

Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

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Ferns Farm
Turton Road
Tottington
BL8 3QH

National Grid Reference: SD 76810 13750



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Document Context

As part of a proposed planning application with Bury Metropolitan Borough Council concerning the erection of a replacement dwelling at Ferns Farm in Tottington, Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd undertook a preliminary roost assessment in relation to bats with an inclusive inspection for breeding birds in September 2024.

To support this application, Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd have been commissioned to produce appropriate documentation via the provision of a suitably detailed Biodiversity Enhancement Plan.

Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

A Biodiversity Enhancement Plan with visual key has been provided (see **Figure 1**), with recommendations in relation to breeding birds, bats and hedgehogs.

The proposed enhancement plan comprises the installation of an **open-fronted swallow structure** to the north-west of the site, south facing, inclusive of **x2 swallow cups** to mitigate for the loss of nests within the open stable structures. In addition, one **1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace** is proposed to be installed on the northern gable end of the replacement dwelling.

For more general breeding bird species, such as robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*), and goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), **two Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes** should be placed individually on any suitable tree, at a minimum height of 2 metres above ground and facing the north elevation. Tree locations have been selected from **24103_P15B_Proposed Site Plan** and have been proposed on the north and south boundaries of the site.

With these measures shown in **Figure 1**, it is considered that the site will be suitably enhanced for breeding birds, with the loss of nesting sites adequately replaced. Further details of the bird boxes are described within **Appendix I**.

A proposed enhancement measures towards bats has also been recommended, namely **one tree-mounted Bat Box** suggested to be installed on a south facing aspect of a suitable tree onsite.

However, it should be noted that during the preliminary roost assessment at the site, the existing dwelling to be replaced onsite was categorised as pertaining to 'Moderate' bat roost suitability in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust – Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 4th ed. (2023), thus triggering the requirement for further surveys.

As such, dependent upon the results of the further surveys it may be necessary to apply for a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence (EPSML) to allow the development to legally proceed. The EPSML application would include the design of bespoke mitigation appropriate for the type, number, and species of the roost(s) recorded, and as a result this mitigation cannot be included within this enhancement plan.

The reader should therefore be aware that the enhancement measures for bats outlined above **does not absolve the applicant from their responsibilities in relation to the recommended further surveys**, and the EPSML application process should a roost or roosts be identified at the application site.

The enhancement measure outlined above thus will need to be **separate from any subsequent mitigation** and cannot form part of any future EPSML application.

Furthermore, a **hedgehog home / highway(gates)**, have been advised. These provisions will suitably enhance the development site for all species highlighted.

It is further recommended that these enhancement measures are undertaken in tandem with native replanting where feasible; native landscaping would improve the value of the site for a wide variety of native wildlife through provision of food and shelter, whereas non-native species are frequently not used or are of lower value to UK biodiversity. See **Appendix I** for native species to include within any planting.

A visual aid is provided through **Figure 1**.

Timings

The proposed enhancement measures for bats and birds, as indicated above, should be implemented prior to the respective breeding / active seasons for these groups (typically March – August for nesting birds and May – August / September for bats). The other enhancement measures should be erected following completion of the works.

All wild birds (with only minor exceptions) and their nests, whilst being built or containing eggs or dependent young, are protected from destruction, damage and disturbance under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is a punishable offence to interfere in any way with an active nest. As such, it is imperative that the mitigation measures are erected prior to this time period and are left undisturbed through the breeding season, unless they have been checked by a suitably qualified ecologist within 48 hours or less of any work which may have potential to disturb the nests.

All British bats and their roosts are afforded full protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and are listed in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (EU Exit). When dealing with cases where a European Protected Species (all UK bats) may be affected, a planning authority is a competent authority within the meaning of the Regulation 7 of the Regulations, that has a statutory duty as the local authority to have due regard to the provisions of the Regulations in the exercise of its functions.

