



Subject: AWE Burghfield
Bird and Bat Boxes Mitigation Plan for Project Mensa

Reference: MenBBB Plan 10/09.01 **Revision:** N/A

Author: Sue Jones **Checker:** Sam Munslow

Issued to: Mary McTernan **Reviewer:** Claire Wansbury

Date: October 2009

Introduction

Atkins Ltd has been commissioned by AWE as the ecological clerk of works (COW) associated with the new building development at Burghfield known as Mensa. As part of this role Atkins has been asked to design a plan for bird and bat mitigation to discharge planning condition 17:

"No development shall commence until a scheme for the provision of the mitigation measures set out in Table 15.6 of the Environmental Appraisal Volume 1 with regard to bats and birds has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall then be implemented in full and subsequently maintained in accordance with the timing/phasing arrangements embodied within the scheme or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority".

Background

Atkins has been involved in the site preparation prior to the construction of the new building development at Burghfield since 2006. This has involved a comprehensive demolition schedule involving seventy three buildings being demolished along with associated facility services and levelling of the protection mounds surrounding those buildings. Atkins also wrote the ecology chapter for the Environment Assessment for Mensa. Details of the surveys were incorporated in the ecology chapter (Atkins 2008).

An AWE Burghfield Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan has been prepared and this details areas of enhancement and management of the site during and after construction. The Management Plan is a working document and will be updated whenever new information needs incorporating. Information from the management plan has been used to inform this mitigation plan and maintenance and checks of the boxes will be incorporated into the landscape plan.

This mitigation plan highlights the mitigation measures that will be employed on site whilst the site will be enhanced by new native species planting and managed in a way to benefit biodiversity. New planting will be undertaken at Burghfield in three phases. Phase one will be October 2009 to March 2011. Phase two will be October 2012 to March 2014. Phase three will be October 2014 to March 2016.

Tables 1 and 2 summarise the mitigation proposals and timings. Figure 1 shows the locations of the mitigation whilst Table 3 describes the target notes on Figure 1.

Constraints to the Mitigation Plan

The site currently has a number of re-development projects at outline design making it difficult to identify and specify locations for the bird and bat boxes. There are proposed flood alleviation works around Burghfield Brook, for example, but currently no detailed design. The trees along the brook have been discounted for inclusion in this mitigation plan in case they need to be felled as part of the flood alleviation works. Therefore, areas have been identified instead of actual trees to allow scope and flexibility in locations for the bird and bat boxes.

Table 1: Summary of Bat Mitigation Proposals and Timings

	Mitigation	Location	Timing
Bats	Precautionary Method of Work (PMW) to be written and followed in relation to felling tree 75 (TN 2) and any crown reduction of trees 98 and 99 in the tree protection zone. A dusk emergence/dawn swarming survey to be carried out prior to tree felling. Tree surgeons will also be given a tool box talk by an ecologist prior to felling commencing. Felling of trees must be carried out within a minimum of 48 hrs of dawn/or dusk survey if not, repeat surveys may be required. If bats are found a European Protected Species will be applied for.	On application site.	Between May to September. Will be carried out by 2014 but may be brought forward depending on the detailed programming.
	Installation of eight bat boxes. To be monitored and maintained as stated in the AWE Burghfield Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan.	To be installed in areas 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10 on Figure 1.	To be installed between November 2009- April 2010. Boxes will be checked by a licensed bat worker and cleaned out in Autumn. This will be ongoing as stated in the amended version of the management plan
	Minimise lighting pollution during construction and operation	On application site	Ongoing through construction. All design measures to minimise light pollution to be installed by end of construction in 2014. Any specific advice will be provided in the COW technical notes.
	Plant replacement bat foraging habitat. Details of planting and species etc are provided within the AWE Burghfield Landscape and Biodiversity Plan.	Around application site in all the planting phase. On application site on phase 1 and 2.	Planting phases October 2009 to March 2011, October 2012 to March 2014 and October 2014 to March 2016.

Table 2: Summary of Bird Mitigation proposals and Timings

	Mitigation	Location	Timing
Bird	Vegetation removal to be undertaken outside the breeding season and /or checked by an ecologist no longer than 48 hrs prior to removal.	On application site	2009 -2014.
	Installation of bird scarers on site to deter (especially ground) nesting birds using application site during construction phase.	On application site	Will be installed in Feb 2010 during breeding birds nesting season and monitored by an ecologist.
	Installation of eighteen bird boxes which includes one barn owl box and two tawny owl boxes. These boxes will be monitored and maintained as stated in the AWE Burghfield Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan.	One barn owl box in area 7 (Figure 1), Two tawny owl boxes in area 7 and 10 (Figure 1). Seven smaller bird boxes to attract generalist species and will be installed in areas 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 (Figure 1). Eight bird boxes to be installed on the application site.	Boxes to be installed outside the application site will be installed during October 2009- March 2010. Boxes proposed for the application site will be installed during 2013-14. Boxes will be checked and cleaned by an ecologist in Autumn. This will be ongoing.
	Minimise lighting pollution during construction and operation	On application site	Ongoing through construction. All design measures to minimise light pollution to be installed by end of construction in 2014. Any specific advice will be provided during the COW technical notes.
	Plant replacement bird foraging habitat. Details of planting and species etc are provided within the AWE Burghfield Landscape and Biodiversity Plan.	Around application site in all the planting phases. On application site on phase 1 and 2.	Planting phases October 2009 to March 2011, October 2012 to March 2014 and October 2014 to March 2016.

