

# **T4 ECOLOGY LTD**

ECOLOGY CONSULTANCY SERVICES, MALDON, ESSEX



## **Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy/Layout**

Grooms Cottage/Gardeners Shed

Wood Hall

Arkesden

Essex

CB11 4HA

**Prepared for:**  
Pophamgate Ltd.

**June 2021**

# T4 ECOLOGY LTD

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Brief

T4 ecology Ltd was commissioned by Pophamgate Ltd. to provide information in respect of biodiversity enhancements at Grooms Cottage/Gardeners Shed, Wood Hall, Arkesden, Essex.

Condition 5 of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) planning ref: UTT/20/0971/FUL states:

Prior to works above slab level, a Biodiversity Enhancement Layout, providing the finalised details and locations of the

enhancement measures contained within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal - Incorporating Bat Survey Inspection (T4 Ecology Ltd, April2020) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

This document has been prepared pursuant of the requirements of consent condition 5.

## **2 Aims and Objectives**

The aims & objectives of this document are:

- To identify ecological enhancements to be incorporated as part of the consented proposals;
- To identify appropriate management techniques to be employed on site and;
- To ensure that recommendations, suggested enhancements and ongoing management are appropriate and in context with the predominant land use as residential accommodation.

### **2.1 Document Preparation**

This document has been prepared by Peter Harris MCIEEM FRGS.

Peter Harris is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM) and a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society (FRGS). The surveyor is licensed by Natural England for surveying great crested newts. The surveyor is an ecologist with over 14 years of experience, and has been involved in a wide range of projects from single dwelling developments to large strategic urban renewal schemes subject to full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

As an ecologist for over 14 years, Peter has obtained significant experience in respect of a wide range of protected and priority species. Species worked with include reptiles (surveys/mitigation), great crested newt (surveys/mitigation), badger (surveys/mitigation/licencing), dormouse (surveys) and bat, encompassing a wide range of survey and monitoring techniques. These include internal/external inspections/Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA), in addition to involvement with successful bat mitigation license applications working in conjunction with specialist organisations.

### **3 Persons Responsible**

The main point of contact for installation/management of the project is:

Pophamgate Ltd.  
c/o Honeysuckle House  
Hadham Road  
Bishops Stortford  
Herts  
CM23 4BS

## 4 Ecological Enhancement & Management

### 4.1 Habitat Creation

The following enhancement/habitat boxes will be installed as part of the development. The location of the habitat boxes is illustrated below. The locations have been chosen as a result of direction/location away from disturbance as applicable. They have also been selected as a result of their robust and maintenance free design, and ease of availability/integration into the development.

#### 4.1.1 Bat Boxes on Building

1 x Schwegler 1FE Bat Access Box will be installed on the southern elevation.



Schwegler 1FE Batbox-Available from [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com)

The 1FE box will be mounted externally on to the wall (in full accordance with manufacturer specifications), with positions represented by the orange rectangle:



**Southern Elevation**

#### **4.1.2 All Bat Box Aftercare**

Bats are a protected species, and any object they utilise for roosting is therefore also protected. Therefore, following installation the bat boxes should not be disturbed, as disturbance may result in an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and the European Habitat Regulations. Bat boxes are very robust and will not require maintenance, and therefore are at their most effective if left undisturbed.

#### **4.2 Woodstone Bird Boxes**

1x Woodstone swallow box shall be installed under the eaves of the house on the western elevation. The boxes are available from [www.vivarapro.co.uk](http://www.vivarapro.co.uk), and are to be installed in accordance with manufacturer instructions.



Vivara Pro Woodstone Swallow Nesting Box. [www.vivarapro.co.uk](http://www.vivarapro.co.uk)

The proposed location is illustrated below, with position denoted by blue squares:





**Western Elevation**

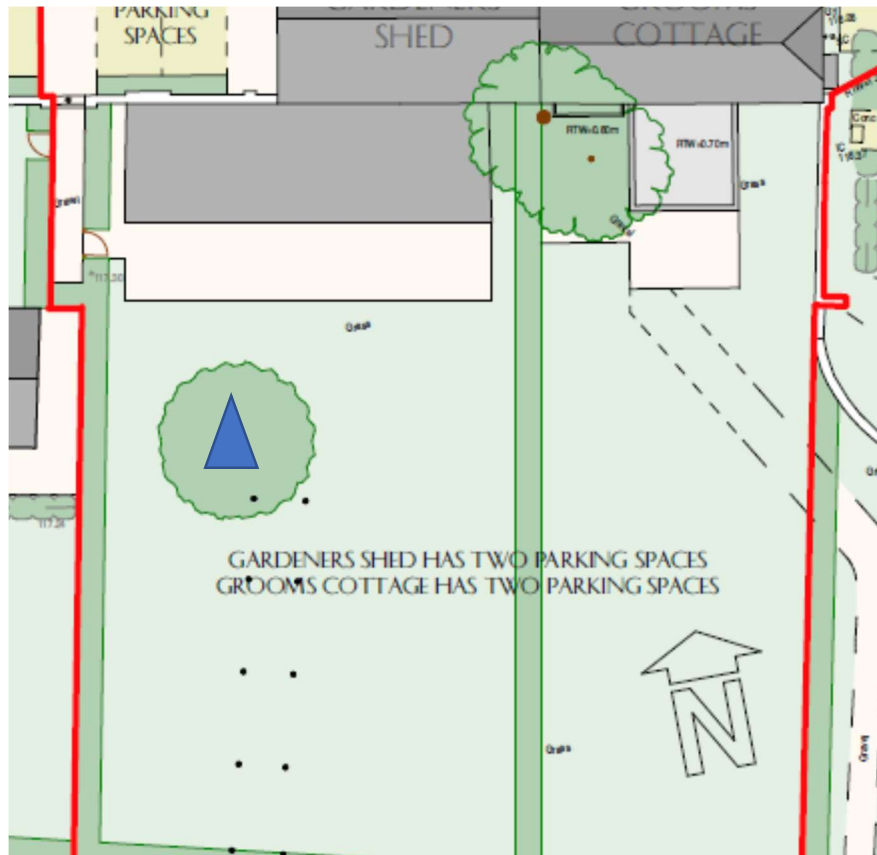
#### **4.3 Tree Mounted Bird Boxes**

1x Schwegler 1B Tree Mounted bird box shall be installed on the retained tree located in the rear garden to the south.



*Schwegler 1B standard nest boxes*

Tree bird box installation locations are illustrated below, as delineated by the Blue Triangle:



### Tree Mounted Bird Box location

The following should be taken into account in consideration during the installation of bird boxes.

- These should be placed away from cats, ideally 2m from ground level.
- These should be placed on the side of trees, away from direct sunlight, ideally facing between north and east (not south), away from cats, and at 2-5m height.

### Bird Box Aftercare

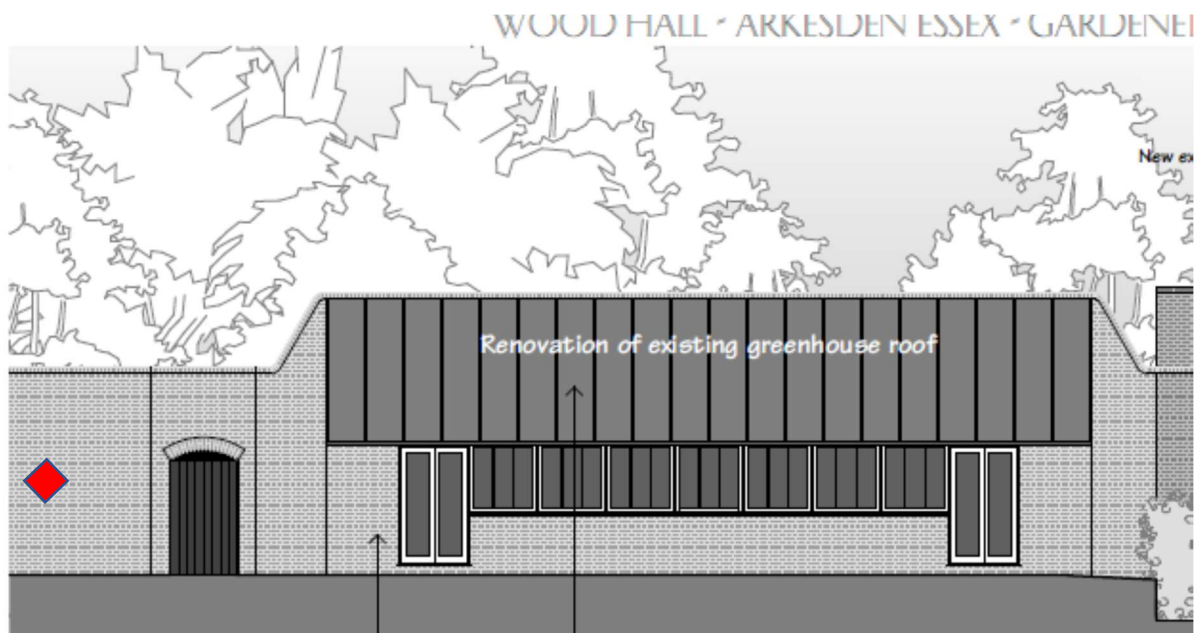
The bird boxes recommended are made of hard-wearing materials guaranteed by the manufacturer for 25 years. As such, they require no specific care or maintenance. It is advisable to clean the boxes out once a year in autumn (after September) and remove old nesting materials. The box can then be washed internally with boiling water to kill any parasites prior to re-assembly and installation.

#### 4.4 Invertebrates

1 x insect hotels shall be installed on the external wall as illustrated below, delineated by the red square. They should be installed 1m above ground level.



*Urban Insect Hotel - Available from [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com)*



**Insect Hotel Location**

## 4.5 Wildlife Strategy

No specific Ecological Clerk of Works is required on this project given the low ecological value of the site. However, the following strategies shall be employed, with an ecologist called upon if required as identified in the methods described below:

### Bird Strategy

Nesting birds and their eggs are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

In respect of all works to trees/vegetation/clearance maintenance works that may be required as part of the development phase/ongoing maintenance, the following will be adhered to:

- It should be noted that the main bird breeding season is between the months of March to September inclusive. If works are carried out during the nesting season, a search should be undertaken by an ecologist to confirm presence/absence of nesting prior to works being undertaken
- If works proceed during the nesting season (March to September), following the search, works should be undertaken by operatives/tree workers with caution. Should an active nest subsequently be discovered, the nest and eggs should be left in situ and the tree/vegetation left in place, with a minimum of 5m vegetation cover left in place to maintain shelter and protection where possible, and the area cordoned off with 'incident tape' or similar. If the nesting is found within a building, works should cease in that section of the building.
- In all instances, works can proceed once the young have fledged and the nest becomes disused. Works can proceed and continue elsewhere, where nests are absent.
- The project ecologist should be contacted if further clarification/advice be required.

It should be noted that seasonal restrictions/due diligence applies to the operational maintenance phases post completion. As such, efforts should be made so that maintenance works are undertaken outside the nesting season, or following appropriate checks if carried out during the nesting season.

## Transitory Mammal Strategy

During the development phase, the following actions will be undertaken:

- To protect radiating mammals, it is recommended that any trenches be covered over with wooden sheeting at night. In the event a trench cannot be covered, scaffold planks will be left in the extraction to provide a means of escape.
- Service pipes stored on site will be checked for sheltering mammals prior to installation.
- The project ecologist should be contacted if further clarification/advice be required.

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