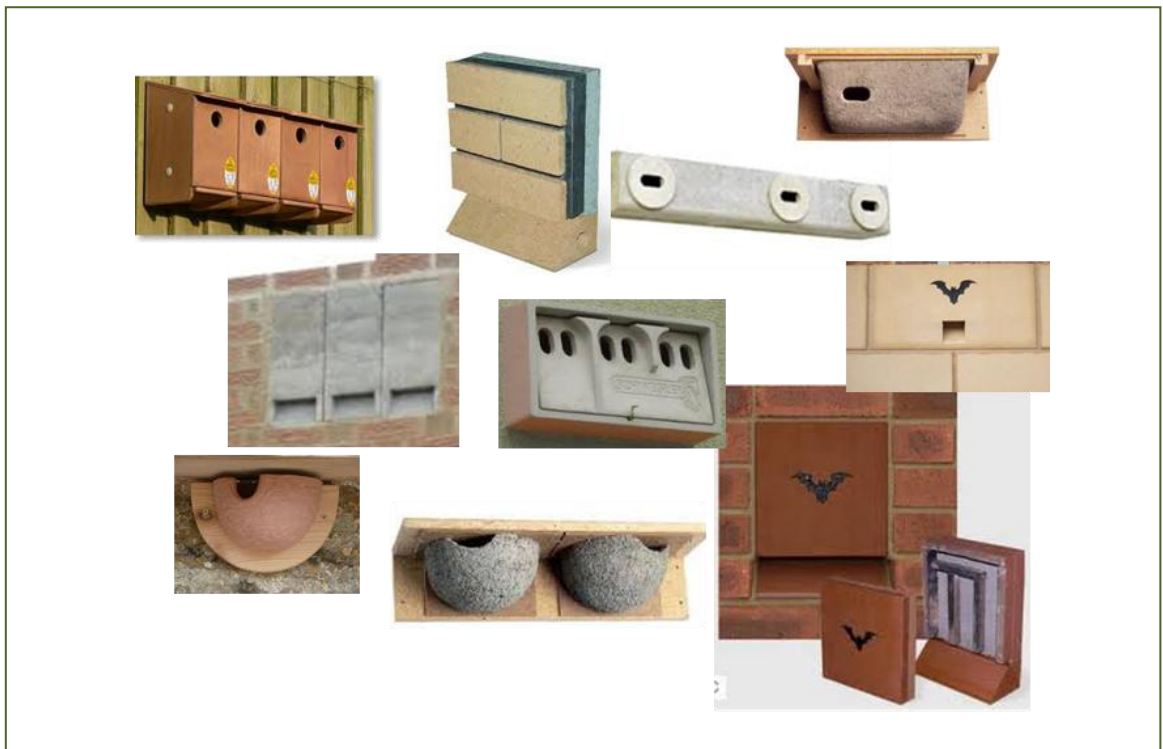




AllAboutTrees

Arboricultural & Ecological Consultancy
Chartered Arboriculturalists & Environmentalists

Proposed Wildlife Enhancements
For The Development
At The
Former School Kitchens'
North Road, Boldon Colliery



For

Blake Hopkinson Architecture



The proposed development at Former School Kitchens' is advised to include wildlife enhancements for both bats and birds.

Wherever possible it is advised to use built in structures within gable ends and soffit areas of the new buildings. All boxes should be placed a minimum of 5m from ground level in areas avoiding direct sunlight, where overheating could occur.

Bats

We would advise that bat bricks are incorporated into the eaves of the some of the buildings:-

- On western elevations for crevice dwelling bats as potential maternity colonies use either the Habibat bat box, lbstock enclosed bat box, Forticrete bat box or one of the Schwegler bat roost range.

Birds

A range of boxes should be considered, the RSPB has a range of boxes available for a variety of species. The main species to be considered are swifts, House martins, swallows and House sparrow. The new hedge planting along the southern boundary is likely to be used by nesting birds.

Swift boxes should be situated in shade, away from direct sunlight and avoiding windows.

House Martins need to be north or east facing, avoiding positions where droppings would be an issue

Swallows need to be placed on a ledge within buildings

Positioning Of The Bricks & Boxes

Bats

To be positioned on the northern elevation – the bat box providing and winter hibernation on plots 12 and 15

To be positioned on the western elevation – the bat boxes suitable for maternity colonies on the western elevation of plot 03 & 10 and the south-east of 01.

Birds

Swift boxes - use two boxes per plot using both east and western elevations on plot, some on the south elevation when in the shade of an adjacent property – eastern elevation on plot 06 and 05, western elevation plot

House martin cups use north facing wall - use several cups placed as a group on plots 09 and 02

House sparrows ideally create a structure at the eaves or within soffit boards on eastern or western elevations or alternatively use an external box on some of the garages

