



Ricardo Energy & Environment

Ecological Enhancement Report

Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) Reserved Matters Application – Sports Centre Development Planning Condition U07943 on Outline Application 15/3038/OUT

Customer:

Richmond upon Thames College

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1 Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Water & Environment Practice of Ricardo Energy and Environment on behalf of the Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC), for the discharge of planning conditions relating to the outline permission (15/3038/OUT) received on the Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus development (REEC) development and in support of the Reserved Matters submission by RuTC. The report relates to the second phase of construction (the Sports Centre Development) in the College Development Zone. The area of the proposed development within the context of the wider site is shown in **Figure 1**. The first phase of construction (the main College building) was the subject of separate Reserved Matters submission (16/4747/RE).

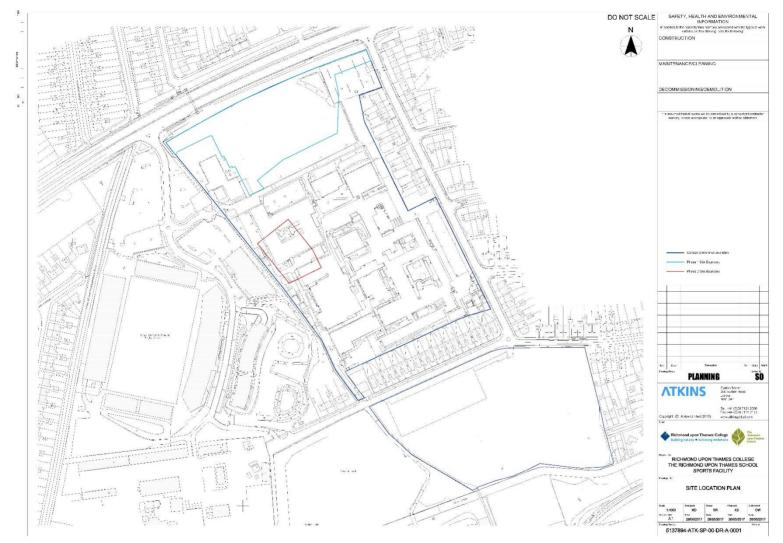
An Ecological Enhancement Report is required to discharge planning condition **U07943 Ecological Enhancement Measures**) which states:

"That as part of development hereby approved bat and bird boxes, stag beetle loggeries, green corridors, brown and green roofs, green fences and other ecological enhancements shall be installed in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; such details to show the number, type and location of the boxes. These measures shall be installed prior to the occupation of more than 50 flats in the Residential Development Zone hereby approved.

REASON: To preserve and enhance nature conservation interests in the area."

As the discharging of planning conditions has been split into the various development zones, not all the enhancements listed in the Ecology chapter of the Environmental Statement, and planning condition U07943, are applicable. In particular, the inclusion of stag beetle loggeries and scrub habitats are applicable to the College Playing Fields development zone only. This report details the ecological enhancement measures to be implemented as part of the Phase 2 development (Sports Centre Development) in the College Development Zone only.





2 Habitat Enhancements

2.1 Trees

The planting schedule for the Phase 2 Sports Centre Development is shown on **Appendix 1** (LUC Drawing 6377-LD-DET-431): This includes provision for two mature trees (liquidamber *Liquidambar styraciflua*) adjacent the southern boundary of the building and one Scot pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) in the south west corner of the site which will strengthen and complement the future planting as part of the upgrade of Marsh Farm Lane (to be undertaken in a later phase of development).

Further planting within the Phase 2 Sports Centre Development has been constrained due to the space requirements of the Sports building itself and the associated car parks. Planting in future phases of development in the College Development Zone will be designed to further increase connectivity throughout the site.

All tree planting will be undertaken in accordance with BS 5837 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations' and BS 8545 'Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations'. Details of the tree pit design, including root barrier, guying system and aeration and irrigation pipes are found in **Appendix 2** (LUC Drawing 6377-LD-DET-634). Further details on the planting methodology are found in **Appendix 1**.

