

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

Tanglewood – Proposed Care Home Development

Former Trinity Leisure Centre, Coventry Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 0JR

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Revision A

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Biodiversity Enhancement Plan has been produced as part of the planning application for the construction of a proposed care home development on Coventry Road, Hinckley, Leicester.
- 1.2 The development involves the erection of a new multistorey building, parking, landscaping and associated works.
- 1.3 Post-development habitats in accordance with the biodiversity net gain calculation will be maintained to encourage biodiversity including grassland, tree planting, bat and bird boxes.
- 1.4 This report has been produced to discharge condition 19 of the Decision Notice.
- 1.5 This document should be read in conjunction with the Ecological Appraisal and HMMP, produced by Encon Associates in 2025.
- 1.6 The purpose of this report is to provide a specification, long-term aftercare details and location plan for the bat and bird boxes to be installed on Site.
- 1.7 This report includes details on the following information that was not covered within the HMMP:
 1. Wildlife boxes will be incorporated into the development to provide additional shelter for biodiversity.
 2. The following bird boxes will be installed on the new building and existing trees:
 - Wooden Bird Nest Boxes (25mm hole, 32mm hole and open fronted).
 - Schwegler 17 Swift Boxes.
 3. Management and maintenance plan for the wildlife boxes including visual inspection and replacement of damaged or missing boxes.
- 1.8 The wildlife boxes and all habitats included in the post development biodiversity net gain calculation approved under the planning permission will be maintained for a mandatory period of 30 years.

2. Provision of Bird Boxes

- 2.1 A total of eight artificial bird boxes should be secured to existing mature trees and buildings as shown in Figure 1, Wildlife Boxes Plan. If boxes cannot be secured in these locations, then the nearest possible suitable location to the location on the plan should be used.
- 2.2 The swift boxes will be attached to the building façade, and the other boxes will be attached to established trees on site. These boxes are comprised of:
 - Four Wooden Bird Nest Boxes (25mm hole, 32mm hole and open fronted), suitable for a wide variety of smaller bird species.
 - Four Schwegler 17 Swift Boxes, which are suitable for the common swift *Apus apus*.
- 2.3 The chosen boxes (or similar approved) will offer permanent nesting opportunities to a range of bird species which have been recorded on site and in the local area such as house sparrow and swift.
- 2.4 The boxes will be positioned facing between North and East, avoiding the most extreme weather exposure such as the strongest sunlight and highest winds, with a clear flight path to the entrance.
- 2.5 The locations are chosen to minimise stress to adults and chicks using the nest boxes, while being convenient to the foraging and sheltering opportunities provided in the landscaping.
- 2.6 If possible, boxes will require an annual clean, which should be undertaken between October and February to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.
- 2.7 Nesting boxes should be checked to ensure they are cleared of any obstructions to remain suitable for nesting and roosting.
- 2.8 Please refer to Section 3 for details of the bird nesting boxes, their installation and maintenance.



Figure 2.1: Wildlife Box Location Plan

3. Details of Bird Boxes

4.1 *Schwegler 17 Swift Box*

The particularly lightweight nest box made of 100% asbestos-free vegetable fibre-reinforced concrete is ideally suited for installation on low-strength façades (insulation, sheathing, etc.). Supplied with U-shaped, flexible hanger made of perforated steel strip and fixing materials. The box can also be inserted/plastered in the masonry without a hanger. On request can also be supplied with Type No. 17A/B/C brackets.

4.2 *Material:*

Certified, asbestos-free, vegetable fibre-reinforced concrete and SCHWEGLER wood-concrete. Galvanised fixing elements.



4.3 *Installation*

The entrance should be a minimum height of 6 to 7 m above the ground or protruding parts of buildings. Attaching the box directly under the roof edge is advantageous. It is very important to ensure that there are no protruding parts, roof parts, pipes, etc. below the entrance, as Swifts approach and fly away very steeply. Therefore, the area under the entrance should be unobstructed and lead directly to the ground. Swifts do not need a minimum distance from fellow species – nesting boxes can therefore be positioned directly next to each other.

4.4 *Specification:*

- External dimensions: W 34 x H 15 x D 15 cm plus wing screws.
- Brood chamber: W 30 x H 14 x D 14 cm.
- Weight: approx. 3.1 kg.
- Includes: Nest box, fixing bracket, screws, plugs.

Wooden Bird Nest Boxes (25mm hole, 32mm hole and open fronted)

Manufactured from substantial 2cm thick FSC-certified wood. These simple, breathable wooden bird boxes have a sloping roof and four drainage holes and are ideal for providing crucial nesting spaces for the smaller garden birds. Nest boxes also provide vital roosting spaces for birds during the cold winter months, and the thick walls of these nest boxes will ensure that roosting birds stay warm.

The boxes can be expected to last 5-10 years and are constructed using stainless steel staples, which will not rust.

These boxes can be installed on external walls and should be placed 2-4m above ground. There should be a clear flight path to the entrance hole, and the boxes should be placed so that the entrance is not exposed to strong sunlight or winds.

The 32mm entrance hole is suitable for general garden birds, and the 25mm entrance hole is suitable for the smaller tit species, such as blue and coal tits. The open-fronted box is ideal for Robins, Spotted Flycatcher, Wrens and Pied Wagtails.

**4.5 Specification**

- Dimensions: 245mm x 135mm x 185mm (H x W x D)
- Entrance hole: 25mm or 32mm
- Height of backplate: 325mm
- Material: FSC-certified wood

4.6 Cleaning and visual inspection

Bird boxes would not require any specific management. However, if the bird boxes are regularly used, it may be necessary to remove old nests outside of nesting season (March – September). This should be undertaken by an experienced ecologist or ornithologist.

The nesting boxes are unlikely to become damaged, but if, for any reason, they are no longer fit for purpose, they are to be replaced as soon as possible during the autumn/winter period. Any occupied box must only be disturbed or inspected by a licensed individual.



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