Hedgehogs are a priority species, listed on Schedule 6 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) as well as being on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd can confirm that the contents of this document can be relied upon, and the information contained within has been presented using best practice survey methodology and an understanding of the site, benchmarked by the long-standing experience of the Ecologists affiliated with the company.

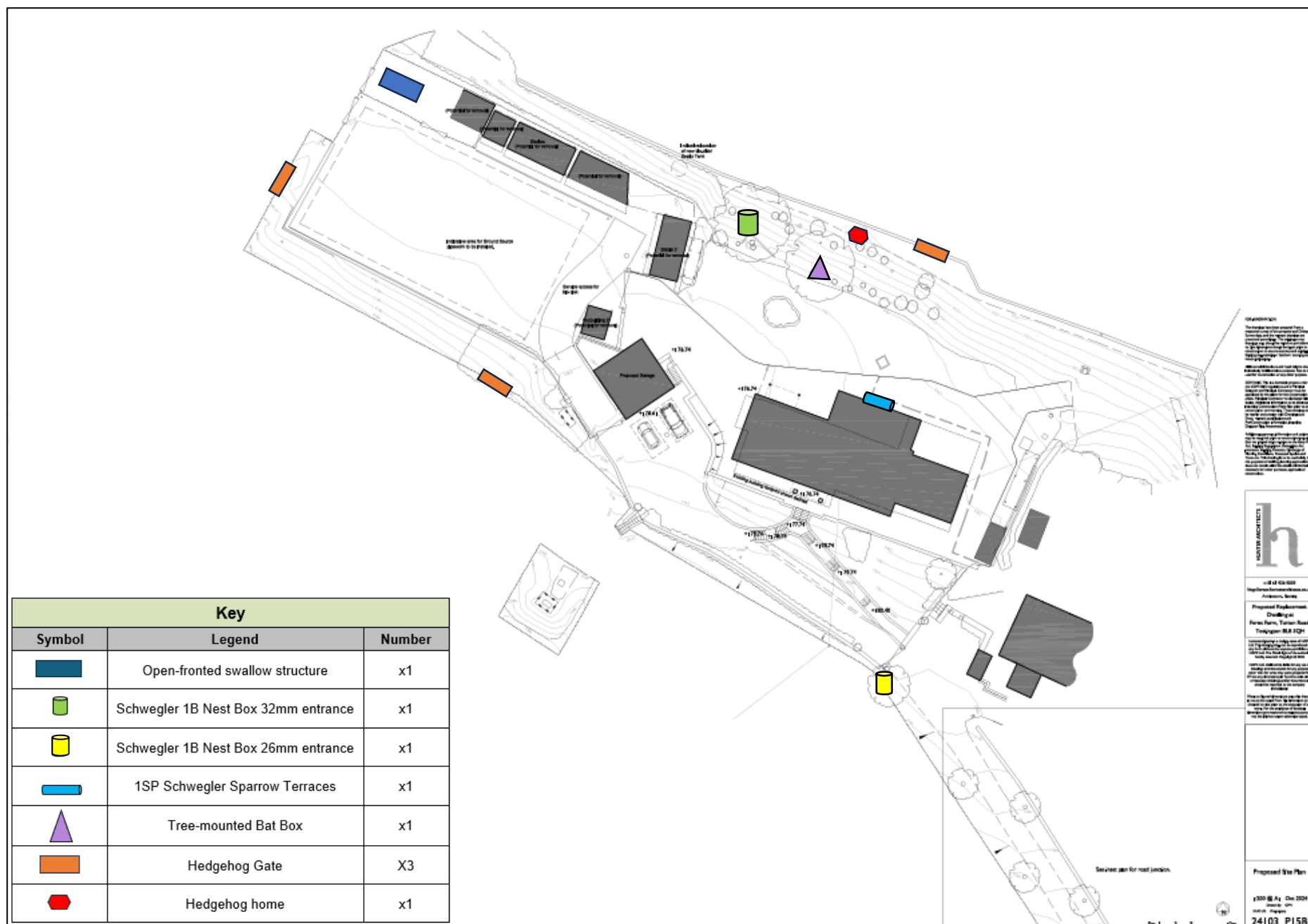
Best wishes,



Miss. H. McGlynn

(03/03/2025)