Figure 1 shows the proposed locations of the bird and bat boxes.

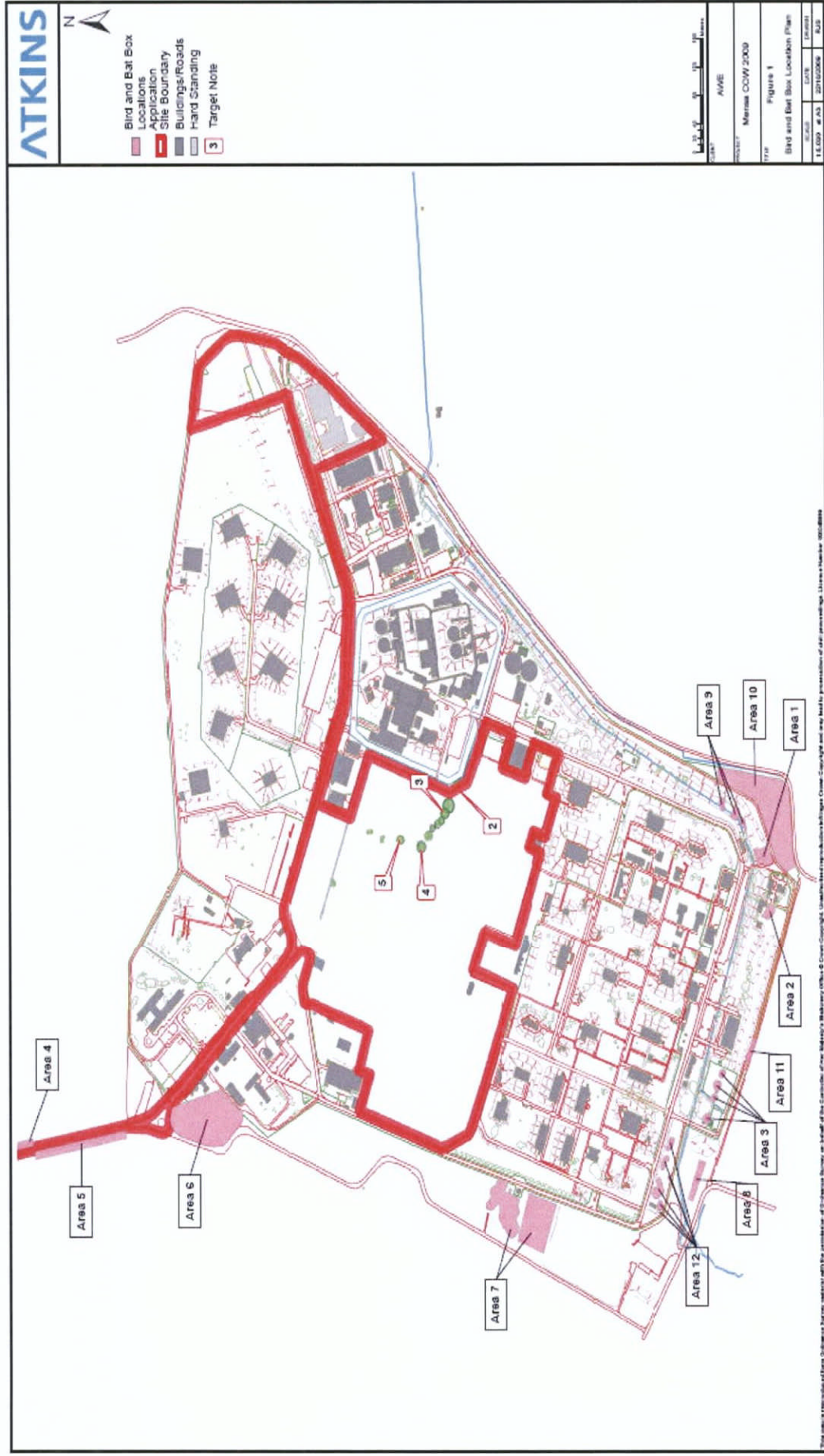


Table 3: Summary of Target notes taken from Habitat Phase 1 Map October 2008 for the Environmental Impact Assessment submitted for planning. These target notes are also in Figure 1.

Target Note Number	Target Note Description
2	Mature oak tree (in decline) with potential for roosting bats (Tree no. 75). Survey in 2008 found no evidence of roosting bats.
3	Two mature oaks with some potential for roosting bats (Tree nos. 98 & 99). Single common pipistrelle recorded possibly emerging from one of these trees during surveys in 2005. Survey in 2008 found no evidence of roosting bats.
4	Veteran oak tree (Tree no. 93); identified as a small common pipistrelle bat roost (3 bats recorded emerging) in 2005. Survey in 2008 found no evidence of roosting bats.
5	Mature oak tree; no potential for roosting bats (Tree no. 92)



- Bird and Bat Box Locations
- Application Site Boundary
- Buildings/Roads
- Hard Standing

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
 05 NOV 2009
 PLANNING AND TRADING STANDARDS



CLIENT	AWE	
PROJECT	Mensa COW 2009	
TITLE	Figure 1	
	Bird and Bat Box Location Plan	
SCALE	DATE	DRAWN
1:5,000 at A3	19/10/2009	RJS

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Crown. All rights reserved. © Crown Copyright and Ordnance Survey 2009.