



Wild Service

Reading North Street

Habitat Enhancement Scheme

On behalf of Beard Construction Limited

Project Ref. MN2020030Av1

Wild Service Office

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This report is confidential to the client and we accept no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

1.1.1 Wild Service was commissioned by Beard Construction Limited to complete a Habitat Enhancement Scheme (HES) to inform the discharge of Condition 12 of Planning Application 191659 in relation to proposed development plans at North Street, Reading, RG1 7DA (hereafter referred to as the 'Site').

- **Condition 12:** *'No development shall commence beyond foundation level until details of a habitat enhancement scheme are submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme is to include a programme for implementation and ongoing maintenance. The habitat enhancement scheme shall thereafter be implemented and adhered to in accordance with agreed programme.'*
- **REASON:** *Details are required prior to commencement as insufficient information was submitted with the application and in order to avoid harm to habitats and species whilst securing biodiversity enhancement in the long term. This accords with Paragraph 175 of the NPPF (2019), Policy EN12 of the Reading Borough Local Plan 2019.*

1.1.2 The site is approximately 0.23ha and comprises hardstanding, bare ground, scattered tall herbs and scrub, semi-improved grassland and scattered trees. In the wider context the Site sits within an urban environment, bordered by residential housing, roads and industrial units.

1.1.3 The proposal comprises of the erection of one four storey building and one five storey building, providing 41 dwellings as affordable housing units. Development proposals include vehicular, cycle and pedestrian access, parking and hard and soft landscaping. The HES details measures to enhance and maintain the ecological value of the Site. A plan of the Site is provided in Appendix 1.

1.1.4 The Site is located near the centre of Reading and the central grid reference of the Site is SU 70908 73666.

1.1.5 The HES is to be read in conjunction with a previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report (WSP, 2019) and the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Wild Service, 2021).

1.1.6 Michelle Newman of Wild Service undertook a Site visit on 8th December 2020 to assess if any significant changes had occurred on Site since the WSP survey in 2017. The results of this Site visit and the previous ecological report have informed the HES.

1.2 Background Information

1.2.1 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was conducted by WSP (2019) and concluded that the Site holds low ecological value. The habitats surrounding the Site provide suitable foraging habitat for bats, though limited and the Site provides nesting opportunities for birds. Though not mentioned in original PEA, gardens in the surrounding area could support urban populations of hedgehogs and it is possible that hedgehogs could travel around the edges of the Site in the tall herb areas.

1.2.2 Five trees on Site were assessed as having low bat roosting potential and a precautionary felling approach was recommended.

1.3 Legislation Considerations

1.3.1 The actions outlined in this HES should avoid offences being committed with respect to the legal protection of protected species likely to use the Site and surrounding area, such as certain species of bats and birds, and hedgehogs.

1.3.2 This report has been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation and policy. Further detail is provided in Appendix 2, however the following primary documents are of relevance:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA 1981);
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 (as amended) (CRoW Act 2000);
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act 2006);
- and

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (CHS 2017).

1.3.3 No part of this report is to be considered as legal advice and when dealing with individual cases, the client is advised to consult the full texts of the relevant legislation and obtain further legal advice.

