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**Biodiversity Enhancement
Strategy (BES) for
Development at Land On The
East Side Of, Clay Hall Lane,
Acton, Suffolk CO10 0AQ
(Condition 10 Application: DC/22/01459)**

On behalf of:

Granville Developments

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Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd.

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0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. was commissioned by Granville Developments to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) in pursuit of condition discharge for development at Land On The East Side Of, Clay Hall Lane, Acton, Suffolk CO10 0AQ. (Condition 10 Application: DC/22/01459).
- 0.2 The BES has been produced by experienced ecologist Roger Spring BSc MCIEEM (licensed by Natural England to survey for bats and great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*). The report is informed by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Bright Green Environmental, September 2018) and Update Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd., October 2021) ordnance survey maps, aerial photographs and development plans.
- 0.3 The site is approximately 0.5ha in area and includes a recently fallow arable field with improved grassland and ruderal herbaceous plants and small area of scrub on the southern boundary. The proposed development is for four new dwellings.
- 0.4 The BES includes:
- Installation of new bat boxes, bee bricks & bird boxes/bricks;
 - Access for hedgehogs;
 - Wildflower lawn creation;
 - Hedgerow creation;
- 0.5 The above would ensure the appropriate and proportionate enhancement of the site by increasing hedgerow habitat along with bird nesting and bat roosting habitat. With this report followed accordingly, the site would be enhanced to provide a net gain in accordance with national planning policy and the appropriate condition could be discharged.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. was commissioned by Granville Developments to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) in pursuit of condition discharge for development at Land On The East Side Of, Clay Hall Lane, Acton, Suffolk CO10 0AQ. (Condition 10 Application: DC/22/01459).

1.1.2 The proposed development is for four new dwellings.

1.1.3 The condition states:

PRIOR TO ANY WORKS ABOVE SLAB LEVEL: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

A Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for Protected and Priority species shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The content of the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy shall include the following:

- a) Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed enhancement measures;
- b) detailed designs to achieve stated objectives;
- c) locations of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate maps and plans;
- d) persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures;
- e) details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (where relevant).

The works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to occupation and shall be retained in that manner thereafter.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study

2.1.1 The BES has been produced by experienced ecologist Roger Spring BSc MCIEEM (licensed by Natural England to survey for bats and great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*). The report is informed by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Bright Green Environmental, September 2018) and Update Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd., October 2021) ordnance survey maps, aerial photographs and development plans.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Site Description & Location

- 3.1.1 The site is approximately 0.5ha in area and includes a recently fallow arable field with improved grassland and ruderal herbaceous plants and small area of scrub on the southern boundary.
- 3.1.2 The site is positioned in a rural location with an arable field north, small section of fallow field and field ditch (not part of the development) to the east and residential housing south (across Clay Hall Lane) and west.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Key Recommendations

Creation of New Habitats

- 4.1.1 The following will be undertaken to create new habitats for foraging, nesting and roosting by protected, priority and declining species. The bat and bird boxes are integrated to be present in perpetuity, including:
- 4 x Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box C will be installed into the walls of the new buildings (one per dwelling). The bricks will be installed just below the roofline facing a southerly direction. See Figure 1 in Appendix 1 for location and photographs in Appendix 2.
 - 2 x Vivara pro sparrow terrace will be installed into the walls of the new dwellings. The boxes will be installed just below the roofline facing a northerly direction. See Figure 1 in Appendix 1 for location and photographs in Appendix 2.
 - 2 x Ibstock Swift Bricks will be installed into the walls of the new dwellings. The boxes will be installed just below the roofline facing a northerly direction. See Figure 1 in Appendix 1 for location and photographs in Appendix 2.
 - 4 x Starling Bricks by Bird Brick Houses will be installed into the walls of the new dwellings. The boxes will be installed just below the roofline facing a northerly direction. See Figure 1 in Appendix 1 for location and photographs in Appendix 2.
 - Access provision for hedgehogs into the site, through the creation of gaps at the base of any boundary fencing. The gaps will be every 20m along new fencing and at least 13cm in diameter.
 - Proposed newly created lawn areas will be sown as a wildflower meadow using the seed mixture EM1 by Emorsgate Seeds (www.wildseed.co.uk).

- New boundary hedgerows are proposed. The new hedgerows will be planted in double staggered row sections, preferably 5 whips per linear metre, with spiral tree guards and include: 60% Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) 20% Field maple (*Acer campestre*), 10% Hazel (*Corylus Avellana*), 5% wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), 5% guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*).

Management of New Habitats

4.1.2 To maximise the long-term ecological value of the newly created habitats, the following management will occur:

- The bat and bird boxes/bricks do not require specific management and are durable products with a long lifespan. However, the boxes should be annually checked in winter and if lost or damaged within the first five years they should be replaced on a one-for-one basis. During the annual check, if cleaning of bird boxes/bricks is required this should also be undertaken.
- Wildflower meadow seeding will be following horticultural best practise in the first spring or autumn following completion of the build. Watering will be required in dry periods, though no soil improvers, herbicides or pesticides are required.
- The new hedgerows and tree planting will be watered in dry periods, though no soil improvers, herbicides or pesticides are required. If trees/shrubs die within the first five years, they will be replaced on a one-for-one basis. All future pruning will be undertaken in winter to avoid nesting birds.

4.1.3 Granville Developments are responsible for following and implementing the Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The BES includes new habitats for locally recorded protected, priority and declining wildlife such as; birds, hedgehogs and bats in accordance with the relevant planning condition.

5.2 By following the BES, the site would be proportionately enhanced for local wildlife to provide a net gain in accordance with the appropriate planning policy and condition (10) could be discharged.

6 REFERENCES

Bright Green Environmental Ltd. (2018). *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. Bright Green Environmental Ltd., Moulton.

Bat Conservation Trust (2016) *Bat Surveys- Good Practise Guidelines, 3rd Edition*. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021). National Planning Policy Framework, February 2021. Fry Building, London.

Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. (2021). *Update Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. Clare.

Websites: NHBS (2022). www.NHBS.co.uk.

Emorsgate Seeds (2022). www.wildseeds.co.uk

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: Proposed Plan

Figure 1: Recommended locations for habitat enhancements



7.2 Appendix 2: Habitat Boxes/Bricks

Photograph 1: Ibstock Bat Brick.



Photograph 2: Ibstock Swift Brick.



Photograph 3: Starling Brick.



Photograph 4: Vivara pro Sparrow Terrace.



Photograph 5: Example Hedgehog Gap.

