



Phase 3 Fox Wood Garden Village/Halsnead

Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

Prepared For: Taylor Wimpey

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey (hereafter referred to as 'the client') in August 2026 to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (BEP), to include bat and bird boxes, as well as bug hotel, bee bricks and hibernacula to support the hybrid application for the proposed Phase 3 residential development at the Fox Wood Garden Village (Halsnead) site (Planning Application Ref: 26/00166/HYB).
- 1.2 This BEP focuses on the provision of suitable bat and bird boxes within the site and will provide details on the designs/specifications of the wildlife boxes, as well as suitable locations for their installation within the site.
- 1.3 The specification of bat and bird boxes as well as other enhancement opportunities for the scheme have been chosen with consideration given to the species assemblages present at the site following a review of the site plans and survey results.

2.0 Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy

- 2.1 Bat and bird boxes provide artificial roost/nesting sites in areas where the habitat otherwise provides limited roosting opportunities. When incorporated into the final landscaping design, the ecological value of both the site and the wider area is increased, providing roosting opportunities for bats and increase availability for nesting birds which commonly use artificial boxes.
- 2.2 The appropriate siting of the boxes is important to increase the likelihood of uptake and make them more attractive to wildlife (further details are provided below).
- 2.3 The preferred boxes are recommended below; however, similar products are likely to be available from alternative suppliers.

Bat Boxes

- 2.4 In total 5 bat boxes will be incorporated into the final design. The bat boxes will be integrated into new buildings and should be installed facing south and west where possible. The proposed positions of the bat boxes are shown in Drawing 1474-Eco-01 - Ecology Plan.
- 2.5 The bat box specification is as follows and an example is shown in Table 1.
- 5 x Integrated Bat Access Panel.

Table 1: Bat Box Specification

Product name	Description	Photo
Integrated Bat Box Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'C' NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment	The Enclosed Bat Box 'C' from Ibstock is designed for the pipistrelle bat. It is ideal for new builds as it can be integrated directly into the brickwork to produce a discrete but attractive home for bats. The box is both durable and fully frost resistant. The inside of the box is designed to create several roosting zones which are ideal for crevice dwelling bats. The bottom entrance means that no maintenance is required as droppings will simply fall out the bottom.	

Bird Boxes

- 2.6 In total 93 bird boxes will be incorporated into the final design, and will provide compensation for any loss of existing potential nest sites in trees and scrub. The bird boxes will be installed onto new and retained trees, as well onto new buildings, and should be installed facing north and east where possible. The proposed positions of the bird boxes are shown in Drawing 1474-Eco-01 - Ecology Plan.
- 2.7 The bird box specification is as follows and examples are shown in Table 2.
- 14 x House Sparrow Terrace Nest Box
 - 25 x General Nest Box
 - 28 x Starling Nest Box
 - 26 x Swift Nest Box

Table 2: Bird Box Specifications

Product name	Description	Photo
<u>1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment</u>	The terrace can be fixed on to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall. It is suitable for all types of houses in built-up areas, and on industrial and agricultural buildings such as barns, sheds and factories. Ideally place the terrace 2m or more above the ground. Either install on the surface of the wall using the plugs and screws provided, or install directly into the wall. Cleaning is advisable but not necessary, and the front panel can be removed by turning the screw hook.	
<u>General Nest Box Vivara Pro NK SW 02 32mm WoodStone® Nest Box NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment</u>	The Vivara Pro NK SW 02 Nest Box features a 32 mm entrance hole, making it ideal for songbirds. Thanks to reinforced ribs at the back, this nest box can be securely mounted onto a tree or building. Constructed from durable WoodStone® with enhanced predator protection built into the front panel, this nest box provides a safe nesting spot for songbirds.	

Product name	Description	Photo
<u>Eco Starling Nest Box NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment</u>	The Eco Starling Nest Box consists of a recycled plastic weatherproof outer shell protecting a wooden nesting chamber to create a robust long-lasting nesting box. It features a 45mm entrance hole; the ideal size for starlings.	
<u>Woodstone® Swift façade nest box NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment</u>	These external Woodstone® Swift boxes are an ideal alternative nesting location for swifts that can be mounted on the external surface of a building. This makes them excellent for retrofitting onto existing buildings where there is a need to increase biodiversity. The Woodstone® box is extremely hard-wearing and will give years of service without degrading. It has a sloping roof to help deflect rain and options for either a bottom or front entrance which allow you to tailor the type of box to the scenario in which it is being installed.	

Siting and Installation of boxes

- 2.8 The bat and bird boxes should be sited in accordance with the attached Drawing 1474-Eco-01 - Ecology Plan. Failure to do so may result in boxes being sited in sub-optimal positions that could lead to lower take-up by bats and birds.
- 2.9 Proximity to suitable commuting and foraging habitat has also been considered during the siting process. It must be ensured that there is unobstructed access for bats and birds entering and leaving the boxes.
- 2.10 It is recommended that new boxes are installed during autumn and winter to ensure they are ready for use the following breeding season, although it is possible to install them at any time of year. Many birds will enter nest boxes during the autumn

and winter, looking for a suitable place to roost or feed. They often use the same boxes for nesting the following spring.

