



## Mindful Nature Ecology

### Bat Method Statement, Biodiversity Enhancement

Location: Popular Farm Stowupland

Client: J Nunn

Date: 9.11.2023




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## Contact Disclaimer Summary

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1. The Method Statement was produced by Terry Stopher of Mindful Nature an experienced Ecologist, with expertise in Bat and Ornithology ecology.

Bat Licence number 10767

1.1 This report has been prepared by Mindful Nature Ecology for the sole use of the client and in connection with the project. This report cannot be relied upon by any third party without written consent by Mindful Nature and the client. Copy right of mindful Nature

This report does not represent legal advice opinion and is the sole property of Mindful Nature. The behaviour of bats can be unpredictable and may not conform to standard patterns. Many species are highly mobile and can occupy a site which has previously held no potential for them and factors such as increasing habitat pressure can cause bats to occupy areas that were previously unoccupied, or which might be considered far from suitable. This report therefore cannot predict with absolute certainty that animal species will occur in apparently suitable locations or that they will not occur in locations or habitats which appear to be unsuitable.

## Executive Summary

2. Mindful Nature has been approached and commissioned to produce a Bat Method Statement, Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for the development of an elevation to current extension on the East side of Popular Farmhouse, Ip14 5DF, TM 0881962202.

2.1 This statement is to minimise along with remove of any potential disturbance to bats or other wildlife. Also, to provide Enhancement Strategy

2.2 To include

1 'Soft strip' approach by hand of removal of tiles and felt of existing roof on Farmhouse and Extension.

2 procedures to be followed by building contractors on site as outlined on page 6 , also aware of bat legislation page 3

3 Installation of Bat Boxes.

4 External lighting.

5 Bird Boxes

## Bat Legislation

3 All bat species, their breeding sites and resting places are fully protected by law - European protected species

deliberately capture, injure, or kill bats

damage or destroy a breeding or resting place

obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places

possess, sell, control or transport live or dead bats, or parts of them

intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection

3.1 Seven species of bat (Barbastelle, Bechstein's, Noctule, Soprano pipistrelle, Brown long-eared, Greater horseshoe and Lesser horseshoe bat) are Priority species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and have also been adopted as Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).

## Results



4 Above picture 1 showing the existing extension that is proposed for elevation . No bats were seen to emerge or roost within the Farmhouse or Extension on the surveys conducted. However, to minimise any risk to any potential roosting bats , the following will be followed .

4.1 Before any work is to commence all contractors will be made aware of the Bat Legislation and follow the procedures as outlined page 6 Contractors Method Statement. A copy of the Statement should be made available to site or project manager in advance to works

4.2 Removal of tiles and felt will be conducted on a soft strip approach by hand.

4.3 2 bat boxes to be installed on existing boundary trees on the South side of the site .Boxes should be in a South to Southeast direction facing . Hight of no less than 4 meters. These boxes are to remain indefinitely. Eco Bat box



4.4 Lighting of the proposed development to be taken into consideration and applied . The wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended ) protects all bats from ‘international’ or reckless disturbance . Lighting in the vicinity of a bat roost causing disturbance and potential abandonment of the roost or entomb bats within the roost which could constitute an offence both to a population and to individuals . in addition to causing disturbance to roosts , artificial lighting can also affect the feeding behaviour of bats . As bats were noted foraging in the garden and proposed development, any proposed artificial external lighting will be Light Emitting Diode (LED), LED bulbs produce the least amount of heat . The light is to be directed downward also be on short sensors to reduce the length of time the site is illuminated .

4.5 Part of the Biodiversity Enhancement would be to include bird boxes , 2 bird boxes to be installed within the boundaries of the site on suitable trees. As the area is of surrounding farmland with potential to support Red List status for concern birds, Recommended open front bird boxes for Spotted flycatcher. These should be at a height of 2-3 meters and be retained indefinitely .





## Contractor Method Statement

5 Procedure to be followed should bats be found during works when ecologist is not present. If at any point in the works, bats are discovered, contractors should stop works immediately and contact a licenced bat worker. Should it transpire that the operation being carried out is of risk to bats, then works will be stopped until a licence can be sort from Natural England. Bats are a protected species and there should be no attempt to handle a bat if discovered. The bat should be covered with a light material and a licenced bat worker called out to carry out the rescue. If a bat is found under a tile or any other void, works will stop immediately. If the bat does not voluntarily fly out, then the aperture will be carefully covered over to protect the bat from the elements, leaving a small gap for the bat to escape from voluntarily.



## Conclusion

6 A Bat Method Statement is provided to eliminate/ minimise any risk to bats or wildlife under the proposed development also to provide Biodiversity Enhancement to provide new nesting and roosting opportunities.

6.1 By following the guidelines of this Method Statement the impact will be minimal and proportionality enhanced .

## References

7 Bat and artificial lighting in the UK (01/18) Bat Conservation Trust