

BIRD AND BAT BOX PLAN

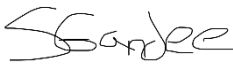
DECEMBER 2024

JD Campus,
Hollins Brook Way,
Bury,
BL9 8RR

U R B A N
G R E E N



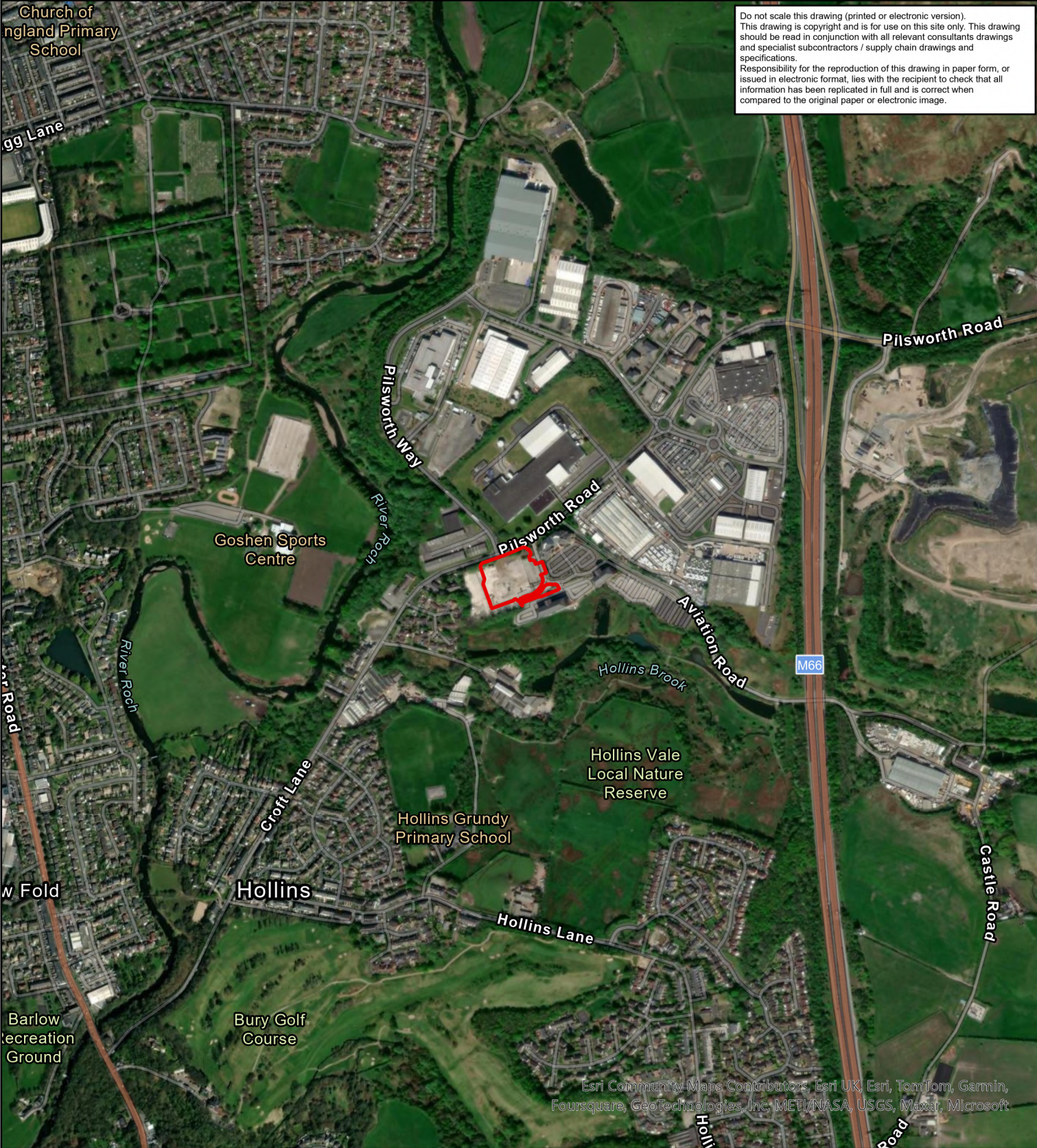
QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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02	18/12/2024	Amendment to location of proposed boxes	SG	JH	