2 Habitat Enhancement Scheme

2.1 Habitats

- 2.1.1 The Site now consists of the habitats initially identified in 2019 with an increase of colonising ruderals where the Site has been left inactive.
- 2.1.2 The details for habitat planting described below for those species considered most likely to use the Site will provide green infrastructure that will function as corridors for urban wildlife. The proposed native species planting and ornamental planting using species of value to wildlife (e.g. single flowering varieties of plants, species producing fruits/nuts/seeds), in addition to installation of bird and bat boxes to the new buildings and construction of hedgehog shelters, will enhance the ecological value of the Site.
- 2.1.3 The planting of trees around the southern and western edges of the Site will provide foraging opportunities for local bats, birds and hedgehogs. Suitable native tree species include field maple, beech, silver birch and wild cherry, of which field maple and wild cherry will be planted along the southern and western boundaries. These species produce flowers and/or fruits that are of benefit to insects and birds. By encouraging insects, foraging opportunities for bats and certain bird species are also increased. Where there is no room to plant trees, climbing plants (e.g. native honeysuckle), will be planted to grow up the boundary fencing to ensure connectivity for wildlife around the Site perimeters.
- 2.1.4 There are proposed new grassland areas as demonstrated on Site plan (Appendix 1). These are mainly situated in the southern section of the Site with small patches of grassland throughout the Site. The new grassland is to be seeded with Germinal Amenity A19 (All Purpose Landscaping). It is an all-purpose mixture suitable for amenity areas and suits a wide range of soil types.
- 2.1.5 The mixture is to be sown between March and October to a sowing depth of 10mm. The grassland requires minimal maintenance and is to be cut to 20mm. If weed control is required they are to be pulled where possible, spot treatment of weed killer is to be used minimally.
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2.2 Bats

2.2.1 Bats and their resting places are protected under the WCA 1981 and the CHS 2017. The redevelopment of the Site provides the opportunity to enhance the Site for local bats as outlined below.

2.2.2 Mitigation measures will be adhered to when carrying out tree works, detailed within the CEMP (Wild Service, 2021).

2.2.3 With regards to new permanent lighting on Site, the following measures are given to avoid impacts of lighting on foraging/commuting bats, which will also avoid impacts on other nocturnal wildlife such as hedgehogs:

- Avoid lighting any bat boxes and/or bat roosting trees (generally trees >25cm DBH with holes, flaky/split bark or/and established ivy). Hedgerows/lines of trees will not be illuminated wherever possible to allow these linear features to act as bat foraging/commuting corridors.
- All luminaires are to lack UV elements when manufactured. Metal halide, fluorescent sources are not be used, these are not included within the lighting proposed.
- The proposed lighting on the building are LED. The LED luminaires have sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.
- Internal luminaires can be recessed where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill.
- The hood on the proposed lighting will reduce light spill and direct it below the horizontal plane.
- The use of specialist bollard or low-level downward directional luminaires to retain darkness above has been incorporated into the Site.
- The height of light units are to be minimised to keep the light as close to the ground as possible and reduce the volume of illuminated space.

- Luminaires are always be mounted on the horizontal, i.e. no upward tilt. Ideally the angle of the luminaire is to be less than 70 degrees to avoid upward light spill.
- Any external security lighting is to be set on people-activated motion-sensors and short (1min) timers.
- Though the trees on the Site provide low value for foraging and commuting bats due to the urban nature of the Site and existing light pollution, lighting is to be directed away from these areas.

2.2.4 The planting of trees around the edges of the Site will result in the creation of habitat suitable for commuting bats. Where ornamental plants are required in planting beds, single flowering plant varieties that attract insects on which bats feed are to be used. A list of wildlife friendly planting is provided in Appendix 3.

2.2.5 The installation of bat boxes on the new buildings will create additional bat roosting opportunities. The Site can be enhanced for roosting bats by installing a minimum of two Schwegler 1FF bat boxes onto the exterior walls of the new building. (Bat boxes, such as Habibat 003 bat box, can be fitted into the walls of the new building as an alternative). Bat boxes are to be installed under the eaves at a minimum height of 4m with north-west direction being avoided and the boxes are to face in different directions. Bat boxes are not to be installed in any areas that are illuminated as this will deter bats from using the boxes. The locations for the installation of bat boxes are indicated in Appendix 1. Further details are provided in Appendix 3.

2.2.6 The bat boxes are to be checked annually by the management company for damage and replaced if required. However, prior to removal, the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) or other suitably qualified ecologist is to be instructed to undertake a check to ensure bats are not present.