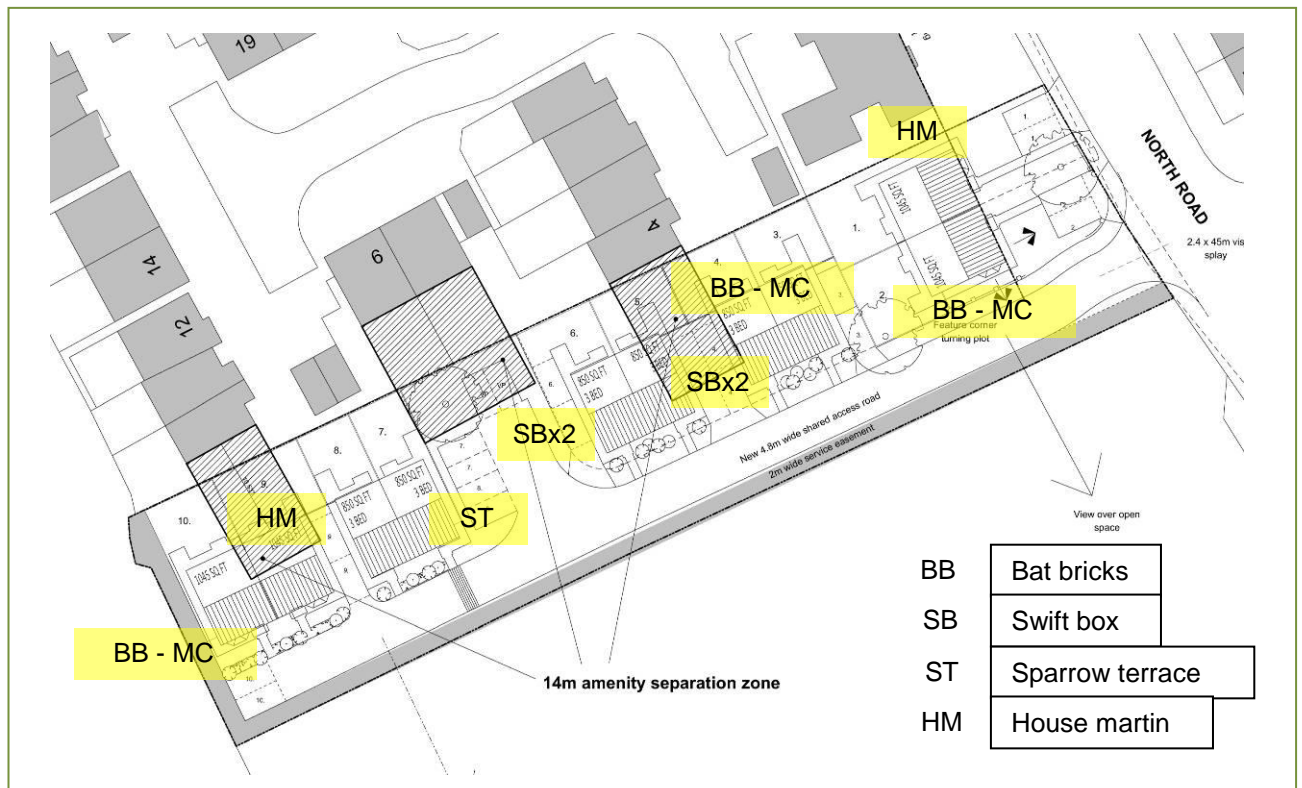


Figure 1 – Advised positions of wildlife enhancements

Suppliers

This is by no means an exhaustive list

RSPB – has a range of bird boxes

nhbs – <http://www.nhbs.com/browse/subject/420/nest-boxes-habitats>

Wildcare - <http://www.wildcareshop.com/product/nest-boxes-artificial-habitats.html>

Other suppliers are available.

Summary Of Potential For Protected Species Activity & Potential Impact By Development

Existing habitat	Potential use	Position	Recommendation for development	Predicted impact During development
Hawthorn hedge	High potential of use by nesting birds	Western boundary	Hedging to be improved by planting of native species, to cover the whole western boundary.	Loss of nesting habitat
Privet hedge		Eastern boundary	Hedging to be retained	Disturbance to nesting habitat
Scrub patch – BC1	High potential of use by nesting birds	Within site target note BC1	This group conflicts with the proposed design layout and will need to be removed to facilitate the development.	Total loss
Enclosed scrub (inside school railings)	High potential of use by nesting birds	Within development boundary	This group conflicts with the proposed design layout and will need to be removed to facilitate the development.	Total loss
Semi-improved grassland	Limited invertebrate activity and mammal route way	Within development boundary		No net loss of habitat
River Don	Potential use by otters and water vole	125m south of the proposed development	No spills into the river	Low

Mitigation

The primary concern for the former School Kitchens site is the loss of nesting habitat for birds and invertebrates within the existing hedges and scrubland. Most of which is proposed for removal due to conflicts with the proposed design.

Any scrub removal should occur outside the bird nesting season of March to August. Any removals considered necessary during the nesting season should be carried out under the supervision of the project ecologist.

Western hedge – at present this is an informal, unmanaged self set boundary of elder and hawthorn. It is advised to prune tree 20, a hawthorn and remove the elder and replant a mixed species native hedge. Development of this area should also remove the rubbish being 'dumped' in the hedge bottom from the adjacent allotments.

Eastern hedge – A formal privet hedge could be retained with the realignment of the driveways within this area. Retaining nesting and foraging habitat.

Parcels of scrub are identified for removal. The inclusion of a native hedge along the southern boundary could partially compensate for the loss of the scrub. This is unlikely to be possible due to easement area within this area and will be compensated by the increase in size and quality of the western boundary replanting.

Feature trees should be included as indicated in the development and within the new hedge line to mitigate for the loss of trees on site

No water discharge should occur into the River Don due to the existence of both otter and water vole on the River Don. No evidence was found for either species during the surveys but their existence is known within 2km of the site and downstream any contamination on site could have a detrimental effect on the known populations.

Please feel free to contact the project ecologist for any additional information.

For and on behalf of
AllAboutTrees Ltd

Tricia Snaith BSc BA PGCE MIFL GIEEM

Andrew Watson FLS MICFor CBiol MSB FARborA CEnv LCGI



AllAboutTrees

Arboricultural & Ecological Consultancy
Chartered Arboriculturalists & Environmentalists

The Old School
Quarry Lane
Butterknowle
Co Durham
DL13 5LN

Telephone 0191 3739494 / 01388 529200

Email – info@allabouttrees.co.uk
www.allabouttrees.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5301671
Registered Office: The Old School, Quarry Lane, Butterknowle,
Co Durham. DL13 5LN
