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Biodiversity Enhancement & Landscape Management Plan

Project Reference: PR-25-0118

Land adjacent to Llwybr Y Garth
Yr Ochr
Fron
Llangollen
LL20 7RS

National Grid Reference: SJ 26790 41150



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This report is confidential to the client.

Document Context

As part of a planning application with Wrexham County Borough Council concerning the erection of a dwelling with associated landscaping at the land adjacent to Llwybr Y Garth in Yr Ochr, Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd undertook a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal in September 2021. The application was granted, subject to a number of conditions. **Condition 4** of the granted decision states:

"*A scheme to provide ecological mitigation and net benefit for biodiversity (NBB) shall be submitted with the reserved matters. The scheme shall, as a minimum include the mitigation and enhancement measures outlined in Appendix III of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd dated September 2021 and shall also include, but not be limited to:*

i. A scheme of replacement tree planting at a ratio of 3:1;
ii. A scheme of native landscaping;
iii. A scheme of bat and bird box provision;
iv. Use of bee bricks within the development;
v. A scheme of provision for hedgehogs;
vi. A Landscape Management Plan.

The measures shall be fully implemented in accordance with the approved details and timescales and shall be retained thereafter for the lifetime of the development. All tree and hedgerow planting shall be managed in accordance with the approved Landscape Management Plan.

To help discharge this condition, Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd have been commissioned to produce appropriate documentation via the provision of a suitably detailed Biodiversity Enhancement and Landscape Management Plan.

Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

A Biodiversity Enhancement Plan with visual key has been provided (see **Figure 1** and **2**), with recommendations in relation to breeding birds, bats, hedgehogs and invertebrates.

The proposed enhancement plan comprises the installation of one **1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace** is proposed to be installed on the eastern gable end of the replacement dwelling, beneath the eaves to ensure that they are sheltered from wind and rain and to prevent direct sunlight. The sparrow terraces should be placed at least 2 metres above ground level.

In addition, one **Universal Swift Box** is suggested to be installed on the western gable end of the replacement dwelling, beneath the eaves and at a minimum height of 5 metres above ground level.

A proposed enhancement measures towards bats has also been recommended, namely **one Externally mounted bat box**, such as **1FQ Schwegler Bat Box** (or suitable equivalent – to be agreed with the express consent of the ecologist). The bat box should be positioned on the western gable end of the proposed development.

Furthermore, a total of three **bee bricks** have been recommended, to be placed on the southern elevation of the proposed development in a block format. In addition, a **hedgehog home / highway(gates)**, have been advised. These provisions will suitably enhance the development site for all species highlighted.

Further details of bird and bat boxes, alongside recommendations for invertebrates and hedgehogs can be found within **Appendix I.**

It is suggested that one tree is set to be felled during development. To compensate this loss, it is recommended that a scheme of **replacement tree planting** is followed at a ratio of 3:1 (new planting: lost), therefore, a minimum total of three trees should be planted and retained post-development. Locations have been provided in **Figure 1**, however, as no landscaping plan has been provided these positions are not indicative and are to suggest feasible planting areas.

It is further recommended that these enhancement measures are undertaken in tandem with native replanting where feasible; native landscaping would improve the value of the site for a wide variety of native wildlife through provision of food and shelter, whereas non-native species are frequently not used or are of lower value to UK biodiversity. See **Appendix I** for native species to include within any planting, including tree species.

A visual aid is provided through **Figure 1** and **2**.

Mitigation Measures

As outlined in the original PEA completed in 2021, mitigation measures to avoid impacts to hedgehogs and herptiles were recommended as followed:

"**Other Terrestrial Mammals:** The site can broadly be considered of commuting, foraging and hibernating value to European Hedgehogs subject to their presence in the area. *It is recommended that a Method Statement including details of Reasonable Avoidance Measures is created by a suitably qualified Ecologist/Ecological Clerk of Works to avoid risk of harm to this species*.