2.3 **Birds**

2.3.1 All birds are protected under the WCA 1981. It is therefore generally unlawful to intentionally kill or injure a bird, damage or destroy an occupied nest or take or destroy eggs other than in exceptional prescribed circumstances. Therefore,

development operations are to take care to avoid the risk of harm to birds and their nests, especially during the nesting season (generally considered to be March to August). Details regarding the removal of existing vegetation is provided in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP (Wild Service, 2021)).

- 2.3.2 The Site is to be enhanced for nesting birds by installing four swift bricks under the eaves of the new buildings. The Manthorpe Swift brick is to be fitted into the wall. The bird bricks of bird boxes are to be installed some distance from the bat boxes. Bird boxes are to be installed at minimum heights of 3.5m. Bird boxes are to face in a north to south-east direction to avoid the wetter westerly winds. The locations are indicated in Appendix 1. Further details are provided in Appendix 3.
- 2.3.3 The planting of trees and any ornamental planting around the southern and western edges of the Site will result in the creation of habitat suitable for foraging and nesting birds. A list of wildlife friendly planting is provided in Appendix 3.
- 2.3.4 The bird boxes are to be checked annually by the management company for damage and replaced if required. If any boxes need replacing or repairing this is to be undertaken outside of the main bird nesting season (March – August inclusive), however if the boxes need urgently replacing during bird nesting season, prior to removal, the ECoW or other suitably qualified ecologist is to be instructed to undertake a check to ensure birds are not present. If nesting birds are present, there can be no disturbance to the box until all young have fledged.

2.4 **Hedgehogs**

- 2.4.1 Hedgehogs are a Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006. The gardens in the surrounding area could support urban populations of hedgehogs and it is possible that hedgehogs could travel around the edges of the Site in the tall herb areas. Mitigation during development to safeguard hedgehogs is detailed within the CEMP (Wild Service, 2021).
- 2.4.2 Any grass areas are left with swathes of unmown grass around the edges to provide shelter for foraging hedgehogs. A list of wildlife friendly planting is provided in Appendix 3.

- 2.4.3 In order to make the redeveloped Site with its landscaping more permeable to hedgehogs, 13cmx13cm gaps are to be installed at the base of fences. A hedgehog house is to be installed in the south-east corner of the Site adjacent to the sycamore tree that will be retained (see Appendix 3). The leaf litter from the sycamore can be collected and piled to provide extra shelter for hedgehogs. The hedgehog house is to be checked regularly for damage and replaced if required. The house is to be checked for hedgehogs prior to disturbance. If any are present, the ECoW or other suitably qualified ecologist or a local hedgehog rescue is to be consulted for advice.

2.5 **Responsible Persons**

- 2.5.1 **Michelle Newman and Elizabeth Pimley of Wild Service** are managing the ecological aspects of the project and will act as Ecological Advisers for the project.
- 2.5.2 **Beard Construction and Reading Borough Council** will be responsible for ensuring that the enhancements outlined in this report are undertaken.
- 2.5.3 The **Appointed Management Company** will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the ecological enhancements.

