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Ecological Excellence

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Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

December 2021

Cae Brymer Farm

Bowling Bank

Wrexham

LL13 9RL

National Grid Reference: SJ40054943



Introduction

Cae Brymer Farm

Cae Brymer Farm, Wrexham, is a farm complex located to the east of Wrexham and Wrexham Industrial Estate, at which the demolition of an existing outbuilding and conversion of a barn building for residential use. During the application process, SCALES Consultancy Ltd were commissioned to provide a bat survey report which identified an absence of bat roost potential at the building to be converted.

The application was approved by Wrexham County Borough Council in October 2021 with a number of planning conditions (Code Number: ISY P/2021/0623), one of which pertains to ecological matters. Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd was commissioned by Blueprint Architectural Ltd to create a biodiversity enhancement plan for the site to meet the requirement by Wrexham County Borough Council in condition 13:

“No part of the development shall commence until further information regarding mitigation and net biodiversity enhancement is submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the details as are approved.”

For context the previous Ecological documents issues to date are as follows:

September 2020 – ‘Bat Scoping Survey’ – SCALES Consultancy Ltd

Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

A Biodiversity Enhancement Plan has been provided below (Figure 1, Table 1), with recommendations in relation to birds and bats. It is additionally recommended that these enhancement measures are undertaken in tandem with native replanting where feasible; native botanical species improve the value of a site for native wildlife through provision of food and shelter, whereas non-native species are frequently not used or of lower value.

A list of appropriate, commercially available species which should be considered for incorporation into the replanting scheme at the site has been provided within Appendix I, however in brief: new hedgerows should be primarily comprised of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) as opposed to Laurel (*Lauraceae* sp.), whilst climbers/creepers such as Hops (*Humulus lupulus*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) can be planted at the base of boundary features such as fences and walls, and new tree planting should include species such as Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), and Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*).

Installation of 6 new nest boxes suitable for a variety of bird species subsequent to completion of construction and landscaping but prior to occupation of the dwelling, and of 2 new provisions for bats to be integrated during or after construction will act as suitable mitigation for bats and breeding birds at the proposed development site.

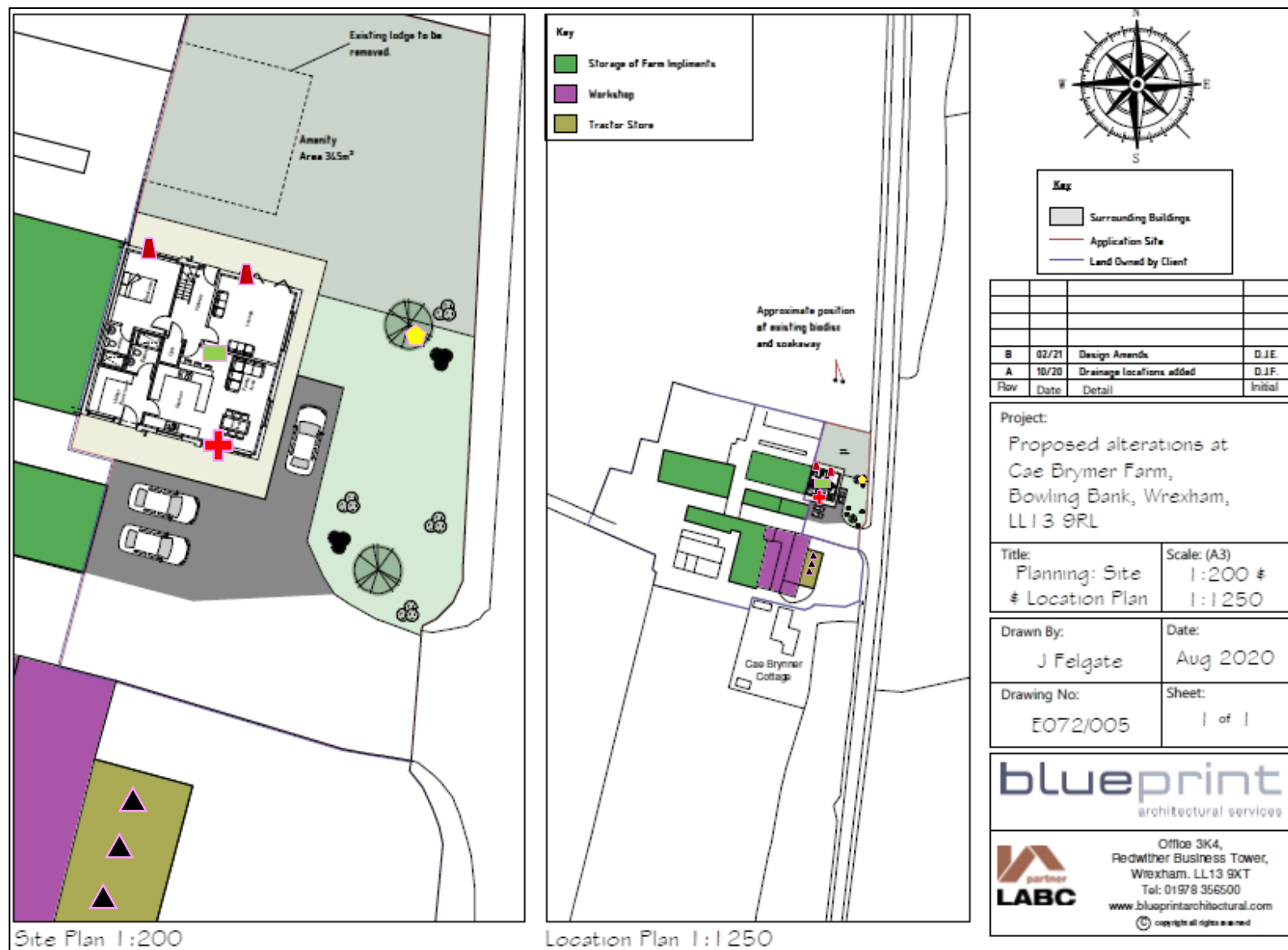


Figure 1: Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (adapted ©Blueprint Architectural Ltd.)