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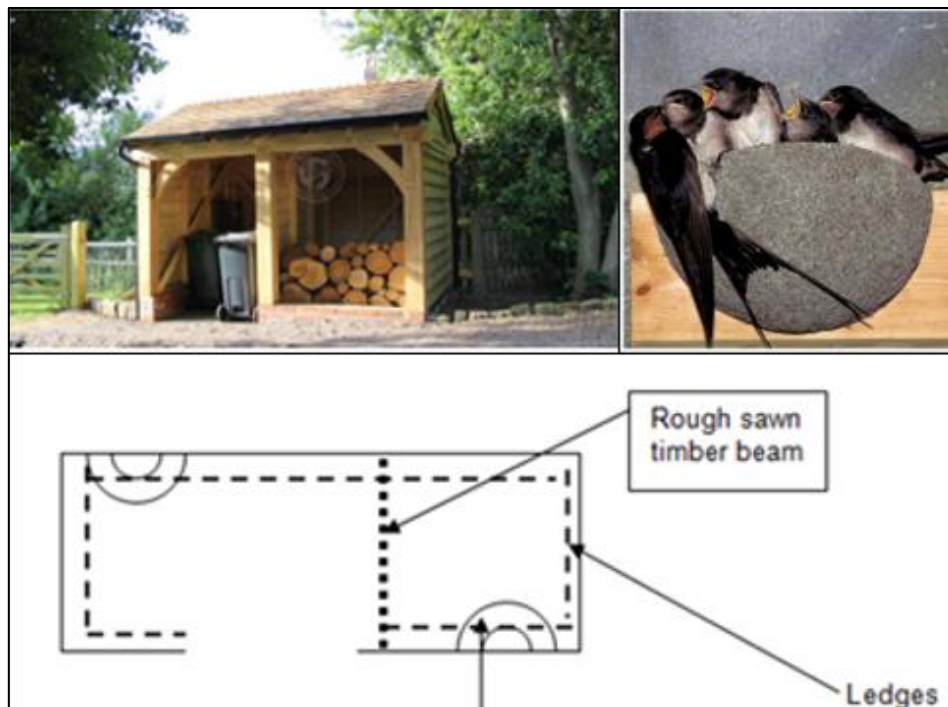


Appendix I – Guide to enhancement / mitigation

Enhancing development site for Breeding Birds

Swallow Structure: To offset the loss of confirmed swallow nesting sites within the site, a new permanent provision to maintain the favourable breeding conditions for swallow should be erected within the paddocks to the east of the residential structure. The following construction measures should take place to create swallow provision:

- Creation of an open style sheds (timber, with a pitched or flat roof) as shown below to replicate the conditions to be lost within the buildings being demolished and offer swallows a means of nesting below shelter following their summer migration.
- Artificial swallow nest cups will be placed inside. **Two swallow cups** to be spaced inside the shelter to compensate for the loss of breeding habitats.
- The shelter will be placed in proximity to the proposed residential development with a south facing opening frontage.



Schwegler 1B Nest Box: The 1B nest box will attract a wide range of species and is available with different entrance hole sizes to prevent birds from competing with each other for the boxes. The nest box can be attached to the tree or wall using an aluminium nail or by hanging over a branch and is made from Woodcrete to ensure that it lasts for decades. The front panel is removable for inspection and cleaning. Two different entrance sizes have been suggested in the enhancement plan in order to enhance the site for a variety of bird species. Should be placed on the northern aspect to avoid overheating.



