



Ecological Enhancement Plan

For

George White Planning
Land To The East Of 2 West Ln
Pirton
Hitchin
SG5 3RA

Reference: Q-PH-202607-002

Prepared by
ProHort Limited
Waterbridge Farm
Yarnfield Lane
Yarnfield
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 0NE
Telephone: 01782 479479
Email: info@prohort.co.uk
Website: www.prohort.co.uk

Date: August 2026

Quality Assurance

Remarks	Version 1
Date	03/08/2026
Principle Author	Lydia Shabong 
Qualifications	MSci (Hons), Qualifying Member of CIEEM
Reviewed By	Hannah Burton 
Qualifications	MSci (Hons), Qualifying Member of CIEEM

Contents

1. Introduction/Background	4
1.1. Purpose and Brief	4
1.2. The Proposed Works	4
2. Ecological Enhancements.....	5
2.1 Bat Boxes	5
2.2 Bird Boxes	6
2.3 Hedgehog Highways	8
3. References	10

1. Introduction/Background

1.1. Purpose and Brief

ProHort Limited was commissioned by George at White Planning to produce an Ecological Enhancement Strategy for Land To The East Of 2 West Ln, Pirton, Hitchin SG5 3RA. There are plans on the Site to construct an extension of existing hardstanding. New concrete pad for siting of caravan (Development already carried out). Installation of permeable driveway (Development has commenced). Creation of vehicular access off West Lane.

The planning application has been approved, with the following condition set out by the North Hertfordshire District Council:

“Within 3 months of the date of the consent hereby issued, full details of an Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP) for the creation of new wildlife features such as bird/bat and bee boxes, hedgehog holes in fences and hibernacula has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved measures must be implemented on site within 9 months of the issue of this consent and retained on site thereafter.”

Reason: To ensure development is ecologically sensitive and secures biodiversity enhancements in accordance with the North Herts Local Plan policy NE4.”

1.2. The Proposed Works

The planning proposal involves the construction of an extension of existing hardstanding. New concrete pad for siting of caravan (Development already carried out). Installation of permeable driveway (Development has commenced). Creation of vehicular access off West Lane.

1.3. Previous Reports

No information on previous ecological reports was found. However, the council has stated that there is a condition for “the creation of new wildlife features such as bird/bat and bee boxes, hedgehog holes in fences and hibernacula has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved measures must be implemented on site within 9 months of the issue of this consent and retained on site thereafter.”

2. Ecological Enhancements

2.1 Bat Boxes

It is recommended that 1 bat box is installed on the Site. This can be installed on any building external wall or mature tree.

It is recommended that the bat box is installed on the proposed large specimen tree planting, as shown on Figure 1. Bat boxes should face south in order to be exposed to sunlight for part of the day.



Figure 1 – A diagram showing the proposed location of a bat box on the large specimen tree planting (indicated by red square). Block plan taken from document “FP-Plans-11062026.pdf” provided by the client.

It is recommended that a Schwegler 1FW Bat Hibernation Box is used. This is because it is suitable for both hibernation roosts in the winter and large summer roosts. The box should be installed at least 4 m off the ground.



Figure 2 – A 1FW Schwegler Bat Hibernation Box, available at nhbs.com

2.2 Bird Boxes

Due to the suitable habitat in the surrounding area, it is recommended that 1 bird box is installed on the Site. This can be installed on any building external wall or mature tree.

It is proposed that the bird box is installed on the proposed large specimen tree planting, as shown in Figure 3. A 1B Schwegler Nest Box has been recommended, as it can be incorporated on the large specimen tree planting.



Figure 3 – A diagram showing the proposed locations of the bird box on the proposed large specimen tree planting (indicated by red boxes). Building elevations taken from document “FP-Plans-11062026.pdf” provided by the client.



Figure 4 – 1B Schwegler Nest Box, available at nhbs.com

2.3 Hedgehog Highways

The surrounding area provides suitable commuting and foraging habitat. Therefore, we recommend that measures are taken to ensure that the proposed development does not interfere with existing habitats or routes used by surrounding hedgehog populations. It is recommended that ‘hedgehog highways’ are included in the fences on the boundaries of the Site.