2.2 Groundcover and Climbers

There will also be three areas of ground cover planting in the carpark area (see **Appendix 1**). Species to be used include bugle *Ajuga reptans*, common fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, spindle *Euonymus fortune*, greater wood rush *Luzula nivea* and catmint *Nepeta 'Six Hill giant'*.

A further area of planting, along the boundary with the residential development, will be made with spindle *Euonymus fortunei* and Persian ivy *Hedra cholchica* (see **Appendix 1**).

2.3 Green Roof

The Development Management Plan (2011) for London Borough Richmond-upon-Thames refers to green roofs under Policy DM SD 4 (Adapting to Higher Temperatures and Need for Cooling) and DM SD 5 (Living Roofs) DM OS 5 (Biodiversity and New Development). Policy DM SD 5 recommends that green roofs are incorporated into new developments where technically feasible and subject to considerations of visual impact, aiming to provide at least 70% coverage.

The feasibility of including a green roof on the Sports Centre building has been investigated and it is considered to be possible to include green roof modules on the area of roof not taken up by essential plant equipment. 'Plant' includes; ventilation, vents, roof lights, roof access hatch with additional space required for maintenance of these structures. The area of green roof proposed for the Sports building is 957m² which represents 70% of total useable roof space (1,367m²) (see **Appendix 3**).

The green roof will be created using Bauder's XF118 Wildflower Blanket, a wildflower blanket system which consists of a mixture of up to 24 species of wildflower and herbs (see **Appendix 4**). The species mix includes: *Achillea millefolium, Armeria maritima, Bellis perennis, Campanula glomerata, Campanula rotundifolia, Centaurea cyanus, Centaurium erythrea, Dianthus deltoides, Echium vulgare, Galium*

verum, Geum rivale, Linaria vulgaris, Lotus corniculatus, Lychnis flos-cu-culi, Papaver rhoes, Pilosella aurantiaca, Prunella vulgaris, Rhianthos minor, Saponaria officianalis, Scabiosa columbaria, Sedum acre, Silene uniflora, Silene vulgaris, Thymus polytricus.

The green roof will provide additional a biodiversity benefits by creating suitable habitats for invertebrates and bird species which utilise brownfield sites.

Plate 1: Bauder Wildflower Blanket XF118



Green roofs are low maintenance but are not maintenance free. As a result, the following maintenance activities will be carried out annually during the spring and autumn of the first year and annually thereafter:

- Removal of debris and leaves from the roof surface, rainwater outlets, chutes, gutters, etc. All debris should be removed from the roof and not flushed down rainwater pipes.
- Strim vegetation back to 50-70mm height in late autumn to maintain species richness.
- Replace areas of settled substrate.
- Replace failed plants with sedum cuttings.
- Hand weeding of the roof to removal any undesirable plants e.g. saplings.
- Fertiliser application in spring.

All inspections / maintenance activities will be recorded on a roof plan, marked with co-ordinates of the location of specific issues, to provide an ongoing record of the inspection which can be compared year on year.

3 Species Enhancements

The loss of semi-natural habitat across the wider REEC site will result in a loss of feeding and nesting opportunities for bats and breeding birds. To mitigate the loss of these opportunities, 15 bird boxes and six bat boxes will be installed across the site. The School Development Zone will provide nine bird nest sites and two bat boxes. The College Phase 1 Development in the College Development Zone, the subject of separate Reserved Matters submission (16/4747/RE), incorporates three bird boxes and one bat box.

The provision discussed below relates to the Phase 2 Sports Centre Development in the College Development Zone only.

Additional provision will be made both in the remaining phases of development in the College Development Zone, and also in the development in the Tech Hub and Residential Development Zones. Details of species enhancements for the rest of the College site will be provided within the Reserved Matters and Discharge of Conditions submissions for the relevant development zone or phase.

3.1 Bat Boxes

A Schwegler 1FF bat box will be installed on the north western corner of the Sports Building, facing the Marsh Farm Lane corridor. Information obtained from the bat surveys carried out to support the outline application¹ suggests that the majority of bat activity is associated with the River Crane and Duke of Northumberland's River, around the grassland habitats to the north and south of the college, alongside Challenge Court and along peripheral habitats. Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* were the dominant species recorded, with serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* and *Nyctalus* sp. recorded in low numbers. The upgrade of the Marsh Farm Lane corridor in a future phase of development in the College Development Zone will enhance the habitat and foraging opportunities for bat species. The bat box on the Sports Building is located complement this enhancement.