Herptiles: Whilst there are limited areas of suitable terrestrial habitat for Great Crested Newts (GCN) and other herptiles on the site, there is poor connectivity between the site and any ponds in the wider area. *Therefore, as a precautionary measure, these species and especially GCN should be included within the Reasonable Avoidance Methods Statement (RAMS) described above which should be strictly adhered to from commencement to completion of the proposed works to ensure no risk to GCN/other amphibians ensues*."

RAMs to minimise construction impacts and prevent harm or injury to hedgehogs and other terrestrial mammals should include, as a minimum:

- All working hours should be limited to daylight (dawn – sunset, or dawn – 6pm in winter) to avoid disturbing any badger, hedgehog or hare in vicinity of the development area.
- A pre-commencement check of the site, any stored materials and the immediate vicinity of development footprint will be carried out prior to any works each morning in order to check for the presence of badger or hedgehog.
- Materials that may cause entrapment such as plastic / metal fencing, as well as those which could be potentially harmful to terrestrial mammals such as chemicals, should not be left around the site following the cessation of daytime work.
- No bulky equipment / general construction aggregates should be left around the development area, instead leave them on bare ground away from the risk zone.
- Stock piling of spoil material MUST be left un-compacted and not allowed to grass over, as if grassed over and compacted, terrestrial mammals may be encouraged to excavate new areas for refuge.
- Fires must not be used as a means of the disposing of waste materials.
- Any trenches or excavations must either be covered at the end of each working day, or a low angle (no more than 45°) sloping board of approximately 300mm width should be

provisioned within any uncovered excavations to provide a means of escape for any terrestrial mammals.

- Any temporarily exposed open pipe system MUST be capped in such a way as to prevent badgers gaining access, as may happen when contractors are off site. • In the event an underground void / potential sett entrance is exposed during the works, work must cease immediately; and an Ecologist must be contacted to determine if the opening forms part of a previously undiscovered tunnel network of a badger sett. If this cannot be ruled out, works will cease, and Natural England consulted for further advice

As recommended by the PEA, RAMs outlined above are extended to include herptile species, including common amphibians, such as common frog (*Rana temporaria*), great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), and reptiles, for example common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*).

Timings

The proposed enhancement measures for bats and birds should be implemented prior to the respective breeding / active seasons for these groups (typically March – August for nesting birds and May – August / September for bats).

The enhancement measures for invertebrates should be erected during the works given the integrated nature, while the measures for hedgehogs should be erected following completion of the works.

All wild birds (with only minor exceptions) and their nests, whilst being built or containing eggs or dependent young, are protected from destruction, damage and disturbance under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is a punishable offence to interfere in any way with an active nest. As such, it is imperative that the mitigation measures are erected prior to this time period and are left undisturbed through the breeding season, unless they have been checked by a suitably qualified ecologist within 48 hours or less of any work which may have potential to disturb the nests.

All British bats and their roosts are afforded full protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and are listed in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (EU Exit). When dealing with cases where a European Protected Species (all UK bats) may be affected, a planning authority is a competent authority within the meaning of the Regulation 7 of the Regulations, that has a statutory duty as the local authority to have due regard to the provisions of the Regulations in the exercise of its functions.

Hedgehogs are a priority species, listed on Schedule 6 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) as well as being on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Landscape Management Plan

As stated in the granted decision notice, a landscape management plan has been developed for the planting of individual trees and hedgerow habitats proposed at the application site.

Landscape Management Plan – Hedgerows

While **Condition 4** refers to hedgerow planting, based on available site plans, it is unclear where/if hedgerow planting has been proposed. Therefore, general management guidance has been produced to use if hedgerow planting is undertaken in the landscaping portion of the proposed development.

