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## **Bird and bat box plan**

6 Nutley Terrace, London

<b>Site</b>	6 Nutley Terrace, London NW3 5BX
<b>Project number</b>	73918
<b>Client name / Address</b>	Serena and Harvey Freeman, and Istvan Szoke

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### Declaration of compliance

The information which we have provided is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Aims and Objectives

This bird and bat box plan has been devised to provide recommendations to ensure the provision of bird and bat box features at 6 Nutley Terrace, London. A bird and bat box plan is required at the site in order to discharge a conditional requirement, issued by the London Borough of Camden. Condition 18 of the planning application states:

*“Prior to first occupation of the development a plan showing details of bird and bat box locations and types (preferably integrated into the fabric of the buildings) and indication of species to be accommodated shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The boxes shall be installed in accordance with the approved plans prior to the occupation of the development and thereafter retained.*

*Reason: In order to secure appropriate features to conserve and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity measures within the development, in accordance with the requirements of the London Plan (2016), Camden Planning Guidance, and policy CS15 of the London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework Core Strategy”*

This bird and bat box plan is submitted pursuant to this condition. This plan aims to set out specific objectives for the provision of bird and bat boxes at the site, and the means by which these are to be achieved. This will include management responsibilities and maintenance schedules.

## 2. BIRD AND BAT BOXES

### 2.1. Bird nest boxes

#### *Target structure*

A total of two bird boxes will be installed at the Site. One bird box will be installed on each property. These will be installed on two mature trees, T4 (Plane) and T6 (Oak), as labelled in the Arboricultural Method Statement (Landmark Trees, 2018). These will be generalist bird boxes (Schwegler 1B General Purpose Nest Box).

#### *Preparation*

The Schwegler 1B General Purpose Nest Box comes with three different entrance hole sizes. In this instance, it is recommended that the 32mm size hole is chosen, as this will attract the widest range of garden bird species. See details in Appendix 2 for specific information on this bird box type.

#### *Installation*

See Figure 1, Appendix 1 for suitable location of the boxes. Boxes should be fixed two to five metres up a tree, out of the reach of predators such as domestic cats. It is best positioned facing between north and east, out of direct sunlight. The nest box can be attached to the tree using fibre straps or by hanging over a branch. Using fibre straps is recommended by the arboricultural consultant as this approach to protect the amenity value of the trees and their contribution to the conservation area. The front panel is removable for inspection and cleaning.

### 2.2. Bat boxes

#### *Target structure*

A total of four bat boxes will be installed at the Site. Two bat boxes will be installed on each property. These will be installed on two mature trees, T4 (Plane) and T6 (Oak), as labelled in the Arboricultural Method Statement (Landmark Trees, 2018). It is recommended that the 1FF Schwegler Bat Box with Built-in Wooden Rear Panel are installed, as this is the recommended type by Camden Council.

#### *Preparation*

See details in Appendix 2 for specific information on this bat box type. It is recommended that the bat boxes are installed prior to the demolition of the building, as this will provide a place to put any bats found during the works.

### *Installation*

Access to bat roosting features should not be lit and should also be at a reasonable height to avoid predation (at least 2m from ground level, preferably 4 to 5m). Access should also be close to features such as tree lines, green space and hedgerows in order to provide immediate cover for bats leaving the roost. There should be at least 2m of free flying space below the box entrance for bats to fly up and into the box. It is recommended that the boxes should be at the same height but facing in different directions, for example south and south-east. This provides different conditions for the bats throughout the day.

## **2.3. Lighting**

Lighting is known to adversely affect bat foraging behaviour, along with negatively affecting other wildlife including birds.

The lighting design at Nutley Terrace should be developed in line with the following principles:

- Minimise the lighting levels across the site;
- Minimise upward spill of light with the use of directional luminaires, shields, baffles and louvers to direct light where it is needed and prevent light being directed over and around the feature concerned;
- Avoid light spill onto surrounding habitats important to bats, notably the existing field edges, and hedgerows;
- Avoid lighting bat roost features (see Figure 2, Appendix 1 for locations of bat boxes); and
- Consider the timings of lighting required, where possible avoiding lighting in the hours immediately after dusk and before dawn when bats are most active.

Further information is available from The Institute of Lighting Professionals (2011) and The Bat Conservation Trust. For full details of the lighting proposals please refer to the relevant lighting strategy plan.

## 3. POST-DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

### 3.1. Bird boxes

All wild birds, their active nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. This makes it an offence to deliberately, or recklessly kill or injure any wild bird or damage or destroy any active nest or eggs of a wild bird.

