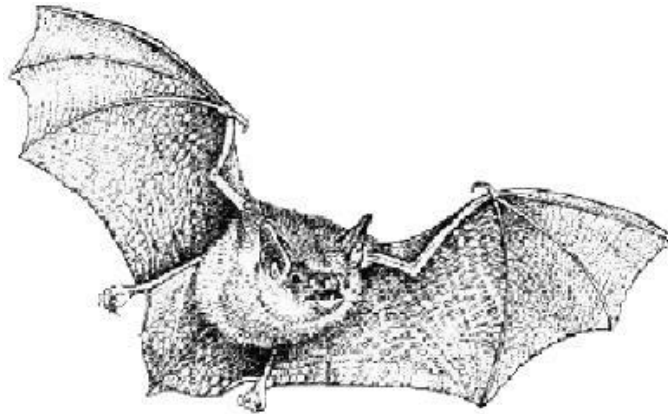


**New Moston Primary School,
Moston Lane East,
New Moston,
Manchester,
M40 3QJ.**

Bird Nesting Mitigation.



Echo Calls Bat Surveys

10th February 2023

A Overall Summary.

It was proposed that a new kitchen extension be added to the main part of New Moston Primary School in Manchester,

Following a full ecological survey was undertaken by Echo Calls Bat Surveys on 23rd March 2022 but remains of any bird nests, either current or historic, was not found. and planning permission has since been granted (133828/VO/2022), and to satisfy planning condition 14, the following mitigation plan has to be implemented.

Birds are declining throughout the country due to loss of both roost and nesting places, and as the building work, may disturb nesting potential on the site. The erection of artificial nests around the school complex, will provide alternative sites for numerous species of bird, and make a positive contribution to their conservation, and compensate for this possible disturbance.

It is therefore important that that some wooden nest boxes are erected around the site. These will be a mixture of open fronted and hole fronted boxes, and are to be erected to encourage birds to nest within the overall area, and to use both during, and after the development, and also to encourage and enhance future colonisation and nesting, by the numerous different species of birds found in the local area.

Encouraging birds to visit the school grounds could also be beneficial to the mental health of children within the school environment, and some birdsong is also known to have a therapeutic effect.

Also, as the study and care of the environment is becoming more and more important in the school curriculum, the erection of nest boxes could become an important focus of study by the students.

B Making a Nestbox Suitable for Most Bird Species.

What you need

Natural nest holes do not come in standard sizes, but the dimensions shown below are only a guide. Any plank or sheet of about 15 mm thick weatherproof timber is suitable. However, do not use CCA pressure-treated timber, since the leachates may harm birds. Cut each section as per our plan, which you can download by clicking on the link to the right.

Dimensions

The bottom of the entrance hole must be at least 125 mm from the floor of the nestbox. If it's less, young birds might fall out or be scooped out by a cat. The inside wall below the entrance hole should be rough to help the young birds to clamber up when it's time for them to leave.

Putting it together

Drill drainage holes to the base of the box, and use galvanised nails or screws to assemble. It's always best to leave the box untreated. As it weathers, it will blend into its surroundings. Softwood boxes can be treated with selected water-based preservatives, which are known to be safe for animals, such as Sadolin. Apply it only to the outside of the box, and not around the entrance hole. Make sure the box dries and airs thoroughly before you put it up.

Do not nail down the lid since the box will need to be cleaned out in the autumn after the young birds have fledged, and the adult birds no longer use the box for roosting. Attach the lid with a brass or a

plastic hinge that will not rust, or hinge it with a strip of leather or rubber (an old piece of bicycle inner tube will do). Fasten it down with a good catch.

How big does the hole need to be?

The entrance hole size depends on the species you hope to attract:

