

Statement of Conformity

Project Information & Site Context

Site Name & Location	Aldi, Fleet Street, Holbeach	Grid Reference	TF 364 247
Client Name	Aldi Stores Ltd	Report Number	RT-MME-181346-01
Site Area (ha)	0.88	Topography	Flat
Project Background	A new retail supermarket has been constructed on the site. A site inspection by a suitably qualified ecologist was required to ensure that the landscaping and ecological enhancement measures on site have been carried out in accordance with: - Bat Mitigation Licence 2023-65439-EPS-MIT; - Bat Mitigation Plan Drawing C160184-E3; - Detailed Soft Landscaping Plan MEL-535-001 Rev C1; and - Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (RT-MME-159871-01) for the site. The inspection was required in order to discharge planning condition 13 part 2 which states: <i>'On completion of the agreed compensation and enhancement measure in accordance with the approved programme of implementation, required as part of this condition, the development shall be inspected by a qualified ecologist and a statement of conformity and a copy of any Natural England protected species licenses as appropriate shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority to confirm whether all of the measures for enhancing biodiversity have been implemented in accordance with the details approved under this condition.'</i>		

Methods

Field Survey	An ecological walkover survey of the site was undertaken on 8 th January 2025 by Ellie Rickman MSc, MCIEEM (Principal Ecological Consultant) during which the location and extent of landscape and ecological features within the site were recorded.			
Weather Conditions	Temperature (°C)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Force (Beaufort)	Precipitation
	2	100%	F1	None
Constraints	The site was fully accessible and there were no significant constraints.			

Results

Soft Landscaping	Construction on site was being completed at the time of the walkover. However, the majority of the landscaping and ecological enhancement works had been completed and could be checked against the approved plans. In summary: Retained trees along the eastern boundary were present including two yew <i>Taxus bacatta</i> trees and two mature oaks <i>Quercus robur</i>. A bay laurel shrub at the north-eastern corner has also been retained but has been coppiced. Retained scrub at the boundaries has been cut back to behind the fence line but remains present and will grow up and overhang the fence in time providing foraging and commuting corridors for birds and bats.
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	- New native shrub planting has been carried out along the eastern, southern and western sides of the site in accordance with Detailed Soft Landscaping Plan MEL-535-001 Rev C1. - New mixed native hedge planting on the eastern and southern boundaries of the site has been carried out in accordance with Detailed Soft Landscaping Plan MEL-535-001 Rev C1. - All new tree planting has been carried out in accordance with the Detailed Soft Landscaping Plan MEL-535-001 Rev C1. Heavy Standard and Extra Heavy Standard stock has been used as specified. Tree protection and staking is present. - A small amount of Euonymus 'Silver Queen' remains to be planted along the northern boundary of the site. This will be undertaken at the end of January once cabling works have been completed.
Bat Mitigation	The following bat boxes have been installed in accordance with Bat Mitigation Licence 2023-65439-EPS-MIT and Bat Mitigation Plan Drawing C160184-E3; 6 x Schwegler 2F and 2 x Schwegler 2FN bat boxes on retained oak trees to the north-east of the site (4 boxes per tree). These were at a suitable height and orientation, facing different directions to provide a variety of climatic conditions. 7 x Schwegler 2F Bat boxes on telegraph poles to the west of the site (3 per pole to the west of the store and one on the northernmost pole alongside the colony box. The locations of these are slightly more northerly than those originally indicated on Bat Mitigation Plan Drawing C160184-E3 in order to be located in an unlit area. These were at a suitable height and orientation. 1 x Schwegler 1FS Colony bat box on a telegraph pole to the north-west of the site, suitable for maternity roosts. This was at a suitable height and orientation.
Other	The Landscape and Ecological Management Plan states that 2 hole fronted and 2 open fronted bird nestboxes should be installed on site. These have not yet been installed. It was agreed with the site manager that these would be obtained and installed as follows: 1 x open fronted nest box at the top of the boundary fence behind the coppiced bay laurel to the north-east of the site. 1 x open fronted box on the southernmost retained yew tree to the north east of the site 2 x hole fronted boxes, one on each mature oak tree to the north-west. These should be placed above the bat boxes facing north or east and will reduce the likelihood of birds using the bat boxes for nesting.

Recommendations

The recommendations below are based on Middlemarch's current understanding of the project. If works are changed in any way these recommendations will need to be amended if appropriate.

R1	The remaining landscaping works including the Euonymus 'Silver Queen' planting to the north and the installation of bird boxes should be carried out in accordance with approved Detailed Soft Landscaping plan MEL-535-001 Rev C1. and the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan for the site. Photographs of these should be provided to Middlemarch/the LPA to confirm completion.
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Quality Assurance

Date	Version	Author	Checked & Approved By
09/01/2025	Final	Ellie Rickman MSc, MCIEEM (Principal Ecological Consultant)	Jemma Gaskin MPhil, MCIEEM (Principal Ecological Consultant)

Photographs



Plate 1: Retained Trees to the North-East of Site



Plate 2: Retained Yew, Coppiced Bay Laurel and New Tree and Scrub Planting to North-East Corner



Plate 3: Tree and Native Shrub Planting Along Eastern Boundary



Plate 4: Native Mixed Hedgerow Planting on Eastern Boundary

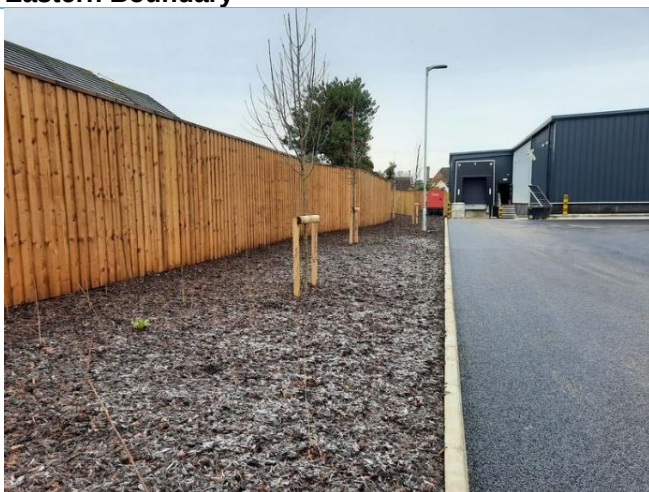


Plate 5: Tree and Native Shrub Planting along Western Boundary



6: Schwegler 2F and Schwegler 2FN Bat Boxes on Retained Tree to North-East



Plate 7: Schwegler 2F Bat Boxes on Poles to West

Plate 8: Schwegler 2F and Schwegler 1FS Colony Boxes on Pole to North-West