

A46 Newark Bypass

Scheme Number: TR010065

7.70 Bat Box Specification

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules
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**The Infrastructure (Examination
Procedure) Rules 2010**

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Development Consent Order 202[x]

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document provides a specification for the bat box proposed to be provided and managed for the purposes of Requirement 22 of Schedule 2 the Development Consent Order (DCO) [REP6-004].
- 1.1.2 The offsite bat box is required to be in place prior to the demolition of the existing Mint Leaf restaurant as part of Work No. 95 as part of the authorised development.
- 1.1.3 The installation of a single bat box, suitable for year-round use by soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* is proposed to compensate the loss of a daytime bat roost used by a single soprano pipistrelle (referred to as bat building F004, as shown in Appendix G of Appendix 8.3 (Bat Technical Report) of the Environmental Statement [APP-148]).
- 1.1.4 Natural England provided a letter of no impediment (2024-67159-EPS-AD1- LONI) in response to the draft bat mitigation licence application submitted in March 2024. Should the Development Consent Order (DCO) be granted, then the mitigation licence application must be formally submitted to Natural England. Any changes must be agreed with Natural England before a licence is granted to destroy bat building F004.
- 1.1.5 This document has been agreed with Natural England.

2 Bat Box Location

- 2.1.1 Following the completion of bat surveys to date, bat roosting features were identified within one building, which will be demolished (bat building F004) to facilitate the Scheme. The installation of a single bat box is required to compensate the loss of a daytime bat roost prior to soft-stripping of bat building F004.
- 2.1.2 Soft-stripping is the methodology applied to the systematic repeated check and dismantle of a structure that has a confirmed bat roost, to reduce the likelihood of injuring or killing a bat. As detailed in the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP) [REP6-012], soft-stripping of bat building F004 will be undertaken:
- under the Natural England mitigation bat licence, which permits the legal destruction of the confirmed bat roost; and
 - by a suitability experienced bat ecologist who holds a Natural England Level 2 bat class licence, or equivalent, to allow the disturbance (including handling) of a bat/s potentially roosting in the building at the time of destruction.
- 2.1.3 Soft-stripping and demolition of bat building F004 will be undertaken in March to April or October to November inclusive, during the transitional period (avoiding the core summer season and bat hibernation period) to reduce the risk of injuring or killing a bat. Should a bat be found during soft-stripping of bat building F004, a suitably qualified bat ecologist (Level 2 Natural England Licence or equivalent) will rehome any individuals into the bat box.
- 2.1.4 The installation of the bat box should be provided as follows:
- a minimum of one bat box to be installed, located close to bat building F004;
 - beyond 100m from areas of heavy construction activities associated with the Scheme (e.g. piling), this distance could be reduced for areas where lighter construction is scheduled to occur;
 - along the edge of semi-mature woodland outside of the Order Limits and close to the feature being lost, or on adjacent posts whilst trees mature;
 - mounted in the daytime;
 - between June and October (in accordance with the Natural England A46 Bat Licence Method Statement);
- 2.1.5 The bat box shall be provided in accordance with the following criteria with reference to Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidelines:
- Located where bats are known to feed and navigate (close to hedges and tree lines);

- At least 4m above the ground, ideally higher where safe installation is possible;
- Away from artificial light sources (to protect them from predation);
- Exposed to the sun for 6-8 hours (or if not possible, in a location which receives the morning sun), usually south, south-east or south-west;
- Sheltered from strong/prevailing winds;
- Ensure the bats' approach to the box entrance is not impeded (e.g. clear branches underneath the box); and
- Not above public walkways.

2.1.6 In accordance with the Natural England bat mitigation licence, one bat box will be provided as a minimum to compensate for the loss of one confirmed soprano pipistrelle roost (bat building F004). As detailed in the First iteration EMP, pre-commencement inspections/surveys will be undertaken on bat building F004 prior to demolition. If an inspection confirms that further bat roost/s in bat building F004 are present, demolition works would need to cease and Natural England would need to be consulted, as the bat mitigation licence might need to be amended. This could result in the potential provision of further bat boxes in retained adjacent semi-mature woodland or on posts. The final number of bat boxes will depend on the number and type(s) of roosts lost and the species using those roosts, to be informed by the pre-commencement internal inspection as part of the soft-stripping of bat building F004. Should provision of further bat boxes be required to compensate for any additional bat roosts identified in bat building F004 as part of soft-felling, these will be installed in line with this bat box specification document.

3 Bat Box Specification

3.1.1 The bat box shall be provided in accordance with the following design specification (in line with BCT guidelines):

- Roughened vertical surfaces or landing areas;
- Draught proof and water resistant;
- Thermally stable;
- Use exterior grade aluminium nails at least 85mm in length to mount the bat box.

3.2 Materials

3.2.1 With reference to BCT guidance, the bat box should be made from a thermally stable material such as untreated wood, ecostyrocete, woodcrete, brick or stone. A single 'Large Multi Chamber WoodStone Bat Box' (made of woodstone® and wood), produced by Vivara Pro (or similar where stock issues are encountered), will be mounted on a tree or post nearby to bat building F004 (with reference to the Natural England Bat Licence Method Statement). The exterior and front panel of the box is constructed using woodstone®. This material has excellent thermal properties that ensure the inside of the box will maintain a consistent temperature, is breathable which eliminates issues with condensation, and has a long lifespan of up to 10 years.

3.3 Dimensions

3.3.1 The dimensions and weight of the offsite bat box design are summarised in Table 1 and the design is shown in Figure 1. The proposed bat box includes two removable wooden grooved boards that provides two crevices, approximately 28 mm wide. There are two entrance slots, one at the front and one on the base of the box. The internal baffle on the front entrance is to discourage birds from using the box.

Table 1 Approximate dimensions and weight of proposed bat box

Feature	Dimension and Weight
External dimensions	150 x 275 x 160 mm
Internal dimensions	110 x 190 x 110 mm
Entrance slot (front)	20 x 70 mm
Entrance slot (base)	30 x 85 mm
Weight	4 kg

Source 1 Wildcare

Figure 1 External and internal design of proposed bat box



Source 2 Wildcare

4 Duration and Management of the Bat Box

- 4.1.1 A section 253 agreement will be entered into with the relevant landowner to ensure the bat box is provided prior to the demolition of the existing Mint Leaf restaurant as part of Work No. 95 for the authorised development.
- 4.1.2 Annual monitoring of the bat box will be undertaken by a suitability experienced bat ecologist who holds a Natural England Level 2 bat class licence, or equivalent, during year 2 and year 3 of construction and annually for 5 years post-construction and after high winds to ensure they are still securely in place.
- 4.1.3 Monitoring includes check for damage and maintenance (cleaning, repair and replacement if bat box has deteriorated and no longer suitable for use by bats). Records of any bats identified within the bat box should be submitted to the local record centre (Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre).