

Our ref: SH/OL/GM10578/LET/007

Date: 18th Oct 2021

Your ref:

Claire Parker
Cassidy and Ashton
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Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy Plan - Blackpool Enterprise Airport Zone

Dear Claire,

Wardell Armstrong (WA) was appointed by Cassidy and Ashton to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy to address draft Conditions relating to the redevelopment of Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone.

The Condition wording is as follows:

Prior to the commencement of any above ground construction, a scheme of ecological enhancement shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the development shall thereafter proceed in full accordance with this approved scheme. For the purpose of this condition, the scheme of ecological enhancement shall include:

- *Provision to bolster existing hedgerows with native species*
- *Provision of bird and bat boxes*
- *Features to facilitate roaming of small mammals*

The following suggestions have been made to increase the biodiversity value of the Site. The creation of a new hedgerows and wildflowers has been suggested around the border of the car park to further complement the proposed tree planting. Wetland plug planting has been recommended around the drainage swales. The details below include the type and mix of species to be used in the hedgerow, wildflower and wetland planting. A selection of bird and





bat boxes have been listed below and locations have been labelled on Drawing GM10578-002.

House Sparrow Terrace

Use two 1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace box (or similar approved) on the north side of the building. This has the same external dimensions as the standard box but has six entrance holes. The terrace box is also suitable for wagtails and other small hole-nesting species. Due to its weight (15kg) it is not suitable for fences or garden sheds but can be fixed on to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall, at least 4m above ground.

Specification

Brood chamber dimensions:

Height: 16cm Width: 10.5cm Depth: 15cm

External dimensions:

Height: 24.5cm Width: 43cm Depth: 20cm

Weight: 15kg



Starling Box

Use one Schwegler 3S Starling nest box (or similar) on the north side of the building. They have a relatively large entrance hole (45mm diameter) and the interior is well lit which encourages occupation. The large diameter nesting chamber (140mm) also helps to encourage occupation. It should be fixed to the building at a height of at least 3m off the ground.

Specification

Brood chamber dimensions:

14cm in diameter

External dimensions:

Height: 28cm Width: 19cm Depth: 20cm

Weight: 4.4kg



Bat Box

One Beaumaris bat box (or similar approved) which has a single narrow cavity suitable for crevice roosting bats such as common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Brandt's bat and whiskered bat. Place bat box on the south of the changing building if possible. Position the box at least 4m above ground level, ideally at eaves height, and keep away from artificial light sources. Not to be placed above windows and doorways. If there is no sheltered area on the southern façade, can be installed on eastern façade.

Dimensions - (H) 400 x (W) 290 x (D) 70 mm, weight: 5 kg





Swales

The species diversity in the drainage swales can be improved by plug planting of a wetland plant mix including species such as yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus* and wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, hemp agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, water buttercup *Ranunculus lingua grandiflora* and creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*. Margins should also be allowed to become wild rather than regularly closely mown or strimmed. Ideally a once-annual cut of vegetation would be undertaken in September or October and arisings composted nearby.

Compost heaps

Compost heaps will create a food source for invertebrates and fungi. Invertebrate predators such as birds and hedgehogs may then be attracted to the compost heap. Compost heaps should be situated in a sunny location to aid composting.

Log piles

Any felled trees can be left as log piles. They will encourage a plethora of wildlife, especially hedgehogs. Log piles provide a safe and secure shelter for breeding/hibernating. A small pile of logs can support a multitude of different insects, which also provides a hunting ground for small mammals. It is recommended that some piles are left in a neat stack and others piled at random to create varied internal spaces.



Hedgerow

The existing hedgerow adjacent to the open drainage swale is hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* with occasional sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*.



The hedgerow can be gapped-up and the number of species increased. This can be done by supplementary planting of species such as blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, holly *Ilex aquifolium* and hazel *Corylus avellana*. Trees should be planted within the hedgerow - native species such as common alder *Alnus glutinosa*, downy birch *Betula pubescens*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, aspen *Populus tremula* and bay willow *Salix pentandra*. Enhancing the hedgerow will improve foraging opportunities for bats and hedgehogs.

There is an opportunity for new hedgerows to be planted to connect the tree lines surrounding the car park. For the hedgerow planting specification see drawing Ref. GM10578-002 The new hedgerows should be allowed to establish for three growing seasons prior to being shaped in winter. It should be between 1.5 and 2.5m high and 1 to 2m in width. Hedgerows can be left to become bushier on the outside of the perimeter of the car park which will add to the wildlife value.

The hedgerows should be managed by cutting on a rotational basis (one side each year) in winter. This will allow birds to feed on berries and avoid causing disturbance in the nesting season.

Wildflower Grassland

Proposed patches of wildflower planting are shown on drawing Ref. GM10578-002. A flowering lawn mixture (EL1) can be sown alongside the new proposed hedgerow in spring or autumn. This would provide an important habitat for invertebrates.

Meadow areas can also be created at the base of hedgerows to encourage invertebrates and small mammals. Thick herbaceous vegetation species such as cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and hedge mustard *Sisymbrium officinale* with coarse grasses would be suitable to grow at the base of hedgerows.

Throughout the first growing season, the flowering lawn mix can be mowed every 7-10 days and cut to a height of 40-60mm. Once the lawn has established and to allow for flowering to take place, mowing can be suspended earlier in the year to allow cowslips *Primula veris*, bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* to flower and then relaxed from late June and in dry weather.

Invertebrates

Invertebrate hotels can be installed on any tree or hedgerow that surrounds the proposed car park. The hotels should be positioned facing south, east or west, in direct sunlight and



between 1 to 2m above ground level. These can be used by several species of invertebrate, which in turn provide food for birds and bats using the site.



Leaving piles of loose sandy soils around the site would be beneficial to mason bees that have been recorded in the area.

Conclusion

All areas of proposed planting/seeding to be cleared of materials including building debris, stones, brick and concrete over 50mm in diameter. Perennial weeds to be removed and composted prior to planting. Works to be carried out while soil and weather conditions are suitable; do not plant when soil is saturated, during periods of frost or strong winds.

All plants shall be supplied in accordance with the National Plant Specification, by nurseries accredited by the Horticultural Trade Association and registered as a Plant Healthy nursery which has adequate biosecurity protocols in place. Native plants to be sourced locally in accordance with Forestry Commission's Provenance Area 302.

Any dead or diseased plants shall be replaced during the following planting season. Watering to be carried out as necessary to allow plants to thrive through the 5-year establishment maintenance period.

These biodiversity enhancements are considered appropriate for the location and the species likely to be present in the area.

Yours sincerely

for Wardell Armstrong LLP



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