

UoR URS Building

Biodiversity Enhancements Plan

Prepared on behalf of
University of Reading

Draft Report

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Biodiversity Enhancements Plan

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UoR URS Building

Biodiversity Enhancements Plan

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Appendix 2 230711-CPW-XX-XX-D-E-221001 S3 PROPOSED EXTERNAL LIGHTING
P01

UoR URS Building

Biodiversity Enhancements Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 Ecological Planning & Research Ltd (EPR) was commissioned by the University of Reading to provide a Biodiversity Enhancements Plan for the refurbishment of the URS building, Whiteknights Campus, Reading. This plan will outline the specifications and locations of biodiversity enhancements, specifically wildlife boxes,
- 1.2 This plan will not discuss habitat enhancements and management, as these are set out in detail in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (EPR 2025).
- 1.3 The LEMP also states that:

“Bat, bird and Hedgehog compensation / enhancement features include:

- *Three bat boxes (mixture of Schwegler 2F and 1FF, or similar approved) to be installed on the URS building;*
- *Three bird boxes (mixture of Schwegler 1B and 2H, or similar approved) to be installed on retained mature trees; and*
- *One Hedgehog box, located in suitable habitat.”*

Description of Site

- 1.4 The Site consists of the URS building itself and immediate surrounds composed of hardstanding, grassland and ornamental planting. Formal hedgerows run along the northern and eastern borders and part of the parking area to the west of the Site. A number of mature trees stand in the surrounding area.

Description of Development

- 1.5 The Proposals represent Phase 3 of the overall refurbishment of the URS building. This Phase includes the installation of two external stairwells on the outside of the building, on the eastern and southern facades.

2. WILDLIFE BOX SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 Locations of the wildlife boxes outlined below and shown in **Figure 1** were informed by the following documents:

- 2360383-ACG-W033-00-DR-A-18310-Landscape Plan (**Appendix 1**)
- 230711-CPW-XX-XX-D-E-221001 S3 PROPOSED EXTERNAL LIGHTING P01 (**Appendix 2**)

Bat boxes

- 2.2 Three bat boxes are to be installed on buildings surrounding the URS building. They will be located adjacent to vegetative cover and commuting features and in situations where they will not be subject to artificial lighting. Bat boxes are to be sited as high as possible (no lower than 4m) on the building, clear of any overhanging branches from nearby trees or other obstacles.
- 2.3 Bat boxes will be placed with a south, south west or south eastern aspect so that the box is exposed to sunlight for part of the day, Locations for bat box installation are shown on **Figure 1**.
- 2.4 The LEMP specifies either the Schwegler 2F or 1FF. The 2F will require cleaning every two years to remove built up droppings and detritus. The 1FF is open-bottomed and is therefore maintenance-free.

Bird boxes

- 2.5 Three bird boxes are to be installed on buildings surrounding the URS building. Boxes should be installed with a northeastern aspect to avoid overexposure to sun and prevailing winds and tilted slightly forwards where possible to prevent rain entering the box.
- 2.6 The LEMP specifies either the Schwegler 1B or 2H. The 2H is open-fronted and is suitable for Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*, Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*, Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, and occasionally Robin *Erithacus rubecula* and Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.
- 2.7 The Schwegler 1B is available with three interchangeable entrance holes of different sizes. Each size will allow different species of bird to occupy the box, as shown in **Table 1.1** below.

Table 1.1: Schwegler 1B bird box occupants by opening size

Opening dimensions	Occupant species
32 mm	Great Tit <i>Parus major</i> Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i> Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i> Crested Tit <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i> Redstarts <i>Phoenicurus sp.</i> Nuthatches <i>Sitta sp.</i>

Opening dimensions	Occupant species
	Collard Flycatcher <i>Ficedula albicollis</i> Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i> House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>
26 mm	Blue Tit Marsh Tit Coal Tit Crested Tit
oval 29 x 55 mm	As 32mm, but preferred by Redstarts as more light enters the brood chamber.

- 2.8 Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* have been sighted around Whiteknights Lake (approx. 350m northeast of the Site), therefore one of the boxes will be the Schwegler 1B fitted with the oval 29 x 55mm opening. The remaining boxes will also be the Schwegler 1B, fitted with one of each of the remaining openings, as they are suitable for a wider range of common species most likely to be using the Site.
- 2.9 **Figure 1** shows the locations for the bird boxes installation. Once installed, the bird boxes will not require further maintenance.

