

Our ref: 9594 / DAH

Chris Stone
Neo Projects
Sent Via Email: Chris.stone@neoprojects.co.uk

Studio 2 Dunley Hill Court
Dunley Hill Farm
Ranmore
Dorking
RH5 6SX

t: 01509 672772
e: mail@fpcr.co.uk
w: www.fpcr.co.uk

4 July 2024

Dear Chris

Havant Care Home – Ecological Discharge of Conditions

This letter and the attached Figure has been provided to address the Ecology Responses from Tristan Norton the Principal Ecologist at Havant Borough Council; who were happy with the ecology information provided within the FPCR Ecological Appraisal in December 2023, but requirement more information on the ecological enhancements such as bat and bird box locations and where reptile refugia will be positioned.

Figure 1 attached shows the location of these ecological features, and below are the details of each feature including the type and installation.

Bat Boxes

These are to be installed on the trees around the main building as there are concerns that the lighting from the building might affected the utilisation of bat bricks/tube by the local bat populations. All of these bat boxes need to be installed between 4-6m on the main trunk of the trees highlighted within Figure 1, these trees are those that are more developed as they are existing mature trees. All boxes should be position on the south / south eastern aspect, the height should be determined by the degree of canopy cover near the trunk, as access to these bat boxes need to be unobstructed by vegetation. On some trees bat boxes are installed in groups of two, that will provide a diverse roosting opportunities for different species. Below are the details of the boxes to be installed:

- 3x Schwegler 1FF (or similar) – Suitable for crevice dwelling bats that can be used as a summer or nursery site. This is also self cleaning so needs very little maintenance.
- 3x Schwegler 1FD (or similar) – Suitable for smaller bats such as common pipistrelles, Daubenton's and long eared bats.
- 2x Schwegler 2F Universal bat box (or similar) – this is a general purpose bat box that can be used by a wide variety of species during the summer. It is also very low maintenance.

Bird Boxes

There is a variety of bird boxes suggested for the site, with an emphasis on those species that tend to be in decline within residential setting due to the modern construction design, which lack crevices and nesting opportunities, so we have focused on house sparrows and swifts, but also provided a general nesting box too.

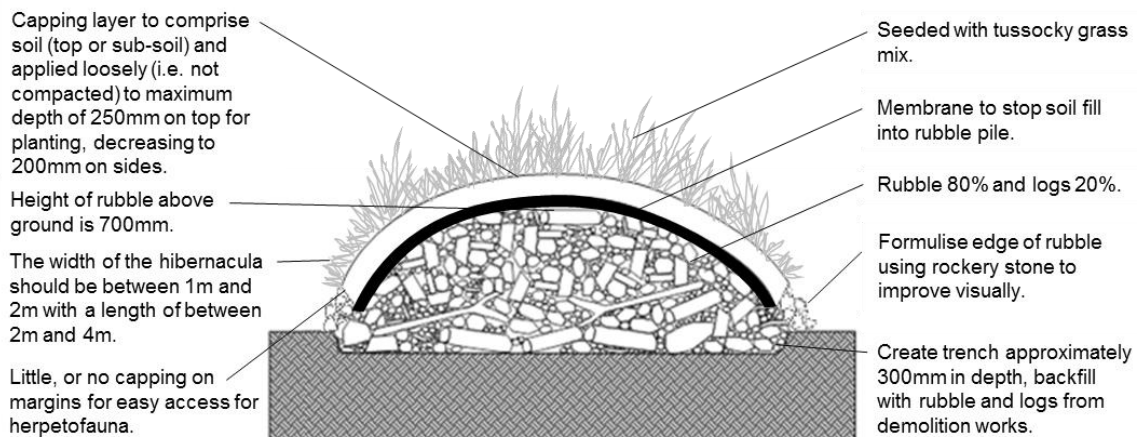
- 1x 1SP Schwegler Sparrow (or similar)– Good for house and tree sparrows but tit species can also use it. This is installed on buildings on the northern aspect at least 2m from the ground.

- 2 x Schwegler 17 Swift Box (or similar)– This needs to be installed at least 6-7m above the ground, but the higher the better ideally under any roof edges away from any obstacles. These should be on the eastern aspects of the building.
- Schwegler 1B (32mm) (or similar) – This should be installed on trees and provide a nesting and roosting opportunities for tit species, nuthatch and house sparrow. These need to be at least 2m from the ground and again on the eastern aspect.

Reptile Refugia

Figure 1 shows the approximate location of possible hibernaculum, this can take two forms; a specific structure with an excavation and dead wood creating a south facing back, that have crevices running into the structure (see below) or simply a number of log piles that provide basking opportunities but also places of refuge and hibernation.

Plate 1: Reptile / Amphibian Hibernacula Detail

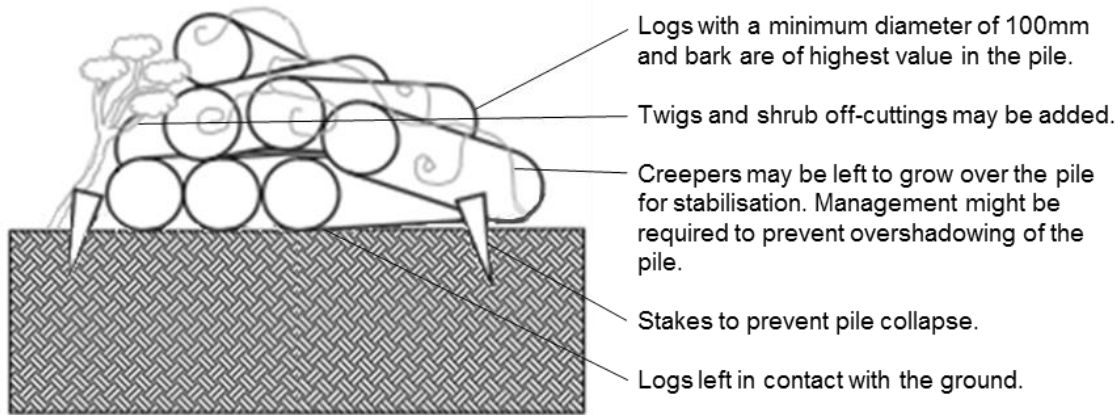


Log piles will ideally be created from any tree work arisings from site and placed at the interface between grassland habitats, avoiding north facing areas. The logs should be left in contact with the ground in dappled shade and built into a compact pile to maintain humidity. Stakes should be driven into the ground either side of the log pile to prevent the pile from collapsing.

Larger diameter logs (at least 100mm thick) with bark are of most value, particularly hard wood like oak and beech, whereas freshly cut willow and poplar may re-sprout. Twigs, stems and shrub off-cuttings may also be added. Climbers may be allowed to grow thinly over the dead wood pile for stabilisation and moisture. Full sun will dry and heat the wood, supporting little life, whereas dense shade will promote the growth of fungi but may be too cool for insects.

It is important that any landscaping maintenance works that are routinely undertaken within the grounds, take into consideration the function of these structures, ideally tall grass should be present around at least half of these features, as they provide refuge from predation, however vegetation should not be allowed to cover these completely where sunlight cannot warm up the features, which is typically the south/south eastern aspects.

Plate 2: Log Pile Detail



If you need any more information, then please do not hesitate in contact me.

Yours sincerely

David Harper
Associate Director (Ecology)
FPCR Environment and Design Ltd
david.harper@fpcr.co.uk