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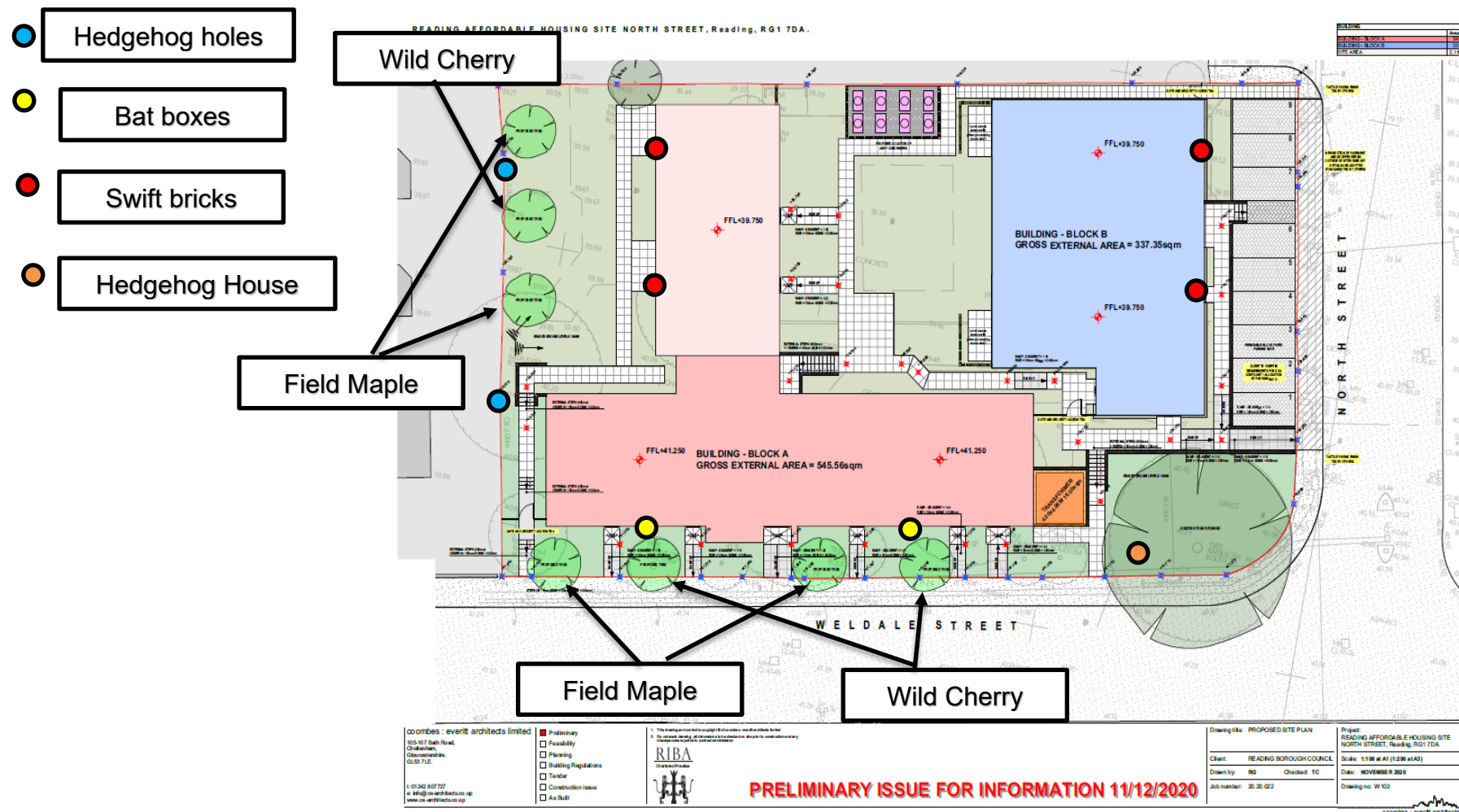
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Appendix 1: Site Plan



Appendix 2: Policy and Legal Considerations

Bats

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA 1981) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (CHS 2017) it is illegal to:

- intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture bats
- intentionally, deliberately or recklessly*disturb bats
- intentionally, deliberately or recklessly*damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection, i.e. bat roosts (even if they are not currently occupied)
- possess, sell or transport a bat, or anything derived from it.

Birds

All wild birds (i.e. resident, visiting and introduced species) in the UK are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it illegal to:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or in use
- take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird
- possess or control (e.g. for exhibition or sale) any wild bird or egg unless obtained legally.

Birds that Receive Special Protection

Species listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), such as the barn owl and peregrine falcon, receive special protection. In addition to the above legislation, it is also illegal to intentionally or recklessly* disturb any bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest-building, or at or near a nest containing eggs or young, or to disturb any of its dependent young. Disturbance could occur, for example, through noise caused by construction works in close proximity to the nest.

Badgers

Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (PBA 1992) it is illegal to:

- wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly treat a badger – or attempt to do so
- intentionally or recklessly* damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett (whether or not there is a badger in it at the time)
- disturb a badger while it is occupying a sett
- sell, keep or mark a healthy badger or possess any dead badger or part thereof.

