

Wildlife & Eco Guidelines

Did You Know?

YORhub has been working with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to...

develop some simple and low cost changes to construction projects that can reduce the impact on wildlife and help to enhance the environmental value of the built environment.



Installation of Roosting / Nesting Structures

Roosting and nesting structures to be installed in new buildings/ bridges for bats and birds.

Swift boxes and sparrow terraces are preferred to more general bird boxes where possible, in order to provide greater nature conservation benefits.

For high rise city centre buildings enhancements could be installed for peregrine falcons.

Nesting structures are to be installed into the brickwork of buildings/bridges to ensure their long term installation at the site.

More information can be found here: ↘

www.bats.org.uk/pages/bat_boxes.html

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Vegetation Planting

Plant grassland areas with a native seed mix. Wildflower strips or meadow are preferable to amenity grassland mixes as they provide far greater biodiversity value. Wildflowers thrive in poor soil so are ideal where top soil has been stripped during construction. Soil testing may be required prior to seeding to ensure that the soil is sufficiently low in nutrients.

Suitable wildflower mixes can be found here: ↘

www.wildseed.co.uk/page/sowing-and-aftercare

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Gates & Fences

Install suitably sized holes in gates and fences to allow hedgehogs to travel between spaces.

Include suitable weatherproof labelling to explain the reasoning for the holes in order to prevent them being blocked up or covered over. Securely fix with suitable weatherproof screws.

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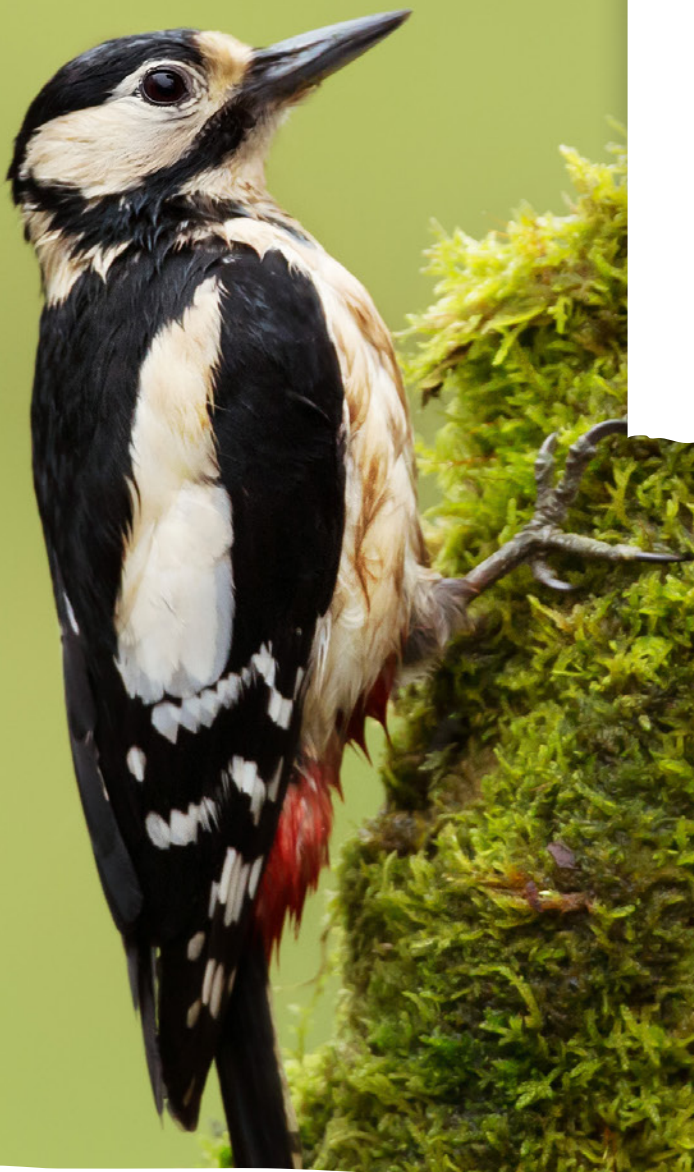


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Vegetation Cutting

Any standing deadwood should be left onsite if trees are to be felled / drastically cut back due to disease / safety issues. Reason: provides habitat for invertebrates, birds (woodpeckers / owls) and bats.

All wood / logs from tree works to be left on site in wood pile / habitat piles in order to provide habitat for amphibian and invertebrate species.

Vegetation from scrub removal to be left onsite in piles to provide habitat for species such as grass snake.

Wood or vegetation piles should be placed in discreet locations to avoid vandalism.

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Storage of materials on construction sites

If materials are to be stored on site, care must be taken to not impact protected species. Piles of rubble, wood and other materials may be suitable hibernating/ resting habitat for species such as hedgehog, amphibians and reptiles.

Materials are to be stored off the ground where possible and/ or covered. Materials should not be stored on site for prolonged periods of time, especially around sensitive periods when animals are going into hibernation (late autumn).

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Lighting of construction site and compound

If lighting is to be used on site, lighting to be positioned to avoid light spill on hedgerows, trees and other biodiverse areas. If a bat roost is known to be in any building on site (such as old schools) then lighting should also be positioned to avoid these.

Lighting to be switched off when not in use. Where possible lighting to be avoided during night time hours onsite during the summer months.

Any lighting to be installed onsite in the final design of the project should also be positioned/ designed to avoid impacts on nocturnal species.

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