Angela Graham Bat Consultancy Service Limited

Office 47, Bury Business Centre, Kay Street, Bury, Lancs, BL9 6BU

tel - 0161 763 6171, fax - 0161 761 7854, mob - 07710 184142

e-mail : bat.consultancy@talktalk.net Company no. 7492656

Bird and Bat/Biodiversity Method Statement for
Land at the junction of
Victoria Street and Gregge Street,
Heywood,
OL10 2EE

OS grid reference:
SD 8623 1011

Commissioned-by:
Christian Drogan

For
IQ Projects Ltd

Site visit date: 15/7/20

Report Date: 17/7/20

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1. Summary

This Method Statement is required to satisfy a condition of the Planning Consent.

It refers to an urban, brownfield site where only three trees and a few ornamental shrubs were remaining at the time of my site visit. The foundations of the development had been laid and construction work had just started.

Recommendations for locating integrated and wall-mounted boxes for birds and bats have been made; with the types of boxes recommended illustrated.

The proposed provision will accord with the biodiversity objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

2. Introduction.

In accordance with Condition 11 of the Planning consent for this site (17/01445/FUL), I was commissioned to produce a biodiversity enhancement package for birds and bats, as a minimum. The condition reads:

"Condition 11 - No part of the development shall be occupied until such time as a detailed scheme of biodiversity enhancement measures for the site, including but not limited to provision of nesting bird and bat roost boxes/bricks etc., has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. No part of the development shall be occupied until such time as the duly approved scheme of biodiversity enhancement measures has been fully implemented on site; the measures shall be retained as installed thereafter."

The plot of land is in an urban location and was occupied by hardstanding, grass and trees:



Fig. 1. Urban location of the site with approximate boundary shown in red

By the time of my site visit on **15/7/20**, the majority of the plot had been cleared to allow the foundations of the houses on site to be laid. The block in the south-east of the site was already under construction:





Site as seen from north-west looking south-west and from north-east looking south

The only remaining vegetation was on a raised area in the north-west of the site, where there were three mature silver birch trees (*Betula pendula*) and some shrubbery that had been cut-back:




Trees at western end of plot as seen from north-east and south-west

As it was not possible to assess what bird species were present on and around the site before it was largely cleared, the urban species of conservation concern (1) I considered providing-for were the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*, starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) - all biodiversity priority species; swift (*Apus apus*) and house martin (*Delichon urbicum*).

A search of the National Biodiversity Atlas confirmed records of house sparrow, dunnock and house martin within 1 kilometre. Swift has been recorded within 2 kilometres. The starling is highly likely to occur within 1km also. Thirty-nine species of bird have been recorded within 1km.

Looking at the construction-type of the proposed dwellings, apparently lacking over-hanging eaves and given the degree of noise generated by nesting starlings, it was decided to provide for house sparrows and swifts within the structure my means of integrated nest boxes. See Appendix 1. Starling boxes can be put up in trees - see Appendix 2, along with boxes for common garden species such as the blue-tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) and robin (*Erithacus rubecula*). The dunnock is dependent on dense shrubbery for nesting.

Records of the common pipistrelle bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) were found within 2kms on the National Biodiversity atlas. I have personal knowledge of multiple records of this species within 1km, including a maternity colony roosting site. Two of the records are within 500m. It is unlikely any other species frequents the vicinity of the site, especially since its clearance.

It is proposed to provide for the common pipistrelle bat via the use of integrated bat boxes in the new build. See Appendix 3.

Given the extent of clearance works on the site and the fact the foundations of the buildings have already been laid, it doesn't seem feasible to provide many additional biodiversity enhancements, though some nectar-rich native plants could be included in the planting.

3. Provision for birds and bats



Fig. 1. Site layout showing approximate locations for integrated bat boxes in red, swift boxes in orange and sparrow terracing in yellow. N.b. One block of sparrow terracing could be on northern wall of larger block if preferred

All integrated bat and bird boxes will be in gable ends, positioned centrally towards the eaves, as bat box below:



Standard wooden blue tit and robin boxes are widely available.

The retained shrubbery on site isn't dense enough at present for nesting by the dunnock and other bird species. It should be supplemented by native shrub species. While bramble would be the species of choice (*Rubus fruticosa*) from a biodiversity perspective, other native species that might be more manageable include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa)* - which have thorns to deter predators such as domestic cats, and raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*); possibly supplemented with other nectar-rich species such as honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum)* and dog rose *(Rosa canina);* which also has thorns.

