JAMES BLAKE ASSOCIATES

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

for

Land at Bury Road,

Chedburgh,

Suffolk

on behalf of

Eastwood and Partners Ltd

February 2022
Revision A - February 2024

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Revision	Purpose	Originated	Checked	Authorised	Date
		CB	SR	JBA	February 2022
A	Amendments to Strategy to address planning conditions	SM	SW	JBA	February 2024
Job Number: 22/009		JAMES BLAKE ASSOCIATES **Title:** Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for Land at Bury Road, Chedburgh, Suffolk.			

Disclaimer

James Blake Associates Ltd have made every effort to meet the client's brief. However, no survey ensures complete and absolute assessment of the changeable natural environment. The findings in this report were based on evidence from thorough survey: It is important to remember that evidence can be limited, hard to detect or concealed by site use and disturbance. When it is stated that no evidence was found or was evident at that point in time, it does not mean that species are not present or could not be present at a later date: The survey was required because habitats are suitable for a given protected species, and such species could colonise areas following completion of the survey.

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Non-technical Summary

Site:	Land at Bury Road, Chedburgh, Suffolk.
Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference:	TL 79190 57385
Report Commissioned by:	Eastwood and Partners Ltd
Date of report:	February 2022 February 2024 - Revision A

Considerations	Description	Potential impacts
Production of an ecological enhancement strategy	Enhancement measures include provision of bat and bird boxes. Precautionary measures include timing of building demolition and any proposed vegetation clearance to avoid the nesting bird season and a sensitive lighting scheme for bats, particularly on the northern boundary.	Improvement of conditions on site for bats and birds. Safeguarding of any protected species using the site during construction.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 James Blake Associates Ltd. (JBA) was commissioned by Eastwood and Partners Ltd to provide an Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for the proposed development site at land at Bury Road, Chedburgh, Suffolk (Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference: TL 79190 57385, taken from the centre of the site).

1.2 The site submitted a planning application for the demolition and replacement of a raw materials store, along with associated hardstanding in 2021. Full planning permission was granted in 2023.

1.3 This strategy addresses condition 12 of DC/21/2303/FUL (West Suffolk Council) which states:

"Prior to any works above slab level, a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for protected and Priority species shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The content of the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy shall include the following:

a) Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed enhancement measures;

b) detailed designs to achieve stated objectives;

c) locations of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate maps and plans;

d) timetable for implementation;

e) persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures;

f) details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (where relevant). The works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to occupation and shall be retained in that manner thereafter.

Reason: To enhance protected and Priority species & habitats and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species) as updated by the Environment Act 2021."

1.4 JBA undertook a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in February 2022 and produced a PEA Report in February 2022 (JBA 2022). A bat emergence survey was undertaken in May 2022 and Bat Emergence Survey report of the site was produced in June 2022 (JBA 2022). An Ecological Enhancement Strategy (2022) was also produced in February 2022 (JBA 2022); however, JBA conducted a further site visit on 23rd January 2024 to update the original

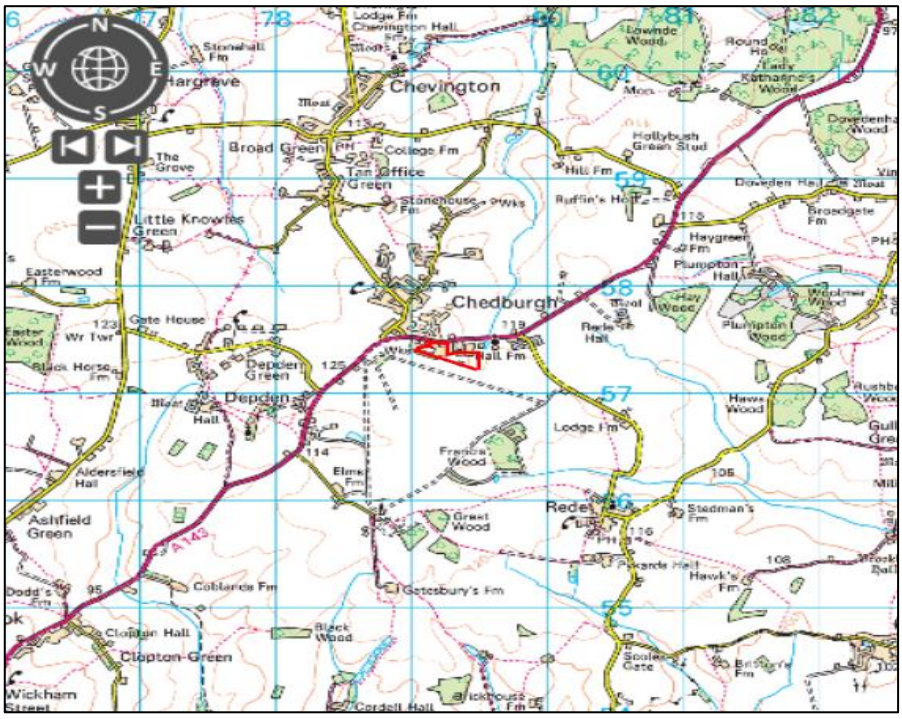
Ecological Enhancement Strategy to match changes to site and Local Planning Authority (LPA) comments.

