



Barratt Homes David Wilson Homes

Land to the West of White Post Road, Banbury Oxfordshire

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

August 2020

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (BEP) has been prepared by FPCR Environment & Design Ltd. on behalf of Barratt Homes David Wilson Homes. The BEP provides details of the biodiversity enhancement proposals and subsequent future management of these areas where necessary, with specific regard to ecology associated with the proposed residential development at Land to the West of White Post Road, Banbury Oxfordshire.
- 1.2 The BEP aims to satisfy the requirements of Condition 5 of the planning permission APP/C3105/W/17/3172731 approved by The Planning Inspectorate, which requires that;
- ‘No dwellings shall be constructed above slab level until details of site-wide biodiversity enhancements have been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such details shall include:*
- *The provision of habitat boxes/bricks for bats, swifts and other birds;*
 - *the provision of hedgehog passages;*
 - *the provision of boundary treatments to facilitate the movement of wildlife;*
 - *and a timetable for the enhancements to take place.’*
- 1.3 The BEP report and plans should be read in conjunction with the Ecological Management Plan (EMP, FPCR 2020) and Landscape Masterplan (2832-5-5 – David Jarvis Associates Dec 2019) and Appendix A.

2.0 BASELINE AND SITE CONTEXT

- 2.1 The site is approximately 17.5ha and is located to the west of White Post Road and south of the Saltway and comprises mainly arable fields, with boundary hedgerows and an area of grassland with mature open grown trees. Some allotments border the site to the south-west, Banbury Cricket Club and Wykham Lane are located to the south of the site, the town of Banbury to the north and the village of Bodicote to the south-east. Land to the west of the site is rural and primarily in agricultural use.
- 2.2 The site was initially visited on 23rd July 2013 and an Extended Phase 1 habitat survey conducted. Subsequently, the site was visited again on 20th May 2015, 26th January 2018 and 4th April 2019 to undertake update walkover surveys to check for any significant changes to habitats present and potential for protected and notable species given the time elapsed since the original surveys.
- 2.3 The results of the previous assessments of the site identified that the site was of limited nature conservation value with the habitats in particular, of low conservation significance with the hedgerows and trees providing some limited value to the site. In relation to protected species historic use of the site by badgers was identified with the latest survey (2019) identifying a single active badger sett located within 30m of the north-eastern site boundary.

Development Proposals

- 2.4 Proposals for the site are for a residential development of up to 280 units. Boundary and internal hedgerows are to be retained, with gaps created for a spine road connecting to an adjacent future

development site to the west. Development of the site will create open space and recreational areas as well as green links to connect to the north and south of the site.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The over-arching objective of this Biodiversity Enhancement Plan is to improve the nature conservation value of the site by the enhancement of existing habitats and creation of new habitats for the benefit of biodiversity.

4.0 HABITAT RETENTION AND CREATION

- 4.1 Habitats to be retained as part of the development proposals include mature trees and boundary hedgerows. Habitat creation proposals, including planting specifications and seed mixes are detailed on the landscape plan. These have been designed to integrate into the existing landscape, provide linkages around the proposed residential development for wildlife, buffer the residential development and complement the existing habitats of ecological value on site.
- 4.2 The majority of habitat creation will comprise native species of local provenance. Appropriate measures deemed necessary to ensure ecologically-sensitive clearance of the site along with additional enhancement measures are also proposed.
- 4.3 Schwegler bat and bird boxes have been used as an example in this enhancement plan, other reputable suppliers can be used, this enhancement plan does not endorse the use of any one supplier.

Grassland Areas

- 4.4 Zoned management of hedgerow margins and associated grassland habitats will provide a more diverse habitat structure. A 2m strip located adjacent to hedgerows should be subjected to a less-intensive management regime to produce a more tussocky structure and provide additional refuge areas on the site's peripheries.
- 4.5 Larger areas of grassland with lower anticipated footfall will be planted with a species rich meadow grassland and will be managed to encourage floristic diversity and provide a foraging resource for wildlife with a mixed structural sward suitable for a range of taxa.

Hedgerows

- 4.6 New native species-rich hedgerows will be planted to infill existing hedgerows along the eastern, western and southern boundaries and will further strengthen the existing boundary habitats providing a valuable connective corridor around the site for wildlife.
- 4.7 Areas of POS immediately adjacent to the retained and newly-planted boundary hedgerows will be managed to provide a more diverse habitat around the site.

