



# *Martin Prescott Environmental Services*

*Woodland Management, Ecological  
Surveying, Wildlife Events...*

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**Mitigation and Biodiversity Enhancement – Development of Land  
at Paradise Street, Hadfield, Glossop  
Consultant- Martin Prescott. (Bat licence no. 2015/15466/CLS)**

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#### **1. Introduction**

It is proposed to build houses on this site (see plan) and an area of scrub, small trees, ruderal vegetation and improved grassland will be lost.

## **2. Habitat Loss**

The site was predominantly grassland with small areas of scrub and scattered small trees. The grassland had not been grazed or cut for several years and is likely to be rich in invertebrates.

Areas of thorn scrub, small trees and brambles are likely to be used by nesting birds. The site is used by dog walkers and ground nesting birds are unlikely.

There was no significant potential for roosting bats on site, but foraging bats will use the site, especially areas around the periphery to the north where there is woodland trees just outside the site.

Two drystone walls and the remains of a wall provide suitable crevices for use by reptiles. Further work to determine the status of reptiles on site may be required at the appropriate season. Although these walls are outside the present proposed development, reptiles using these feature are likely to forage on the proposed development site and the grassland and scrub provide suitable foraging habitat.

## **3. Mitigation**

It is strongly recommended that where practicable (i.e. on areas not required for hardstanding, roadways, gardens etc), existing trees and scrub are left undisturbed. Trees and scrub to be retained must be given protection measures in accordance with BS 5837:2012.

Some scrub and small trees may have to be removed, but this can be mitigated by the planting of a hedge around the periphery of the site. Suitable areas are marked in green on the plan below. It may not be practical to plant all of these areas. The hedge should be of Hawthorn of locally native provenance. Any tree planting should be of native species, preferably of locally native provenance, such as Crab Apple, Rowan, Bird Cherry and Holly. These have been chosen for their attractive blossom and fruits.

The wall just beyond the south edge of the site (yellow on the plan) must not be directly lit either during construction or in the final development.

It is also recommended that any fences have gaps underneath to allow access for Hedgehogs. This may either be provided by raising fencing panels by 12 cm or cutting a gap about 12x12cm at the bottom of the fencing panels every 5 metres or so.



#### **4. Habitat Enhancement**

Bird boxes on the houses are recommended.

In particular, nesting sites for House Sparrows and Swifts, (both have declined in recent years) are recommended. Both box styles are easily obtained from commercial ecological suppliers and the RSPB.

Both House Sparrow “terraces” and Swift boxes should be sited under eaves and facing north or north west. They should not be sited over windows or doorways.

The most northerly of each pair of the three proposed semi-detached houses (see plan above) at the west of the site can be fitted with these boxes. Two of each type can be fitted to both north and west aspects of each house, a total of 12 boxes.

In these same houses, access for bats can be provided by the use of “enclosed bat bricks” in the walls as illustrated below. These must be located high on the west or north facing walls, one on each house, as far away from street lights as practicable. These bat access points must not be directly lit, e.g. by security lighting.



## **5. Addendum, Reptile Mitigation**

Update on requests from the DWT:

a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities.

1. Lighting of drystone wall, potentially a bat roost, just outside the site and not directly affected.
2. Machinery and materials straying off-site and damaging nearby trees and walls.
3. Destruction/disturbance of active birds' nests.

b) Identification of "biodiversity protection/buffer zones" to include wall, hedgerows, trees and other habitat as required;

1. Boundary fencing required to prevent machinery and materials straying off site.

c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts on habitats and species during construction;

1. Boundary fencing required to prevent machinery and materials straying off site.
2. All materials within the development area which could potentially provide refuge for reptiles should be destructively (trimmer) hand searched by the Ecological Clerk of Works or under supervision by the Ecological Clerk of Works. The aim of this process is to actively search all existing refugia and suitable habitat and render these unsuitable for reptiles.

All vegetation/scrub within the site should be strimmed/removed to a height of no more than 50 mm under the supervision of the Ecological Clerk of Works. All arisings should be utilised to create refugia and small hibernacula within the undeveloped areas adjacent to the site. This procedure should render the majority of the site unsuitable for reptiles.

3. A nesting bird survey i.e. ecologist watching for signs of nesting in scrub areas. If birds are present, relevant areas will be avoided until the young have fledged.

d) The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to habitats and species;

Not critical, but preferable to avoid March to August inclusive to avoid nesting birds.

e) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works;

Whilst strimming of vegetation and creation of refugia is taking place.

f) Responsible persons and lines of communication;

Applicant and main contractor must maintain contact with the ecologist as the site is cleared and as mitigation such as nest boxes and bat tiles are installed.

g) The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person (as required); and

The ecologist will maintain contact with applicant and main contractor as the site is cleared and as mitigation such as nest boxes and bat tiles are installed.

h) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.

1. Boundary fencing required, to prevent machinery and materials straying off site, on which there are "No Entry For Contractors" signs. Possibly fencing around small areas within the site required if nesting birds are found.

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