

Biodiversity Enhancements – Birds and Bats

**Site Address: Land Adjacent To Lane End House, Shinfield Road,
Shinfield, RG2 9BB**

Local Authority: Wokingham Borough Council

Date: 21 November 24

Ref: BE/SB/REV-A

Clarification

This report has been prepared for our client as stated within our appointment, only and expressly, for the purposes set out in this appointment and we owe no duty of care to any third parties in respect of its content. Therefore, unless expressly agreed by us in writing and signed, we hereby exclude all liability to third parties, including liability for negligence, save only for liabilities that cannot be so excluded by operation of applicable law. This report has been based solely on the specific design assumptions and criteria stated herein.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report is submitted to discharge planning condition 8 “Biodiversity Enhancements” relating to the proposed residential development (app ref 222304) and describes the bat and bird boxes to be provided at the proposed new development (the Proposed Development) based on the layout submitted with the application.

1.2 Site Location (Google Maps 2024):



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Email: info@Ecology4U.co.uk
Tel: 0333 335 6418

2.0 Provision of Bird Nesting Opportunities

- 2.1 As required by the planning condition, the development will provide 6nr integrated nesting boxes.
- 2.2 These will comprise
 - 2x Schwegler 1SP house sparrow *Passer domesticus* terraces; (SP1)
 - 2x Ibstock Swift Eco Habitat – Red (ISEH)
 - 1x Schwegler brick bird nest boxes Type 24 (suitable for small birds such as great tit)
- 2.3 All three types of boxes will offer permanent nesting opportunities for a range of bird species such as swifts, great, blue, marsh, coal and crested tits, redstarts, nuthatch, tree and house sparrows. House sparrow are listed as a priority species group within the Wokingham Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2024.
- 2.4 The boxes will be located on aspects facing between north and east with a clear flight path from the nest entrance (see Appendix A for locations of the bird boxes). The locations minimise the risk of excessive direct sun, wind and rain whilst offering cover, shelter and foraging opportunities from the nearby retained tree lines, hedgerows and newly created habitat.
- 2.5 All boxes should be sited at a minimum of 4m from ground level, with all to be sited directly under the eaves.
- 2.6 As swifts nest in loose colonies the three swift boxes have been situated on adjacent houses, with two of these boxes on adjacent walls.
- 2.7 The house swallow boxes contain three individual colony units and two of these boxes have been positioned to face the same aspect on the pair of semi-detached houses.
- 2.8 The box dimensions of the proposed nest boxes correspond to those of standard, commercially available bricks used in modern UK construction. These dimensions allow for a 1cm layer of mortar enabling the nesting blocks to be inserted in to any wall without the need to cut adjoining bricks.

- 2.9 The Schwegler Type 24 can either be flush fitted, so that the whole of the front face is exposed, or if preferred, can be recessed by approximately 20mm and a 20mm brick slip cut to cover the face with a suitable hole, sawcut to expose the opening. It is important the at the circular central part of the box is not mortared-in, so that remains removable. Care has been taken to locate this box in a discrete position, tp the rear of plot 6. In this location, it is most appropriate that this is simply flush fitted.
- 2.10 The Schwegler Type 24 and Schwegler Type 1SP will require cleaning out annually, which should be undertaken between October and February to avoid disturbance to nesting birds. Both nest boxes have a removable front panel for this purpose. Swifts are known to clean their own nests and so the Ibstock Swift Eco Habitat will not require cleaning out.
- 2.11 Refer to Appendix A for locations of the bird boxes on the buildings. Table 1 below details the location of where the boxes are to be sited. Illustrations of the boxes are provided in Appendix B.

Plot Number	Building Type	Box/tile Type	Location and Aspect
1	Detatched	Ibstock Swift Eco habitat	North facing just under eaves, facing on to trees
2	Detatched	Ibstock Swift Eco habitat	North facing just under eaves, facing on to trees
3	Detatched	Ibstock Swift Eco habitat	North facing just under eaves, facing on to trees
4	Semi detatched	1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace	North facing, just under eaves, positioned facing hedgerow with trees on both sides
5	Semi detatched	1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace	North facing, just under eaves, positioned facing hedgerow with trees on both sides
6	Detatched	Schwegler brick bird Type 24	North facing, just under eaves, positioned facing hedgerow with trees on both sides

Table 1 – Bird Box Locations

3.0 Provision of Bat Roosting Opportunities

3.1 A total of six artificial bat roosting boxes will be installed within the external walls & roof of the residential dwellings.

