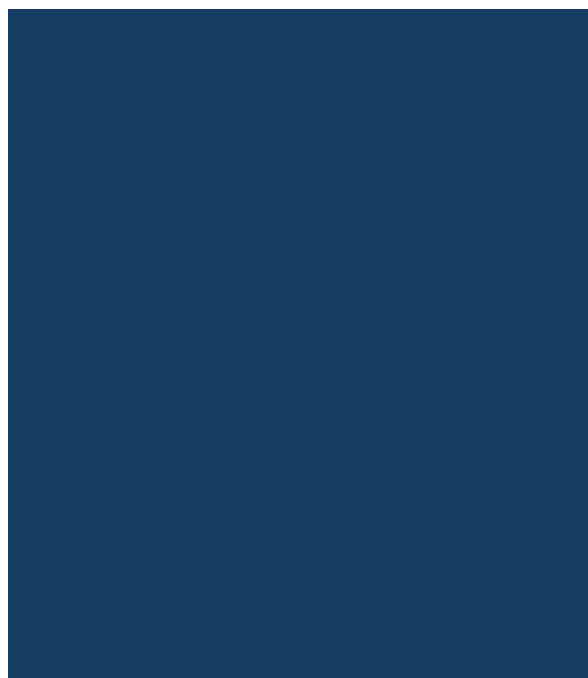




Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

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Bosco Catholic Education Trust



Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

Prepared in accordance with the principles of BS 42020:2013 – Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development

Project: Bosco House Development

Document Type: Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

Prepared For: Bosco Catholic Education Trust

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1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy has been prepared for the proposed development of Bosco House in accordance with the principles of BS 42020:2013 – Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development. The purpose of this strategy is to demonstrate how biodiversity will be protected, retained, enhanced, and managed throughout the construction and operational phases of the development.

The strategy has been prepared using the recommendations contained within the ecological surveys and the associated Environmental Impact Action Plan for the site. It identifies practical measures that will be implemented before, during, and after construction to ensure that the development delivers measurable ecological enhancement and contributes positively to local biodiversity.

2. Policy and Guidance Context

This strategy has been prepared with reference to:

- BS 42020:2013 – *Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development*;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);

- Environment Act 2021;
- Local planning authority biodiversity and green infrastructure policies;
- Relevant ecological survey recommendations relating to bats, birds, amphibians, hedgerows, and biodiversity enhancement.

3. Site Context

The Bosco House site comprises a small residential plot and associated external areas. The proposed development relates primarily to the existing built footprint and hardstanding areas. Owing to the limited size of the site, opportunities for extensive landscaping and habitat creation are constrained.

The ecological assessments identify that the most appropriate biodiversity enhancements are integrated ecological features associated with the building and small-scale external improvements, including bat and bird boxes, hedgehog connectivity measures, container planting, and sensitive lighting design.

4. Biodiversity Objectives

In accordance with BS 42020, the development will seek to achieve the following biodiversity objectives:

1. Avoid ecological harm wherever possible.
2. Mitigate unavoidable ecological impacts.
3. Deliver meaningful on-site biodiversity enhancements appropriate to the scale of the site.
4. Improve habitat connectivity where practicable.
5. Provide long-term management and monitoring of enhancement features.

5. Baseline Ecological Considerations

The ecological surveys identified the following principal enhancement opportunities:

- Provision of bat roosting features.
- Installation of bird nesting features.
- Sensitive lighting design.
- Amphibian habitat creation and Great Crested Newt precautionary measures.
- Hedgehog connectivity improvements.
- Minor biodiversity enhancement through container planting and external features.

6. Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

6.1 Bat Enhancement

A minimum of one bat box will be installed on the completed building to provide additional roosting habitat.

Specification

The bat box will:

- Be suitable for crevice-dwelling bat species (e.g. Beaumaris Woodstone Bat Box, Low Profile WoodStone Bat Box, or equivalent);
- Be positioned 3–5 metres above ground level;
- Face south or south-west;
- Be located away from artificial lighting;
- Have a clear flight path to and from the entrance;
- Not be installed directly above windows.

Timing

The bat box will be installed immediately following completion of the building external works and prior to occupation of the development.

6.2 Sensitive Lighting Strategy

External lighting has the potential to affect commuting and foraging bats. A sensitive lighting scheme will therefore be implemented.

The lighting design will incorporate:

- Warm colour temperature luminaires (approximately 2700K or lower);
- Low-intensity fittings;
- Directional downward lighting;
- No illumination of bat boxes or potential bat flight routes;
- Automatic controls and timers to ensure lighting is switched off during overnight periods where practicable.

7. Bird Enhancement

A minimum of two bird boxes will be installed on the completed building.