- 2.11 All boxes must be installed in line with the manufacturer's specifications to ensure no hazard is posed to members of the public.
- 2.12 Should the recommended boxes not be available, similar products are likely to be available from alternative suppliers. Any substitutions should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

Maintenance

- 2.13 Bat boxes do not typically require any maintenance. Bat boxes can only be inspected by appropriately licensed ecologists.
- 2.14 Bird boxes require annual cleaning in late Autumn (October onwards) to remove old nesting material.
- 2.15 For both bat and bird boxes an annual check to ensure the fixings remain secure and for signs of possible decay is required.

Bug Hotel and Bee Bricks

- 2.16 Multi-habitat insect hotels and bee bricks will offer attractive habitats for solitary bees, bumblebees, butterflies, and ladybirds as well as a wide range of other beneficial invertebrates such as spiders, parasitic wasps, gauze flies and earwigs.
- 2.17 The bug hotel and bee brick specification is as follows and examples are shown in Table 3.
 - 14 x Bug Hotel
 - 5 x Bee Bricks
- 2.18 There will be no requirement to maintain the bug hotels or bee bricks unless damage is caused by weather or vandalism.

Table 3: Bug Hotel and Bee Bricks Specifications

Product name	Description	Photo
National Trust Insect Tower NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment	The Insect Tower will provide valuable habitat in your garden for solitary bees and other insects. The different sections of the Insect Tower have been designed to provide a habitat for a variety of insect species. The nesting tubes are ideal for solitary bees to build their nests in, the vertical slots are designed to encourage butterflies, other refuge holes are perfect for ladybirds and lacewings and the pine cones offer an excellent habitat for a range of other species.	
Bee Brick NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment	The Bee Brick can be used in place of a standard brick or block in construction to create habitat for solitary bees. It will provide much needed nesting space for solitary bee species such as red mason bees and leafcutter bees, both of which are non-aggressive. Each Bee Brick contains cavities in which solitary bees can lay their eggs. Each cavity goes part way into the brick, which is solid at the back. Bee Bricks should be placed in a warm sunny spot on a south-facing wall at a minimum height of 1m, with no vegetation obstructing the holes. It is highly recommended that bee-friendly plants should be located nearby so that the bees using the bricks have food, otherwise it is unlikely that the brick will be used. Lavender, honeysuckle and buddleia are all pollinator-friendly plants.	

Hibernacula and Log Piles

- 2.19 The installation of 4 x refugia (log piles & hibernacula) in and around the borders of the site, will be created or purchased. The log piles and hibernacula will provide suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians, reptiles and small mammals. The proposed locations of the refugia are shown in Drawings 1 1474-Eco-01 - Ecology Plan and the details of implementation are found within Table 4 below.

Table 4: Hibernacula and Log Piles

Product name	Description	Photo
Hibernacula and Log Piles	■ Create brash/log piles in part-sun, part-shade close to scrub or woodland to provide shelter and overwintering habitat. ■ Construct amphibian hibernacula using logs, stones and soil in damp but not waterlogged areas. ■ The horizontal logs piles are simply laid down and stacked on the ground, stakes may be used either side to stabilise the pile and prevent it collapsing. ■ Vertical piles can be created by installing logs into the ground, recommended at least 40-50cm deep as shown in the images (right). It is important that small gaps are present between the logs in order to provide space for amphibians and reptiles to utilise. The addition of leaf litter and grass clippings will also add value. ■ Furthermore, planting around hibernacula and log piles with species such as honeysuckle or clematis can also add ecological value. ■ Do not disturb habitat piles during winter when animals may be dormant.	  