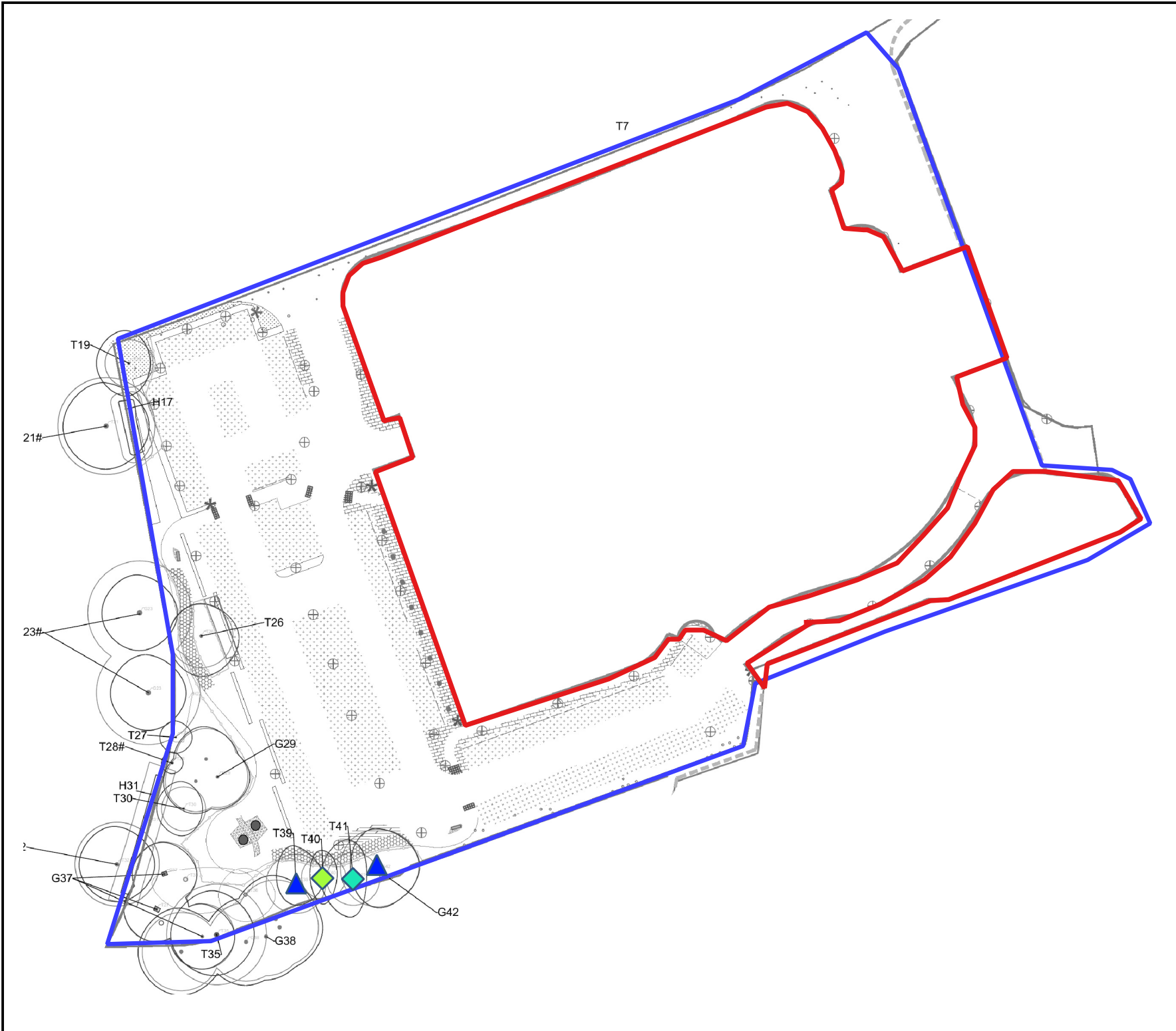
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Legend: Red Line Boundary	0.85 Kilometers	N U R B A N G R E E N A: Ground Floor, The Tower, Deva City Office Park, Trinity Way, Manchester M3 7BF T: +44 (0) 161 312 3131 weareurbangreen.co.uk
Client: JD Sports	Issue: 01	Figure: 01
Project: JD Campus	Scale @ A4 1:10,000	
Title: Site Context	Approved by: CL	Checked by: OJ
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Legend