See: <https://www.nhbs.com/1b-schwegler-nest-box>



1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace: The current UK sparrow population is declining and this is thought to be due to habitat destruction and lack of suitable nesting spaces. Sparrows are social birds and like to nest in company, this sparrow terrace is ideal for three sparrow families. Made of Schwegler's revolutionary wood-concrete mix, this terrace is durable, breathable and will last many decades. It may also occasionally attract tits, redstarts and spotted flycatchers.

The terrace can be fixed on to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall. It is suitable for all types of houses in built-up areas, and on industrial and agricultural buildings such as barns, sheds and factories. Ideally place the

terrace 2m or more above the ground. Either install on the surface of the wall using the plugs and screws provided or install directly into the wall. Cleaning is advisable but not necessary, and the front panel can be removed by turning the screw hook.

See: [1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace](#)

Enhancing development site for Bats

Tree-mounted bat box: The 2F is the standard and most popular Schwegler bat box. It is ideal as a starter box to see if there are bats in your area or to provide much needed secure roosting space. It has been designed as a summer roosting space for bats and has a simple entrance hole at the front.

The 2F is manufactured from long-lasting Woodcrete, which is a blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, and will last for at least 20 - 25 years, making it suitable for long-term mitigation projects. Woodcrete is breathable and maintains a stable temperature inside the box and the 2F is painted black to absorb warmth. It also provides a rough surface for bats to cling to and climb up.

The 2F bat box can be sited on a tree or building and is best positioned at a height of between 3m to 6m in an open sunny position. A group of 3 to 5 boxes facing in different directions will provide a variety of micro-habitats.



Enhancing development site for Hedgehogs



Hedgehog Highways: Hedgehog numbers have dramatically declined in recent years. Research suggests that this is partly because it is becoming harder for hedgehogs to move freely due to an increase in the number of solid walls and fences being erected around gardens. This reduces the available foraging area and so restricts the amount of food that they can eat as well as reducing the possibility of meeting a mate. Creating a hole in a garden wall or fence will allow local hedgehogs to pass through from garden to garden safely.

A hole measuring 13cm by 13cm is the right size for a hedgehog to pass through but too small for most pets. Once you have made your hole in the fence or wall, you can fix the Eco Hedgehog Hole Plate to the fence, ensuring that the hole does not get blocked or stretched. The plate has six screw holes, three along each side, which can be used to fix the plate to your fence or wall. Additional holes can be made in the plastic if required.

The Eco Hedgehog Hole Plate is made from 100% recycled plastic, which is mostly derived from plastic waste from farms across the UK. The plastic hedgehog hole is UV-stabilised so will not rot or degrade over time.

Specification: Material: Low density Polyethylene board (100% recycled plastic)

* Dimensions: Height 26cm x width 23cm

* Entrance Hole: 13cm x 13cm

* Country of Manufacture: England

See: <https://www.nhbs.com/eco-hedgehog-hole-fence-plate>

Hedgehog Home

Exterior quality 12mm resin bonded ply. The box remains untreated on the inside. Best situated in a quiet corner of the garden, and covered with leaves and other garden debris. Removable lid for cleaning purposes and reinforced corners, manufactured with surface sunk nails to resist rusting.

Nest box size: Height 22cm x Width 38cms x Length 47cm

Environmentally positive: Direct action to help hedgehog survival rates, encouraging biodiversity; FSC timber; Zero carbon footprint in use.



Native Planting

New feature landscaping should incorporate native woody plants as opposed to non-native species that are of significantly less benefit to biodiversity. Species such as Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are native and will provide a valuable resource for a myriad of wildlife as opposed to non-native, exotic species which are generally much less effective, particularly to pollinator groups including bees, butterflies and moths.

Suitable Trees	Suitable Woody Shrubs
English Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)
Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>)
Wild Service Tree (<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>)	Guelder Rose (<i>Viburnum opulus</i>)
Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)
Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Wild Privet (<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>)
Goat Willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>)	Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)
Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	