Widespread Reptiles

All native British reptiles are protected against intentional killing and injury under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In England, Scotland and Wales, slow-worm, common lizard, adder and grass snake are also protected against killing, injury and sale, barter or exchange, but their habitats or places of shelter are not specifically protected.

Great Crested Newts

Great crested newts and their habitat are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It is illegal to:

- intentionally or deliberately capture, kill or injure great crested newts
- intentionally, deliberately or recklessly* damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used for shelter or protection, including resting or breeding places (occupied or not)
- deliberately, intentionally or recklessly* disturb great crested newts when in a place of shelter
- sell, barter, exchange or transport or offer for sale great crested newts or parts of them. The legislation covers all life stages: eggs, larvae, juveniles and adults.

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are protected by British law under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it illegal to kill or capture them using certain methods. They are also protected in Britain under the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996), prohibiting cruelty and mistreatment. They're listed as a Species of Principle Importance in England under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 Section 41, in Wales under the Environment Act 2016, and in Scotland under the Nature Conservation Act 2004. Similarly, hedgehogs are on the Priority Species List for Northern Ireland.

Widespread Amphibians

In England, Scotland and Wales the common frog, common toad, smooth newt and palmate newt are all protected against sale, trade etc. under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Invertebrates

Certain invertebrate species are covered by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and given full protection against killing and injury, damage and/or destruction of their place of shelter. Other species are protected against sale only. For those species receiving full protection, it is illegal to:

- intentionally kill, injure or capture
- intentionally or recklessly* disturb
- intentionally or recklessly* damage, destroy or obstruct places of shelter or protection, including breeding sites (occupied or not)
- possess or transport an animal (or any part thereof) unless under licence
- sell or exchange animals.

Plants

Plants are protected by the law. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence for any person who is not "authorised" to intentionally uproot any wild plant. An "authorised" person can be the owner or occupier of the land on which the action is taken, or anybody authorised by them; or any person authorised in writing by the local authority for the area within which the action is taken. In addition, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) also includes, within Schedule 8, in the order of 60 plant species that it is illegal for any person to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy. It also makes it an offence to offer wild bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) bulbs for sale.

* In England and Wales, the term "reckless" has been added as an amendment to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as a result of the CRow Act 2000.