1.5 This report covers the application site (red-line boundary) and the requirement to provide further details regarding ecological enhancements as per condition 10 of DC/21/2303/FUL (West Suffolk Council).

Site Description

1.6 The site is located adjacent to the south of Bury Road and south of the A143 in Chedburgh, Suffolk. See Figure 1 for site location.

Figure 1: Site location



Reproduced from Magic Map Application by permission of licence number 100059700

1.7 The site itself mainly consists of buildings and associated hardstanding with six treatment beds and a single pond and wet ditches to the eastern and southern boundary: all within the eastern area of the site. Amenity and semi-improved grassland, with hedgerows, scrub and boundary trees is also present on site. See Figure 2 for habitats within the site boundary.

Figure 2: Habitats within site boundary

Aims and objectives

1.8 The aim of this report is to provide an Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for the site to be used to discharge Condition 12 of the planning permission by providing a detailed ecological enhancement strategy the proposed development.

Wildlife Legislation and Planning Policy

1.9 The relevant wildlife legislations and planning policies are listed below:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) (WCA). [Amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)].
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006 (NERC).
- The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996.
- The Hedgerows Regulation, 2007.

2. BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

Purposes and conservation objectives for the proposed works

2.1 The purpose of the proposed works outlined within this document is to enhance the site for wildlife following construction.

2.2 The conservation objectives for the proposed works are to provide an element of new homes for species such as bats and birds, where appropriate to enhance the site for biodiversity and to contribute to the biodiversity interest of the area in the long term.

Detailed design to achieve the stated objectives

2.3 There is scope for ecological enhancements to be incorporated within the proposed new raw materials building, treatment beds and boundary vegetation. The enhancements are based on the recommendations by (JBA, 2022) detailed within the PEA report and original Ecological Enhancement Strategy (JBA 2022), with revisions in this report being informed by the site visit by JBA on 23rd January 2024. The enhancements proposed are as follows:

- Where possible, scrub and scattered trees at the boundaries of the site should be retained with a ~2m buffer zone and managed/enhanced to create corridors and shelter/foraging areas for wildlife including bats, birds, hedgehogs and small mammals.

- Gapping of the defunct hedgerow that is to the north of Building B2 and runs parallel to the A134. Hedgerow to be cut on a three-year rotation either side and topped every three years. Native species to be incorporated should include the following native species: blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), cherry plum (*Prunus cerisefera*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and spindle (*Euonymus fortunei*). These will provide additional sheltering, nesting and foraging opportunities for common small bird species e.g. blackbird (*Turdus merula*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) among others and provide pollinating sources for insects in the spring. Final selection of species, positioning, and number to be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist.

- Planting of native tree species within the amenity grassland to the north of Pond 1 to include native species e.g. pedunculate oak (*Quercus major*), apple sp. (*Malus sp.),* field maple (*Acer campestre*), holly (*Ilex aqifoilum*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*) (willow sp. (*Salix sp.)* and yew (*Taxus baccata*). will provide additional sheltering, nesting and foraging opportunities for common small bird species and provide pollinating sources for insects in the spring. Final selection of species, positioning, and number to be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist.