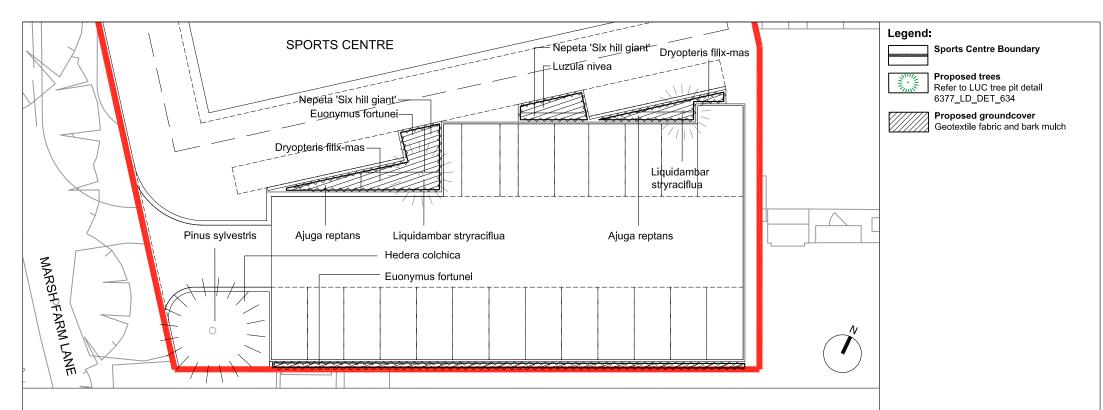
The bat box will be installed in an area of open roof containing external plant, at a height of 12.6m above floor level. The proposed location for the bat box is annotated on *General Arrangement Floor Plan Roof Level* **Appendix 5**. The box will be mounted in the building staircase's west facade on level 03, facing Marsh Farm Lane (see *Bat Box Location* in **Appendix 5**).

3.2 Bird Boxes

No bird boxes are proposed for the Phase 2 Sports Centre Development as the available habitat is limited. However, the site sits adjacent the Marsh Farm Lane which provides more favourable habitat and provision for bird boxes will be made in this and other later phase of development (e.g.in the College Playing Fields Development Zone).

¹ Cascade Consulting (2015) Richmond Education and Enterprise Campus Development: Environmental Statement, Chapter 15 Ecology, Appendix 15.2 Breeding Birds and Bats Species Report. Report prepared by Cascade Consulting for London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

Appendix 1 – LUC Drawing-LD-PLN-431 Soft Landscape



SCHEDULE

	Type / Species	Specification	Density/Percentage
	Trees		
2	Liquidambar stryraciflua	12-14 cm girth, height 300-400cm, RB	As shown
1	Pinus sylvestris	50-60 cm girth, height 600-700cm, RB, semi- mature, clear stem min 200cm	As shown
	Climbers		
14	Parthenociccus quinquefolia	5I pot, caned, several shoots, 3 breaks	As shown
	Groundcover		
35	Ajuga reptans	2l pot	6/m2
43	Dryopteris filix-mas	2l pot	5/m ²
23	Euonimus fortunei	5l pot	5/m ²
90	Hedera colchica	1L pot	10/m2
23	Luzula nivea	2l pot	6/m2
30	Nepeta 'Six hill giant'	2l pot	6/m2

OUTLINE SPECIFICATION NOTES

GENERAL

All supply, planting and other landscape works to be in accordance with relevant British Standards and Codes of Practice. Works to be undertaken by a competent and accredited landscape contractor with 12months Defects Liability/ in contract maintenance. Following that maintenance works shall be undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Management Plan, LUC 2016.

PLANTING METHODOLOGY

Soil Soil to be free of pests, disease, fungus and foreign matter.

Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish or other materials that are corrosive, explosive, flammable, hazardous to human or animal life or detrimental to healthy plant growth. The Contractor shall appoint a suitably qualified and approved, independent Soil Scientist to undertake the sampling and testing of the soil materials considered for importation. An approved Soil Scientist is: Tim O'Hare Associates LLP, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 8BA, Tel: 01491 822653, www.toha.co.uk

Subsoil to be in accordance with BS 3882 'Specification for topsoil'.

For trees planted in hard landscape a load bearing growing medium will be necessary. This will be Urban tree planting medium, Grade: 0.6-2 mm. Green compost for soil amelioration to be incorporated into soil for tree and shrub planting to be in accordance with BSI PAS 100:2011 or current revision and sourced from a PAS 100 compliant facility.

Fertilizer to be incorporated into soil for tree and shrub planting: Scotts Enmag CRF (11%N:22%P2O5:9%K2O:6%MgO).

Prepare undisturbed topsoll in accordance with BS 4428 'Code of Practice for general landscape operations': Break up hard ground thoroughly, remove visible roots and large stones with a diameter greater than 50 mm, dig areas covered with turf over to full depth of topsoil and treat weeds at appropriate times with a suitable translocated non-residual herbicide. Prepare subsoil by excavating/placing fill to the required profiles, loosening thoroughly when ground conditions are reasonably dry to a depth of 450mm and removing stones larger than 50mm, arisings, contaminants, debris and builders' rubble.

Spread topsoil in layers of layers of 150 mm maximum depth and gently firm each layer before spreading the next.

After spreading topsoil, when weather and ground conditions are suitably dry and non-plastic, the soil profile shall be ripped at 300mm centres to a minimum depth of 300mm (grass areas) or 600mm (shrub beds, hedges) to decompact the soils and key in the topsoil and subsoil layers. Any large, compacted lumps of soil shall be broken down by further appropriate cultivation (in accordance with BS 4428) to produce a fine tilth suitable for planting (<30mm), turfing and seeding (<10mm). Cultivations shall ensure that the topsoil is fully aerated

In order to avoid physical degradation to the soil during all phases of soil handling (e.g. spreading, cultivation, amelioration, planting, turfing and seeding), soil handling operations shall be carried out when soil is non-plastic (friable) in consistency (i.e. at least 5% below the soil's lower plastic limit). Soil shall not be unnecessarily compacted by trampling or trafficking by site machinery or handled when frozen or during and after heavy rainfall.

Timing

Deciduous trees and shrubs: Late October to late March. Field-grown trees and shrubs planted out of season to be spring-ringed at nursery.

Conifers and evergreens: September/ October or April/ May,

Herbaceous plants: September/ October or March/ April.

Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable. Provide watering and weed control as necessary.

• Dried bulbs, corms and tubers: September/ October.

Standard

All planting to be carried out in accordance with BS 4428 and during suitable weather conditions. Do not use mechanical tools within 100 mm of tree and plant stems. Water as necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of planting.

Plants to be materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous specimen, of good shape and without elongated shoots, grown in a suitable environment and hardened off and free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders. Plant standard to

BS 3936 'Nursery stock'. Name, forms, dimensions, provenance and other criteria as scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification. Plant handling shall be in accordance with HTA 'Handling and establishing landscape plants'.

Geotextlle fabric to all beds to be laid before planting. Cut flaps neatly for planting and refit closely around plant stems. Mulch with Melcourt Mini Pine Mulch, 60mm depth. Finished level of mulch to be 30 mm below adjacent grassed or paved areas.

Climbers and ornamental shrubs

Planting bed depth to be 450mm minimum. Geotextile fabric to all bedges beds to be laid before planting. Cut flaps neatly for planting and refit closely around plant stems. Mulch with Melcourt Mini Pine Mulch, 60mm depth. Finished level of mulch to be 30 mm below adjacent grassed area. Shrubs to be grouped by 3 to form irregular 'natural' layout.

All tree planting to be undertaken in accordance with BS 5837 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations' and BS 8545 'Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape, Recommendations',

For detail of tree pit including root barrier, guying system and aeration and irrigation pipe refer to LUC drawing 6377-LD-DET-634. Semimature trees to be root prepared and transplanted to BS 4043 'Recommendations for transplanting root-balled trees'.