Appendix 3: Ecological Enhancements

Swift Boxes

Woodstone Swift Nest Box	Manthorpe Swift Brick
	

House Sparrow Box

Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace	Ibstock Eco Swift Box
	

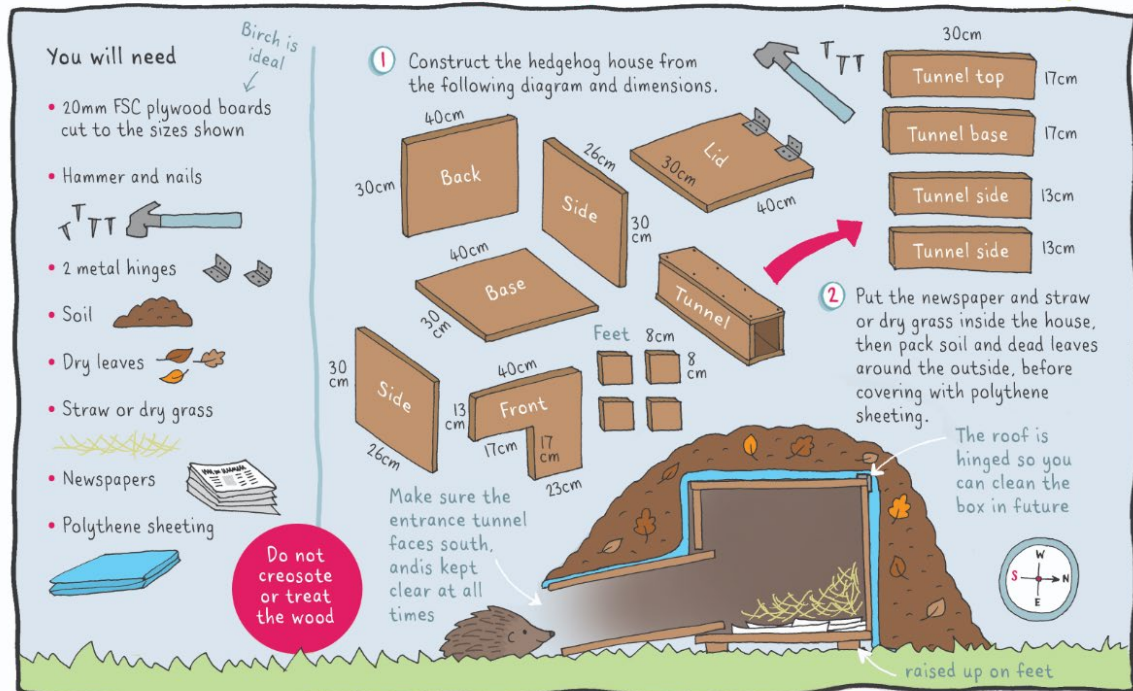
Bat Box

Schwegler 1FF Bat Box	Habibat 003 Bat Box
 A black, rectangular bat box with a bat silhouette embossed on the front. It is mounted on a tree trunk with two screws. The box has a white, slatted entrance at the bottom.	 A bat box constructed from reddish-brown bricks, stacked in a staggered pattern to form a rectangular structure. It has a blue-painted wooden base and a small, dark entrance at the bottom.

Examples of Hedgehog House

Igloo Hedgehog House
 A hedgehog house made of woven straw or reeds, shaped like an igloo. It has a dark, arched entrance and is situated in a grassy area with green plants in the background.

Make a deluxe hedgehog house



www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

Produced in collaboration with Hedgehog Street

Many wildlife species benefit greatly from considerate planting choices that still meet our practical and aesthetic needs. Plants and trees provide food for wildlife as well as places to nest and rest. Vegetation providing a variety of these functions creates an environment more beneficial for wildlife.

Non native species

Native species provide the best habitat for UK wildlife but there are also many non-native species, which are single flowering and/or provide fruits/nuts/seeds that can be used as food sources for insects, birds and small mammals. When using these non-native species in planting schemes, care should be taken to avoid invasive species such as Cotoneaster and Rhododendron. This is especially important when sites are adjacent to open countryside particularly nature reserves.



Butterfly bush

Uses of Wildlife Planting

Wildlife value can be easily incorporated into visually pleasing and useful green areas and amenity spaces, such as borders, grass verges and tree screens.

Attractive Borders: Well selected decorative borders can be valuable for many insects and birds. Native plants can be mixed with single flowering ornamental species to add aesthetic interest and increase the flowering period of a planting scheme.

Shrubs and hedges: Native spiky species like blackthorn and hawthorn are effective barriers when used in hedges. They also provide an attractive feature at all times of year especially when in blossom and fruit. Bushy areas of foliage provide useful nesting and feeding areas for birds and small mammals, as well as foraging/commuting corridors for bats.

Grasses mixes and verges: Leaving uncut areas of suitable grasses provides great wildlife value and is economical to manage. Diverse grassy areas and verges also create an attractive human environment with different flowers and colours. There are a range of native grass and flower mixes for various soil types available on the market.



Wild flower grass mix



Selecting Suitable Species

There are wildlife friendly species suitable for all situations, from fields, verges, shady corners or small gardens. Listed below are native wildlife friendly plant species organised by type and suitability for different locations.