Key	
Symbol	Legend
	'Sparrow Terrace' nest box (Total: 2 boxes)
	Robin / wren nest box (Total: 1 box)
	Swallow Nest Boxes (Total: 3 boxes)
	Raised ridge tile ingress points (Total: 1 point)
	Bird Brick Houses Bat Box (Total: 1 box)

Table 1: Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Plan Key

The contents of this document can be relied upon and have been presented in accordance with best practice guidance, an understanding of the site, and the extensive combined experience of the Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd team.

Best wishes,



Mr. J. Pescod (Consultant Ecologist)



Appendix I – Enhancement / mitigation for bats and Breeding Birds / Native landscaping

Proposed - Native Landscaping

A series of trees, woody shrubs, climbers, herbaceous plants and ferns have been given within the table below which are suitable for incorporation into the development site and which would benefit local native fauna; the list of plants given below are readily commercially available.

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Planting Preference
Ferns	Male Fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Semi-shade or shaded
	Soft Shied-fern	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Semi-shade or shaded
	Maidenhair Fern	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Suitable for rockeries / walled gardens
	Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Full sun in moist-damp areas
Herbaceous plants	Bloody Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Dry soils - suitable for rockeries
	Columbine	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Semi-shade or open areas
	English Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Moist soils in semi-shade or open areas
	Giant Bellflower	<i>Campanula latifolia</i>	Semi-shade or open areas
	Greater Knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Dry-moist soils. Suitable for borders
	Greater Woodrush	<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Moist soils in semi-shade or open areas
	Meadow Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Humid-moist soils. Suitable for borders
	Musk Mallow	<i>Malva moschata</i>	Dry-moist soils. Suitable for borders and rockeries
	Sea Campion	<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Dry soils - suitable for rockeries
	Stinking Hellebore	<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Semi-shade or open areas
Climbers	Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Dry-moist soils
	Hops	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Dry-moist soils
	Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Dry-moist soils
	Sweet-briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Dry-moist soils
Woody Shrubs	Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	-
	Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	-
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	-
	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	-
	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	-
Trees	Alder Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	-
	Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>	-
	Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	-
	Purple Willow	<i>Salix purpurea</i>	-
	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	-
	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	-
	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	-
	Wych Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	-

Proposed – Enhancement for Birds

Swallow



The Swallow Nest consists of a woodcrete nesting bowl which is attached to a wooden panel of formaldehyde-free chipboard. The nests (x3) should be placed inside outbuildings such as sheds, barns or stables leaving a distance of at least 6cm between the top of the nest and the ceiling. You should ensure there is always access for the birds through an open window or sky-light. Swallows are sociable birds but multiple nests should not be placed at less than 1m intervals. Cleaning of the bowl is recommended, although not absolutely necessary.

Breeding Bids - House Sparrow

House sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) are sociable opportunists that survive in most UK habitats, from towns and cities to farmland and countryside. Substantial declines in both urban and rural populations (estimated 71% decrease between 1977 and 2008) have led to concerns for this species.

This House Sparrow Nest Box is manufactured from WoodStone - a mix of concrete and FSC wood fibres. This material is strong and highly insulating which helps to provide a thermally stable environment within the box. It also protects against damage from predators such as cats, woodpeckers and squirrels. It is available with one or two breeding chambers, which can be particularly suitable for house sparrows as they prefer to nest in colonies.

The House Sparrow Nest Box can be integrated into the masonry of a new house or fixed onto an external wall using strong screws and wall plugs (not included). If possible, it should be positioned near to vegetation and at a minimum of 2m above ground.



See - <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-woodstone-house-sparrow-nest-box>

Nesting Birds - Common/Woodland/Garden

This traditional design has proved to be highly effective in attracting robins, as well as other small species such as black redstart, spotted flycatcher and wren. It is designed to be installed on the walls of houses, barns, garden sheds or other buildings and should be hung so that the entrance is to one side (at an angle of 90° to the wall). The front panel can be easily removed for cleaning.

This type of box should not be made conspicuous on a tree or bush because small predators can enter through the unprotected opening. By hanging on a wall, predators won't be able to reach the box. Alternatively hide the box in ivy, honeysuckle or other climbing plants.



See - www.nhbs.com/2h-schwegler-robin-box

Proposed – Enhancement for Bats

Integrated Bird Brick Houses Bat Box

The integrated bat boxes by Bird Brick Houses is designed for integration into the wall of new buildings and provides summer roosting opportunities for Pipistrelle bats. The box is available in brick fronted, half bond or quarter bond brickwork, or alternatively with a steel mesh for rendering, to match the construction of the new dwelling.

See - <https://www.birdbrickhouses.co.uk/brick-nesting-boxes/bat-box/>



Bats – Ridge Access

A roosting opportunity for bats can be created by placing a strip of Bitumen 1F underfelt on top of the ridge, before laying two ridge tiles on top of this with a gap between them (See below). A third ridge tile is then placed on top of these two, leaving a small cavity.

Ridge tile access should be made with the incorporation of traditional Bitumen 1F underfelt immediately beneath ridge tiles. Breathable BRM membrane can cause significant problems where bats are in contact with it, whereby their fine claws become entangled within the fibres of the membrane, entrapping and killing bats.