SUDs and Swales

- 4.8 Creation of SUDs basins and swales within areas of public open space across the site will not only facilitate surface water drainage from the built environment, but will also provide aquatic habitat capable of supporting a variety of species. One SUDs basin on the south-western boundary will be

designed to hold an area of permanent standing water, providing additional aquatic habitat and damp grassland. A sympathetic management regime around these areas will provide shelter, foraging opportunities and habitat linkage within the site.

Shrub and Tree Planting

- 4.9 Shrub and tree planting will consist of native-species planted throughout areas of POS. Additional tree planting in association with residential gardens and comprise of mixture of native and ornamental species.

5.0 ENHANCEMENTS

Hedgerows

Retained Hedgerows

- 5.1 The existing hedgerows are generally of good quality and are of moderate conservation value with a number of mature trees present. The development proposals have been designed to ensure that new native species-rich hedgerows will be planted to infill gaps within retained hedgerows located along the site boundaries.
- 5.2 The hedgerows will be formed using double-staggered rows to provide a dense and well-structured hedgerow of value to wildlife. They are located outside of residential garden boundaries to maintain connectivity for wildlife.

Nesting Birds

- 5.3 Retained hedgerows and areas of infilling, along with retained trees and new tree planting will continue to provide vital nesting habitat for birds, further provision is recommended;
- 5.4 A variety of bird boxes/bricks should be incorporated within the site to provide additional artificial nesting places for species such as swifts *Apus apus*. These can be incorporated into the fabric of buildings (specifically for swifts) or hung on trees throughout the site.
- 5.5 For trees, a mixture of small hole, and open faced boxes should be installed at a height of 3-5m between a northern and eastern aspect, suggested box types include; Habi-Sabi Starling Box, Schwegler Nest Box 1B (23mm and 26mm hole) and Schwegler Lightweight Swift Box 1A. It is recommended that between 10-15 boxes are installed.
- 5.6 Bird boxes on buildings should be installed between 4-6m from ground height between a northern and eastern aspect. Again, a mixture of box types should be incorporated to provide a variety of roosting opportunities for species on site. Schwegler Swift Brick Box 25 and Schwegler Sparrow terrace 1SP or similar should be considered, it is recommended that 5 boxes are installed.
- 5.7 A plan displaying indicative locations for these boxes can be found in Appendix A.

Bats

- 5.8 All existing boundary habitats are to be retained within the current development proposals with additional planting of new hedgerows on site to be combined with ecological enhancement through the provision of new habitats. These will provide more potential foraging / commuting opportunities for any local bat species.
- 5.9 Roosting opportunities for crevice dwelling bats (including pipistrelle bats) should be created by the installation of bat boxes such as Schwegler Bat Box 2F and Schwegler Hibernation Bat Box 1FF on retained trees within the site, positioned in groups of three at a minimum height of 3m on the southern, south-eastern and south-western aspects away from artificial lighting. We recommend that 12 boxes are installed.
- 5.10 Boxes should also be incorporated on buildings, a mix of box types such as; Schwegler Bat Tube 1FR and Istock Enclosed Bat Box Type C installed at minimum height of 4m on the southern, south-eastern and south-western aspects away from artificial lighting will support a variety of bat species throughout the seasons. It is recommended that 5 boxes are installed on buildings across site.
- 5.11 A plan displaying indicative locations for these boxes can be found in Appendix A.

Hedgehogs

- 5.12 To facilitate the movement of hedgehogs around the development, a gap should be cut at the base of garden fences where links to other gardens, amenity grassland and hedges are within proximity.
- 5.13 The gap should be 13cm x 13cm this is sufficient to allow hedgehogs to move freely though gardens and will be too small for most pets.
- 5.14 Specific signage available from Peoples Trust for Endangered Species <https://ptes.org/shop/just-in/hedgehog-highway/> can be purchased in bulk and should be considered to prevent hedgehog specific holes being blocked by residents.