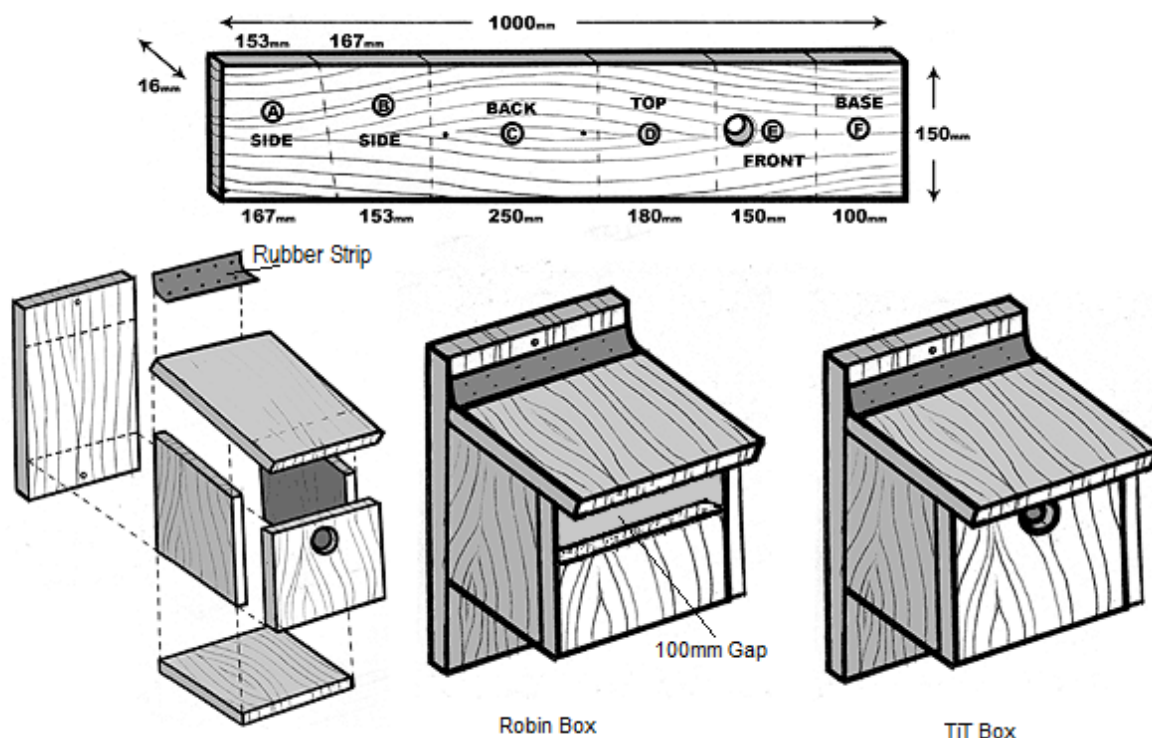
25 mm for blue, coal and marsh tits

28 mm for great tits, tree sparrows and pied flycatchers

32 mm for house sparrows and nuthatches

45 mm for starlings

The small box with 100 mm high open front may attract robins, or pied wagtails. A wren would need a 140 mm high front panel, while spotted flycatchers and blackbirds prefer a low 60 mm front to the box.



C Choosing a Location for a Nestbox

Many birds will enter boxes during the autumn and winter, looking for a suitable place to roost or perhaps just to feed, and they often use the same boxes for nesting in spring. Tit species however will not seriously investigate potential nesting sites until February or March.

Ideally site your bird box anywhere from 3 to 4 metre high, and a sturdy vertical wall is the best place to fix a box. Remembering however, that bird nesting boxes for common small garden birds will need to be sited with a clear line of sight for the birds in flight.

