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BURY INTERCHANGE, FOOTBRIDGE INSTALLATION – BAT AND BIRD BOX SPECIFICATION TECHNICAL NOTE

This document outlines the bat and bird box requirements, designs/specifications of the wildlife boxes, as well as suitable locations for their installation within the site.

Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy

Bat and bird boxes provide artificial roost sites in areas where the habitat otherwise provides limited roosting opportunities. Bat and bird boxes incorporated into the design will increase the site's ecological value by providing roosting opportunities for bats and will increase the availability of nesting sites for birds which commonly use artificial boxes.

Appropriate siting of the boxes is important to increase the likelihood of uptake and make them more attractive to wildlife; further details are provided below. The proposed positions of the bat and boxes are shown in the Site Masterplan [Drawing Ref: 16012- OOB- ZZZ- ZZZ- D- LA- 000001].

Bat and bird boxes types are also recommended below; however, similar products are likely to be available from alternative suppliers. Examples of suppliers that stock the boxes recommended include:

- Wildcare – <https://www.wildcare.co.uk>
- NBHS – <https://www.nhbs.com>

Specifications

Specifications of the bat box types recommended for installing on site are provided within Table 1 below. Specifications for bird boxes to be installed within trees on the site are provided in Table 2. In total 2no of bat boxes and 2no of bird boxes will be incorporated into the scheme design on existing trees to enhance bat roosting and bird nesting opportunities within the site.

Table 1: Bat Box Specifications

Bat Box Specification	Image
2F Schwegler Bat Box This is a standard nest box designed for smaller British bats and provides a summer roosting space for bats. Featuring a simple entrance hole at the front with a rough outer surface for bats to cling to and climb up. 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. Dimensions: Height 33cm x Diameter 16cm	

Table 2: Bird Box Specifications

Bird Box Specification	Image
1B Schwegler Nest Box (26mm & 32mm) These Woodcrete nest boxes are famous for their durability - lasting for at least 20-25 years. Woodcrete is a breathable blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, whilst preventing condensation and maintaining more constant temperatures inside than wooden boxes. They are carefully designed to provide a stable environment and to mimic natural nest and roost sites with internal brood chamber dimensions that are similar to natural woodpecker cavities. Schwegler have a patented method of installation on trees that prevents the tree trunk from growing over the hanger from which the box is suspended. The 26mm entrance hole suits Blue, Marsh, Coal and Crested Tit and possibly Wren. All other species are prevented from using the nest box due to the smaller entrance hole. The 32mm entrance hole will attract larger species such as House Sparrow, Pied Flycatcher, Nuthatch and has even enticed Bat species.	

Siting, Installation & Maintenance of Bat/Bird Boxes

The bat and bird boxes should be sited in accordance with the Site Masterplan [Drawing Ref: 16012- OOB- ZZZ- ZZZ- D- LA- 000001]. Failure to do so may result in boxes being sited in sub-optimal positions that could lead to lower take-up by bats and birds.

Bat boxes should be sited on south-east to south-west aspect of trees, at a minimum height of 3m, if possible, with a clear flight path.

Bird boxes should be sited between the north and east aspects of trees, at a minimum of 2m above ground.

Proximity to suitable commuting and foraging habitat has also been considered during the siting process. It must be ensured that there is unobstructed access for bats and birds entering and leaving the boxes. Bat and bird boxes must be positioned away from artificial light spill.

It is recommended that new bat and bird boxes are installed during autumn and winter to ensure they are ready for use the following breeding season, although it is possible to install them at any time of year. Many birds will enter nest boxes during the autumn and winter, looking for a suitable place to roost or feed. They often use the same boxes for nesting the following spring.

All bat and bird boxes must be installed in line with the manufacturer's specifications to ensure no hazard is posed to members of the public.

Should the recommended boxes not be available, similar products are likely to be available from alternative suppliers. Any substitutions should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

Should the existing retained trees recommended not be suitable for installation of any boxes, an ecologist must be consulted, and an alternative location may be used, or it must be substituted for an alternative bat or bird box as described above.

Bat boxes do not typically require any maintenance. Bat boxes can only be inspected by appropriately licensed ecologists. Tree-mounted boxes should be replaced if they are damaged or removed. Bird boxes should be cleared out annually after the breeding bird season, with box maintenance recommended between October and February (inclusive).

Yours sincerely,



Emma Hickson
Senior Ecologist
TEP