

Ecological Design Strategy

Former Kirklees College Site, Portland Street, Huddersfield,

Report Reference: ER-7830-01

26/11/2024

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Date:	27.11.24

The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. This report does not constitute legal advice.

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Introduction

This Ecological Design Strategy (The Plan) is produced to help discharge condition 25 of the extant planning consent.

"Prior to the commencement of each phase of development as detailed in the phasing plan approved under condition 3 excluding Phase 1A, an Ecological Design Strategy (EDS) addressing enhancement shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority for that phase. The EDS shall include the following where relevant:

- *Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed works;*
- *Review of site potential and constraints;*
- *Detailed design(s) and/or working method(s) to achieve stated objectives;*
- *Extent and location/area of proposed works on appropriate scale maps and plans;*
- *Type and source of materials to be used where appropriate, e.g. native species of local provenance;*
- *Timetable for implementation demonstrating that works are aligned with the proposed phasing of development;*
- *Persons responsible for implementing the works;*
- *Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance;*
- *Details for monitoring and remedial measures; and details for disposal of any wastes arising from works.*

The EDS shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and all features shall be retained in that manner thereafter."

Purpose and conservation objectives

To maximise the biodiversity value by incorporating features that attract birds and bats to roost and nest on site. To maximise biodiversity value of lawned areas for pollinating insects and other fauna.

Scope of EDS

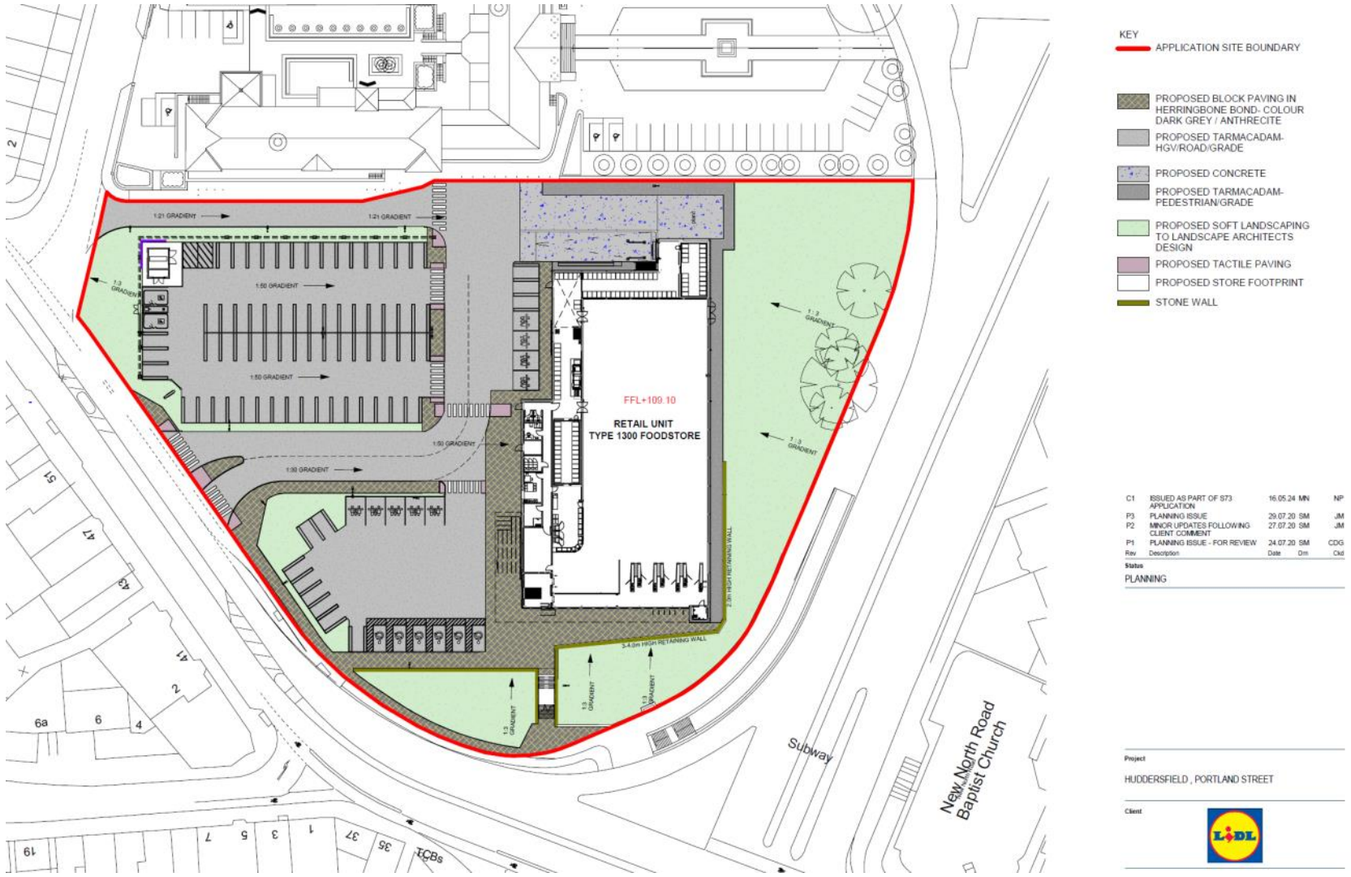
This plan relates to the whole development as illustrated right. It is a typically urban site with limited opportunity beyond the conservation objectives stated above.