The boxes will comprise a mixture of:

- General-purpose small bird nesting boxes; and/or
- Sparrow terraces or swift nesting features where appropriate.

Bird boxes will be installed at suitable heights and orientations to maximise nesting opportunities and avoid excessive disturbance.

8. Minor Landscaping and Container Planting

Given the small size and predominantly hard-surfaced nature of the site, landscaping works will be limited in extent and there is insufficient space to create new areas of species-rich grassland or substantial planted habitats.

Instead, biodiversity enhancement will be delivered through planters and potted plants positioned around the completed development. These will comprise a variety of nectar-rich flowering plants, herbs, and shrubs suitable for container growing. The use of planters will provide seasonal foraging resources for pollinating insects and contribute to the ecological value of the site without requiring significant ground disturbance or permanent landscape alteration.

Container planting will be maintained throughout the lifetime of the development and replaced where necessary to ensure continued biodiversity benefit.

9. Hedgehog Connectivity

Boundary treatments will be designed, where practicable, to allow movement of hedgehogs through the site.

Measures will include:

- Installation of 13 cm × 13 cm hedgehog access holes within fences where appropriate;
- Provision of at least one hedgehog house within a sheltered external area;
- Maintenance of unobstructed routes between external planted areas.

10. Amphibian Habitat Enhancement

An amphibian hibernaculum will be constructed within a suitable external area of the site where space allows.

The hibernaculum will comprise:

- Rubble;
- Logs;
- Soil;
- Deadwood material.

This feature will provide refuge opportunities for amphibians and other small fauna and will be retained as a permanent biodiversity enhancement.

11. Great Crested Newt Precautionary Measures

In accordance with the ecological mitigation recommendations, the following measures will be implemented during construction:

- A pre-commencement inspection of the working area for evidence of Great Crested Newts or other amphibians;
- Delivery of a toolbox talk to all site personnel explaining GCN identification and procedures;
- Immediate cessation of works if a suspected GCN is encountered;
- Removal of rubble and log piles by hand where necessary;
- Storage of building materials within skips or raised storage areas;
- Installation of escape ramps or sealing of excavations overnight.

12. Deadwood Habitat

A small log pile and deadwood habitat feature will be created within a discreet external area of the site, subject to available space.

This feature will provide habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, and small mammals and will be retained throughout the lifetime of the development wherever safe to do so.

13. Biodiversity Enhancement Approach

Given the limited size of the site, biodiversity enhancement will focus on integrated ecological measures that are proportionate to the scale of development.

The principal enhancement measures will comprise:

- Bat box installation;
- Bird box installation;
- Container planting using planters and potted plants;
- Hedgehog connectivity measures;
- Amphibian hibernaculum provision;
- Deadwood habitat creation;
- Sensitive lighting design.

This approach accords with BS 42020 by ensuring that biodiversity enhancements are realistic, deliverable, and capable of long-term management within the constraints of the site.

14. Implementation Schedule

Enhancement Measure	Timing	Responsibility
Contractor toolbox talk	Before works commence	Principal Contractor
Bat box installation	After external works	Contractor
Bird box installation	After external works	Contractor
Container planting installation	Prior to occupation	Contractor / Owner
Hedgehog access provision	Prior to completion	Contractor

Hedgehog house installation	Prior to occupation	Contractor
Amphibian hibernaculum construction	Landscaping stage	Contractor
Deadwood habitat creation	Landscaping stage	Contractor
Lighting implementation	Prior to occupation	Electrical Contractor

15. Management and Monitoring

In accordance with BS 42020, enhancement features will be subject to ongoing management and monitoring.

Year 1

- Confirm installation of bat and bird boxes;
- Inspect container planting and replace failed plants where necessary;
- Confirm hedgehog access routes remain unobstructed;
- Inspect amphibian and deadwood habitat features.

Years 2–5

- Annual inspection of bat and bird boxes;
- Replacement and maintenance of container planting;
- Retention and inspection of hibernacula and log piles;
- Review of lighting impacts on ecological features.

16. Conclusion

This Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy demonstrates that the Bosco House development will be implemented in accordance with the principles of BS 42020:2013, ensuring that biodiversity is considered throughout the planning, construction, and operational phases of the project.

Due to the small size of the site, opportunities for extensive landscaping and habitat creation are limited. The strategy therefore adopts a proportionate approach centred on integrated ecological enhancements, including bat and bird boxes, container planting, hedgehog connectivity, amphibian habitat provision, deadwood features, and sensitive lighting design.

These measures are appropriate to the scale and character of the development and will provide a practical and deliverable biodiversity enhancement that can be managed effectively over the lifetime of the site.