Large Trees

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*
 Beech *Fagus sylvatica*
 English Elm *Ulmus procera*
 Oak *Quercus robur* or *Q. petraea*
 Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*
 White willow *Salix alba*
 Wild cherry *Prunus avium*



White willow

Medium/small trees

Alder *Alnus glutinosa*
 Aspen *Populus tremula*
 Crab apple *Malus sylvestris*
 Field maple *Acer campestre*
 Holly *Ilex aquifolium*
 Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*
 Silver birch *Betula pendula*
 Yew *Taxus baccata*



Tussocky grassland

Native shrubs

Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*
 Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*
 Elder *Sambucus nigra*
 Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*
 Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*
 Hazel *Corylus avellana*



Blackthorn

Plants for shady areas

Archangel *Lamium galeobdolon*
 Betony *Stachys officinalis*
 Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*
 Bugle *Ajuga reptans*
 Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*
 Ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea*
 Lily of the valley *Convallaria majalis*
 Lords-and ladies/cuckoopint *Arum maculatum*
 Nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*
 Primrose *Primula vulgaris*
 Sweet violet *Viola odorata*
 Wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*

Plants for marshy areas & pond edges

Bugle *Ajuga reptans*
 Hemp agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*
 Marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*
 Marsh woundwort *Stachys palustris*
 Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*
 Purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*
 Ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*
 Water avens *Geum rivale*
 Water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*
 Water mint *Mentha aquatica*
 Water violet *Hottonia palustris*
 Yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus*

**Beneficial cultivated plants
(generally non-natives)**

Grecian windflower *Anemone blanda*
Angelica *Angelica archangelica*
Aubretia *Aubretia deltoidea*
California poppy *Eschscholtzia californica*
Candytuft *Iberis sempervirens*
Christmas rose *Helleborus niger*
Cosmos *Cosmos bipinnatus*
Evening primrose *Oenothera biennis*
Fleabane *Erigeron* spp.
Forget-me-not *Myosotis* spp.
French marigold *Tagetes patula*
Globe thistle *Echinops ritro*
Grape hyacinth *Muscari botryodes*
Hollyhock *Althaea rosea*
Honesty *Lunaria rediviva*
Ice plant *Sedum spectabile*
Lenten rose *Helleborus orientalis*
Tree mallow *Lavatera* spp.
Michaelmas daisy *Aster nova-belgii*
Mint *Mentha x rotundifolia*
Perennial cornflower *Centaurea montana*
Perennial sunflower *Helianthus decapetalus*
Phlox *Phlox paniculata*
Poached-egg plant *Limnantes douglasii*
Red valerian *Centranthus ruber*
Snapdragon *Antirrhinum majus*
Spring crocus *Crocus chrysanthus* and hybrids
Sweet alyssum *Lobularia maritima*
Sweet bergamot *Monarda didyma*
Sweet William *Dianthus barbatus*
Tobacco plant *Nicotiana affinis*
Wallflower *Cheiranthus cheiri*
Alpine rock-cress *Arabis alpina*
Winter aconite *Eranthis hyemalis*
Yellow alyssum *Alyssum saxatile*

Native wildflowers for borders

Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*
Betony *Stachys officinalis*
Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*
Chicory *Cichorium intybus*
Chives *Allium schoenoprasum*
Common poppy *Papaver rhoeas*
Corncockle *Agrostemma githago*
Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus*
Corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*
Cowslip *Primula veris*
Cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*
Dame's-violet *Hesperis matronalis*
Devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*
Field scabious *Knautia arvensis*
Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*
Goldenrod *Solidago virgaurea*
Great mullein *Verbascum thapsus*
Greater knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*
Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*
Herb-robert *Geranium robertianum*
Lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*
Marjoram *Origanum vulgare*
Meadow cranesbill *Geranium pratense*
Common mallow *Malva sylvestris*
Oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*
Primrose *Primula vulgaris*
Red campion *Silene dioica*
Snowdrop *Galanthus nivalis*
Spiked speedwell *Veronica spicata*
Tansy *Tanacetum vulgare*
Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*
Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris*
White campion *Silene alba*
Wild thyme *Thymus drucei*
Yellow loosestrife *Lysimachia vulgaris*