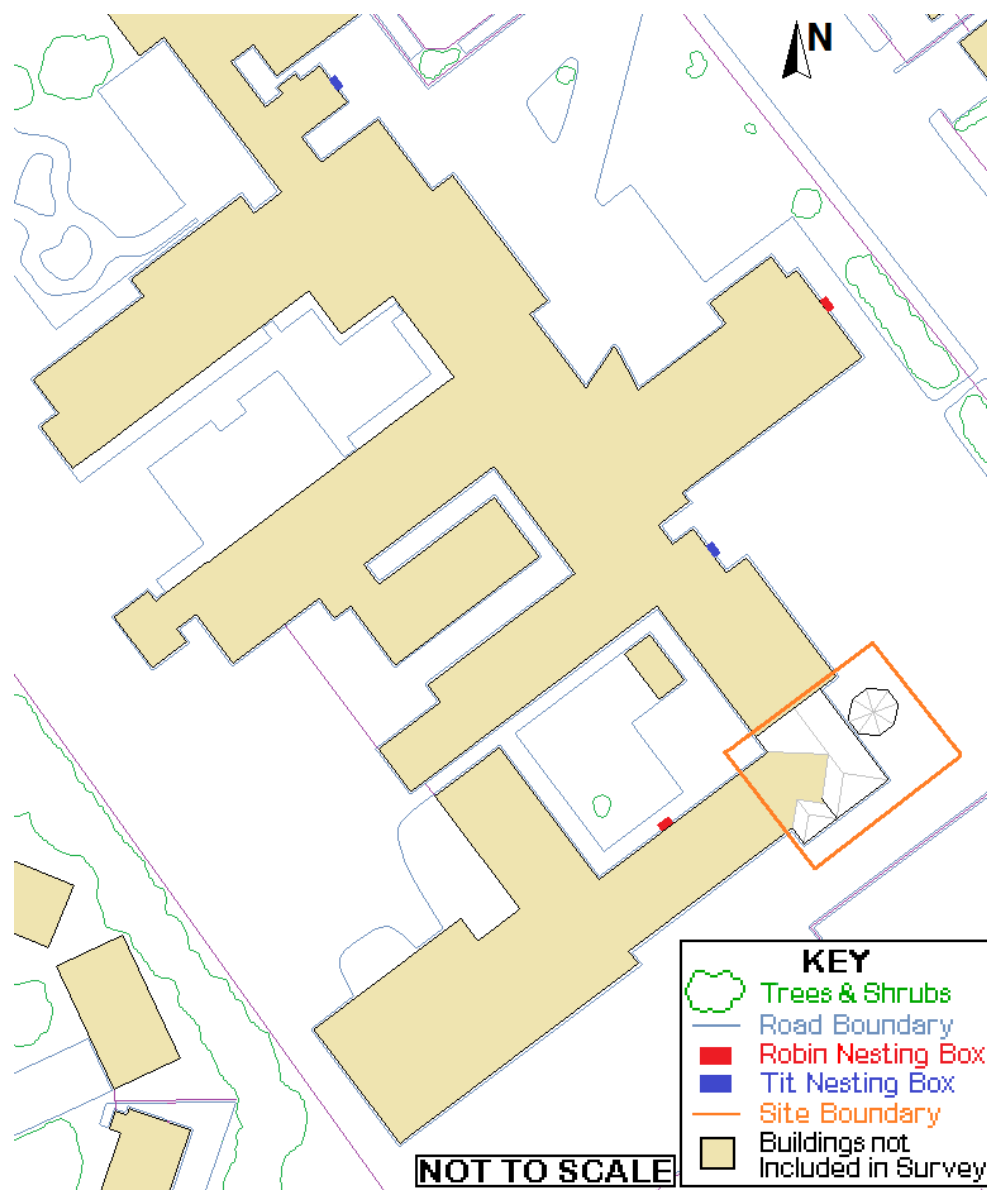
The bird box must be erected facing between north and east, but there are a few exceptions. If bird box placement is in a shaded area with overlooking buildings or big trees for example, you may be free to locate the bird box where you wish. However, care must be taken to ensure that these boxes remain in the shade during the whole day, as the sun moves around, and is also facing away from the chilliest winds.

Further to this, if a bird box is fixed to a wall or fence where ivy is likely to grow on that same wall, the ivy can be allowed to grow around the box, however it must be kept away from the entrance hole, and cut it back in such a way so as to not disturb the birds inside, at any time during the year.

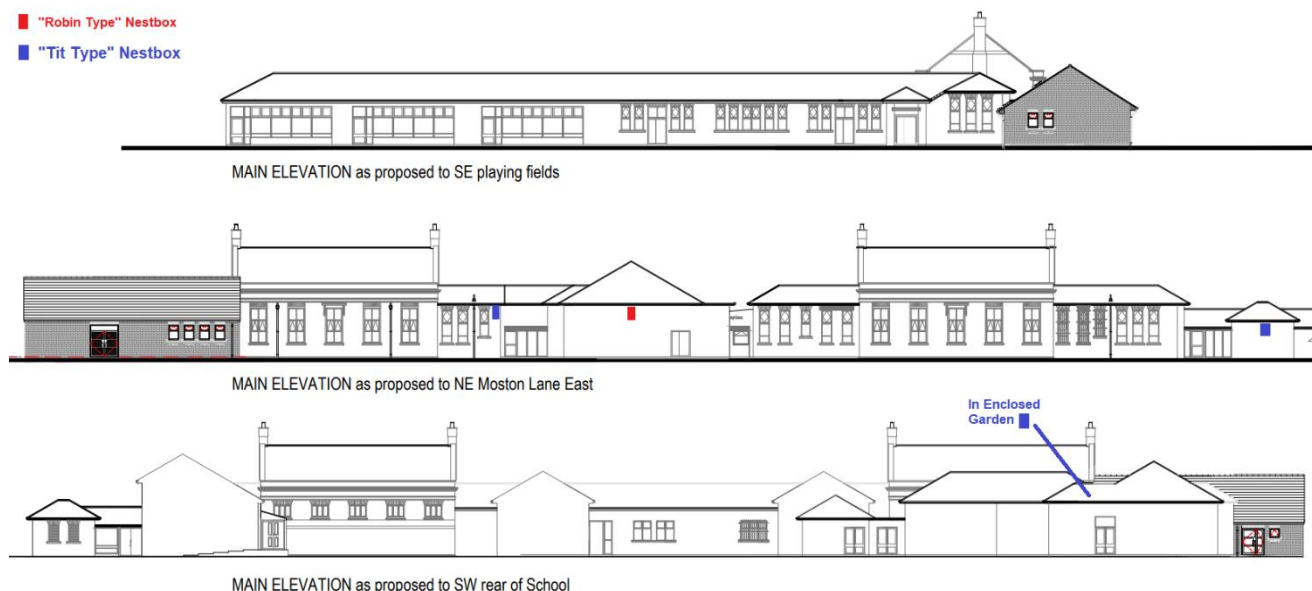
Before scouting a location for the bird box, remember the box at some point will need cleaning out, so it needs to be placed where it is within reach with a ladder, to gain access to the box interior. At the end of the nesting season in September to October, it's time to have the bird box cleaned out of its used materials, with a flash of soapy water before its occupied again.