Therefore annual cleaning of bird boxes cannot be undertaken between the months of March and September inclusive, when birds are breeding. Bird nest boxes should be cleaned in October to prevent the build-up of nest parasites in the boxes whilst avoiding the risk of disturbing birds using the boxes as a roost site during the cold winter months.

All nesting material and other debris should be removed from the box. Ideally, it should then be scrubbed clean with boiling water to kill any parasites (avoid using any chemicals). Once the box is clean, it should be left to dry out thoroughly. If fibre straps are used to mount the box to the tree, the bird box must be removed and remounted every year to avoid girdling the tree. Bird boxes should otherwise be left up over winter as they can provide useful roosting sites for birds in bad weather.

### 3.2. Bat boxes

A special licence is required in the UK to disturb and handle bats and therefore the cleaning of bat boxes should be managed carefully.

Boxes are generally unlikely to be used by hibernating bats and winter (i.e. November to February inclusive) is therefore generally the best time of year to undertake maintenance. Any droppings and bird nesting material should be removed.

If bats are discovered during the maintenance process, the owners should replace the box as found and withdraw immediately. An annual check should be made each winter to ensure that all boxes are still in position and secure. If fibre straps are used to mount the box to the tree, the bat box must be removed and remounted every year to avoid girdling the tree.

MKA Ecology Ltd can monitor the use of bat boxes should you wish to maintain a record, or your local bat group may be able to assist with the work.

## 4. REFERENCES

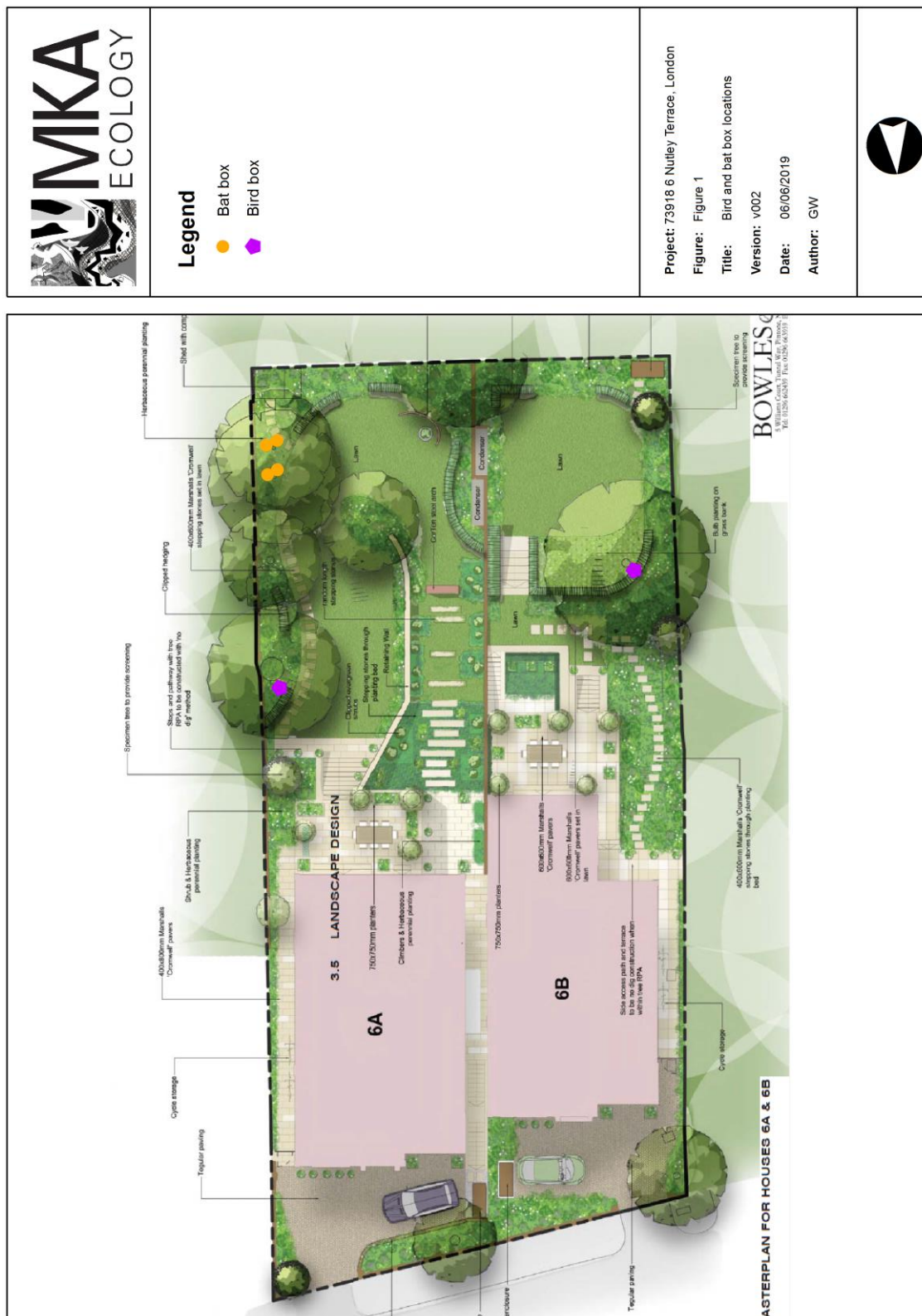
Bat Conservation Trust [http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bats\\_and\\_lighting.html](http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bats_and_lighting.html) [07/03/18]

