

BIODIVERSITY (GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE) STATEMENT (Ref: 24-464P/111)

SITE ADDRESS: 50 Wind Street, Neath SA11 3EN

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Change of Use for the Upper Floors to Flat Accommodation

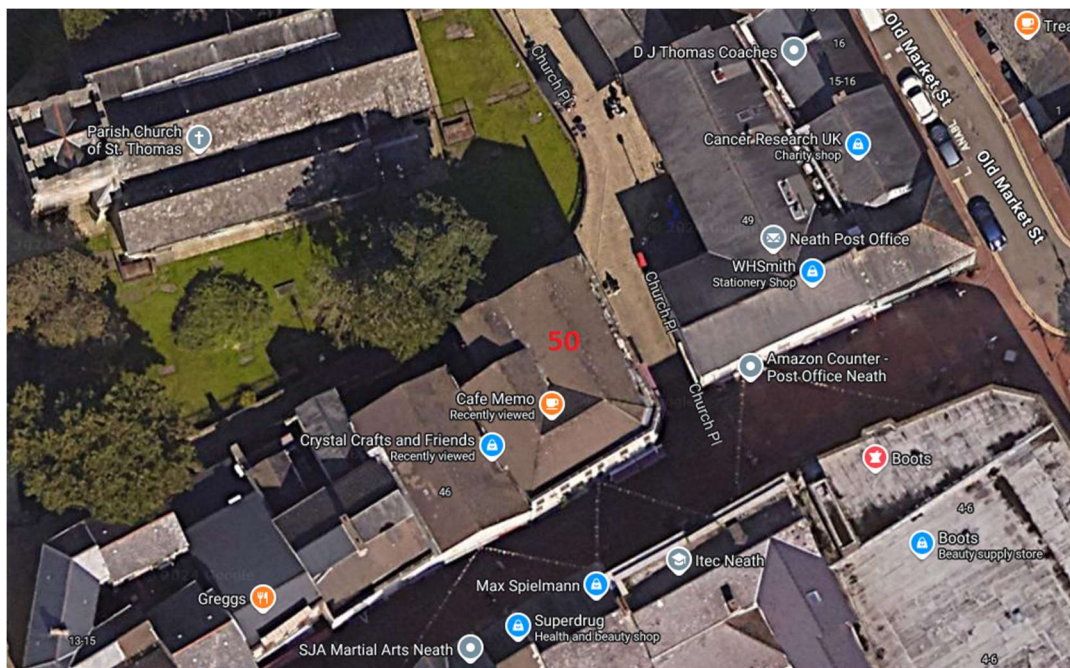
Description of proposed Works:

Conversion of the upper two levels of the building from Offices (A2) and Storage (B8) into 6 No. One-bedroom Flats (C3).

Site and Surrounding Area Description:

The building location is within the town centre area, near all the new developments of the Leisure centre, shops and Car Park on Water Street. It is a three-storey building with retail shopfronts at Ground Level off the pedestrianised town streets, set on the end of a block of retail buildings on Wind Street which form the South side of Church Place. The upper levels are accessed from a side door on Church Place, with potential additional access to the rear via a door in the boundary wall, leading to the external escape staircase which serves both levels.

Church Place surrounds the Grade II listed St Thomas' Church, which has a small green space around it with some shrubbery and trees within the stone walls, and there are a number of graves to be seen in this well-kept area. Due to a number of historic buildings around the church in this part of town, like the Neath Town Hall and the Neath Antiquarian Society, it has been designated as a Conservation Area.



Location of 50 Wind Street, Neath SA11 3EN

Development Impacts:

The development will have no additional impact to the Biodiversity of the area as the proposals will not change the shape or height of the building, and there are no existing provisions for any gardens or planting areas.

Proposed Ecological Enhancements:

As the building covers nearly the whole site, there is little opportunity to provide any sort of garden facility, and would be difficult to allocate maintenance care to any installation of planting. The position of the building on the main pedestrian shopping route would preclude any possibility of even installing window boxes as this may be prone to causing accidents to the passers-by below, and a risk with long-term maintenance. However we believe that some low maintenance bird boxes would be a reasonable addition to the rear area of the building as it is both north and west-facing and seems to be reasonably sheltered from any severe weather conditions, direct sun or predators.

Birds

The development will also make enhancements for nesting birds in the form of a Schwegler Sparrow Terrace 1SP (or similar) mounted on the rear elevation at a level just below eaves height and giving a west-facing entrance to some of the bird boxes and a sheltered north entrance to the others – see Appendix A. Schwegler products have been specified for the bird boxes mounted at high level upon the building owing to durability and longevity plus being out of reach of most predators (specifically cats).

Conclusion:

As the proposals for the building are not intending to alter the size or shape of the site, there is a limitation to the provision available for additional measures, however the area at the rear, although north-facing, is reasonably sheltered from severe weather. Therefore we propose to install a number of bird boxes, to accommodate small birds, on the external walls as illustrated on the drawings and in Appendix A as attached.

