

BNG/ Species Enhancement Statement:

Address: The Gate House, Jackson Bridge, HD9 7HS

Job No: 3676

1. Bats:

UK bats are known to have suffered historic declines in abundance and modern building methods can result in new buildings lacking potential bat roost locations or presenting a risk of entanglement in modern roofing membranes. The provision of integral boxes increased the number of safe roosting options for bats in the area.

Due to the height and orientation of the proposed extension, an integral bat box would be unsuitable. Therefore, a bat box will be incorporated within the trees on site.

2. Birds

Swifts *Apus apus* are summer visitors to the UK. Each year they journey from their wintering grounds in Africa to breed, before returning again in August. Their nests are made high under the eaves of old buildings. Many modern and refurbished buildings now have much more effective sealing of the eaves, meaning that nesting spaces are becoming more difficult to find. This species is classed as Red Listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern list (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021).

A study of 741 swift boxes/bricks installed by the Duchy of Cornwall showed their use by a variety of nesting birds that utilise buildings including house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, house martins *Delichon urbicum* and blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*. Given the appeal of swift boxes to other species, it has been decided to install swift boxes only in connection with this scheme, with the expectation that other species of building nesting bird will also use the boxes.

Due to the height and orientation of the proposed extension, an integral swift box would be unsuitable. Therefore, a swift box will be incorporated within the trees on site.