- ▭ Site Boundary
- ▭ Wider ownership boundary

Bird Boxes

- ◆ Vivara Pro Woodstone Seville 32mm Nest Box
- ◆ Vivara Pro Barcelona Woodstone Open Nest Box

Bat Boxes

- ▲ Crevice Bat Box

0 250 500 m

**U R B A N
G R E E N**

Client: **JD Campus**

Project: **JD Campus, Phase 2**

Title: **Bird and Bat Box Plan**

Issue: **01**

Drawn: SG	Checked: JH	Approved: JH
Project: UG1466	Scale @ A3: 1:3000	Date: 18/12/2024
Dwg No: UG_1466_ECO_BBBP		Revision: 01

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Scheme

- 1.1.1.1 JD Group are proposing to develop land at Hollins Brook Way in Bury (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’). The proposals include the development of the site in two phases. Phase 2 proposals include the construction of a multi-story hub building, parking, and leisure areas.
- 1.1.1.2 Urban Green has been appointed to provide a Bird and Bat Box Plan (BBBP) for the site.

1.2 Site Context

- 1.2.1.1 The site is located at National Grid Reference SD 81523 08675 and comprises a total area of approximately 0.8ha (see Figure 1).
- 1.2.1.2 The site is located on the rural-urban fringe of Bury, which is located approximately 2.5km north-west of the site. Pilsworth Industrial Estate is present immediately to the north-east of the site, comprising office blocks and commercial retail outlets. Hollins Vale Local Nature Reserve immediately borders the south of the site. Hollins Brook and the River Roch are present close to the site, located approximately 100m south and 230m west of the site, respectively.

1.3 Purpose of this Report

- 1.3.1.1 Urban Green have been appointed to complete a BBBP in order to discharge Condition 32 of the associated Planning Application. Condition 32 states:
- 1.3.1.2 *“As part of a reserved matters application, a biodiversity net gain assessment and plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The plan should consist of native trees species and a bird and bat box strategy.”*
- 1.3.1.3 This document specifically focuses on the requirement for a bird and bat box strategy.
- 1.3.1.4 Appendix 1 includes the relevant legislation.

2 Previous Reports

2.1 Phase One Development (Urban Green, 2022)

- 2.1.1.1 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was carried out for Phase one of the development on February 2022, detailing the site ecological baseline and potential to support various protected species.
- 2.1.1.2 The PEA provided the following information on confirmed and potential site use by birds and bats:
- 43 records of protected or notable birds were returned within 1km of the site during the desk study. The following bird species were also identified on site during the field survey:
 - Feral pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*)
 - Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)
 - Blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)
 - Magpie (*Pica pica*)
 - A total of 83 records of bats were returned from the desk study, including:
 - 23 records relating to bat roosts, including common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*).
 - 59 records relating to field signs, including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), daubentons bat (*Myotis duabentonii*), noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctule*), and unidentified bat species (*Chiroptera sp.*).
- 2.1.1.3 A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) survey was conducted and three trees (referenced as T14, T34 and T35) were assessed as having low to moderate bat roosting potential during the field survey. T34 was assessed as providing moderate bat roosting potential, therefore two nocturnal emergence/re-entry surveys were undertaken.
- 2.1.1.4 Bat activity was recorded during the dusk emergence survey, with a peak count of four common pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*). Activity level indicated valuable foraging habitat along the southwestern treeline near Hollins Nature Reserve (LNR). No activity or roosts were observed during the dawn re-entry survey.

2.2 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Urban Green, 2024)

- 2.2.1.1 A PEA was carried out for Phase two of the development in August 2024 by Jake Healy and Olivia Jones of Urban Green.
- 2.2.1.2 The site was found to offer resting /foraging opportunities for nesting birds within the ornamental hedgerow south of the site. Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) was identified utilising the hedgerow during the site visit. It was found likely that birds use these habitats to rest/forage.
- 2.2.1.3 A PRA was carried out and the site was found to offer suitable commuting habitat for bats but low suitability for foraging bats. No further surveys were required.
- 2.2.1.4 Lighting mitigation and introduction of mixed native vegetation to landscape designs for the site was recommended to provide additional value as foraging resource for local bat populations.

3 Bat Boxes

- 3.1.1.1 A total of 2 bat boxes are to be installed across the site, which, in addition to the 3 already installed on site, are expected to be suitable provision for the size and nature of the site following the results of previous surveys. The selected bat boxes will offer a variety of suitable conditions, specifically targeting pipistrelle species observed foraging and commuting on the site during earlier nocturnal bat surveys.
- 3.1.1.2 Externally mounted bat boxes are to be fitted onto new buildings. Please refer to Table 1 for the bat box specifications example. A bat box design of similar specification can be selected for the site.

Table 1- Bat box specification

Bird Box Type	Image	Total Number of Boxes
Improved Crevice Bat Box – double chamber Height: 330mm Width: 100mm Length: 160mm Weight: 1.4kg		2

3.1.2 Positioning of Bat Boxes

- 3.1.2.1 Opportunities for the installation of artificial bat boxes within the proposed site extent are limited. The buildings to be developed are in sub optimal areas and will have high levels of noise and light associated with them, while the proposed tree planting include whips which are too small to support the specified boxes. Therefore, it is recommended that the boxes are affixed to retained trees within the wider ownership boundary. Specifically, within the southwestern corner, that bounds Hollins Vale Local Nature Reserve.
- 3.1.2.2 Bat boxes must be positioned between 4–6m high and are most effective when located on a south-east to south-western facing aspect, as this will provide additional heat throughout the day. Bats prefer to change roosts to benefit from varying ambient temperatures, so bat boxes are to be clustered in small groups. Please refer to Figure 2 for the Location Plan.

3.1.3 Timing of Installation

- 3.1.3.1 Bat boxes are to be installed prior to the operational phase of the development commencing. Appendix 2 includes the Schedule of Works.

3.1.4 Maintenance of Bat Boxes

- 3.1.4.1 Bat boxes are made of hard-wearing material designed to last several years and are considered self-cleaning, therefore do not require much maintenance once installed. Bat boxes should be checked periodically (e.g. every two years) to assess their use and the condition of the boxes. Appendix 2 includes the maintenance schedule.
- 3.1.4.2 If any boxes are identified as damaged or missing, they are to be replaced with a box of similar specification.

4 Bird Boxes

- 4.1.1.1 The development has the potential to enhance bird nesting opportunities through the provision of bird nest boxes. No specified number of bird boxes was indicated by the condition or the PEA. It has been determined that adding 2 bird boxes to the 4 already installed during Phase 1 will provide adequate provision for the site's scope.
- 4.1.1.2 Bird boxes come in various types and sizes, which vary in their suitability from species to species. Table 2 provides details of bird nest box types and the likely species they attract. Bird species that are known to inhabit the local area and readily utilise artificial nest boxes have been selected. Boxes of similar specifications as those detailed in Table 3 can be selected, in the case the example boxes are not available.

Table 2 – Bird nest box hole sizes and associated species.

Box entrance hole size	Associated species
28mm	Blue tit (<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>), tree sparrows (<i>Passer montanus</i>), great tits (<i>Parus major</i>), crested tits (<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>)
100mm (open fronted)	Robin (<i>Erithacus</i>), Wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>), Redstart (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>)

Table 3 – Bird nest boxes that can be bought from websites such as nhbs.com, habibat.co.uk or other online retailers.

Bird box type	Image	Number of boxes
Vivara Pro Woodstone Seville 32mm nest box (externally mounted) Dimensions: Entrance hole diameter: 32mm Width: 20cm Height: 31cm Length: 20cm Weight: 6.9kg Material: WoodStone®		1
Vivara Pro Barcelona WoodStone Open Nest Box Dimensions: Width: 19cm Height: 24cm Length: 17.5cm Entrance hole: Open		1

4.1.2 Positioning of Bird Boxes

- 4.1.2.1 Opportunities for the installation of artificial bird boxes within the proposed site extent are limited. The buildings to be developed are in sub optimal areas and will have high levels of noise and light associated with them, while the proposed tree planting include whips which are too small to support the specified boxes. Therefore, it is recommended that the boxes are affixed to retained trees within the wider ownership boundary. Specifically, within the southwestern corner, that bounds Hollins Vale Local Nature Reserve.
- 4.1.2.2 Bird boxes are most effective when positioned on a north-east to north-west facing aspect to prevent overheating during the summer nesting season. Care should be taken to make sure boxes are not angled in such a manner to allow rain to enter them. Nest boxes are to be affixed to vertical surfaces on new buildings at a minimum height of 3m. Please refer to Figure 2 for the Location Plan.