Native trees and shrubs are best for wildlife, especially those which provide flowers and berries for insects and birds. Hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel are good for making a thick hedge, but

field maple, holly, wild privet, dog rose, and buckthorn can be planted too and will add variety to hedge planting. A typical mix of shrubs to create a traditional hedgerow is: 50% hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), 25% blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), 15% field maple (*Acer campestre*), 2% holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), 2% wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), 2% guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*), 2% dog rose *(Rosa canina*), 2% alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*).

Table 1 provides a general list of native species which could be incorporated into hedgerow planting.

Table 1– Suitable native species for planting to create/enhance hedgerows.

Hedgerow species		
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Preferred Habitats**
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*	Scrub edges, hedgerow, moist, well-drained soil
Broom	*Cytisus scoparius*	Coastal, heathland, woodland, along hedgerows
Dogwood	*Cornus sanguinea*	Damp soils, clay substrate, generalist
Guelder-rose	*Viburnum opulus*	Damp, neutral/chalky soils
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	Generalist, full sun
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*	Woods and hedgerow understories, drier soils
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*	Non-chalky, free-draining soils
Honeysuckle	*Lonicera periclymenum*	Shade tolerant, woodland
Juniper	*Juniperus communis*	Chalk soils, lowland, moorland, rocky
Spindle	*Euonymus europaeus*	Woodland, nutrient rich soils
Tree species		
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Preferred Habitats**
Field maple	*Acer campestre*	Rich, well drained soils, drought tolerant.
Pedunculate oak	*Quercus robur*	Various soil types, including clay, loam & sandy
Sessile oak	*Quercus petraea*	Upland, avoiding heavy/alkaline soils
Wayfaring tree	*Viburnum lantana*	Most soil types

Management operations to be implemented are listed below and an indicative calendar of management operations are detailed in Table 3 overleaf.

- Do not trim the top of the hedges until they have achieved a desired height of 100cm. Until the desired height has been achieved trim the sides of hedges to promote dense growth. Trim on an annual basis during the spring to promote bushy growth during year 1-4. Any pruning measures should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season (March – August, inclusive)
- After the hedges have established, lightly trim annually back to the desired height. To prevent weed growth, maintain a 75mm depth of bark mulch at the base of the hedge until the hedge has established, fertiliser application should be avoided unless there are specific localised areas of poor growth.
- During establishment, hedges will require regular watering particularly during prolonged dry periods. Water the hedge a minimum of once a week during periods of limited rainfall during May - September (the first full growing season) ensuring that the soil is fully saturated. Water from rainwater harvesting systems should be used (when available) using a flexible hose and attachment.
- Hedges should not be allowed to exceed the height specified above to ensure visibility and safety across the site is not compromised.

Table 2 below outlines a yearly calendar for the undertaking of the above management prescriptions.

Table 2 – Annual calendar of management operations

Operation	Months												Notes
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Visual inspection of hedges					✓				✓				Inspect hedges for signs of disease, damage or as required following adverse weather. Replant if necessary.
Water hedges					4	4	4	4	4				Water once a week during the growing season and as necessary in periods of drought only during the first 2 years until the hedge has established.
Replace dead and dying hedge plants to original specification during the next planting season	✓	✓									✓	✓	Any hedge plants that have failed should be replaced to the original specification and replanted within the next planting season.
Remove and dispose of accumulations of winter leaves											✓	✓	To be carried out to reduce risk of slipping and to maintain a tidy environment.
Weed control and tidying at base of hedge					✓		✓						Remove and dispose of undesirable species.
Hedge trim		✓							✓				Should not be required for the first few years, after which pruning should only include the removal of dead or diseased branches. Avoid nesting bird season (red cells).
Fertiliser	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	*a/r*	Apply an appropriate fertiliser as required to aid establishment if the hedge is showing signs of stress (i.e. defoliation, die back).

Table Key
One operation per year (annually) – ✓
Two operations per year (biannually) - 2
Four operations every month – 4
As required = a/r

Landscape Management Plan - Individual trees

Given one tree is to be lost by the proposed development, the planting of three trees have been recommended following the suggested planting scheme ratio of three trees planted for every one tree lost.

