St. Neots Fire Station – Bat, Bird and Bug Boxes

Bat Enhancement As the proposed extension is single storey and the building comprises of aluminium cladding and PV array, one bat box (Figure 2) will be externally mounted onto mature trees within the site. Given the small scale of the development and proposed extension, one bat box is deemed proportionate given the surroundings of the site is largely residential and the building has negligible potential for roosting bats. The bat boxes should be situated at least 3 metres off the ground and face south/south-east or where there is a clear flight line to the box on the trunk. (all boxes included in this section must be of a woodcrete type as detailed, meaning little to no maintenance is required).  Figure 2: Chillon Woodstone Bat Box (British-made).	**Ecologist:** Biannual checks (via observation from a distance) are required to check the box is still in usable condition. If any damage is observed then an ecologist must be consulted.
Enhancements for Breeding Birds Bird boxes provide excellent, safe opportunities for species which may be present in the area. They are frequently used and therefore provide significant benefits to the bird assemblage. Bird boxes for a variety of different species will also be installed. These should be placed at a minimum height of 2 meters and will be placed to face between north and east. One open-fronted bird boxes (Figure 3), and one songbird boxes (Figure 4) are recommended. These will be hung onto retained trees within the site due to the structure of the building comprising of single storey which is less favourable height for bird boxes. In addition, aluminium cladding is less favourable for placement of bird bricks/boxes such as swift bricks.  Figure 3: Robin box  Figure 4: Songbird box	**Ecologist:** Biannual checks of the boxes to remove debris and check the box is still in usable condition.

St. Neots Fire Station – Bat, Bird and Bug Boxes

Enhancement for Invertebrates One pre-made insect boxes or one self-made bug hotels will be installed on-site, these can be premade/bought as seen in the examples below (Figure 5 and Figure 6) or can be self-constructed as detailed below. This will be placed within the area of grassland away from any footfall and cars. Some insects will require cool and damp conditions so should be placed in a shaded area beneath trees, whilst others prefer sunny conditions and should therefore be situated in a south-facing location. Avoid areas of high human traffic to avoid conflict. Planting nectar rich-plants (see below for suggested examples of vegetation) will provide food sources for bees and butterflies (The Wildlife Trusts, 2022).  Figure 5: Bug biome, ideal for ladybirds, lacewings and bees  Figure 6: Urban bee nesting box, used for solitary bees and wasps	**Ecologist or Landscaper:** Biannual checks of the boxes to remove debris and check the box is still in usable condition.