Delivering the EDS on the ground

The Developer is responsible for the creation and maintenance works for a five-year period.

The Developer will appoint an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to oversee the delivery of this plan prior to any work commencing on site.

The ECoW would be a qualified Ecologist and member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, or be otherwise approved by the LPA.



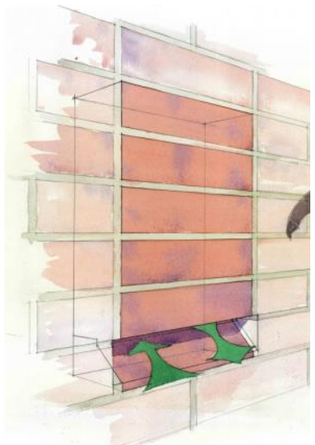
Opportunities and Themes

Homes for declining birds and bats

New builds often fail to provide opportunities for nesting birds and roosting bats. A wide range of designs are now available on the market which can either be fixed to the masonry or built discretely into the fabric of new walls.





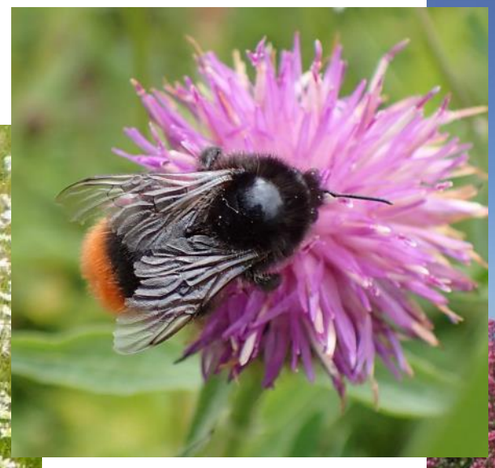




Wildflower lawns for pollinators

Lawns seeded with flowers can be left to grow long in places which provides an attractive and essential source of nectar for pollinating insects.







Habitats for wildlife

Rationale

Lawns seeded with a mix of flowers that con tolerate regular mowing provide a valuable resources for pollinating insects such as butterflies, moths and bees. Leaving some areas to grow long allows more plants to flower and provides shelter for other wildlife.



Wildflower Lawns

Specification

Soil Checked by ECoW for suitability: this to be a friable, low nutrient load, neutral soil. Spread using back actor spread and firmed. Not driven over or compacted. All soil handling and spreading to be supervised and sanctioned by ECoW.

Weeds If the soil is likely to support viable weed seeds it should be allowed to grow to first flush, then killed off with translocated non-persistent herbicide.