There may be scope to plant flowering herbaceous species around the edges of the plot such as lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia).* The consultant can provide additional information if necessary.

4. Additional considerations - lighting

The integrated bat boxes provided must not be exposed directly to artificial lighting (2). This applies also to integrated nest boxes. Similar consideration will be given in respect of potential flight paths of bats to and from the integrated bat boxes.

Any additional lighting of walkways, doorways or the vicinity of the building will kept to the minimum necessary and be done either via bollards, shielded to prevent unnecessary light spill, especially upwards or, if wall-mounted, will be as far below eaves and/or integrated bat box level as is practical, and similarly shielded.

Any security lighting will be appropriately positioned/shielded. Motion sensors will be set to turn off as quickly as possible.

5. References

1. Eaton, M. A. et al (2015). Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British Birds 108: 708-746.
2. Bat Conservation Trust (2018). Guidance Note 8/18: Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK.

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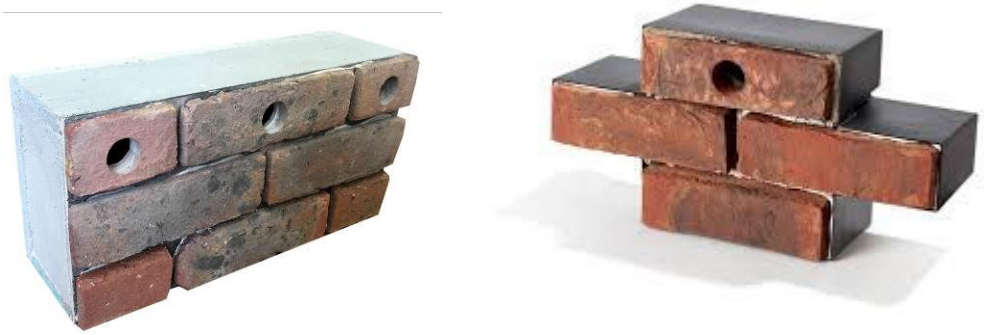
Appendix 1 – examples of house sparrow terracing and swift boxes

Sparrow bricks:



Habibat sparrow bricks
EcoSurv Habibat: http://www.ecosurv.co.uk



Integrated swift box from Habibat:
http://www.habibat.co.uk/category/bird-boxes/habibat-swift-box



Integrated swift box from Forticrete:
https://www.roofingsuperstore.co.uk/product/forticrete-swift-box.html

Appendix 2 – examples of available boxes for starlings

Starling boxes:











Appendix 3– examples of available integrated bat boxes

N.b. Other boxes are available but the advice of the bat consultant should be sought before selecting one of these.

An internet search for "integrated bat boxes" will readily bring up suppliers of these boxes

EcoSurv Habibat
http://www.habibat.co.uk/category/bat-boxes

"Designed to be built into an exterior wall and is available in a variety of faces to match the building. Standard facings of red or blue brick - ideal for new builds - are normally available from stock, or boxes can be made to your specific requirements with a face of brick, stone, timber, or plain (for rendering). Supplied unpointed."



Brick example of Ecosurv Habibat. Can also be faced with stone.

Ibstock Ecozone
http://www.ibstock.com/sustainability-ecozone.asp



Enclosed Bat Box B

- Designed specifically for the pipistrelle bat
- Available in all brick types
- Discrete home for bats
- Various sizes
- Several roosting zones are created inside the box
- Bats are contained within the bat box itself
- Maintenance free with entrance at the base
- Ideal for new build & conservation work



Enclosed Bat Box C with engraved motif

- Designed specifically for the pipistrelle bat
- Available in smooth blue, smooth gold & smooth red
- Attractive "bat" motif
- Discrete home for bats
- Various sizes
- Several roosting zones are created inside the box
- Bats are contained within the bat box itself
- Maintenance free with entrance at the base
- Ideal for new build & conservation work

	Sizes	Durability
Eco Habitats for Bats - Technical Data: A	215mm x 65mm	F2 S2 - Fully Frost Resistant
Eco Habitats for Bats - Technical Data: B	215mm x 215mm or 215mm x 290mm	F2 S2 - Fully Frost Resistant
Eco Habitats for Bats - Technical Data: C	215mm x 215mm or 215mm x 290mm	F2 S2 - Fully Frost Resistant





Above: typical unit in situ. Photo © Angela Graham

Schwegler 1FR/2FR