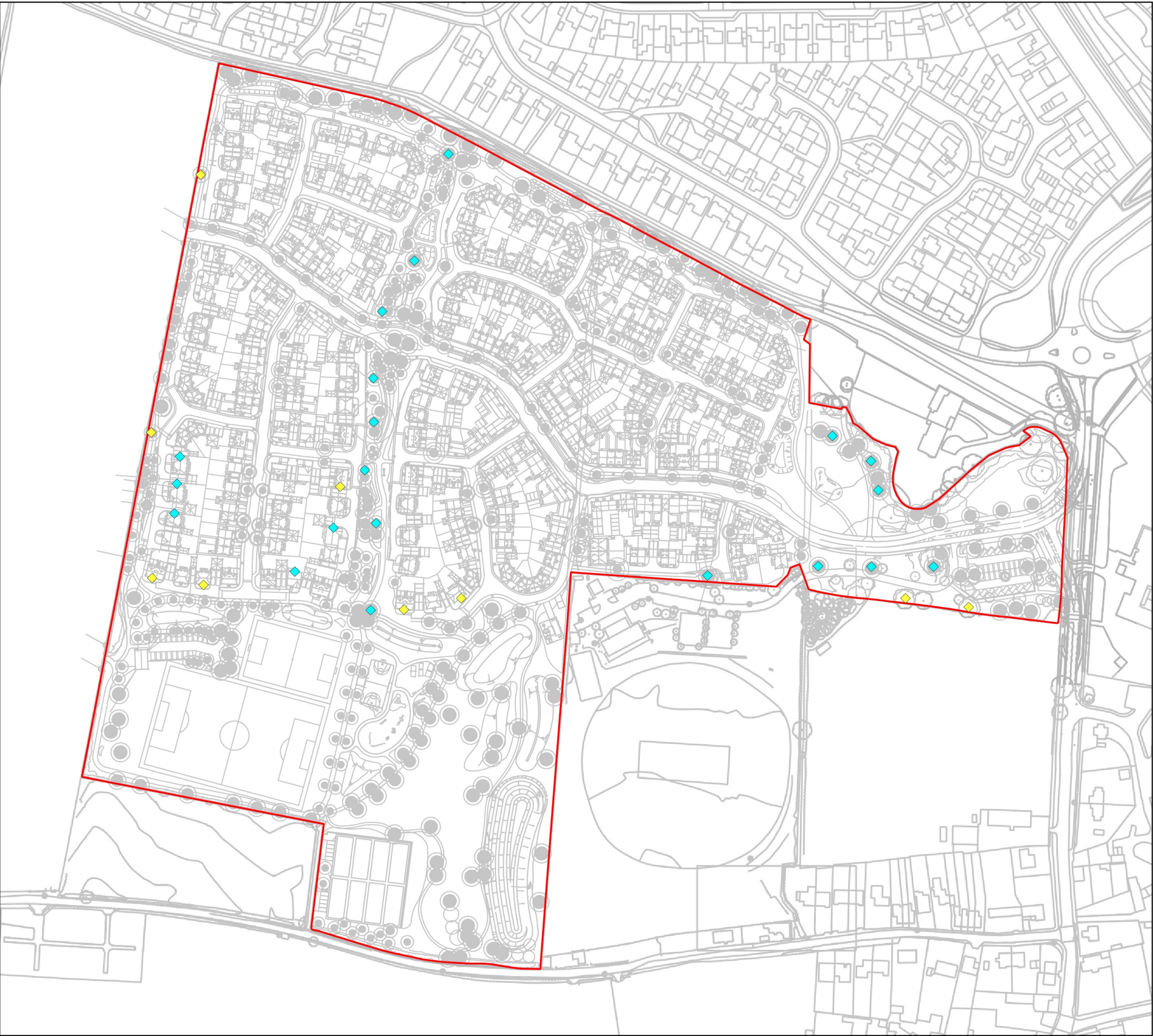
6.0 MANAGEMENT/MONITORING PRESCRIPTIONS

Table 1: Management/ Monitoring prescriptions

Habitat/ Feature	Operations/ Works	Year	Anticipated Timing of Visits/ Operations (months)												Frequency, notes
			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Bat boxes	Installation - trees	1													
	Installation/integration into buildings	1													
	Monitoring	2+													Can be undertaken annually. Must be conducted by a licensed bat worker.
Bird boxes	Installation - trees	1													
	Installation/integration into buildings	1													

Appendix A

See following page.



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Key

Site Boundary

Bat Boxes (indicative locations) to include:

A - 5 x Istock Enclosed Bat Box C (or similar approved)

B - 3 x Schwegler 1FF Hibernation Box ^ (or similar approved)

C - 9 x Schwegler 2F Bat Box ^ (or similar approved)

(^to be installed 3 per tree)

A

B

C

Bird Boxes (indicative locations) to include:

D - 3 x Habi Sabi Starling Box (or similar approved)

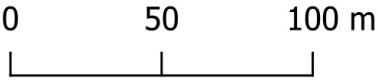
E - 2 x Schwegler Lightweight Swift Box Type 1A (or similar approved)

F - 15 x Schwegler 1B Nest Box - 26mm / 32mm hole (or similar approved)

D

E

F



client

Barrat Homes and David

project

White Post Road,
Banbury

drawing title

BAT & BIRD BOX LOCATION PLAN

scale

1:2500

drawn

LG / LRC

issue

12/8/2020

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Figure 1

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