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BIRDS AND MAMMALS Bird nest boxes



Purchase (or self-make) and install boxes and cameras in carefully selected locations on buildings or mature trees. The addition of nest-box cameras will enable residents to observe and appreciate wildlife present.

Suitability	Low, medium and high density housing.
Management type	Wildlife 'housing'.
Supplier information	Consult your local Wildlife Trust for advice on suitable suppliers. We recommend purchasing woodcrete boxes as they are more durable. Consult with your Local Environmental Records Centre to find out what species occur in your area. Wildlife cameras for nest boxes can be purchased from online sellers.
Community engagement?	Yes – good opportunity to involve volunteer residents in helping to install purchased boxes and camera(s). Possible engagement exercise would be to involve residents in a 'build a nest box' activity day(s) and possibly include helping to install boxes around the site.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases nesting sites around the site. The addition of nest-box cameras will enable residents to observe and appreciate wildlife present.
Costs/Disbenefit	Financial cost: Low (depending on number of boxes and cameras).
Level of ongoing maintenance	Low to medium.



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		Notes
How achieved	<p>Purchase and/or self-make and install boxes/camera(s) in carefully selected locations on building(s) or mature trees. Different birds use different types of nest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard nest boxes for species such as Blue tits, Great tits and Starlings. • Open fronted nest boxes for species such as Robins, Wrens and Pied wagtails. • Birds of prey boxes for species such as Tawny owl and Kestrel. • Swift boxes. • House martin nests cups. • Sparrow boxes. <p>Nest boxes should not be positioned south facing, where they will receive too much direct sun. For standard and open fronted nest boxes, consider placing nest boxes at different heights to encourage different species. See http://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/bto-nest-boxes-essential-guide.pdf.</p>	
Timing of activity	Autumn	
Long-term management	<p>Monitor condition. Woodcrete boxes are durable and can last decades, reducing replacement costs compared to wooden boxes, which are liable to rotting and so likely to require replacement more often. Nest boxes should be cleaned out annually between 1 September and 31 January, but always check the nest is unoccupied first. For further guidance see http://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/bto-nest-boxes-essential-guide.pdf.</p>	
Monitoring success	<p>General recording (see page 6).</p> <p>British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Garden BirdWatch http://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw</p> <p>Monitoring nest cams.</p>	