It is encouraged that individual trees should be native – a list of indicative appropriate native trees are presented in **Table 3**. Where possible, it is recommended that species to be planted are locally harvested, though this is not essential.

Table 3 – Suitable native species for planting to create/enhance individual trees

Common Name	Scientific Name
Alder	*Alnus glutinosa*
Alder buckthorn	*Frangula alnus*
Aspen	*Populus tremula*
Common Whitebeam	*Sorbus aria*
Crab Apple	*Malvus sylvestris*
Downy Birch	*Betula pubescens*
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*
Field Maple	*Acer campestre*
Goat Willow	*Salix caprea*
Grey Poplar	*Poplar x canescens*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*
Hornbeam	*Carpinus betulus*
Large-leaved Lime	*Tilia platyphyllos*
Lime	*Tilia x europaea*
Midland Hawthorn	*Crataegus laevigata*
Osier	*Salix viminalis*
Pedunculate Oak	*Quercus robur*
Rowan	*Sorbus aucuparia*
Sessile Oak	*Quercus petraea*
Silver Birch	*Betula pendula*
Small-leaved Lime	*Tilia cordata*
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*
Wild Cherry	*Prunus avium*
Wych Elm	*Ulmus glabra*
Yew	*Taxus baccata*

Planting

Planting of individual trees typically includes using a chosen species mix of propagated stems. Stems should be sourced from local UK provenances where possible to achieve a native species tree line which is best adapted to local conditions, and to avoid introduction of pests and diseases such as ash dieback. Where local/community tree nurseries are not available, UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown (UKISG) certified stock should be utilised.

All planting should be undertaken during the dormant season, with bare root stock to be planted between October-March and outside of periods of heavy rain/flooding, frost, or drought. Provisional locations of trees have been provided in **Figure 1**; however, these are suggestions, and the client can determine where best to plant based on preference. It is recommended that the trees are planted at a minimum distance of 2 metres apart.

Holes for trees will be dug to a depth of 600mm; during digging any contaminants including rubbish will be removed. Timber stakes should be placed in the holes prior to planting of the trees, and on the side of the prevailing wind. After planting, a surface layer organic mulch will

be applied to a depth of 50mm and in a 500mm radius around the stem to discourage weeds. Each tree should be attached to its stake using a rubber tie and spacing device, and tree guard applied.

The trees should not need watering except in summer during times of drought; however, regular assessment should be made through the first two years to check for dry and curling leaves. Should watering be required, the earth around the trees should be thoroughly saturated to encourage roots to grow down to groundwater as opposed to up towards surface water.

Enhancement and Management

During any future tree / surrounding habitat management / maintenance works, disturbance to the surrounding habitats will be minimised and the works should be undertaken by hand and light machine (strimmer, brush cutter, clearance saw and/or chainsaw) wherever possible. Any pruning measures should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season to reduce disturbance.

Table 4 below outlines a yearly calendar for the undertaking of the above management prescriptions.

Table 4 – Maintenance operations schedule for individual trees

Operation	Months												Notes
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Visual inspection of trees					2						2	2	Inspect trees for signs of disease, damage or as required following adverse weather.
Weeding/mulch				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				Remove undesirable species and top up mulch (mulch topped up annually) to retain a weed free zone around base of each tree.
Tree stakes, ties and guards				✓					✓				Check and adjust, replace or remove as required until the tree has established. Check and readjust after strong winds. Remove in year 3-5 or as required.
Tree Guying				✓					✓				Repair and adjustment. Check and readjust after strong winds.
Watering					a/r								Repair and adjustment. Check and readjust after strong winds.
Routine pruning										✓			Should not be required for the first few years for new trees, after which pruning should only include the removal of

Operation	Months												Notes
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
													dead or diseased branches. Mature trees should be subject to pruning if deemed necessary by the arboricultural specialist. Should not be undertaken in breeding bird season (red cells).
Tree replacements	✓	✓									✓	✓	Any trees that have failed should be replaced to the original specification and planted within the next planting season.
Fencing Monitoring/ Maintenance					2						2	2	To be undertaken during the visual inspection of trees; all fencing should be checked for damage and repairs made as required.

