

Maestaf Bridge-Ecological enhancement measures siting plan for bat and bird boxes

A site visit was carried out by Trevor Fletcher (Senior Ecologist) on 18th October 2022 in order to determine appropriate siting for 3 x bat boxes and 2 x bird boxes as per planning requirement.

“4. Prior to works commencing on site, details for the provision of three bat boxes and two bird boxes together with details of their location within the site, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The bat and bird boxes shall be installed in accordance with the approved details before the new bridge is brought into beneficial use. Reason - To provide biodiversity and environmental enhancements in accordance with Policy EnW1 of the Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan.”

The following provides details of tree locations, height, orientation and type of box that should be installed.

Bat boxes

Three boxes shall be placed on an alder tree located at approximate grid reference SO 06338 03575 on the southwest side of the river. One box should face (i.e. entrance facing) Southeast, one southwest and another box northeast. It may be necessary to remove some very minor branches to achieve this. The boxes can also be at different heights relative to each other but must fall within the red box as outlined on Images 3 and 4 to ensure sufficient height above ground level.

The tree can best be accessed by walking along the treeline until you reach 2 old concrete fenceposts, there is a gentle slope down to the tree from here.

See Image 1 for approximate location, image 2 shows suitable access point, image 3 shows the tree where boxes should be installed.



Image 1-Red dot shows approximate location for bat and bird box installation. Pin dropped on Maestaf Bridge.



Image 2 -Taken from southwest bank. Tree for bat box red circle, yellow triangles indicate (for orientation) 2 concrete posts, beyond which the trees can be accessed.



Image 3 -Tree for bat box location. Three boxes to be placed on same tree, one facing SE, one SW and one facing NE. Image taken looking towards the mown grass area.

Image 4 -Shows same tree as image 3 viewed from opposite bank of river (i.e. field side). Red box shows height and orientation for the third bat box (NE orientation).



Bird Box location

Bird boxes must be located at minimum 4 m high to avoid any disturbance from people and must have a clear outlook.

Boxes to be sited with opening facing between N and E (ie approximately facing across the river). on a flattish section of tree. Fixed with aluminium nails for longevity.

Access as for bat boxes and trees for siting are located approximately 5 m SE of the bat boxes. Approximate Grid Reference SO 06342 03578.

Trees are both alder.

Hole fronted box- Red outline as per image 5. **Open fronted-**yellow outline on tree with most ivy cover.

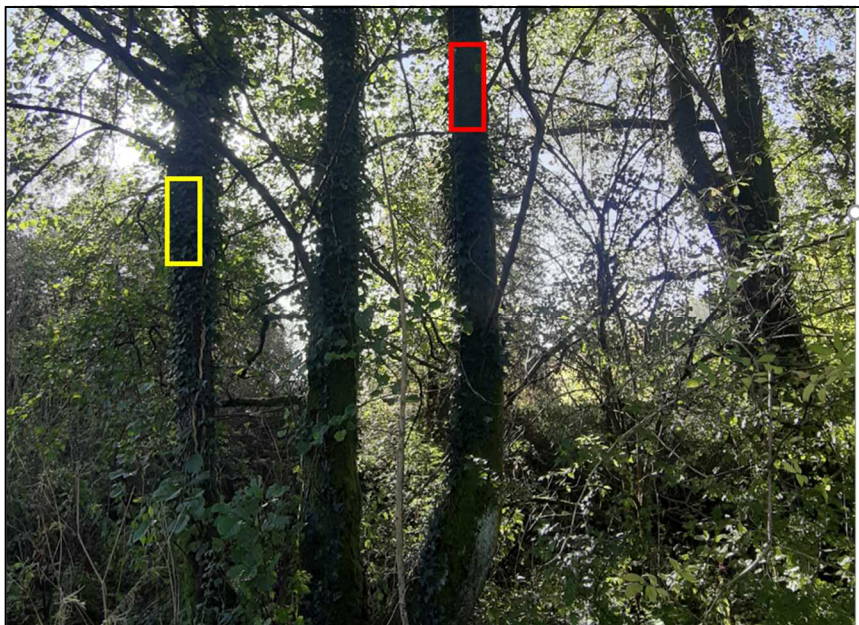


Image 5-Alder trees for bird box siting. Image taken facing SW (i.e with back to river)

Box specification

Bat boxes- <https://www.greenwoodsecohabitats.co.uk/shop>. Single crevice boxes are fine but if not available larger size is also acceptable.

Bird boxes- : Hole fronted <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-seville-32mm-woodstone-nest-box>
Open fronted box <https://www.nhbs.com/eco-robin-open-fronted-nest-box>

Avoid alternatives with cylindrical design as prone to rolling around in the wind.