- Resowing of some areas of semi-improved grassland with appropriate local-sourced plant species e.g. common knapweed (Centaurea nigra), field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), oxeye daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). These areas will provide nectar and pollinating opportunities for a range of species. Once sown should not be cut in the first season until end of September, an thereafter cut once in early spring (Late February-Early March) and again in autumn (Late September/early October) Areas to be sown and seed mixes to be confirmed for areas of semi-improved grassland with qualified Ecologist.

- Area of amenity grassland to be mowed at the end May to allow early flowering local species e.g. daisy (Bellis perennis), dandelion (*Taraxacum sp*.) white clover (*Trifolium repens*) to flower and provide early sources of nectar for a range of common insect species.

- Installation of bird and bat boxes in suitable locations as indicated on the amended drawings (Eastwood and Partners 2021) in Appendix A.

- Schwegler 1FR bat tubes and/or 1FF Schwegler bat box will be installed onto the new materials store on the southern elevation.

- Three swift terrace boxes with three entrances (Schwegler Type No 17 or equivalent) will be affixed onto the eastern elevation. Swift calls will need to be played during the breeding season (May-July) once installed to encourage swifts to nest (see Appendix B for Swift Conservation advice sheet).

- Three House Sparrow terrace nest boxes (e.g. Schwegler 1SP or equivalent) will be affixed to the northern elevation.

- Two large box suitable for Jackdaw (e.g. Schwegler Jackdaw Nest box 2CM or equivalent) can be attached on the western elevation.

2.4 Note that the final location of enhancements should be determined during construction by an ECoW.

2.5 The suggested locations of selected biodiversity enhancements are shown in Appendix B.

Type and source of material to be used where appropriate, e.g. native species of local provenance

2.6 The following bird and bat boxes are recommended. Please note that these can be replaced with similar products if not available at time of construction (to be agreed with ecologist).

To be erected:

- 2 no. 1FR Schwegler bat tube and/or 1FF Schwegler bat box should be integrated onto the proposed new materials store, southeast to southwest facing and at least 4m high and above any security or other essential lighting.

- Three swift terrace boxes (Schwegler Type no 17) should be installed; The box should be built-in or installed at least 5m high on the eastern elevation, ensuring that there is unobstructed access for birds entering and leaving. If possible, the box should also be sited under the shelter of an overhanging eave or other structure to provide extra shelter. Swift calls will need to be played once installed to encourage swifts to nest.

- Three house sparrow terraces (e.g. Schwegler 1SP or equivalent) should be installed between 3m and 5m on the northern elevation.

- Two jackdaw boxes (e.g. Schwegler 2CM or equivalent) should be installed between 5 and 8m on the western or northern or western elevation.

Timetable to implementation demonstrating that works are aligned with the proposed phasing of development

2.7 A timetable for the implementation of ecological works has been drawn up (see Appendix C).

Persons responsible for implementing the works

2.8 Initial construction works and installing the various forms of enhancement to be implemented by Eastwood and Partners Ltd Management Team and suitable appointed contractors.

Details of initial after care and long-term maintenance

2.9 The newly planted whips within the defunct hedgerow and trees within the amenity grassland to be monitored and watered to ensure establishment. Cutting of the hedgerow should be on a three-year rotation, cutting from one side every two years and cutting the top every three years. Any logs, branches or brash can be used to create piles that can be utilised by small mammals, hedgehogs, small birds and other wildlife for shelter. Trees can be left to establish for at least 10 years and only cut before then if a health and safety risk.

2.10 Ground should be scarified over the winter (Nov-Jan), then seeded in late winter/early spring (February/early March). Once sown any areas of newly seeded semi-improved grassland should not be cut in the first season until end of September, and thereafter cut once in early spring (Late February-Early March) and again in autumn (Late September/early October). Leave the arisings for 2 days, and then move the grass cuttings to an area within the tall ruderal vegetation in the south-east corner of the site to provide shelter and nesting opportunities for grass snakes (*Natrix helvetica*) within that area of habitat.