All standard trees to be secured with 2 no. stake. Stakes to be 50mm diameter softwood, peeled chestnut, larch or oak, straight, free from projections and large or edge knots and with pointed lower end with nails to BS 1202.

Backfill with amellorant (1 m³ per 10 m³ of topsoll) and fertilizer as specified.

Mulch with Melcourt Mini Pine mulch, Finished level of mulch to be 70 mm below adjacent grassed or paved areas.

MAINTENANCE

For general soft landscape maintenance - including native hedge, hedges, groundcover, climbers and lawn - refer to LUC Landscape Management Plan.

Trees

Newly planted trees across the site will need to be watered regularly by hand during

establishment i.e. for 3 years after planting.

Soll around the base of trees In grass will be kept clear of weeds.

Stakes/ties/ guys will be inspected and maintained in good order, adjusted and repaired where necessary to prevent rubbing of bark and removed when no longer required.

Trees will be visually inspected on routine maintenance visits for damage and general safety and security issues. Damaged branches will be removed from both tree and ground promptly to minimise damage to the tree and danger/obstruction to users of the site

For newly planted trees formative pruning work will be carried out as required and as appropriate for the species to remove branches overhanging or obstructing access and to maintain the form and health of the tree. All pruning to be carried out by a Member of the Arboricultural Association and in accordance with BS 7370 'Grounds maintenance. Recommendations for maintenance of soft landscape'.

1. Do not scale from this drawing. 2. All dimensions must be checked on site and any discrepancies verified with landscape architect. 3. All dimensions are drawn in mm. 4. Landscape drawing only. 5. All materials/items used to be as specified or alternatives to be approved by landscape architect.