5 x Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube

1x Bat Access Slate

3.2 The wall box type will be the Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube. This box offers suitable roosting conditions for a range of crevice dwelling bat species. The JW Ecological report submitted as part of the approved planning consent (May 2021) states that *“A series of bat surveys were conducted by John Wenman Ecological Consultancy between 2013 and 2015, which confirmed that (the now demolished) Lane End House acted as a non-breeding roost for brown long-eared (P. auritus) common pipistrelle (P. pipistrellus) and soprano pipistrelle (P. pygmaeus).”* All three of the species are crevice dwelling, therefore, the proposed bat box will be particularly suitable to help replace lost habitat following the demolition of that nearby building.

3.3 The 1FR Bat Tubes are designed to be installed on the external walls of the residential buildings, fitted flush. The red colour is suggested so that they are unobtrusive in appearance. These boxes do not require any cleaning or maintenance as droppings fall out of the entrance ramp.

3.4 The bat boxes are to be installed as high as possible (at least 4m high), positioned near to the eaves. The boxes should have an unobstructed approach, and no lighting should be directed towards them.

3.5 The positioning of these boxes has been considered in consultation with the Wildlife Lighting Assessment Ref LA/SB/Rev-A, provided by Ecology 4U to meet planning condition 9.

3.6 A roof tile bat access is advised due to the less suitable aspect of plot 5, and also to help support a wider range of species, through offering an alternative roost opportunity to the wall boxes.

- 3.7 As temperature is known to be an important factor influencing the success of artificial roost boxes (Bat Conservation Trust 2012) the boxes are generally to be sited on the southern, south-eastern and southwest aspects of the building to receive maximum amounts of sunlight and warmth. However, bats will move from roost to roost during the year and it is important to include some alternative aspect options in case of severe weather events. Accordingly, a west facing roost is included on plot 6.
- 3.8 The siting of the bat boxes also takes into consideration surrounding habitats, with boxes fronting onto, or adjacent to, retained and / or newly created habitat features within the development such as tree lines, hedgerows, areas of grassland and open space. The location of the boxes on the buildings also considers the positioning of windows and doors and boxes have been sited to avoid being above such features to minimise human interaction with the priority species, as reduce inconvenience to the building's inhabitants. This has been achieved whilst ensuring the boxes are in optimal positions for bats to use.
- 3.9 Refer to Appendix C for locations of the bat boxes on the buildings. Table 2, below, details the location of where the boxes are to be sited. Illustrations of the boxes are provided in Appendix D.