Table Key
One operation per year (annually) – ✓
Two operations per year (biannually) - 2
Four operations every month – 4
As required = a/r

Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd can confirm that the contents of this document can be relied upon, and the information contained within has been presented using best practice survey methodology and an understanding of the site, benchmarked by the long-standing experience of the Ecologists affiliated with the company.

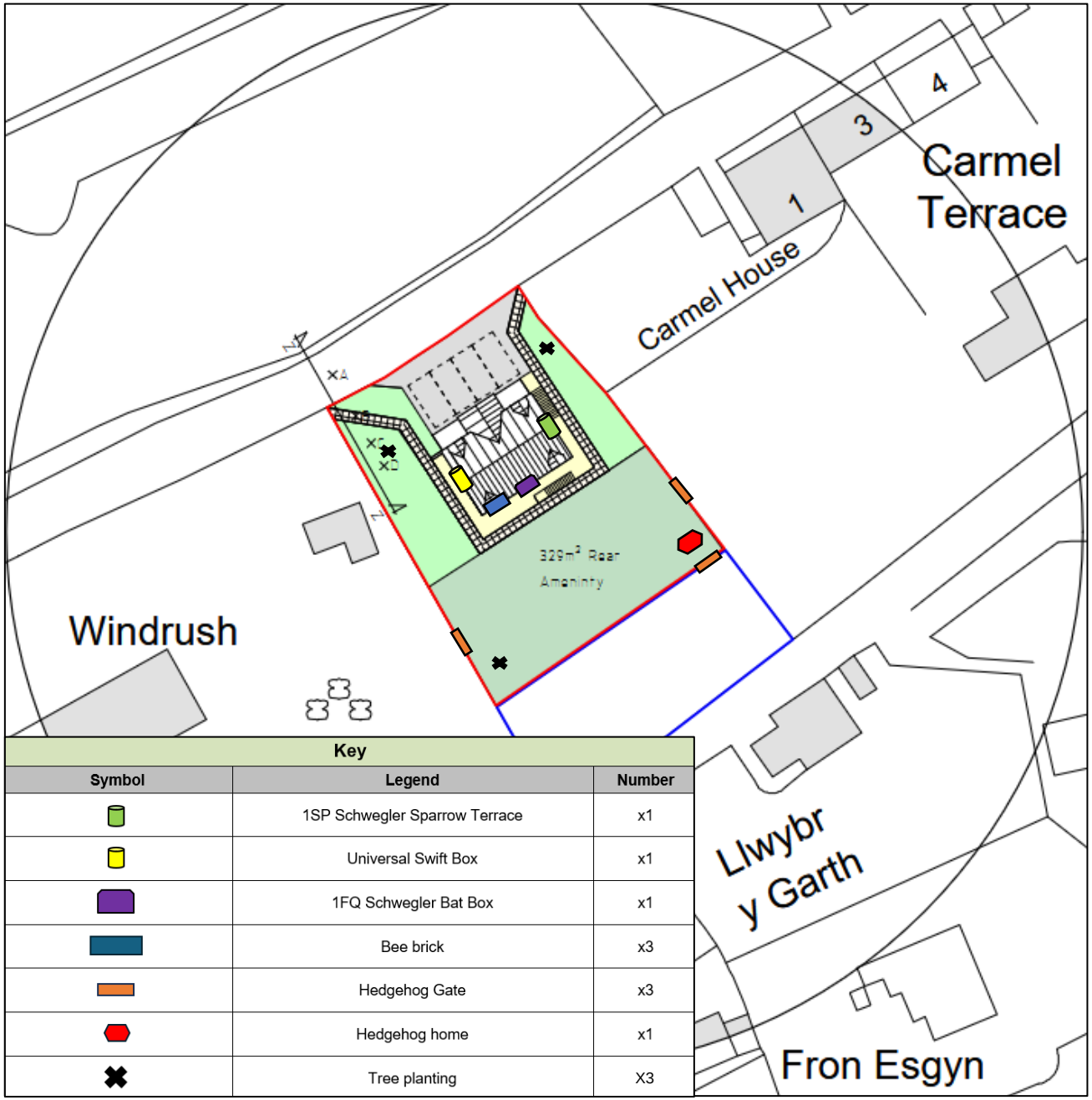
Best wishes,

H McGlynn

Miss. H. McGlynn

(29/05/2025)

Junior Ecologist at **Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd**



Key		
Symbol	**Legend**	**Number**
	1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace	x1
	Universal Swift Box	x1
	1FQ Schwegler Bat Box	x1
	Bee brick	x3
	Hedgehog Gate	x3
	Hedgehog home	x1
✖	Tree planting	X3

Figure 1 – *Location of enhancement measures (adapted © Blueprint) with proposed enhancement key.*