Hedgehog box

- 2.10 One Hedgehog box is to be placed onsite in a secluded area where it is unlikely to be disturbed. North of the new hedgerow that will be planted in the southeast of the site is an ideal position, as shown in **Figure 1**.
- 2.11 The Schwegler Hedgehog Dome is recommended. Bedding material is provided with the product and once placed in position it will require no further maintenance.

3. REFERENCES

Ecological Planning and Research (2025) *UoR - URS Building Landscape and Ecological Management Plan* 22nd January 2025.

Figures

Figure 1 Installation locations for wildlife boxes

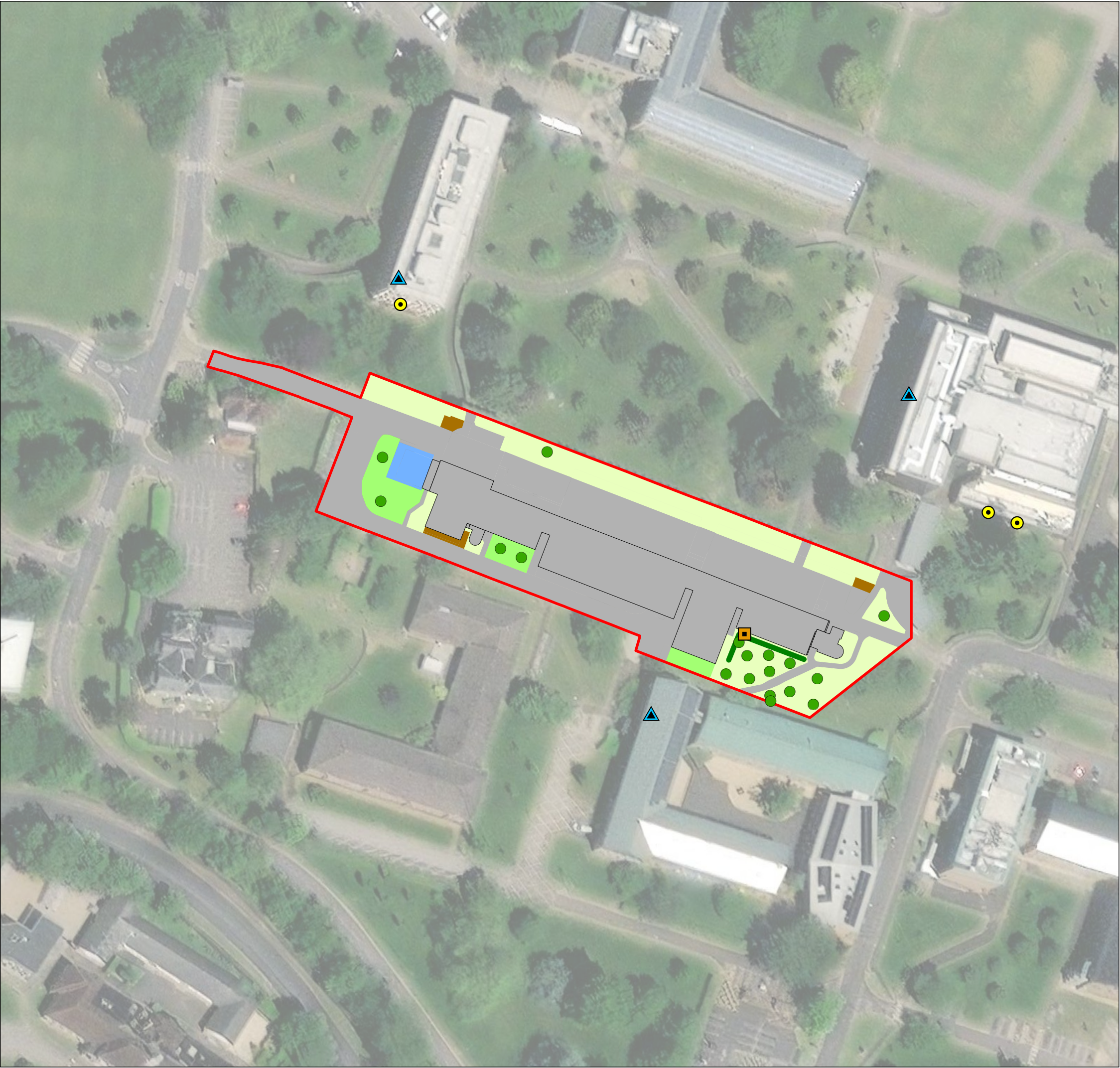


Figure 1 Installation Locations for Wildlife Boxes

- KEY
- Site boundary
 - Bat box
 - Bird box
 - Hedgehog box
 - Individual trees (18)
 - Native hedgerow
 - Developed land; sealed surface
 - Introduced shrub
 - Modified grassland
 - Ornamental lake or pond
 - Other neutral grassland

