



GILL
STERLING

ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

18 Marks Square
Northfleet
Gravesend
DA11 7HU

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Summary:

This Ecological enhancement statement has been prepared to identify improvement of biodiversity and wildlife.

Providing bat boxes, bird boxes and native planting to positively impact wildlife.

Additional hedging planted will compensate for the loss of habitat and improve biodiversity value, provide additional places of rest or shelter for residential/migratory birds.

Introduction

The Ecological enhancement statement was created for the Discharge of Condition no. 15 for the approved Planning Application under Ref. 20220175.

The site is to propose 'erection of a two-bed detached two-storey house within the curtilage of 18 Marks Square with associated amenity space and formation of vehicle access and one parking space at front' at 18 Marks Square, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7HU.

Site Location

The application site comprises a semi-detached corner property within a large suburban estate (of over 350 houses) built originally in the early 1950s originally as post war Council housing. The existing dwelling is bay-fronted and is of brick construction with a tiled roof.

The front garden is lawned and enclosed by a low concrete block wall. There is a strip of amenity land to the side of the flank wall of the dwelling that fronts on to Marks Square and runs up to the flank wall and front garden/parking for 16 Marks Square which is a two-storey end terraced dwelling.



Enhancement and opportunity

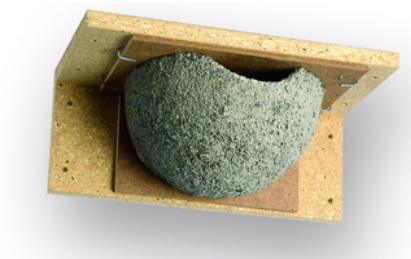
Ecological enhancements should where possible be incorporated into the proposed development to contribute towards the objectives of planning legislation identified within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

In accordance with the above plan: “Plan policies and planning decisions should aim to maintain, and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests” and together with the Natural England & Rural Communities Act 2005, places a statutory duty to promote biodiversity and minimise impacts of a development upon ecology.

Bird box

Addition of one martin/swallow nest box (see picture below) on the proposed buildings. Examples of good bird box designs are found below and can be sourced at:

[Nid à hirondelle de fenêtre n° 9A - Nid simple \(wildcare.co.uk\)](http://wildcare.co.uk)



Bat box

The incorporation of one bat tube on external elevation of the new residential building. One option is the Schwegler bat tube 1FR. The tube is designed as a bat summer roost for bricking into the external walls of buildings. This bat tube is maintenance-free, as the droppings can fall slowly downwards, via the special droppings chute.

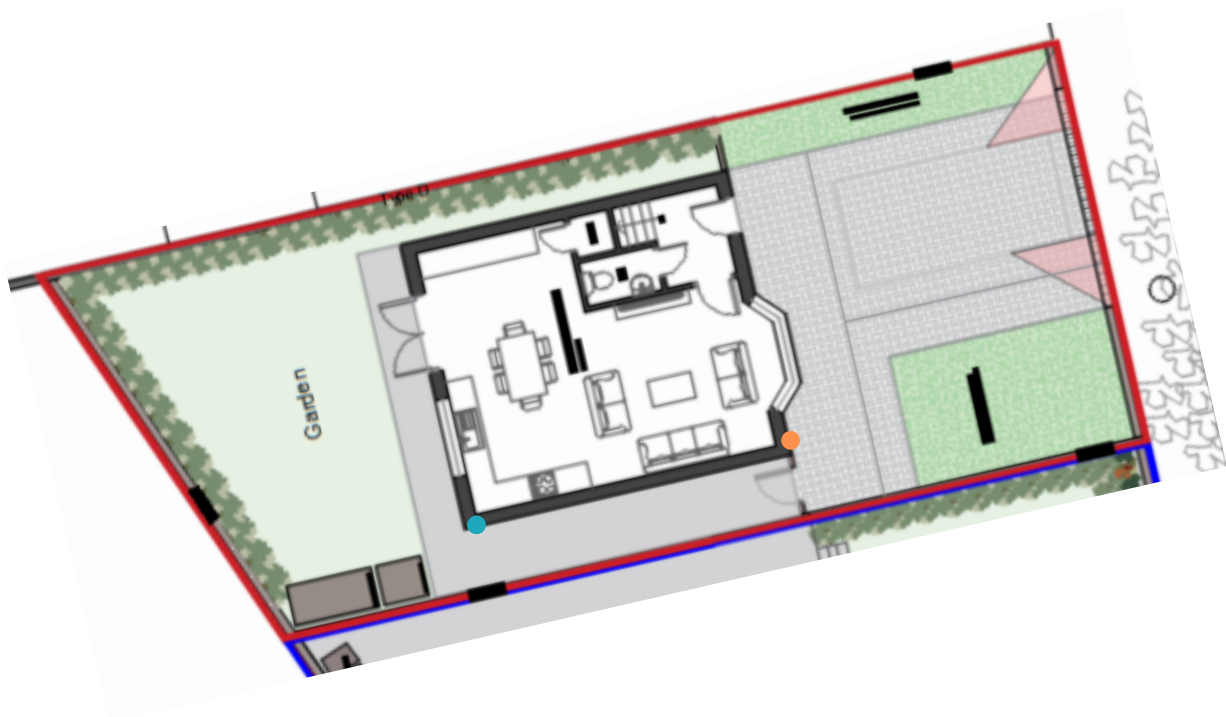
Examples of good bat box design is found below and can be sourced at:

https://www.schwegler-natur.de/portfolio_1395072079/fledermaus-fassadenroehre-1fr/?lang=en



Native Planting

To improve biodiversity and foraging potential for local bats and birds and enable access to the gardens by hedgehog, the planting of species-rich (minimum five species) hedges around the boundaries of the new properties. Suggested species include; Alliums, Purple Loosestrife, Lavender Plants. Wild Flower Seeds and Fagus Sylvatica.



- Bat box
- Bird box

Bird

If possible, any tree or hedge clearance which may be required should be undertaken outside the bird breeding season. The breeding bird season extends from March – August inclusive.

If these works cannot be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season, they should be undertaken under ecological supervision. If a nest is identified either being built, has eggs or chicks the area around the nest should be avoided until the young have fledged.

All species of bird whilst actively nesting are afforded legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

For more information, guidance from Natural England is available at <https://www.gov.uk/wild-birds-protection-surveys-and-licences>

Bat

Bats rarely use the same roosting place all year round as they need different conditions for breeding and hibernating. But bats are creatures of habit and tend to return to the same sites at the same time year after year. For this reason, roosts are legally protected even if bats don't seem to be living there at certain times of year.

The legislation makes it a criminal offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats;
- Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time);
- Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat;
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

All species of bat are afforded legal protection under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats Species Regulations (2010). All species of bat are European Protected Species (EPS).

For more information, guidance from Natural England is available at <https://www.gov.uk/bats-protection-surveys-and-licences>