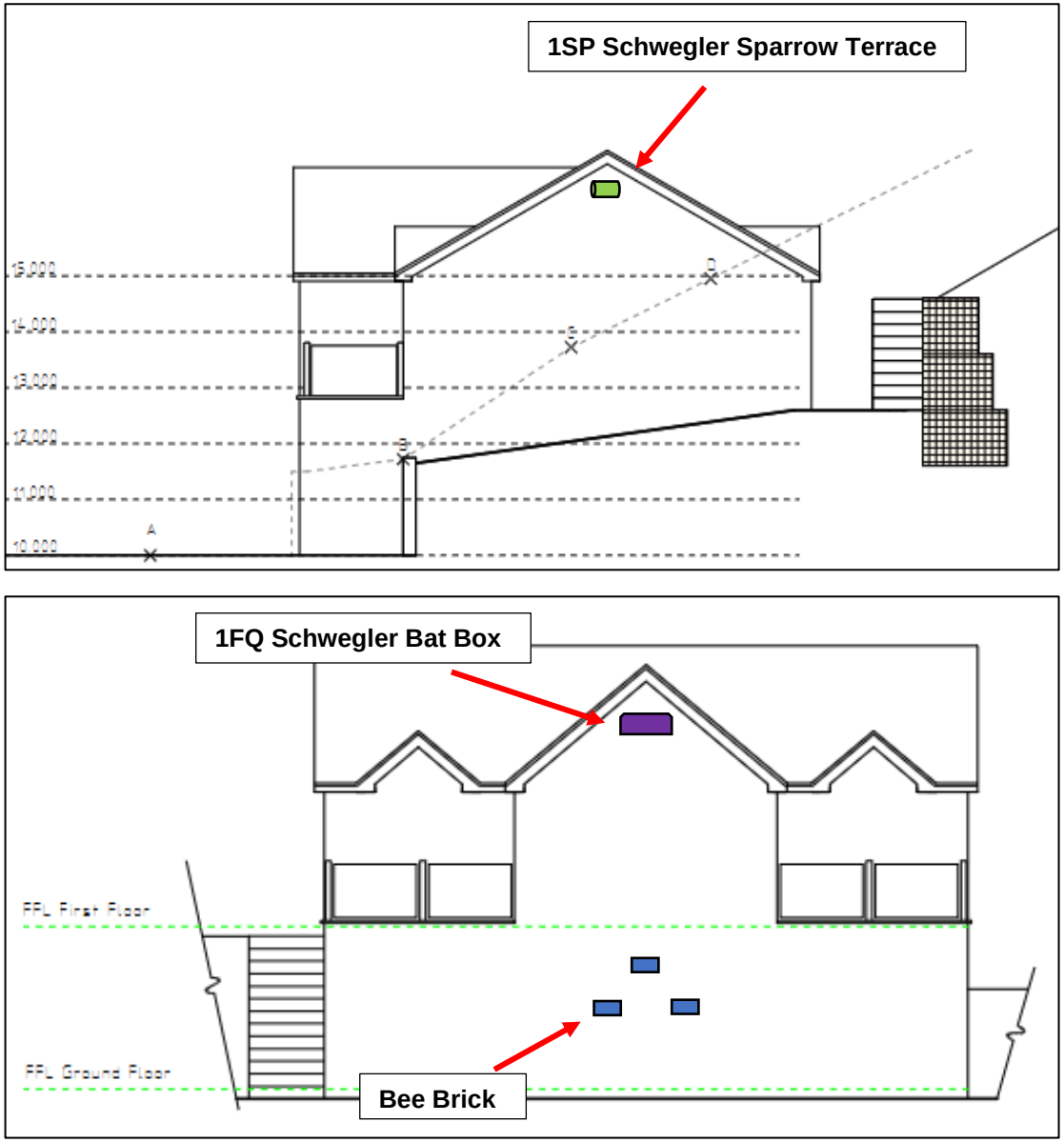


Figure 2 – *Location of enhancement measures on western and southern elevation (adapted © Blueprint)*

Appendix I – Guide to enhancement / mitigation

Enhancing development site for Breeding Birds



1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace: The current UK sparrow population is declining and this is thought to be due to habitat destruction and lack of suitable nesting spaces. Sparrows are social birds and like to nest in company, this sparrow terrace is ideal for three sparrow families. Made of Schwegler's revolutionary wood-concrete mix, this terrace is durable, breathable and will last many decades. It may also occasionally attract tits, redstarts and spotted flycatchers.

The terrace can be fixed on to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall. It is suitable for all types of houses in built-up areas, and on industrial and agricultural buildings such as barns, sheds and factories. Ideally place the terrace 2m or more above the ground. Either install on the surface of the wall using the plugs and screws provided or install directly into the wall. Cleaning is advisable but not necessary, and the front panel can be removed by turning the screw hook.

See: 1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace



Woodstone Swift Nest Box: Swifts (Apus apus) are a medium sized, agile and incredibly fast flying bird, which overwinter in Africa and migrate over 3000 miles twice a year. Swifts mate for life and are loyal to nest sites, often using small gaps to enter rooves and other components such as soffits and eaves. Due to renovation works to older buildings, nesting opportunities for these birds have decreased dramatically, and this species has been added to the Red list in the 2021 UK Conservation Status Report, with a 57% decrease in swift numbers observed between the years of 1995 – 2017.