Seeding Seed with Emorsgate seeds (or approved equivalent) to supplier's specification:

- EL1 *Flowering Lawn Mixture*

Management

Year 1 Five cuts, collect arisings and remove from Site. Use a weed wipe three times in year 1 to kill off weeds–spear thistle, creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock, clustered dock, wood dock, curled dock, nettle, ragwort, and others according to ECoW recommendations. Operatives must be proven competent in identifying. Weed species.

Years 2 onwards Two cuts, once in August and again in October–remove arisings. Continue to spot-treat competitive weed species each year until under control according to ECoW.

Remedial action options

- Increase weed control if undesirable species establish.
- Soil scrape to reduce nutrients.
- Re-seed and replant locally.



Homes for wildlife

Rationale

Ready made roosting boxes can be incorporated into developments to provide shelter and breeding sites for declining species of bats.

Integrated Bat boxes

Specification

https://www.nhbs.com/ibstock-enclosed-bat-box-c

Or equivalent approved by an Ecologist.

Location Notes

Sited as high as possible beneath the roof line with good access to unlit vegetated corridors and lines of trees. Proposed locations shown as purple dots on figure.

Number

2

When erected?

During building construction.





Homes for wildlife

Rationale

Ready made roosting boxes can be incorporated into developments to provide shelter and breeding sites for declining species of bats.

Bat boxes in trees

Specification

Improved Cavity Bat Box

or equivalent approved by an Ecologist.

Location Notes

Proposed locations shown as purple dots on figure right where existing mature trees should provide stable long term support for boxes. Mount 4m height with boxes facing in different directions to create differing temperature conditions.

Number

2

When erected?

During soft landscaping works.





Homes for wildlife

Rationale

Ready made nesting boxes can be incorporated into developments to provide shelter and breeding sites for declining fauna.

Swift boxes

Specification

https://manthorpebuildingproducts.co.uk/product/gswb

-swift-nest-brick

or equivalent approved by the Ecological Clerk of Works.

Location Notes

Swift boxes will be positioned as high up on buildings as possible, ideally below the verges of gables. Boxes will not be positioned above windows, to prevent potential conflict with new homeowners. Proposed locations shown as brown squares on figure.

Number

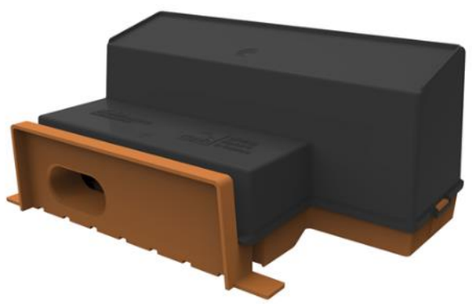
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When erected?

During construction.

Verification

Ecological Clerk of Works Certificate.





Homes for wildlife

Rationale

A range of bird species can make use of hole fronted bird boxes including those in decline such as starlings.

Tree mounted bird boxes

Specification

Vivara Pro WoodStone Starling Nest Box

Or equivalent approved by the Ecological Clerk of Works.

Location Notes

Proposed locations shown as green dots on figure right where existing mature trees should provide stable long term support for boxes. Mount above 3m height away from potential predator or human interference.

Number

2

When erected?

During soft landscaping works.

Verification

Ecological Clerk of Works Certificate.





Homes for wildlife

Rationale

Managed landscape areas with modern buildings can be enhanced with features that support solitary bee species which are in decline due to lack of habitat resources in urban environments

Bee Post

Specification

Bee Post by Green&Blue

or equivalent approved by the Ecological Clerk of Works.

Location Notes

Mounted in sunny and sheltered area of the grounds near to flowering shrubs, trees and long grass.

Number

One

When erected?

During soft landscaping works.

Verification

Ecological Clerk of Works Certificate.





Works Schedule

Task	ECoW to direct	ECoW to carry out	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	6+
Integrated bat and bird box install	yes		as built					
Wildflower lawn soil preparation and seeding			during landscaping					
Wildflower Lawn mowing and management			five cuts	August & October	August & October	August & October	August & October	August & October
Tree mounted bat and bird boxes and bee post	yes		during landscaping					
ECoW verification Faunal boxes		yes	yes					