2.11 Bat boxes proposed are 'self-cleaning' and would not require annual cleaning; however, these should be inspected annually from the ground for any damages and should be replaced if broken, following ecologist advice.

2.12 Bird boxes should be inspected and cleaned annually outside of the breeding season; the breeding season is deemed to be between March and September. Damaged boxes should be replaced as and when required.

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 A Biological Enhancement Strategy has been drawn up which will increase the potential of the proposed development site to support wildlife by the retention and management of existing habitats on site: defunct hedgerows, amenity and poor semi-improved grassland and tall ruderal vegetation. The gapping of hedgerows and additional planting of native tree species within the and the provision of multiple bat and bird boxes. Suggestions for the management of enhancements are included.

3.2 The Biological Enhancement Strategy was updated to discharge condition 12 of DC/21/2303/FUL (West Suffolk Council) and it is felt with the implementation of the enhancements outlined in this report that Condition 12 can be fully discharged.

References

Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) (2009) *Bats and Lighting in the UK*. Bats and the Built Environment Series. ILP, Rugby.

Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) (2023) *Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night*. ILP, Rugby.

Eastwood and Partners (2021) Yara Chedburgh Storage Shed _ New Store Proposed Layout -drawing number 45255/015.

Eastwood and Partners (2021) Yara Chedburgh Storage Shed _ New Store Ground Floor Plan - drawing number 45255/016.

Eastwood and Partners (2021) Yara Chedburgh Storage Shed _ New Store Proposed Elevations Sheet 1 of 2 - drawing number 45255/017.

Eastwood and Partners (2021) Yara Chedburgh Storage Shed _ New Store Proposed Elevations Sheet 2 of 2-drawing number 45255/018.

Eastwood and Partners (2021) Yara Chedburgh Storage Shed _ New Store Proposed Roof Plan - drawing number 45255/019.

Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) (2021) GN21/01 The reduction of Intrusive Light. ILP, Rugby

JBA (2022) Ecological Enhancement Strategy for land at Bury Road, Chedburgh, Suffolk.

JBA (2022) Bat Emergence survey report of land at Bury Road, Chedburgh, Suffolk for Eastwood and Partners Ltd.

JBA (2022) Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey report of land at Bury Road, Chedburgh, Suffolk for Eastwood and Partners Ltd.

JBA (2024) Bat Lighting Strategy letter report for land at Bury Road, Chedburgh, Suffolk on behalf of Eastwood and Partners Ltd.

JBA (2024) Protected Species Mitigation Strategy for land at Bury Road, Chedburgh, Suffolk on behalf of Eastwood and Partners Ltd.

National Planning Policy Framework HMSO (September 2023)

