

COYNE ENVIRONMENTAL LTD

**Royal Wootton Bassett R F C
Brinkwoth Road
Royal Wootton Bassett
SN4 8DS**



Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy October 2025

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Coyne Environmental Ltd has been instructed by Pentangle Design Group to prepare an Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP) for Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Football Club, Ballards Ash Sports Grounds, Brinkworth Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8DS. (GR: SU069839). This is for Planning Application PL/2025/00842 to erect 15no floodlighting columns to three of the rugby pitches. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has been undertaken on 17th of December 2024. This found no ecology of significance.

1.2 Wiltshire County Council (WCC) have now granted permission to the Application with the following Condition:

Prior to the commencement of any works, including vegetation removal and demolition, details of the number, design and locations of bat roosts and nesting opportunities for birds (e.g. bat and bird boxes) shall be submitted to the local authority for approval. The approved details shall be implemented before occupation of the final works.

REASON: To provide mitigation /enhancement for biodiversity.



Figure 1 (Above): A map depicting the development area. The boundary is indicative only. Map created on 11/08/2025 by Coyne Environmental. OpenStreetMap is open data, licensed under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL) by the OpenStreetMap Foundation (OSMF)

1.3 It is proposed to produce an Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP). This will set out the details for proposed ecological enhancements specifications, implementation and maintenance.

SITE

2.1 This site is a Rugby Club north of the town of Royal Wootton Bassett, west of Swindon and south of the M4. The proposed development site is a sports club of grassland cut to a standard used for competitive games. The Living England Habitat Map indicates the general area around Royal Wootton Bassett comprises mostly improved grassland with sections of arable and horticultural land mainly to the north.



Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP)

3.1 An EEP is a set of measures to improve a development site ecological condition after development. This is to enhance the biodiversity of a site to secure net gains for local wildlife. This can also be incorporated into the design of the development.

3.2 It is proposed to undertake the following:

- Installation of Bird Boxes.
- Installation of Bat Boxes.
- Installation of Hedgehog Homes with Hedgehog Highways.

Bird boxes

3.3 Bird boxes to be high-quality long-lasting such as the Woodstone Boxes, should be installed.

3.4 These are advantageous over other nesting provisions because they confirm to British Standard BS42021:2022 ensuring they're suitable for a variety of small bird species including Swifts. They should be installed in line with manufacturer's instructions:

- Boxes should be to RSBP approved design
- Secured to manufacturer's instructions
- A minimum of 4-5 metres high
- Avoiding south-facing aspect to prevent overheating of the birds.



Location

It is recommended that the bird boxes are placed in selected trees on the edge of the sports areas, away from active play. These should be mature native species (oak, ash) with a clear flight path and away from potential predation.



Bat boxes

3.5 Bat boxes should be high-quality long-lasting such as the Woodstone Bat Boxes. These should be installed following Bat Box Guidance Document with additional guidance or the manufacturer's instructions.

3.6 Bat boxes are designed with the opening at the bottom of the structure. These may not be used immediately, as bats can take some time to forage an area before deciding to use artificial boxes. Once in use they should not be disturbed, as they are EPS. If it is necessary to investigate if they are being used, this can only be done by a qualified ecologist with a bat licence.

3.7 The bat boxes should be installed as follows.

- It is best installed high south or south-east facing aspect.
- No less than 4 metres above ground.
- Any outside lighting should not be directed towards these locations
- Lighting triggered by movement should also be avoided, any bats foraging near the site would be disturbed and may affect their feeding habits.



Location

It is recommended that the bat boxes are placed in selected trees on the edge of the sports areas, away from active play. These should be mature native species (oak, ash) with a clear flight path and away from direct light .



Hedgehog Homes / Highways

3.6 Hedgehogs are Priority Species and are becoming more uncommon. It is proposed that several 'Hedgehog Highways' are included by cutting 13 x 13 cm square gaps between any fence panels or other similar barriers on site and smoothing off the edges or leaving natural gaps in the fencing. This will allow Hedgehogs and other small

mammals to pass between habitats (connectivity). or leaving natural gaps in the fencing. This will allow Hedgehogs and other small mammals to pass between habitats (connectivity). It is noted that the edges of the sports fields have fencing which is already permeable. This will allow the animals to pass through to other adjacent habitats.



3.7 It is proposed to install hedgehog homes in discrete locations , in vegetation away from other activity and the sports fields in particular . The animals may use these in winter for hibernation dens , so they should not be disturbed .

3.8 There are a lot of manufactures of animal homes and the following is a typical example that could be chosen .



CONCLUSION

4.1 Coyne Environmental Ltd has been instructed by Pentangle Design Group to undertake ecological studies for Planning Application PL/2025/00842 for new floodlighting at Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Football Club, Ballards Ash Sports Grounds, Brinkworth Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8DS. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has found no ecology of significance, including bats (European Protected Species).

4.2 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) now has a Condition for ecological enhancements. An Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP) is now set out in this Report. how the environment and wildlife will be protected.

4.3 In my professional opinion, I conclude that these studies and reports should satisfy Wiltshire County Council on ecology and biodiversity enhancements and that the Application can be determined on this basis.

REFERENCES

Proposals Map

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

Environment Act 2021