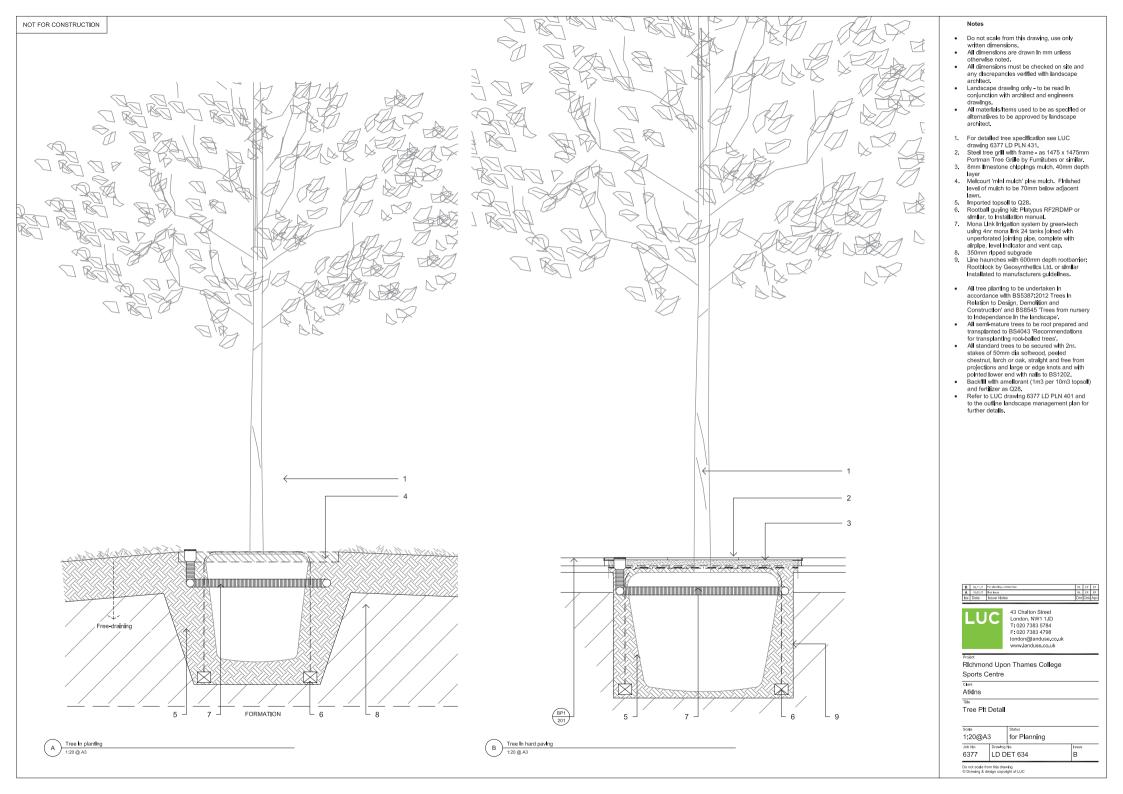
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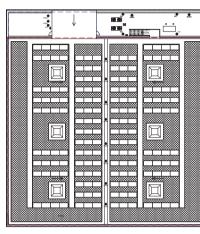
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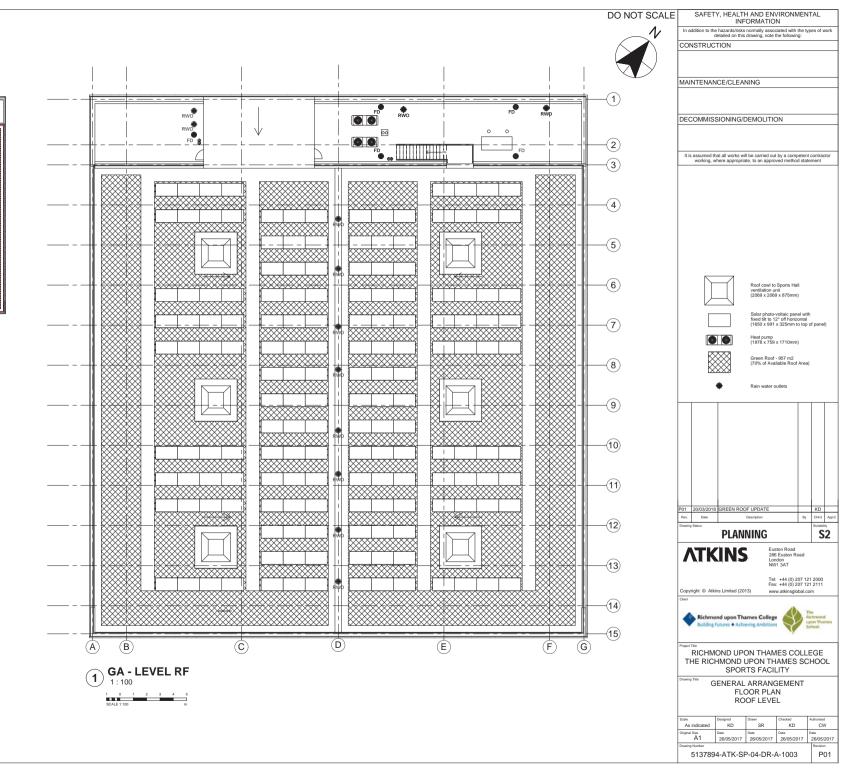
Appendix 2 – LUC Drawing 6377-LD-DET-634 - Tree Pit Detail



Appendix 3 – Atkins Drawing 5137894-ATK-SP-00-DR-A-1003-General Arrangement Floor Plan Roof Level







Appendix 4 – Bauder XF118 Wildflower Blanket Technical System Summary

WILDFLOWER BLANKET XF118

Xero Flor XF118 wildflower blanket has been developed to meet the growing demand for a native species vegetation blanket to satisfy the requirements of both BREEAM and Sustainable Homes codes. The product utilises the technology and much of the experience that we have gained over the last 15 years in growing and installing sedum-vegetated blankets, and as a result shares many of the benefits of these proven products.

The 24 species of wildflowers and herbs incorporated into the blanket have been selected to provide a viable and vibrant plant community whilst also delivering a range of native species that will be present on most of the biodiversity action plan lists that project-specific ecology reports now demand.

The unique blanket carrier incorporates a polypropylene mesh stitched to a permeable geotextile membrane, which ensures minimum compaction of the blanket substrate whilst allowing the vigorous root growth of the wildflowers to quickly establish into the substrate installed underneath.

