

04 April 2025

Gravesham Borough Council,
Planning Department,
Civic Centre,
Windmill Street,
Gravesend,
Kent,
DA12 1AU

Re: Application 20240949

Condition 04

Within 3 months of commencement of works a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan including details of how the development will enhance biodiversity through the inclusion of ecological enhancement features within the buildings and site. The approved measures will be implemented and retained thereafter.

Reason: *In the interests of visual and residential amenity and to protect and enhance existing species and habitat on the site in the future in accordance with Policies CS12 and CS19 of the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (2014) and Paragraph 193 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024).*

This document accompanies the submitted drawing that details the biodiversity enhancement measures proposed for our development project, specifically the installation of a swift nest box, a Beaumaris Woodstone bat box, and a concrete bee brick.

The inclusion of these features aligns with the principles outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), specifically policies 187 and 193, which emphasize the importance of enhancing biodiversity and supporting priority species. By integrating these specific enhancements into our design, we are complying with these policies and also actively contributing to the conservation of local wildlife.

****Swift Nest Box**:** Swifts are a species of conservation concern, and providing nesting sites is critical for their survival, especially in urban areas where natural nesting opportunities are limited. The proposed swift nest box will be installed under the eaves, where swifts traditionally build their nests. This specific placement not only offers protection from predators but also ensures accessibility for these birds during the breeding season.

****Beaumaris Woodstone Bat Box**:** Bats are vital for maintaining healthy ecosystems, yet their populations are declining due to habitat loss. The Beaumaris Woodstone bat box is designed to provide a safe roosting environment for bats, made from durable materials that withstand various weather conditions. Strategically placing this box on the property will encourage bats to occupy an area that can support their natural behaviours while contributing to local biodiversity.

****Concrete Bee Brick**:** Pollinators, such as solitary bees, play an essential role in our ecosystem by aiding in plant reproduction. The concrete bee brick is specifically designed to create nesting habitats for these solitary bee species. By incorporating this feature into the development, we are providing a much-needed resource for pollinators, contributing to their populations and thus supporting broader ecological health.

Each of these features has been carefully chosen to ensure they are suitable for the intended species and the local environment. They are not only effective in aiding biodiversity but also practical, being low-maintenance and durable. Promoting biodiversity through these measures aligns with the intent of the biodiversity enhancement plan and the conditions outlined by KCC Biodiversity.

In conclusion, the proposed swift nest box, Beaumaris Woodstone bat box, and concrete bee brick collectively provide sufficient and targeted measures to enhance biodiversity on the site, which is currently covered in concrete hardstanding. We are committed to implementing these features and retaining them as part of our ongoing responsibility to support local wildlife.

Sincerely,



Daniel Kemp

for and on behalf of

EP Architects Ltd

cc file