It is recommended that two "Tit Type" nest boxes and two "Robin Type" nest boxes are erected as per the guidance above, and at the locations shown below,

C.1 Plan of School.



C.2 Elevations showing Nest Boxes.



Positions of Nest Boxes

D Avoidance of harm to roosting birds

There was some potential for both roosting and nesting birds amongst the trees and shrubs around the perimeter of the site, and although these are not scheduled for felling or pruning before building work starts, it is therefore recommended that where possible, any vegetation around the site, be left untouched during the development to encourage future nesting.

If, however, should any of the trees, shrubs, or piles of building materials around the site require removal during the early part of the nesting season, then after a quick inspection, these should be removed from the site immediately the work commences. Failure to do so could provide potential nest sites if left in place throughout the rest of the bird breeding season.

It must be remembered however, that it is an offence to disturb active birds' nests. It is recommended therefore, that before any commencement of the modification or new building work, that a careful survey looking for any evidence of nesting birds, is carried out prior to commencement. If evidence of an active bird's nest is detected, then the nest must be left undisturbed, until it is appropriately confirmed that all the young birds have fledged. It is recommended therefore, to reduce any nest disturbance, that no activity involving people or their equipment be carried out within a 3m radius of active nests. If there is any doubt, please refer to the consultant. This guidance is applicable during the bird breeding season which typically extends from March to August inclusive.

E Works to be Undertaken by Developer.

E.1 Provision of new roosts and nests

Four wooden bird nesting boxes shall be placed in the allocated locations as per the recommendations, positioned away from direct lighting, and shall be maintained by the school thereafter.

E.2 Conversion works

Prior to the commencement of the conversion and modernisation work on site, the contractors will be given a “toolbox talk” so that they are aware of the particular issues relating to this site, and their responsibilities in the event of an active birds’ nest being set up. Telephone numbers of such will be held on site. A method of best practice working will be agreed and will be available on site, together with the method statement, at all times. Summary sheets will also be given to all new contractors/workmen on their arrival on site. An Ecological Clerk of Works, or similarly competent person, will be appointed by the contractor to ensure that the details of the method statement are complied with.

E.3 Post development.

The property will continue to be managed by the school, who are obliged to maintain the current habitats. The gardens within the school grounds and also in of the nearby properties, will provide opportunities for foraging birds, and as homes for other species. The trees on site are to be retained and maintained where possible to provide other potential nesting locations for birds.

Outdoor lighting is typically a deterrent to wildlife, especially bats and nesting birds, it is therefore recommended, that any future outdoor lighting, installed during the proposed development, be screened, hooded, or positioned low at bollard level, so that it does not illuminate the roof or eaves, or nearby trees and shrubs.

G Synopsis of Relevant Legislation

Breeding Birds

All wild birds are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), whilst they are actively nesting or roosting. Section 1 of this Act, makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird, and to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built. It is also an offence to take or destroy any wild bird eggs.

10.02.23

Mike Fisher, Bat Worker

Holder of Natural England Bat Roost Licence

Disclaimer.

All reasonable effort has been taken to ensure an accurate assessment of the birds and bats at this site. The absence of recorded presence or sign should not be taken as an absolute guarantee that a site is not being used by a particular species. There is also no guarantee that any particular species will not use the site at any time in the future. Survey results for both bird and bat activity may be weather or seasonally dependent. Any interpretation of legislation is based on our understanding and experience of the law. The relevant statutory authority can provide a more definitive interpretation.

This report has been prepared by Echo Calls Bat Surveys with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the Contract with the Client.

No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior written approval of Echo Calls Bat Surveys