4.1.3 Timing of Installation

- 4.1.3.1 Bird boxes are to be installed prior to the occupation of the selected trees the boxes are to be situated upon. Appendix 2 includes the Schedule of Works.

4.1.4 Maintenance of Bird Boxes

- 4.1.4.1 The following maintenance measures are to be completed, following the installation of the boxes:
- Bird boxes will require periodic checking and cleaning, (e.g. once every two years).
 - Eggs (or parts of eggs) may only be removed from nest boxes during the period 1 September to 31 January, and then only if that nest box is not currently in use by birds for breeding purposes.
 - Disused nests must be removed and cleaned using boiling water to remove parasites. Boxes should be left to dry before replacing the lid. Insecticides and flea powders must not be used.
 - If any boxes are identified as damaged or missing, they are to be replaced with a box of similar specification.
- 4.1.4.2 **Note bird boxes must only be opened and cleaned outside the bird nesting season (which is between March to September inclusive).**

5 References

NHBS. *Improved Crevice Bat Box*. Available URL: <https://www.nhbs.com/improved-crevice-bat-box>

NHBS. Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box. Available URL: <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-seville-32mm-woodstone-nest-box>

NHBS. Vivara Pro Barcelona WoodStone Open Nest Box. Available URL: <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-barcelona-woodstone-open-nest-box>

Urban Green (2022a). Bat Survey Report: JD Campus, Bury. Ref: UG_1466_ECO_BSR_o1

Urban Green (2023). Bird and Bat Box Plan: JD Campus, Phase 1, Bury. Ref: UG_1466_BBBP_Phase_1_o0

Urban Green (2024). Preliminary Ecological Appraisal: JD Campus, Bury. UG_1466_ECO_PEA_o1

Urban Green (2022b). Preliminary Ecological Appraisal: JD Campus, Bury. Ref: UG_1466_ECO_PEA_o3

Appendix 1 – Relevant Legislation

Bats

Legislation relating to European Protected Species (e.g. bats, otter, great crested newt)

European Protected Species and their resting places (e.g. bat roosts) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transpose the European Union's 'Habitats Directive' (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (EC Habitats Directive) into UK law. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European Sites', the protection of 'European Protected Species' (EPS), and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. EPS are listed on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take certain animals listed in Schedule 5;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy any structure or place which any wild animal specified in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection.

In addition, under this legislation there are offences relating to sale, possession and control of wild animals listed in Schedule 5.

Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 it is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal listed as a European Protected Species;
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species in such a way as to be likely:
- to impair their ability:
 - to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or;
 - in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate, or;
- to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal, or;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

In addition, under this legislation there are offences relating to possession, control sale and exchange of an EPS.

Great crested newt, otter and several species of bat are listed as a SoPI under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

Breeding Birds

With certain exceptions¹, all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by Section 1 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). Therefore, it is an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; or
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

These offences do not apply to hunting of birds listed in Schedule 2 subject to various controls.

Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive further protection, thus for these species it is also an offence to:

- intentionally or recklessly disturb any bird while it is nest building, or is at a nest containing eggs or young; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb the dependent young of any such bird.

¹ Some species, such as game birds, are exempt in certain circumstances.

Appendix 2 - Timings of Works

Box Positioning

During construction works	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Erect boxes	Prior to the occupation of the buildings the boxes are to be situated upon.											

Box Maintenance

Habitat maintenance box	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Box checks to see if boxes are in good condition, working appropriately, and/or require cleaning				
Bird box cleaning				

Key

	Recommended times when works can be conducted
	Times to avoid work either through recommendation or under licence