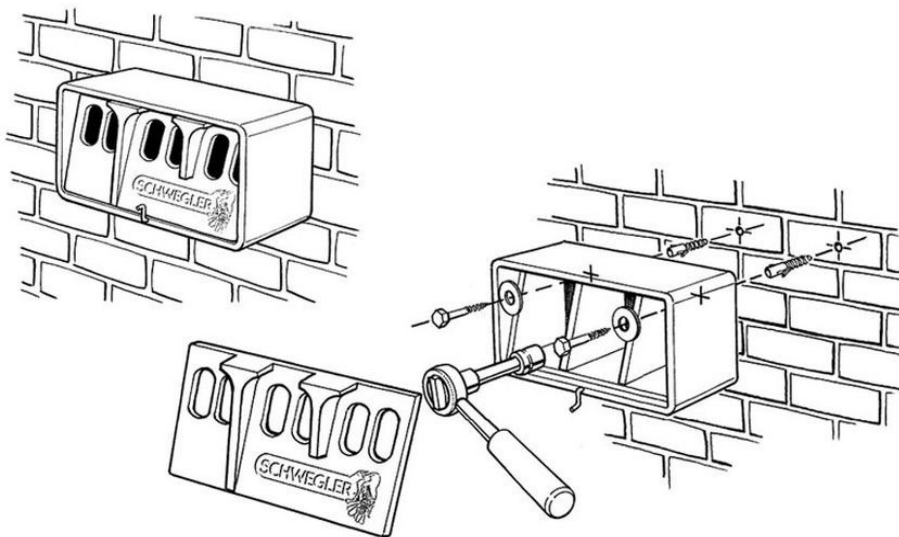
APPENDIX A:

BIRDS

Schwegler Sparrow Terrace 1SP

Numbers of house sparrows in the UK have been tumbling, our population of six million pairs is half what it was in 1980. The good news is that the decline is levelling out, and there has actually been increases in many localities. One satisfying way to help sparrows is in providing a Sparrow Terrace nesting box. Sparrows are highly sociable birds that like to nest in company. This Sparrow Terrace has been made in WoodcretePLUS™ by Schwegler, it provides insulated accommodation for up to three families. The sparrow nesting box is designed for fixing on (or in) walls.

While nesting and raising their young both house and tree sparrows feed exclusively on insects, especially arthropods (insects with segmented legs). Therefore, their traditional role in keeping down pests and maintaining the balance of nature is a very important one, though not always recognised. The survival of these species is particularly threatened by widespread building renovation and clearance which denies them many nesting possibilities.





Sparrow House Occupants

House and tree sparrows, and in some instances other birds which use nest boxes such as tits, finches and spotted flycatcher.

Sparrow Terrace Siting:

On all types of houses in built-up areas, industrial and agricultural buildings such as barns and factories.

Installation:

2 meters or more above ground level.

Option 1: Simple, surface installation using the plugs and screws supplied.

Option 2: Complete installation as a nesting block within brick or concrete walls. To avoid conducting low temperatures please also use wall insulation, or install at a suitable depth in the wall.

Cleaning

Advised but not essential. By turning the screw hook by 180° the front panel can be removed.

Dimensions of Sparrow Terrace brood chambers:

Each: height 16 x width 10.5 x depth approx. 15 cm

Overall: 245H x 430W x 200D mm

Weight: 13kg

Colour options:

Brown or Stone.

1B Schwegler Nest Box

Product Code: 900AN3140-Pro

This general purpose bird nest box 1B attracts birds to your garden, orchard or woodlands. The internal diameter of this nest box is 12 cm. It is usually attached to a tree using the

SCHWEGLER Aluminum Nail (supplied). It can also be hung from a branch. The front panels are interchangeable between model 1B, 2M and 2F, and can easily be removed from the nest box for inspection, ringing and cleaning. Made from Woodcrete a unique mix of sawdust, concrete and clay making it maintenance free and rot proof for up to 25 years.

It comes in two size for different birds. 26mm entrance for Blue Tits 32mm entrance for Great, Blue, Marsh and Coal Tits

Siting & positioning:

On trees or buildings

Cleaning and inspection:

Easy Cleaning and inspection due to removable front panel

Entrance hole & occupants:

26 mm - Blue, Marsh, Coal and Crested Tit, possibly Wren

32mm - Great, Blue, Marsh, Coal and Crested Tit, Redstart, Nuthatch, Collared and Pied Flycatcher, Wryneck, Tree and House Sparrows, bats.

All other species are prevented from using the nest box due to this smaller entrance hole.

Material:

Air-permeable and longlasting SCHWEGLER wood-concrete

Delivery includes:

- Nestbox with removable front panel
- Galvanized steel hanger - forestry approved
- Aluminium Nail - forestry approved



External Dimensions:

Height 260mm

Width 170mm

Depth 180mm

Internal Diameter 120mm

Weight: 3.6kg