Institute of lighting Professionals (2011) Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light  
GN01:2011 <https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/obtrusive-light/> [07/03/18]

Landmark Trees (2018). *Arboricultural Method Statement: 6 Nutley Terrace, London NW3 5BX*.  
Landmark Trees, Oxford.



**Figure 1: Location of bird and bat boxes at Nutley Terrace**




## Appendix 2: Bird and bat box recommendations

### Bird Boxes

Boxes to attract garden birds and woodland breeding species such as tits, nuthatch, redstart and pied flycatcher can be placed in gardens, orchards, woodlands and a wide variety of other habitats. The species of birds attracted to the box will depend upon the size of the entrance hole (see table below). Boxes should be fixed two to five metres up a tree or wall, out of the reach of predators such as domestic cats. Unless there are trees or buildings, which give permanent shelter, it is best facing between north and east.


The nest box can be attached to the tree or wall using fibre straps or by hanging over a branch. The box is made from Woodcrete, which is expected to last for at least 20-25 years. Woodcrete is a breathable blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, whilst preventing condensation and maintaining a constant temperature. The front panel is removable for inspection and cleaning.

Example	Description	Picture
Schwegler No. 1B General Purpose Nest box	<p><a href="http://www.schwegler-nature.com">www.schwegler-nature.com</a></p> <p>Suitable for various garden and woodland birds, created with different sized entrance holes to avoid competition between species. Other variations (e.g. 2M) can be free hanging, to deter predators.</p> <p>Height: 23cm, diameter: 16cm, weight: 3.6kg.</p>	
Entrance hole	Species	
26 mm	Blue-, Marsh-, Coal- and Crested Tit, possibly Wren. All other species are prevented from using the nest box due to this smaller entrance hole	
32 mm	Great-, Blue-, Marsh-, Coal- and Crested Tit, Redstart, Nuthatch, Pied Flycatcher, Tree and House Sparrows.	
Oval	Redstart; also used by species that nest in the diameter 32 mm boxes. However, because more light enters the brood chamber, it is preferred by Redstarts.	

## Bat Boxes

Tree-mounted boxes are the most appropriate for this site. Boxes are more likely to be inhabited if they are located where bats feed and it may help to place the box close to features such as tree lines or hedgerows, which bats are known to use for navigation and can provide immediate cover for bats leaving the roost. Boxes should be placed in areas sheltered from strong winds and are exposed to the sun for part of the day. Access to any bat roosting features should not be lit and should also be at a reasonable height to avoid predation (at least 2m if possible, preferably 4-5m).

The box is made from Woodcrete, which is expected to last for at least 20-25 years. Woodcrete is a breathable blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, whilst preventing condensation and maintaining a constant temperature. The Schwegler 1FF bat box is spacious enough for bats to use as a summer roost or nursery site and is open at the bottom, allowing droppings to fall out so it does not need cleaning. It also provides a rough surface for bats to cling to and climb up. The front panel is removable, however please note that if bats have inhabited the box they may only be disturbed by licensed bat workers.

Example	Description	Picture
1FF Schwegler Bat Box With Built-in Wooden Rear Panel	<p><a href="http://www.schwegler-nature.com">www.schwegler-nature.com</a></p> <p>A general purpose box, suitable for smaller bat species.</p> <p>Dimensions: 43 x 27 x 14cm Entrance hole dimensions: 12cm x 24cm Weight: approx. 9.5 kg External diameter: 16 cm Installation: Hanging over a branch or fibre straps</p>	



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