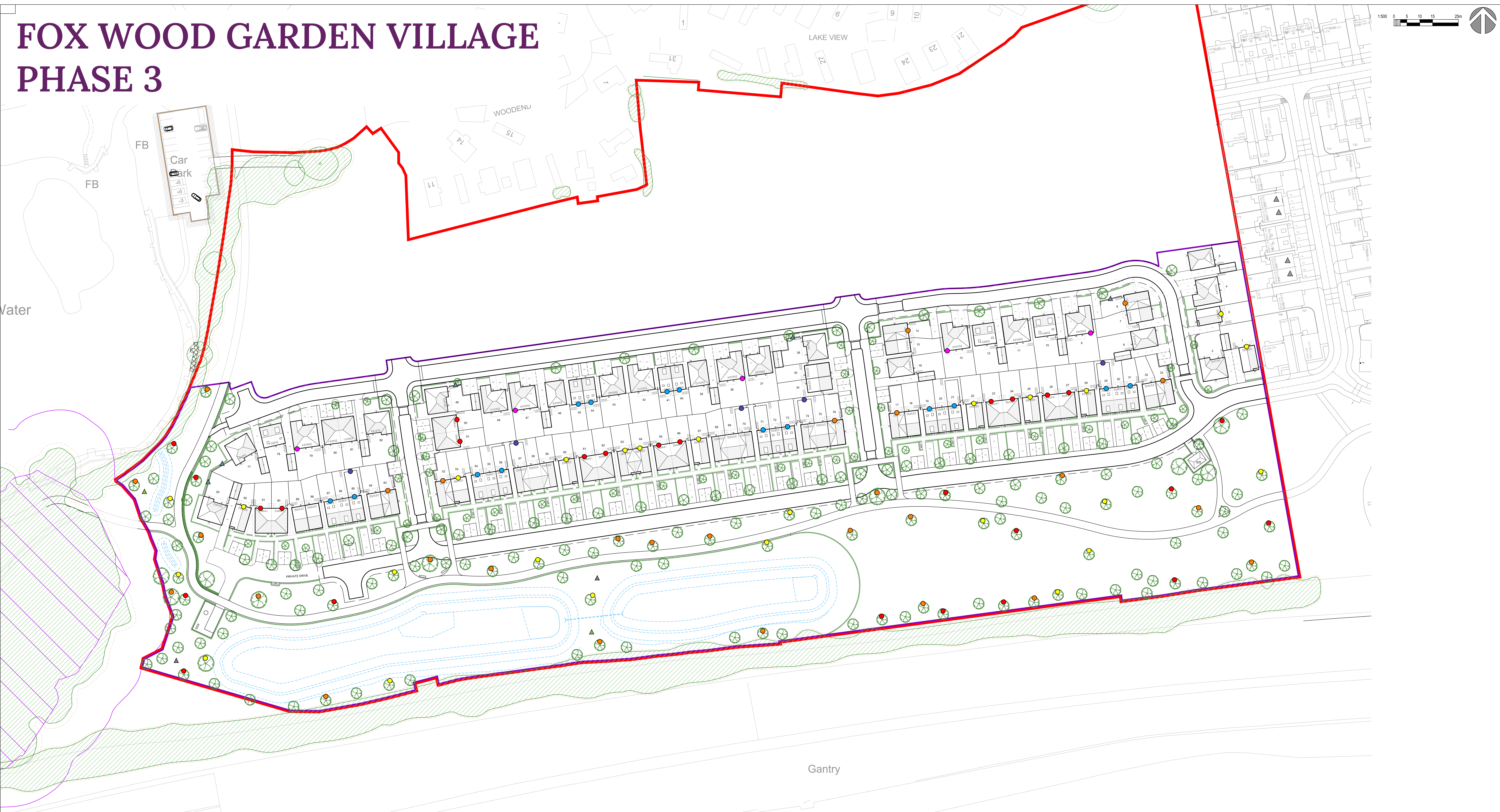


Drawings

Drawing 1: 1474-Eco-01 - Ecology Plan (Rev A, Taylor Wimpey)

FOX WOOD GARDEN VILLAGE

PHASE 3



GENERAL NOTES:

- Boxes for tits, sparrows or starlings should be fixed two to four metres up a tree or a wall
- Unless there are trees or buildings which shade the box during the day, face the box between north and east, thus avoiding strong sunlight and the wettest winds
- Make sure that the birds have a clear flight path to the nest without any clutter directly in front of the entrance. Tilt the box forward slightly so that any driving rain will hit the roof and bounce clear
- House sparrows and starlings will readily use nest boxes placed high up under the eaves. Since these birds nest in loose colonies, two or three can be sited spaced out on the same side of the house. Keep these away from areas where house martins normally nest
- Open fronted nest boxes suitable for robins and wren are best positioned 1-2m off the ground and can be attached to a wall, fence or tree that has sufficient vegetation such as shrubs and creepers growing around it, allowing cover for visiting birds

KEY

- House Sparrow Terrace Nest Box (14 no.)
- General Nest Box (25 no.)
- Starling Nest Box (28 no.)
- Swift Nest Box (26 no.)
- Integrated Bat Access Panel (5 no.)
- Bug Hotel (14 no.)
- ▲ Bee Brick (5 no.)
- ▲ Hibernacula to TEP Detail (2 no.)
- ▲ Log Piles to TEP Detail (2 no.)
- Site Boundary

NOTE: This plan has been drawn up in accordance with the TEP Ecological Survey and Assessment, Homes for Nature, and TW Group Guidance

Required Bat Boxes: 5 (5% of Plots)
Required Bee Bricks: 5 (5% of Plots)
Required Bug Hotels: 14 (15% of Plots)
Required Bird Boxes: 93 (100% of Plots)

PRODUCTS or similar approved

House Sparrow Terrace Nest Box	Swift Nest Box	Bee Brick
		
General Nest Box	Integrated Bat Access Panel	
		
Starling Nest Box	Bug Hotel	
		

A Log files added in-line with MEAS comments.		31.07.26		BB
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Revisions				
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