Whilst the XFI18 wildflower blanket is always installed as part of an extensive, substrate-based green roof system, the weight of the build-up and its establishment and ongoing maintenance requirements are amongst the lowest for this type of system.

KEY FEATURES

- Lightweight green roof system, making it ideal for retrofitting on a building or on new build construction.
- Effective solution where BREEAM and Sustainable Homes codes require a biodiversity strategy
- Delivers instant greening of a roof with native species wildflower plants
- Cost effective
- Cradle-to-Cradle certification
- Vegetation blankets are cultivated by Bauder and delivered to site within 24 hours of harvesting

Key to the success of the Bauder XF118 Wildflower Blanket is whether it is being specified to support the ecology or if its visual appearance will be the primary requirement. If the former is required then a basic level of irrigation and maintenance after installation will be sufficient, and if the latter then a greater level of maintenance and irrigation will be of much assistance in achieving the desired effect.

For further information on the Bauder XF118 Wildflower Blanket please see the Bauder Green Roof Vegetation Installation Guide and the Bauder Extensive Green Roof Maintenance Guide, both of which can be found at www.bauder.co.uk.





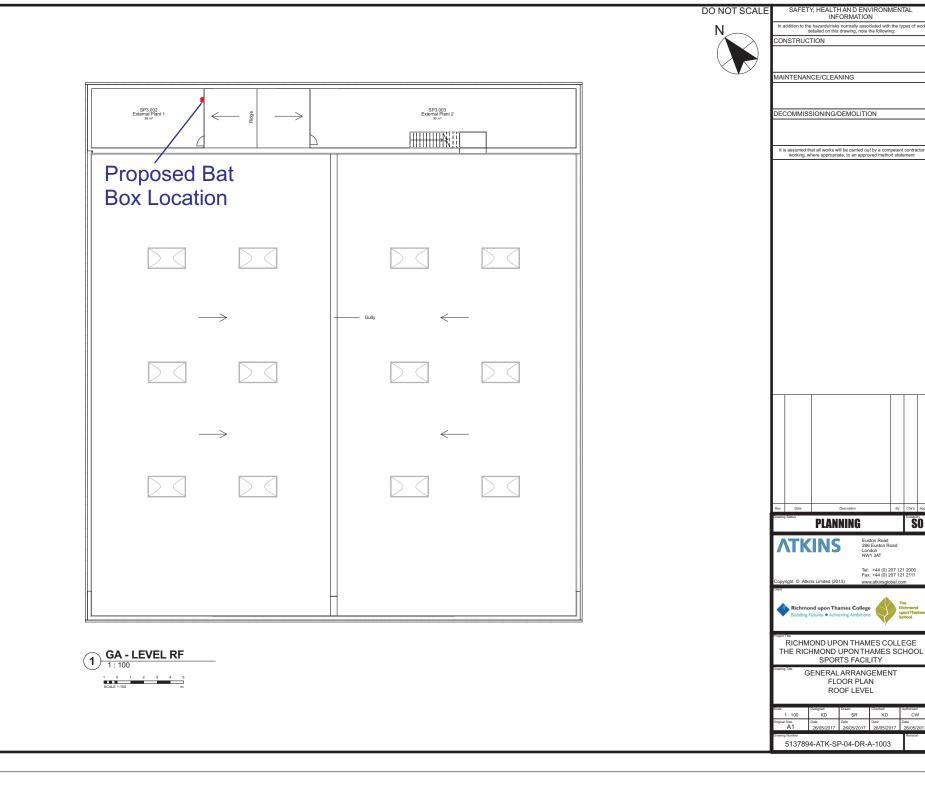


XF118 WILDFLOWER INDICATIVE SPECIES LIST