Fences can be installed with suitable gaps for hedgehogs included. It is recommended that any new fencing required already has hedgehog highways installed. Alternatively, gaps can be cut into any existing fence panels, such as the fencing due to be retained on the Site. A 13cm x 13cm square is sufficient to allow hedgehogs to pass through, while still being small enough to keep most pets contained within the garden area. Signs can then be placed above these gaps to prevent the gap being closed accidentally, as shown in Figure 5.

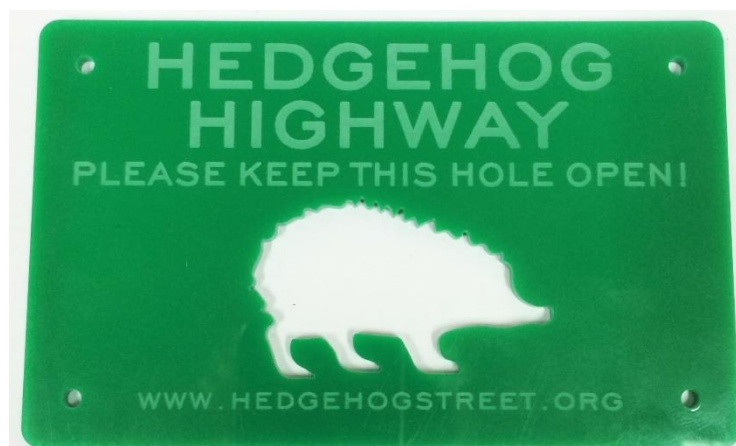


Figure 5 – A Hedgehog Highway sign, available at shop.ptes.org

2.4. Bee Hotel

In order to provide suitable habitat for insect species, it is recommended that a standing insect hotel is installed, containing moulded cavities for insect species, particularly bees, to nest. An example of a bee hotel is shown in Figure 6.



Figure 6 – An Extra-Large Standing Bee Hotel, available at nhbs.com

2.5 Hibernaculum

To provide a suitable habitat for a range of species, particularly amphibians and reptiles, it is recommended that a hibernaculum is included on Site.

Hibernacula can be created naturally, using a mixture of wood, rubble and soil. A hole should be dug approximately 0.5 m deep and 1.5 m across. This should then be filled with branches, bricks and rocks, as well as drainpipes to allow entry and exit into the hibernacula. The pile should then be covered with soil to reach around 0.5 m high. Seeds can be planted over the mound so eventually the hibernacula blends better into the garden.

Alternatively, a BioCube planter is a pre-made hibernaculum that can be installed on the Site. This is a 1.5 m x 1.5 m cube, containing established habitats to encourage native species, as shown in Figure 7.



Figure 7 – A BioCube planter, available at bioscapes.co.uk

3. References

- NHBS, 1FW Schwegler Bat Hibernation Box:
<https://www.nhbs.com/1fw-bat-hibernation-box>
- NHBS, 1B Schwegler Nest Box:
https://www.nhbs.com/search?q=nest%20box&hPP=60&idx=titles&p=0&fR%5Bdoc_s%5D%5B0%5D=false&fR%5Bhide%5D%5B0%5D=false&fR%5Blive%5D%5B0%5D=true&qtvview=158587
- People's Trust for Endangered Species, Hedgehog highway sign: <https://shop.ptes.org/product/wildlife-friendly-gardens/hedgehog-highway-signs-pack-of-two/>
- Bee Hotel:
https://www.nhbs.com/search?q=bee%20hotel&hPP=60&idx=titles&p=0&fR%5Bdoc_s%5D%5B0%5D=false&fR%5Bhide%5D%5B0%5D=false&fR%5Blive%5D%5B0%5D=true&qtvview=238005
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, "How to build a hibernaculum for amphibians and reptiles":
<https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/hibernaculum#:~:text=How%20to%20make%20your%20hibernaculum%3A%201%20In%20a.mound%20to%20create%20a%20feast%20for%20summer%20pollinators>
- BioScapes, BioCube:
<https://bioscapes.co.uk/product/biocube/>