The FSC certified WoodStone Swift Nest Box is constructed entirely out of WoodStone meaning it is long lasting and won't rot away like a traditional wooden nest box. There is an opening at the back of the box for easy cleaning with the nest entrance on the underside of the box. This type of entrance is preferred by swifts but discourages house sparrows and starlings from occupying the box. This box should be installed at least five metres above the ground, ensuring that there is unobstructed access for birds entering and leaving. If possible, boxes should be sited under the shelter of eaves or overhanging roofs.

See: Woodstone Swift Nest Box

Enhancing development site for Bats



1FQ Bat Roost Box: is designed specifically to be fitted on the external wall of a house, barn or other building. The shape and design make it equally attractive to bats as a roost or a nursery. It is also pleasing to the human eye, an important consideration. Easy to attach to most types of walls, it features a special porous coating to help maintain the ideal temperature inside. It requires no maintenance or cleaning. The structure of the 1FQ has been designed with bat behaviour in mind. For example, the outside of the front panel has been roughened to enable the animals to land and hang onto it securely. Access is via a step-like recess which enables even young and inexperienced bats, to safely access the box. The inside of the box has rough pieces of wood incorporated which provide good insulation and are also used by the bats as perches. The internal layout provides three different areas from which bats can hang and which offer different levels of light and temperature. There are also non-slip areas, gaps ranging from 1.5 to 3.5cm in width and various places for individuals to hide.

