

HAWKESWOOD ECOLOGY

Specialists in Ecological Survey and Assessment

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(Proprietors: Niki and Eric Hawkeswood)



Mr C Quick
Design Director
Iplan Architecture

12/02/2020

Our Ref: HE/55/2019

Dear Carl,

Biodiversity Enhancements, Llys Wern 3, Caewern, Neath

A letter from the Welsh Government Chief Planning Officer to Local Planning Authorities (dated 23rd October 2019) provides clarification on the Welsh Governments approach to Paragraph 6.4.5 of Planning Policy Wales 10 which sets out that “*planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity*”.

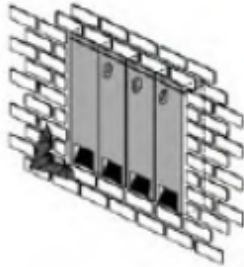
The purpose of this letter was to clarify that in light of the legislation and Welsh Government policy outlined above, where biodiversity enhancement is not proposed as part of an application, significant weight will be given to its absence, and unless other significant material considerations indicate otherwise it will be necessary to refuse permission. Biodiversity enhancement therefore will need to be included in any future planning application.

As such, Neath – Port Talbot require an indication of measures to be undertaken as part of the proposed development at Llys Wern that will result in a biodiversity gains as part of the proposed development to comply with the Welsh Government requirement.

The development proposals are for the construction of five bungalows off Heol Llwyn Celyn Road. This will involve works to an existing hedgerow which will result in the loss of a number of trees. These trees are to be fully assessed for the presence of or potential for them to support roosting bats prior to commencement of works.

It is proposed at this stage to provide integral bat bricks and bird boxes on the new build. Final details are to be drawn up in terms of locations and aspect of the boxes, however, the recommended styles are shown below.

Bat tubes: typical Integral Bat tubes that are built in to the wall.



2FR - Bat tube

This is a slightly updated version of the 1FR and several can be installed next to each other to create a larger roost. The tubes include an internal panel to increase the roost space and also an optional passage at the rear allowing access into existing cavities.

Size: 470x200x125mm

Weight: 9.5kg



1FE - Bat Access Panel

This maintenance-free access panel can be installed in the outer skin of most cavity wall constructions due to its slim 80mm depth. The open rear also allows access into the building cavity so that bats can continue to use an existing roost space.

Size: 300x300x80mm

Weight: 7.8kg



1FR Bat Tube

The bat tube meets the characteristic behavioral requirements of the types of bats that inhabit buildings. The durable wooden rear panel maintains excellent climatic conditions and provides a surface which they can cling on to. The tube system requires no cleaning or maintenance.

Bat boxes with bespoke finish are also available:



Habibat 001 - Bespoke Facing

Dimensions: 215 mm Wide x 440 mm High x 102 mm deep

Materials: Concrete plus facing product

Weight: approximately 7 kg

The Habibat Bat Box is a large, solid box made of insulating concrete which provides an internal roost space and can be seamlessly integrated into the fabric of a building as it is built or renovated. Suitable for most species commonly found in the UK, this single chambered unit features an integrated V system to increase the surface for bats to roost against, whilst allowing them to move around.

The Habibat Bat Box can be faced with a number of products to suit the design build. This includes, brick, block, stone, wood or a rendered finish, ensuring the box is unobtrusive and aesthetically pleasing. There are a choice of plinth colours available: smooth blue, smooth red, or buff.

This box is made to order with a choice of finishes.

BIM

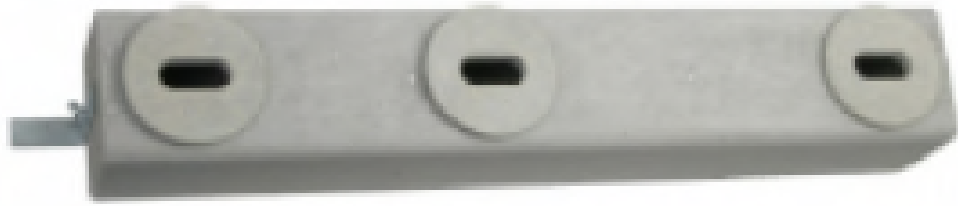
BIM versions of the Habibat 001 Bat Box are available for download, to request these please contact us.

Recommended bird boxes are house sparrow terraces which fit under eaves, but perhaps more appropriate in a bungalow is a swift brick which can be built into the wall. Examples are shown below:

House sparrow terrace



Triple cavity swift box, to be fitted into the wall, various styles are available.



I hope you find this useful and helpful at this stage. If you have any further queries now please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Handwritten signature of Eric Hawkeswood in blue ink.

Eric Hawkeswood
Principal Ecologist
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