SCALE: 1:1,000 at A3

0 10 20 30 40 Metres



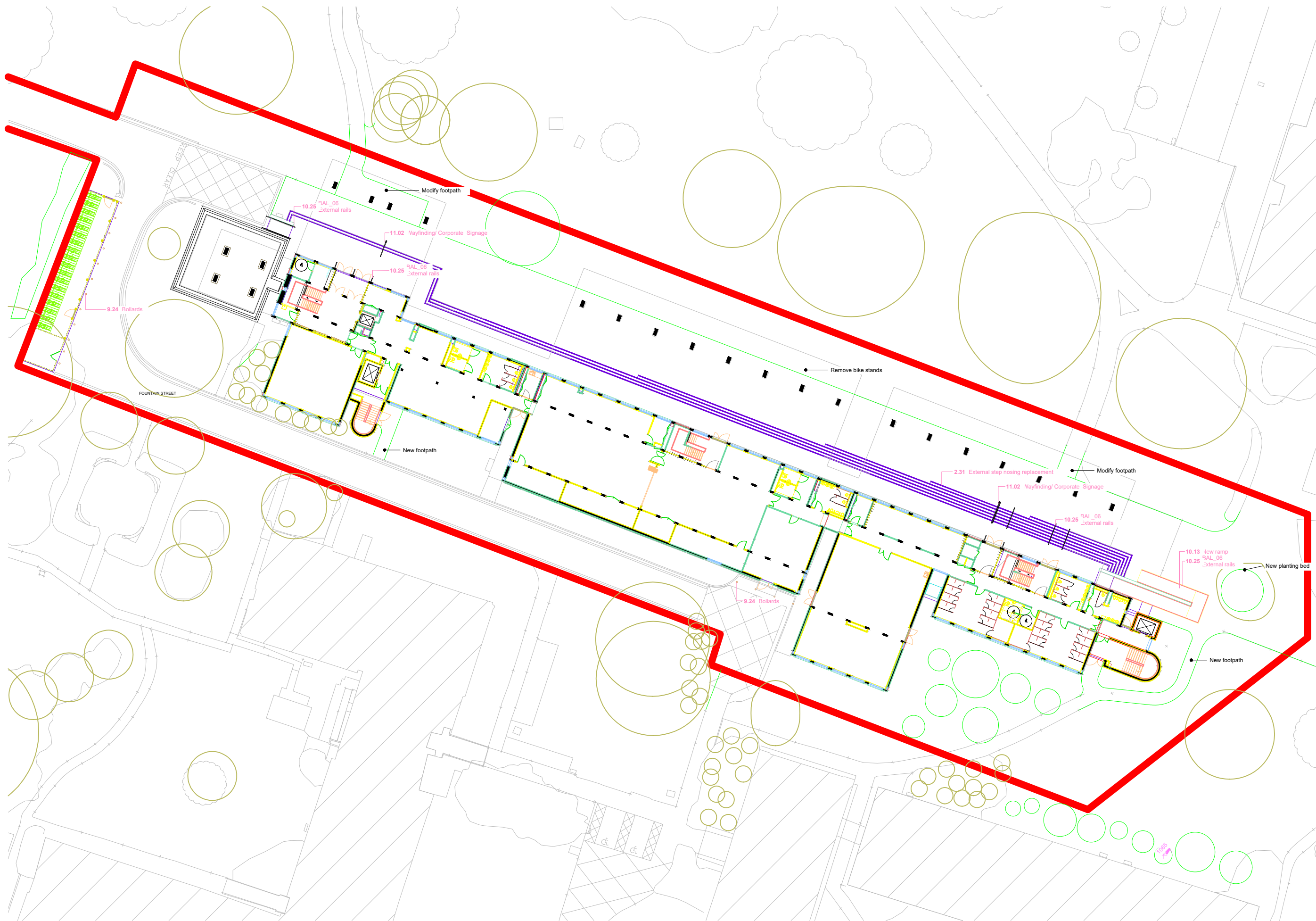
CLIENT: University of Reading

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Appendix 1

2360383-ACG-W033-00-DR-A-18310-Landscape Plan



Appendix 2

230711-CPW-XX-XX-D-E-221001 S3 PROPOSED EXTERNAL
LIGHTING P01