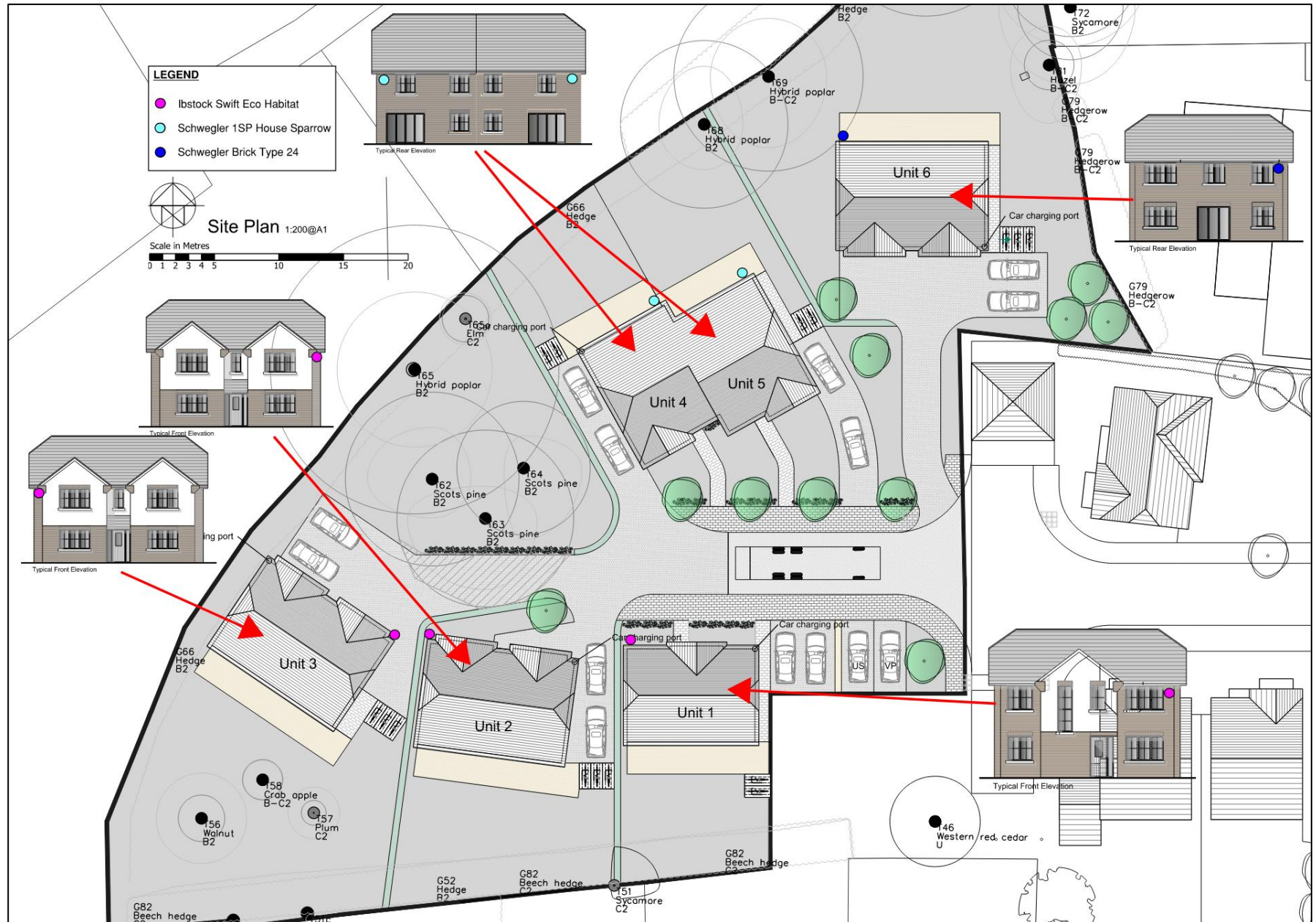
Plot Number	Building Type	Box/tile Type	Location and Aspect
1	Detatched	Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube	South facing, just under eaves, offset from windows
2	Detatched	Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube	South facing, just under eaves, offset from windows
3	Detatched	Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube	South west facing, just under eaves, offset from windows, facing a hedgerow corridor
4	Semi detached	Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube	South west facing, just under eaves at the roof apex, facing out onto trees
5	Semi detached	Tile	Roof tile, positioned on south face
6	Detatched	Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube	West facing, just under eaves at the roof apex, facing out onto trees

Table 2 – Bat Box Locations

Appendix A –

Bird Box

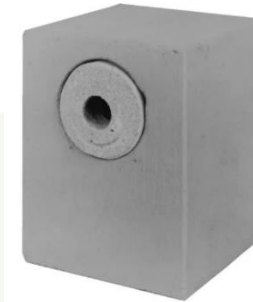
Locations



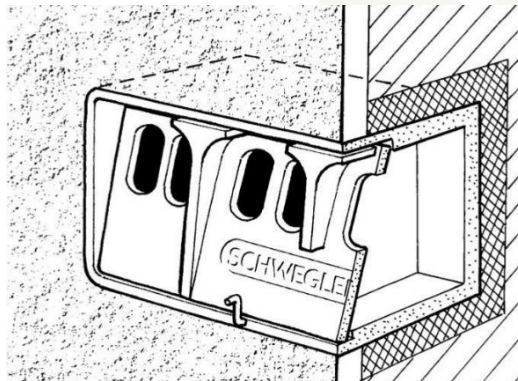
Appendix B – Bird Box Illustrations



Ibstock Swift Eco Habitat – Suggested supplier Wildcare Natural Ecology Supplies - <https://www.wildcare.co.uk/ibstock-swift-eco-habitat.html>



Schwegler brick bird nest boxes Type 24 – Suggested supplier Wildcare Natural Ecology Supplies <https://www.wildcare.co.uk/schwegler-no-24-brick-box-10153.html>



Schwegler Sparrow Terrace 1SP - Suggested supplier Wildcare Natural Ecology Supplies <https://www.wildcare.co.uk/schwegler-1sp-sparrow-terrace.html>

Appendix C –

Bat Box

Locations



Appendix D – Bat Box Illustrations



Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube – Suggested supplier Wildcare Natural Ecology Supplies - <https://www.wildlifeservices.uk/product-page/schwegler-2fr-bat-tube>



Bat slate - Natural – Suggested supplier UK Slate - <https://www.ukslate.com/product/bat-access-slate-natural/>