

**Discharge of condition 7.**

Please also see landscaping proposals under discharge of condition 4.

Landscaping scheme designed with consideration for bio-diversity enhancement.



Making the **Green** Environment work for you

**NEW KINGSWOOD, LOWER BOYNDON ROAD,**

**MAIDENHEAD,. SL6 4DD**

**ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY**

**FEBRUARY 2021**

**GUMA LTD**

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**Notice to readers:**

The results of the survey and assessment work undertaken by Guma are representative at the time of surveying.

Every endeavour has been made to identify the presence of protected species on site, where this falls within the agreed scope of works.

The flora and fauna detailed within this report are those noted during the field survey and from anecdotal evidence. It should not be viewed as a complete list of flora and fauna species that may frequent or exist on site at other times of the year.

Up to date standard methodologies have been used, which are accepted by Natural England and other statutory conservation bodies. No responsibility will be accepted where these methodologies fail to identify all species on-site.

Guma cannot take responsibility where Government, national bodies or industry subsequently modify standards.

Guma cannot accept responsibility for data collected from third parties.

Reference to sections or particular paragraphs of this document taken out of context may lead to misrepresentation.

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# 1.0 Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 Guma was commissioned to prepare an Ecological Enhancement Strategy for New Kingswood, Lower Boyndon Road, Maidenhead SL6 4DD, in fulfilment of planning Condition 7 of the planning approval for the development, 20/01830, as shown below.

*Prior to the commencement of works (including demolition and site clearance works), details of biodiversity enhancements, to include bird and bat boxes and swift bricks on and around the new buildings and native and wildlife friendly landscaping (including gaps at the bases of fences to allow hedgehogs to traverse through the gardens), shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the council. The biodiversity enhancements shall thereafter be installed and maintained as approved. Reason: To incorporate biodiversity in and around development in accordance with paragraph 175 of the NPPF and provide opportunities to achieve a net gain in biodiversity on the site.*

- 1.2 The Strategy seeks to strengthen biodiversity and enhance the value of the site for wildlife, in accordance with paragraph 175 of the NPPF.
- 1.3 Guma carried out an ecological appraisal of the site in August 2019 and a bat emergence survey in September 2019. The recommendations from those reports are used to inform the Strategy.
- 1.4 The Proposed Site Plan, Drawing number PW/LBR has been used to inform the potential areas for biodiversity enhancements.

## 2.0 Ecological Enhancements

### Habitats

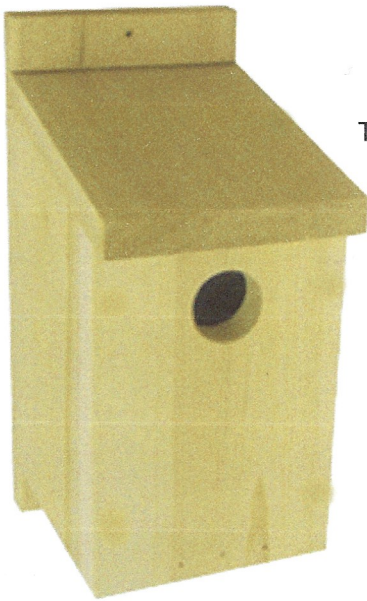
- 2.1 The tree, shrub and hedge planting predominantly comprises ornamental species or ornamental variants of native species. However, a number of the trees and shrubs will produce flowers, fruit, seeds and berries that are food for native mammals and birds. The planting and maintenance of the landscaping of the site is set out on plan PW/LBR.

### Birds

- 2.2 In order to enhance the development for nesting birds, new permanent nesting sites for birds will be established. This includes the following.
- 1, colony type nest boxes for House Sparrows, located at least 2m above the ground with the entrance hole between north and east to avoid the worst of the weather and prevent the box and its inhabitants becoming overheated in sunny weather.
  - 1, double House Martin nest, located at least 2 m above the ground. The nest can be installed on any unobstructed facade without an overhanging roof, or alternatively directly under overhanging eaves.
  - 2, individual boxes for small birds, such as Blue Tits, fixed at a minimum of 2 m from the ground, with the entrance hole between north and east to avoid the worst of the weather and prevent the box and its inhabitants becoming overheated in sunny weather.
  - 2, Swift boxes, installed at least five metres above the ground, ensuring that there is unobstructed access for birds entering and leaving. If possible, boxes should be sited under the shelter of eaves or overhanging roofs.



Schwegler Sparrow terrace, providing accommodation for 3 Sparrow families



Tit nest box



Swift box



House Martin double nest

### Bats

- 2.3 Roosts such as the Schwegler Bat Roost 1FQ can be erected externally after works are complete. Inexpensive timber boxes can also be made using untreated wood and many designs are available on the internet.



Schwegler 1FQ bat box

### *Lighting*

- 2.4 Common Pipistrelles are very tolerant of increased light levels but it is possible that other species of bats that are less tolerant of lighting, forage on, or close to the site. It has been concluded that the site itself is unlikely to be important for bats but it is recommended that external lighting be kept to minimum in order to minimise disturbance of foraging and commuting bats. Any lighting around new roost entrances, if provided, should be avoided and where lighting is necessary for reasons of security and/or health and safety, it is recommended that this uses low UV lights, such as warm white LED lamps with a wavelength of 590 nm, and carefully positioned light columns combined with full cut-off directional shielding. Any lighting of the boundary trees should be avoided altogether.

### **Hedgehogs**

- 2.5 The fences between the properties must include gaps at the bases of fences, size 13cm x 13cm, to allow hedgehogs to traverse through the gardens.



### 3.0 References and Bibliography

Bat Conservation Trust (2010). *Common Pipistrelle: Species information leaflet*. Bat Conservation Trust.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004). *The Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature: Peterborough.

*Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments)*, (c.69), London: HMSO.