

157 Milton Road Waterlooville, Hampshire

Ecological Enhancement Plan

Planning Application Ref. APP/19/00394

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**4Woods Ecology Ltd, 243 Woodlands Road, Woodlands, Southampton, SO40 76J
tel. 023 8029 2590**

4Woods Ecology Ltd. Company registration no. 4801465. England.
Registered office: Drove House, 14 Bakers Drove, Rownhams, Southampton SO16

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Ecological Enhancement Plan

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Planning consent has been granted for the redevelopment of a brownfield site at no. 157 Milton Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire (SU681 108). The proposals involve erection of x9 2-bed flats in two blocks, with associated parking, landscaping, cycle and refuse storage.

Planning condition no. 18, attached to the consent states:

18 *No above ground construction shall commence until a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan providing details of measures to enhance the natural environment including the installation of bat and bird boxes on the buildings, have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved details shall be installed prior to occupation of the development and subsequently retained thereafter.*

4Woods Ecology Ltd was subsequently commissioned by D & K Contracting Services to provide an ecological enhancement plan for the proposed development.

This report aims to provide the proposals for ecological enhancement at the redeveloped site for approval by the Local Planning Authority.

2.0 Review of Site & Local Context

2.1 Description of site & surroundings

Based on aerial photographs (www.bing.com/maps) and descriptions given in the Ground Contamination Report (Ground & Water, 2016) the application site previously comprised a single large building (Co-op store) with large area of paving used as the car park area to the front and very minimal vegetation at some boundaries.

It is understood that the building has now been demolished and cleared, with the site now comprising an area of bare ground surrounded by security fencing (D&A statement, ACA Architectural Design, April 2019) – see photos below.



The site lies at the corner of the junction of Milton Road and Pyrford Close. Immediately to the south of the site is a row of several retail units, with minimal parking/service road to the front and further service road to the rear, with little or no vegetation.

A pub with surrounding car park exists to the opposite side of Milton Road, with mown grass verge and ornamental, well maintained shrubs and two Sycamore/maple trees at the boundaries.

Elsewhere, the site is surrounded by medium to high density residential development, often with small gardens and low abundance of trees.

2.2 Assessment of Wildlife Interest in the Local Area

A site visit has not been carried out by the ecologist. However, the ecologist is familiar with this area, having completed surveys nearby. Sufficient information has been gleaned from aerial photographs, current photographs of the site and descriptions within the various documents which form the planning application submission, in order to provide a baseline for developing an appropriate ecological enhancement plan.

Given the nature of the site and local area typical mobile urban species would be expected to occur, such as House Sparrow, Starling, and possibly the occasional Song Thrush. These three species are all listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as species requiring measures to improve their nature conservation status. Swift, Blackbird, Blue-tit and Great tit may also occur in the general area. Swifts are also suffering population declines due to loss of nesting sites within buildings.

Given the limited availability of potential bat foraging habitat around the site, bats are unlikely to occur except possibly the occasional bat (e.g. Common Pipistrelle bat) flying through. No other notable mammal species are likely to occur given the lack of suitable habitat.

The site and immediate surroundings appear to have limited numbers of trees or shrubs.

4.5 Ecological Enhancement

Based on the above assessment of the site and wildlife that is likely to occur in the local area, together with a review of species which require conservation measures to improve their conservation status, the following ecological enhancement measures are proposed at the site (see **Map 1**):

- Improved landscape planting at the site, at the northern and eastern boundaries and additional planting between and around the new buildings. This will include a variety of species including those with a known benefit to wildlife, such as Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Bird Cherry *Prunus padus*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Hebe sp., Viburnum *Viburnum davidii*, Lavender *Lavandula hidcote*. (ref. Landscape planting plan, Linda Oak, 2019, Dwg no. 1174/01 A)
- Installation of a House Sparrow 'terrace' bird box (i.e. with multiple access holes/chambers), beneath the eaves on the northern elevation of the western block;
- Installation of a bird box suitable for Starling (i.e. access hole 45mm diameter), just below the eaves on the eastern elevation of the western block;
- Installation of an integrated Swift nest box (i.e. built into the brickwork of the building) under the eaves at the northern elevation of the main/eastern block

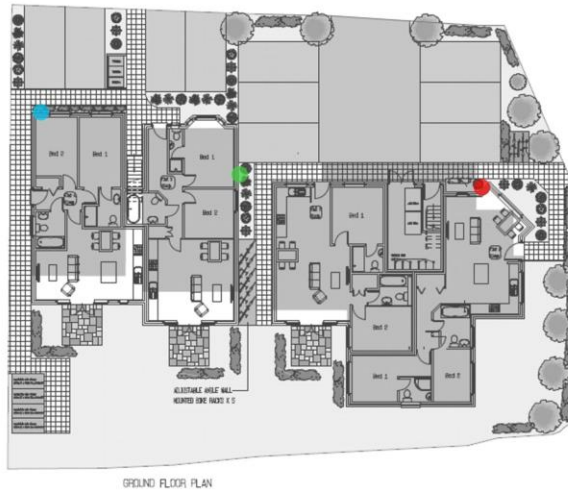
6.0 References

Ground & Water (2016). *Ground Investigation Report for 157 Milton Road, Cowplain, Hampshire*. Report produced for Southern Co-operative Ltd and PD Scammell Ltd. Unpubl.

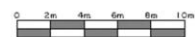
ACA Architectural Design (2019). *Planning, Design & Access Statement for Redevelopment of Site to Provide 9 Two Bed Flats with Associated Bin/Cycle Storage and Car Parking at 157 Milton Road, Cowplain, Waterlooville*. (April 2019). Document forming part of the planning application submission ref. APP/19/00394

157 Milton Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire

Map 1 - Habitat Enhancement Plan



Key



- Integrated Swift brick box
- House Sparrow terrace box
- Starling nest box