Botanical Name	Height	Blossom	Flowering Season
Achillea millefolium	8-40 cm	White	June-August
Armeria maritima	5-20 cm	Pink	April-October
Bellis perennis	3-12c m	White / Yellow	March-October
Campanula glomerata	3-30 cm	Blue	June-October
Campanula rotundifolia	15 cm	Blue	July-September
Centaurea cyanus	20-50 cm	Blue	June-August
Centaurium erythrea	10-40 cm	Pink	July-August
Dianthus deltoides	15-30 cm	Pink	April-October
Echium vulgare	30-60 cm	Blue	June-September
Galium verum	l 5-60 cm	Yellow	July-August
Geum rivale	20-40 cm	Pink	April-August
Linaria vulgaris	20-40 cm	Yellow	July-September
Lotus corniculatus	10-20 cm	Yellow	June-September
Lychnis flos-cu-culi	50-60 cm	Pink	May-August
Papaver rhoes	20-60 cm	Red	June-August
Pilosella aurantiaca	20-60 cm	Orange	July-October
Prunella vulgaris	5-20 cm	Purple	June-October
Rhianthos minor	30-50 cm	Yellow	May-August
Saponaria officianalis	20-40 cm	Light Pink	July-September
Scabiosa columbaria	l 5-50 cm	Blue	July-October
Sedum acre	5-10 cm	White / Yellow	July-August
Silene uniflora	8-25cm	White	June-August
Silene vulgaris	25-50 cm	White	June-August
Thymus polytricus	4-10 cm	Mauve	May-August

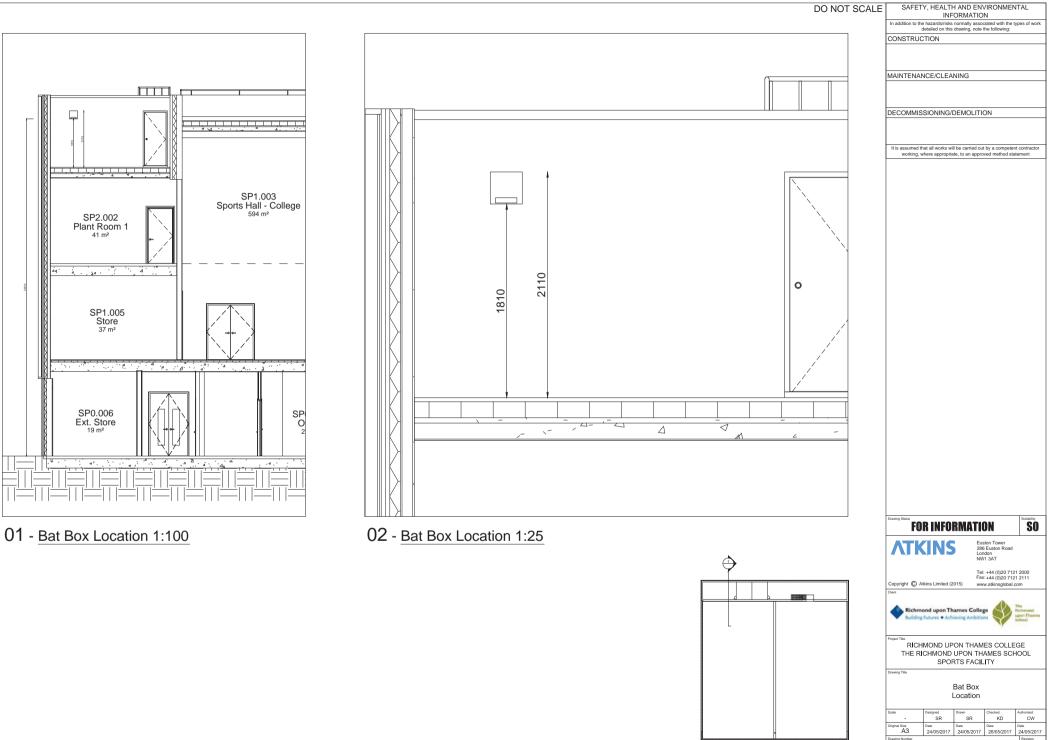


Appendix 5 – Atkins Drawings 5137894-ATK-SP-00-DR-A-1003-General Arrangement Floor Plan Roof Level [annotated with location of bat box] and 5137894-ATK-SP-XX-SK-A-0020 Bat Box Location



By Child Ap SO

CW



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