

HOPWOOD HALL COLLEGE, MIDDLETON

ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE & PURPOSE

1.1.1. Collington Winter Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Seven Architecture to prepare an Ecological Enhancement Plan. The plan has been produced to aid in discharging planning conditions for the proposed development at Hopwood Hall College, Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester, M24 6XH. The proposed development includes the renovation of the chapel for a change of use to teaching accommodation.

1.1.2. The author of this report is Rhiannon Hobbs BSc (Hons), MSc, Graduate Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. The report has been overseen by Katie Bird, MEnvSci ACIEEM, Associate Director at Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. Katie has provided ecological advice and project management for numerous schemes across the UK, including residential, commercial, mineral extraction and large infrastructure projects.

1.2. LOCATION

1.2.1. Please refer to Figure 1.1 for the site location. The site is located approximately 2.7km northwest from Middleton town centre and consists of an active college campus. The site is connected to surrounding woodland and grassland habitats with Trub Brook running through the surrounding habitats of the site. These surrounding habitats are anticipated to support local bird and bat populations by providing suitable habitats and food resources.



Figure 1.1 Site Location

1.3. OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. This report has been written to support planning permission for the renovation of the chapel for a change of use to teaching accommodation.

1.3.2. This report has been written with the view it can be used to aid site contractors in understanding works required as part of the planning approval.

2 ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

2.1. BIRD BOXES

2.1.1. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (Seed, 2024) assessed the site as having the potential to support breeding birds in relation to the woodland and individual trees on site. During the site visit feral pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*) was confirmed within the Chapel building and a desk study confirmed that other species are known within the local area including curlew (*Turdus philomelos*), dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), herring gull (*Turdus philomelos*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), lesser redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

2.1.2. A total of three bird boxes will be installed within the site to offer nesting opportunities for passerine species anticipated to be present within the local area. The condition does not specify the number of bird boxes necessary to discharge the condition, so a total of three boxes is deemed sufficient given the size of the development.

Table 2.1 Bird Box Specifications and Numbers

Box Specification	No.	Associated Species
<u>32mm Entrance</u> Example - Vivara Pro Woodstone 32mm nest box (externally mounted) Entrance hole diameter: 32mm Width: 20cm Height: 31cm Length: 20cm Weight: 6.9kg	1	House sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>), blue tit (<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>), nuthatch (<i>Sitta europaea</i>), coal tit (<i>Periparus ater</i>)
<u>45mm Entrance</u> Example - Vivara Pro Woodstone starling nest box (externally mounted). Height: 385mm Width: 220mm Depth: 215mm Weight: 7.4 kg Entrance hole diameter: 45mm Material: WoodStone®	1	Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)
<u>100mm (open fronted) Entrance</u> Example – Woodstone Open Nest Box Entrance hole: open fronted Width: 22.5cm Height: 26cm Length: 15cm	1	Songthrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>), wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>), robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>), blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>)

2.1.3. The bird boxes will be installed on aspects facing between north-east and north-west with unrestricted access to the entrance holes. The boxes will not be installed near to security lighting, and locations with the least disturbance have been selected.

2.1.4. Care should be taken to make sure boxes are not angled in such a manner to allow rain to enter them. Nest boxes are to be affixed to vertical surfaces on the new building at a height between 1.5 – 3m.

2.1.5. The following maintenance measures are to be completed, following the installation of the boxes:

- Bird boxes will require periodic checking and cleaning, (e.g. once every two years).
- Unhatched eggs may be removed legally between September and January and must then be disposed of.

- Disused nests must be removed and cleaned using boiling water to remove parasites. Boxes should be left to dry before replacing the lid. Insecticides and flea powders must not be used.
- If any boxes are identified as damaged or missing, they are to be replaced with a box of similar specification.

2.1.6. Note bird boxes must only be opened and cleaned outside the bird nesting season (March to August, inclusive).

2.2. BATS

2.2.1. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) assessed the site as having the potential to support roosting, foraging, and commuting bats. Previous surveys recorded a common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) roosting in the chapel and two other roosts were also identified within the college campus, also supporting common pipistrelles as well as brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) and myotis (*Myotis sp.*) bats (Seed, 2024).

2.2.2. A total of three bat boxes will be installed within the site to offer roosting opportunities for bat species anticipated to be present within the local area. The condition does not specify the number of bat boxes necessary to discharge the condition, so a total of three boxes is deemed sufficient given the size of the development and as there is already some bat boxes present on the trees on site.

Table 2.2 Bat Box Specifications and Numbers

Box Specification	No.	Associated Species
Greenwood's Ecohabitats Single Crevice Bat Box Height 440 mm Width 220 mm Depth 70 mm Weight 6 kg Entrance 18 mm	2	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>), soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)
Greenwood's Ecohabitats Small Hollow Bat Box Height 440 mm Width 220 mm Depth 100 mm Weight 8 kg Entrance 45 mm	1	Brown long-eared (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>), myotis species (<i>Myotis sp.</i>)

2.2.3. The bat boxes will be installed on aspects facing between south-east to south-western facing aspect, as this will provide additional heat throughout the day. Bats prefer to change roosts to benefit from varying ambient temperatures, so bat boxes are to be clustered in small groups (i.e. two boxes per tree stem). The boxes will not be installed near to security lighting, and locations with the least disturbance have been selected (see Appendix 5.1).

2.2.4. Care should be taken to make sure boxes are not angled in such a manner to allow rain to enter them. Boxes are to be affixed to vertical surfaces on retained trees at a minimum height of 4 m.