Marjoram



Cornflower



Perennial sunflower

Appendix 4: Ecological Experience

Elizabeth Pimley: Head of Ecology and Principal Ecologist, BSc (Hons) PhD CEnv MCIEEM

Elizabeth has worked in both the academic and consultancy ecology sectors since 2000 with a focus on mammalian ecology, particularly badgers, dormice, bats, water voles and otters. Elizabeth manages the consultancy as well as being involved in project delivery. She has managed ecological projects, ranging in size and type, both in the UK and abroad. She regularly advises clients on the planning process in relation to ecology. Elizabeth has expertise in a wide variety of ecological survey techniques including Preliminary Ecological Appraisals/Phase 1 Habitat assessments and a variety of protected species surveys (e.g. the aforementioned mammal species as well as reptiles and great crested newts).

Elizabeth also devises ecological mitigation schemes, both as part of protected species mitigation licences (e.g. bats, great crested newts, badgers, dormice) and for projects not requiring licensing (e.g. reptiles). She has produced a wide variety of preliminary ecological appraisals, BREEAM/CSH Ecology Assessments, mitigation licences for protected species (including Bat Mitigation Class Licences), Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA), Construction Ecological Management Plans, Habitat Regulations Assessments, Biodiversity Enhancement Schemes and Ecological Design Strategies, as well as writing for scientific journals, books and magazines.

Elizabeth offers a scientific approach to projects with additional skills in radiotracking, bat call analysis, statistical analysis, home range and compositional habitat analysis and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping. Elizabeth holds Natural England and Natural Resources Wales licences for bats and dormice, as well as Natural England licences for great crested newts and water voles. She is also a Registered Consultant of the Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) and holds a CSCS card.

Michelle Newman: Ecologist, BSc (Hons)

Michelle has worked in ecological consultancy for several years and has also volunteered for a number of nature conservation organisations over the years. She is experienced in undertaking Phase 1 Habitat surveys and protected species surveys including those for bats, birds, otters, water voles, badgers, great crested newts and reptiles (including adder handling experience). She has also undertaken a variety of invertebrate surveys, specialising in bumble bee surveys. She holds a CSCS card and has worked as an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) on a wide variety of sites. Michelle has prepared preliminary ecological appraisals and protected species reports for a range of projects. In addition to project delivery, she is also involved with the management of Wild Service projects and advises clients on the ecological aspects of the planning process. She is experienced in analysing bat call data using a variety of software packages. She is currently working towards personal Natural England licences for great crested newts, bats and white-clawed crayfish.

Ben Goodger: Principal Ecologist, MA (Oxon) MSc CEnv MCIEEM

Ben has 20 years' experience as a professional ecologist, five in nature conservation and 15 in consultancy. As a consultant he has worked on a wide range of development projects at sites across the UK. These have ranged from housing and employment developments, land reclamation projects, road schemes and major infrastructure projects. He has undertaken numerous site assessments, using information obtained from habitat and protected species surveys and desk-based studies. He is particularly skilled in EclA and the design of mitigation solutions, and has written ecology chapters for a number of ESs. He has also undertaken several HRAs. Ben is a skilled botanist and has undertaken many plant and habitat surveys in his career, including Phase 1 habitat surveys, National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys and targeted plant surveys.



Wild Service

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

MITIGATION

CONSERVATION

- We provide ecological surveys and assessments, mitigation, advice and guidance regarding wildlife, plants and habitats for both development and conservation projects throughout the UK.
- Wild Service is the Ecological Consultancy for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. As such, the company reinvests its profits into local conservation work.
- We are also part of a wider network of Wildlife Trust Consultancies enabling us to offer national delivery with local expertise.

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- We offer the following types of service to clients:

Ecological Surveys
Protected Species Licences
Ecological Management Plans
Biodiversity Net Gain
Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA)
BREEAM Assessments
Mitigation and Enhancement
Arboricultural Surveys
Landscape Consultancy Services
Green Infrastructure Planning (Building with Nature)

Contact us at
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Website: <https://wildservice.net/>

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