See – https://www.nhbs.com/1fq-schwegler-bat-roost-for-external-walls

Enhancing development site for Bees

The Bee Brick can be used in place of a standard brick or block in construction to create habitat for solitary bees. Alternatively, it can be used as a standalone bee house in your garden or wild patch. It will provide much needed nesting space for solitary bee species such as red mason bees and leafcutter bees, both of which are nonaggressive.

Each Bee Brick contains cavities in which solitary bees can lay their eggs before sealing the entrance with mud and chewed-up vegetation. The offspring will emerge the following spring and the cycle will begin again. Each cavity goes part way into the brick, which is solid at the back. Bee Bricks should be placed in a warm sunny spot on a south-facing wall at a minimum height of 1m, with no vegetation obstructing the holes. It is highly recommended that bee-friendly plants should be located nearby so that the bees using the bricks have food, otherwise it is unlikely that the brick will be used. Available in a choice of four colours: white grey, dark grey, yellow and red.



Specification

- Material: Concrete
- Origin: Cornwall, UK
- Dimensions: W 215mm x D 105mm x H 65mm
- Weight: 2.9kg
- Colours: White grey, yellow, dark grey and red

Enhancing development site for Hedgehogs



Hedgehog Highways: Hedgehog numbers have dramatically declined in recent years. Research suggests that this is partly because it is becoming harder for hedgehogs to move freely due to an increase in the number of solid walls and fences being erected around gardens. This reduces the available foraging area and so restricts the amount of food that they can eat as well as reducing the possibility of meeting a mate. Creating a hole in a garden wall or fence will allow local hedgehogs to pass through from garden to garden safely.

A hole measuring 13cm by 13cm is the right size for a hedgehog to pass through but too small for most pets. Once you have made your hole in the fence or wall, you can fix the Eco Hedgehog Hole Plate to the fence, ensuring that the hole does not get blocked or stretched. The plate has six screw holes, three along each side, which can be used to fix the plate to your fence or wall. Additional holes can be made in the plastic if required.

The Eco Hedgehog Hole Plate is made from 100% recycled plastic, which is mostly derived from plastic waste from farms across the UK. The plastic hedgehog hole is UV-stabilised so will not rot or degrade over time.

Specification: Material: Low density Polyethylene board (100% recycled plastic)
* Dimensions: Height 26cm x width 23cm
* Entrance Hole: 13cm x 13cm
* Country of Manufacture: England

See: https://www.nhbs.com/eco-hedgehog-hole-fence-plate

Hedgehog Home





Exterior quality 12mm resin bonded ply. The box remains untreated on the inside. Best situated in a quiet corner of the garden and covered with leaves and other garden debris. Removable lid for cleaning purposes and reinforced corners, manufactured with surface sunk nails to resist rusting.

Nest box size: Height 22cm x Width 38cms x Length 47cm

Environmentally positive: Direct action to help hedgehog survival rates, encouraging biodiversity; FSC timber; Zero carbon footprint in use.

Native Planting

New feature landscaping, including the minimum planting of **3** trees, should incorporate native woody plants as opposed to non-native species that are of significantly less benefit to biodiversity. Species such as Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Guelder-rose (*Vibernum opulus*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are native and will provide a valuable resource for a myriad of wildlife as opposed to non-native, exotic species which are generally much less effective, particularly to pollinator groups including bees, butterflies and moths.

Suitable Trees	Suitable Woody Shrubs
English Oak (*Quercus robur*)	Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)	Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*)
Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminialis)*	Guelder Rose (*Vibernum opulus*)
Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)	Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)
Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)	Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)
Goat Willow (*Salix capraea*)	Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)	