ETIVE ECOLOGY

Ecological Services & Solutions

No.3 High Street, Wrexham

Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB) Proposal

The application site is situated on Wrexham's High Street, within a highly developed urban area. This landscape is dominated by non-permeable surfaces and an absence of any semi-natural vegetation cover. As a result, there is a high level of habitat fragmentation, isolated green spaces and reduced wildlife corridors, giving the site a very low baseline level of biodiversity. The existing commercial unit, a four-storey building with a slate roof, takes up the entirety of the site, further restricting the potential for ecological enhancements on-site. Given these constraints, it can be assumed that the site currently holds minimal ecological value.

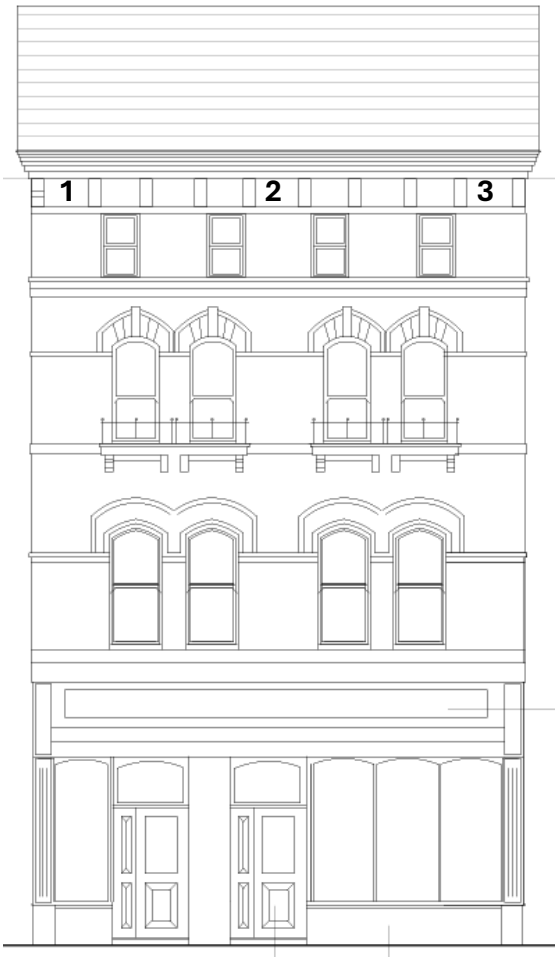
In this situation, typical solutions like creating habitats through gardens or green roofs are not feasible due to limited space and the restrictions of the existing building. These factors limit the ability to introduce large-scale biodiversity-friendly elements. However, small-scale, strategic integrations can still offer significant improvements at the local scale. It is therefore recommended that three bird boxes be incorporated into the proposed renovation.

Bird boxes provide a valuable opportunity to encourage wildlife to utilise urban spaces. Particularly for species of nesting bird that are often displaced by urbanisation and habitat loss. Given the limited space available, bird boxes represent a practical solution. The **FSC Wooden Swift Box** is recommended because of its quality and durability, made from wood that has been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Its simple design means it can be bolted to the exterior of the building.



Stock image of the FSC Wooden Swift Box

The bird box should be positioned at 5m or higher, ideally north/northeast facing walls, in locations that are unlikely to receive significant periods of direct sunlight during the hottest times of the day. The front elevation of the existing building is north-facing and has an overhang where the slate roof extends beyond the front of the property, it is recommended that the swift bricks be placed in this location (see below).



Mark-up of the front elevation showing proposed box locations; 1, 2 and 3.

Including these swift bricks in the design of the proposed scheme provides a targeted biodiversity enhancement, significant at the Local scale. This targeted intervention offers a practical yet impactful solution despite the inherent constraints of the site location and proposed scheme.