2.2.5. Bat boxes are considered self-cleaning and require minimal maintenance once installed. The boxes are made of hard-wearing material that is generally long-lasting. Bat boxes should be checked periodically (e.g. every two years) to assess their use and the condition of the boxes. If any boxes are identified as damaged or missing, they are to be replaced with a box of similar specification.

2.2.6. Only those holding the appropriate Natural England Class 2 bat licence may open and inspect these boxes. It is an offence for anyone without this licence to open a bat box. If a bat box becomes occupied by a bird the nest must be left in situ until after the bird nesting season.

3 CONCLUSION

3.1.1. This plan has been produced to accompany a planning application for the renovation of the chapel on site.

3.1.2. The plan has demonstrated the following:

- A layout plan detailing where the nesting/roost features to be positioned.
- A specification concerning the type of features to be used. Specifically targeting species identified on site during previous ecological surveys and associated with residential areas.

4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

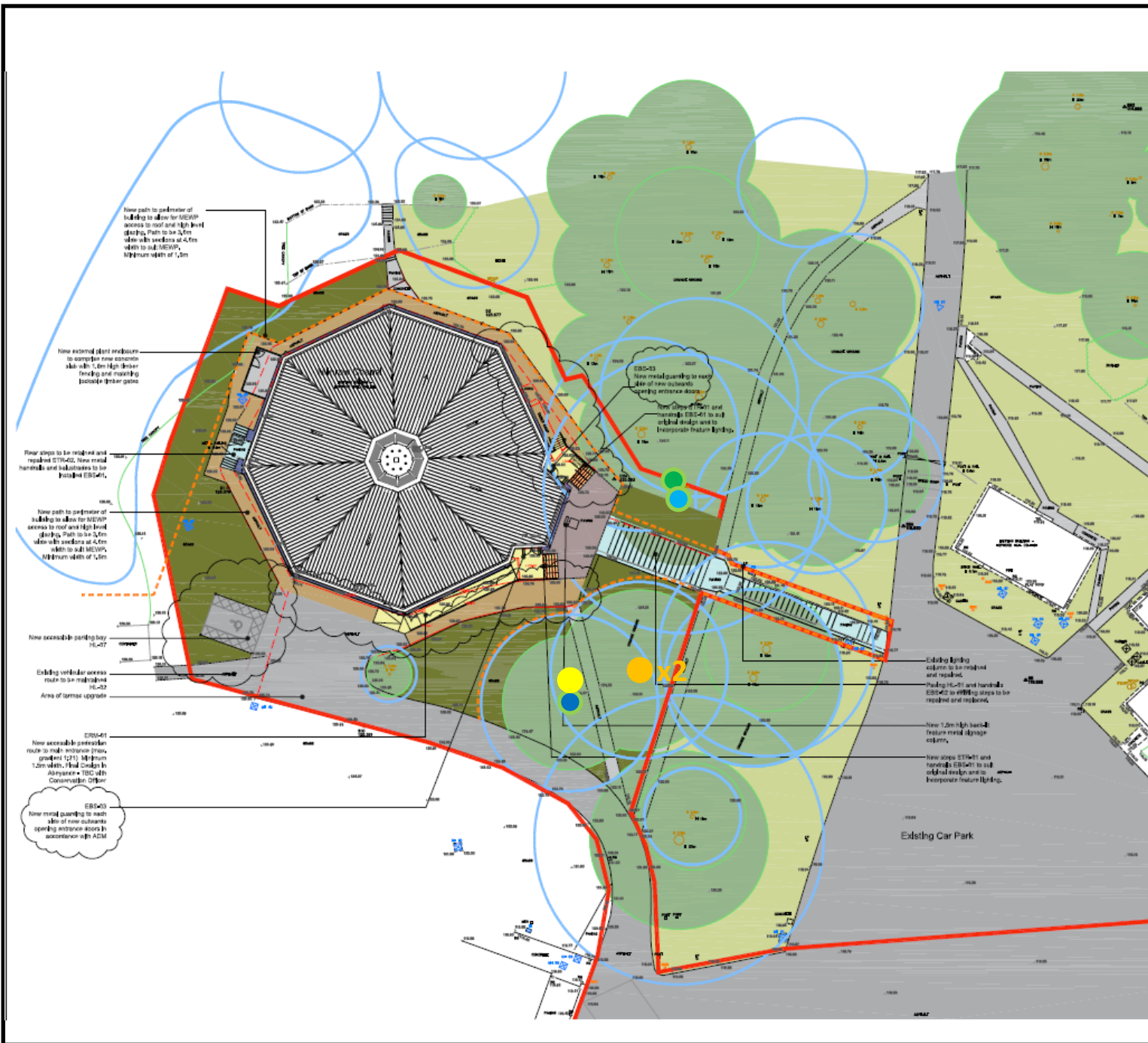
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5 APPENDIX

5.1 BAT AND BIRD BOX LOCATION PLAN

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Locations of the Proposed Bat Boxes and Bird Boxes.

Key:

Application Boundary

Bats

● Crevice bat box

● Cavity bat box

Birds

● Bird nest box (32mm entrance)

● Bird nest box (45mm entrance)

● Bird nest box (100 mm entrance)

Drawn by RH

Checked by KB

Approved by KB



Base Map: Seven Architecture

Drawing ref: 01021

Site: HCO Milnrow Chapel

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2025

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