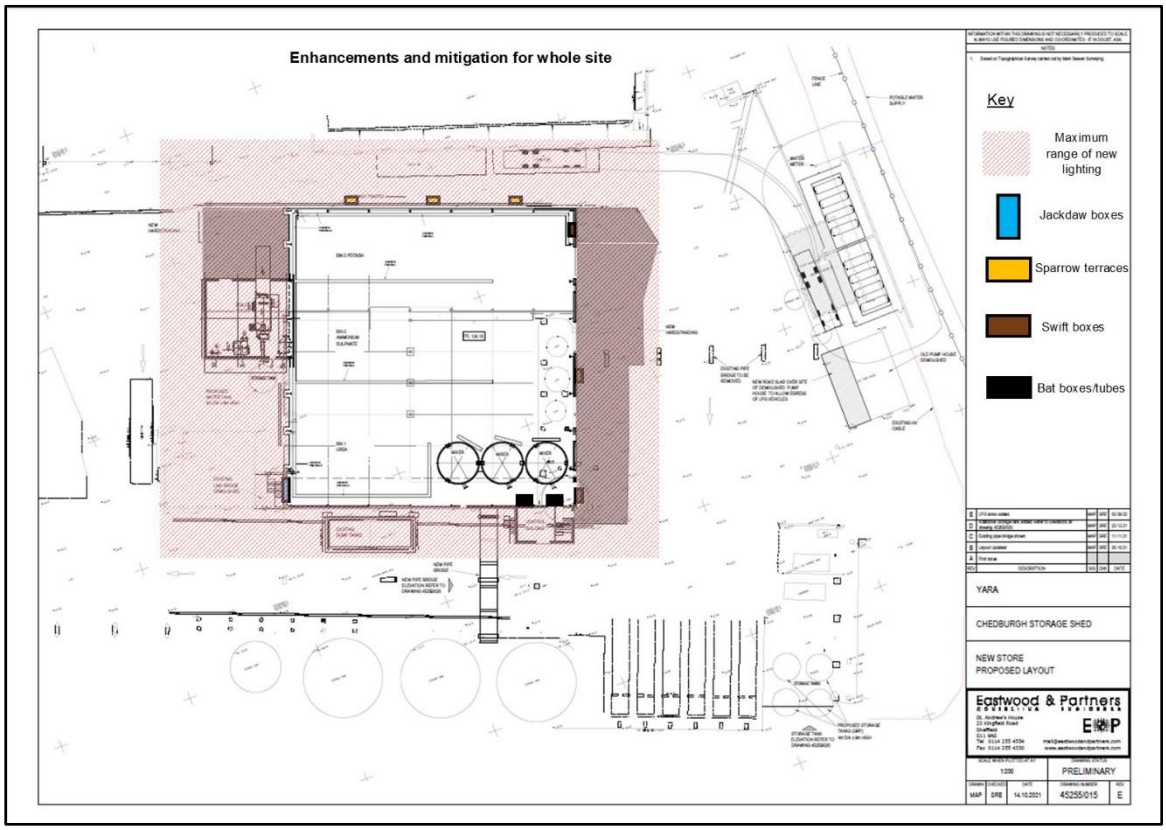
Web references:

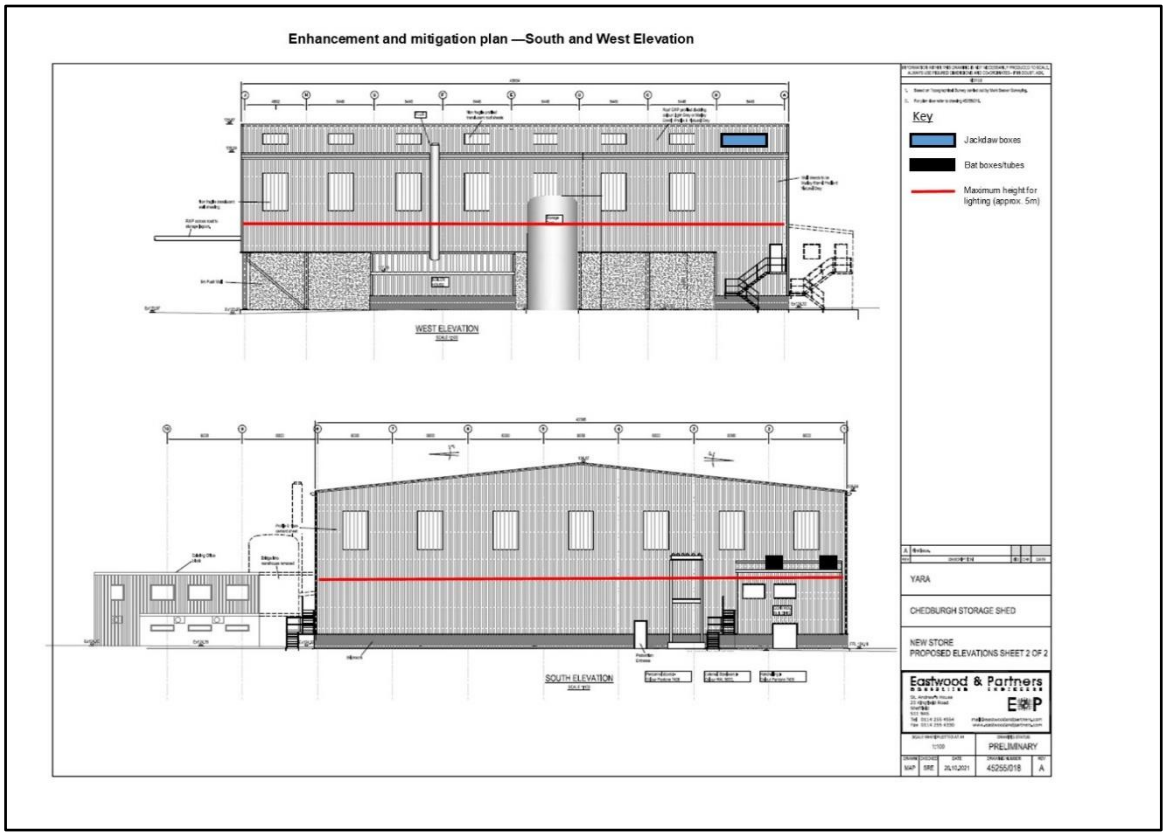
MAGIC:

https://magic.defra.gov.uk/

https://www.schwegler-natur.de/

Appendix A: Suggested locations of selected biodiversity enhancements





Enhancement and mitigation plan —North and East Elevation

Appendix B: Advice sheet on how to use Swift calls

SWIFTCONSERVATION
KEEPING THE SKIES ALIVE www.swift-conservation.org

How to use the Swift Calls CD or MP3

You need patience when trying to attract Swifts to a new nest place. Sometimes they respond immediately, sometimes it can take years to gain their interest.

Swifts usually look for breeding places in the area already established by another flock, so the best chance of success is when there are already Swifts breeding nearby.

These Swift calls are duets given by a breeding pair defending its nest place from other Swifts. Swifts searching for nest places are attracted by the duets to see if there might be a vacant place for them.

Swifts look for nest places during May for places to breed in this year; in July they are looking for places to breed in next year.

They then stick with these nest places for the foreseeable future, but if they come back from Africa to find their nest gone, say because of re-roofing or demolition, then they will search frantically for another nest site.

To coincide with the periods when Swifts are looking for nest places, play the Swift Calls from early May onward, until the end of July. If this is not tolerable or feasible, play the calls from early May to the end of the month, then from mid-June to the end of July. While evicted Swifts will choose a new nest place upon arrival, juveniles will not choose one for use the following year until much later in the season.

Set your sound system's timer to play the calls at suitable times. This will depend on what you and your neighbours can tolerate, but could be from dawn for 3 to 6 hours, then from about 4pm to 6pm until it gets dark. This example would be ideal for an office or school environment. Alternatively, play the duets for as long as is tolerable, (coinciding with the absence of people if their presence is a problem). If the weather is cold and wet, playing the duets will have no effect at all, so they can be stopped.

The loudspeakers should be mounted inside the nest boxes. The volume level should be as loud as a real Swift's scream. If the call comes from inside the nest box it may be muffled. This is acceptable.

It is easy to see when the birds are looking for new nest sites. They fly directly to potential nest holes, pausing in mid-air, sometimes clinging briefly to the outer surface of the wall,or nest box, then falling away into a dive.

For more about the life of the Swift, including photographs, nest box designs, and information for architects, builders, planners, and vets, see our information- rich web site.

www.swift-conservation.org

Recordings Ulrich Tigges, concept, mixing, editing Edward Mayer, sound engineering David Theriault

Appendix C: Suggested timetable for implementation of ecological enhancement works

Timings		Feature/species of interest	Action	Person responsible
When to Undertake	**Year**			
During construction	2024	Bats and birds	Bird and bat boxes to be erected on proposed building(s)	Site manager and ECoW
Post-construction	From 2025	Bats	Annual check for damages from the ground	Landowners. If boxes require replacing/fixing then ECoW advice should be sought
Post-construction	From 2025 (between October and February)	Birds	Annual cleaning and check for damages (outside breeding bird season)	Landowners. If boxes require replacing/fixing then ECoW advice should be sought
Post-construction	From autumn 2024	Bats, birds, small mammals and insects	Replanting of sections of defunct hedgerow	Site manager with advice from Ecologist
Post-construction	From autumn 2024	Bats, birds, small mammals and insects	Planting of native tree species within amenity grassland	Site manager with advice from Ecologist
Post-construction	From autumn 2024	Bats, birds, small mammals and insects	Seeding of some areas of semi-improved grassland	Site manager with advice from Ecologist