

Our Ref: ST/251014



ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

Proposal: Erection of agricultural store

At: Bitham House, Cutting Hill, Ham, Wiltshire RG17 0RW

LPA Reference: PL/2026/05011

The proposed development comprises the erection of an agricultural store for storage purposes for the husbandry of the land in connection with the dwelling of Bitham House. The agricultural land requires constant maintenance, and the proposed store will facilitate this by keeping the required machinery in close proximity on site.

The planning application is supported by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by All Ecology Ltd. The report outlines the proposed ecological enhancement measures for the site.

The objectives of this document are to maximise the enhancement of the proposed development for biodiversity to meet policy requirements.

The aims of the biodiversity enhancement strategy are to ensure that the new development is constructed and managed in accordance with planning approval and wildlife legislation, and to ensure the delivery of the proposed ecological enhancements.

The proposed mitigation measures are as follows:

(1) Installation of Bat Boxes

A total of two Schwegler 1FR Bat Tubes would be installed in the upper northern and southern walls of the proposed agricultural store, along with a single Bat Conservation Trust - wooden Bat Box installed at the apex of the east facing elevation. The specification of the new bat roosting features has been chosen to avoid the need for regular maintenance, which could disturb roosting bats and require a license.

(2) Installation of Bird Boxes

Two Vivara Pro 32mm Woodstone Nest Boxes will be installed on two existing trees within the applicants wider land ownership. The boxes will be retained in perpetuity.

(3) Installation of Hedgehog Nest Box

A single Hedgehog Nest Box will be installed in a sheltered area of the south elevation of the site, close to an existing hedgerow providing cover.

Information / Specification

Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube



MATERIAL: Woodcrete

DIMENSIONS (MM): 200 x 475 x 125

ENTRANCE (MM): 150 x 90 x 20

WEIGHT (KG): 9.8

INCLUDES: Bat Tube 1FR

COLOUR: 1FR is delivered in "natural grey". It can be painted at any time with standard breathable façade paint.

SPECIES: A summer roost for bat species that inhabit buildings.

SITING: Install in façades (brick-in or render-in), in concrete (for example, in bridge structures), or retrofit under weatherboarding during renovation work, etc. If fitted to a wall then brackets must be used (not supplied). We recommend fitting at least 3m above the ground, so a ladder will be needed. The ideal aspect is so the box receives at least some sun during the day. If it is on an existing feeding or flight route you are more likely to be occupied.

MAINTENANCE: This Bat Tube is maintenance-free, as the droppings can fall slowly downwards, via the special droppings chute.

Hedgehog Nest Box



This Wooden Hedgehog Nest Box provides a secure, sheltered space for hedgehogs to hibernate and potentially breed. Designed using input from hedgehog conservation experts, it offers a dry, insulated and predator-resistant refuge suitable for use in gardens and green spaces.

Constructed from FSC-certified exterior grade European birch plywood, the box is built as a single robust unit with an integrated entrance tunnel. This eliminates loose parts and helps reduce the risk of disturbance from predators.

DESIGN FEATURES

- Fully built-in tunnel with large square access suitable for even larger hedgehogs
- Raised entrance 'step' allowing the box to be partially buried for added security
- Nesting chamber positioned away from the tunnel entrance
- Lower internal roof to help create a snug nesting space
- Inbuilt ventilation designed to maintain suitable temperature and humidity without draughts
- Underfloor runners to improve airflow beneath the box
- Removable roof for inspection and cleaning

The panels are precision cut from FSC-certified exterior grade plywood and assembled with surface-sunk staples. The box is finished with a non-toxic, water-based stain and preservative.

SITING & INSTALLATION

The hedgehog house should be placed directly on the ground in a quiet, sheltered part of the garden, ideally in a shaded area. It can be partially covered with leaves, twigs and other natural vegetation to help it blend into the surroundings. Adding dry leaves or hay inside will allow hedgehogs to build their own nest.

To check for occupancy, place a light object in front of the entrance and see if it has been moved overnight. Avoid disturbing the box during summer, as it may be used as a nursery.

MAINTENANCE

If the box remains unoccupied after winter use (typically late March to early April), it can be cleaned. If treating for parasites, only use suitable organic products such as pyrethrum powder approved for birds. Treatments intended for dogs or cats are not suitable.

MATERIALS & SPECIFICATIONS

- Material: FSC-certified exterior grade European birch plywood
- Finish: Non-toxic, water-based stain and preservative
- Construction: Stapled panel design with integrated tunnel
- Dimensions: 22 x 38 x 47 cm (H x W x L)
- Weight: Approx. 4 kg
- Installation: Ground placement

A practical and durable nesting box designed to provide hedgehogs with a safe place to shelter, hibernate and raise young within garden environments.

Vivara Pro 32 mm Woodstone Nest Box



The WoodStone Seville Nest Box 32mm provides a durable nesting site for small cavity-nesting birds, including Great Tit, Nuthatch, Pied Flycatcher and Tree Sparrow. Its 32mm entrance hole makes it suitable for a range of common garden and woodland species.

Made from WoodStone, a robust material produced from FSC-certified wood fibres and concrete, this nest box is designed for long-term outdoor use. The material helps protect the nest chamber from predators and provides a stable internal environment for eggs and young birds.

The front of the box can be opened for cleaning, making annual maintenance straightforward. The box is supplied ready for installation and can be mounted on a tree, fence or building façade.

KEY FEATURES

- Durable WoodStone nest box for small cavity-nesting birds
- 32mm entrance hole suitable for a range of songbirds
- Made from FSC-certified wood fibres and concrete
- Robust construction designed to last for many years
- Provides protection from predators and weather exposure
- Suitable for mounting on trees, fences or building façades
- Front-opening design allows easy cleaning and inspection
- No nesting material required
- Supplied with mounting material

SUITABLE SPECIES

This nest box is suitable for species including Great Tit, Nuthatch, Pied Flycatcher and Tree Sparrow. It may also be used by other small cavity-nesting birds where suitable habitat is present.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Material:** WoodStone
- Colour:** Green/White
- Outer Dimensions:** 210 x 305 x 190mm
- Internal Dimensions:** 120 x 240 x 120mm
- Entrance Hole:** 32mm
- Weight:** Approximately 6kg
- Species Group:** Songbirds

SITING

Install the nest box at least 2 feet above ground level on a tree, fence or building façade. Choose a sheltered position where the entrance hole does not face south-west, to reduce exposure to prevailing rain. Avoid placing the box where it will be exposed to direct sunlight throughout the day.

The box can be hung using the supplied screw or nail. It can also be attached to a tree without nails or screws by rotating the rear hanging bracket 180 degrees and using a suitable Velcro fixing, available separately.

MAINTENANCE

No nesting material needs to be added. The nest box should be cleaned after the young birds have fledged, or during the winter months after a few days of frost. To clean, open the front of the nest box and remove old nesting material before checking that the box and fixings remain secure.