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**Biodiversity Enhancement
Strategy (BES) for
Development at Wheelwrights,
Groton Street, Groton,
Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5EE.
(Condition 4 Application: DC/23/02907)**

On behalf of:

Mr Z Fulcher And Miss A Smith

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Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd.

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0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. was commissioned by Mr Z Fulcher And Miss A Smith to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) in pursuit of condition discharge for development at Wheelwrights, Groton Street, Groton, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5EE. (Condition 4 Application: DC/23/02907).
- 0.2 The proposed development is for erection of a single-storey rear extension.
- 0.3 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, 2023 by Greenlight Environmental Consultancy Ltd. and a further bat survey report by Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd., 2023 ordnance survey maps, aerial photographs and development plans.
- 0.4 The BES includes:
- Wildlife friendly lighting
 - Installation of new bat box, bee brick & bird box;
 - Access for hedgehogs;
 - Native species planting.
- 0.5 The above would ensure the appropriate and proportionate enhancement of the site by increasing bird nesting, bee 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 Mr Z Fulcher And Miss A Smith to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) in pursuit of condition discharge for development at Wheelwrights, Groton Street, Groton, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5EE. (Condition 4 Application: DC/23/02907).

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, 2023 by Greenlight Environmental Consultancy Ltd. and a further bat survey report by Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd., 2023 ordnance survey maps, aerial photographs and development plans.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Site Description & Location

- 3.1.1 The site is small and includes and rendered, brick bungalow with decorative cladding and pitched, tiled roof. Two outbuildings are present along with a typical residential garden with gravel driveway, lawn and boundary shrubs and trees.
- 3.1.2 The site is positioned in a rural location with residential housing adjacent, along with nearby arable fields.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Key Recommendations

Sensitive Lighting

- 4.1.1 As an overview to the potential impacts of lighting on bats, it is now well documented that all UK bat species are sensitive to light and are affected in different ways by light. The types of light most likely to impact negatively upon bats are high wattage white light with an ultraviolet spectrum. The impacts to bats are reduced when the wattage is reduced and ultraviolet light is removed. In addition, bats are less sensitive to red light than white light. Lighting impacts

on bats are most detrimental close to roosts which can be abandoned, as well as along foraging routes, such as river corridors, hedgerows and woodland edges and along commuting routes where bats can be forced to use suboptimal habitat for commuting because of lighting and in worse cases can be prevented from reaching foraging grounds altogether by lighting. It is also recognised that some bat species are more sensitive than others to increased lighting levels (Bats & Lighting BCT, 2018).

- 4.1.2 Therefore, to minimise impacts to foraging and commuting bats and other nocturnal wildlife likely to use the boundary habitats, all new external lighting will include only low wattage, warm white, Light Emitting Diode (LED) and be directed downward. The lighting will be set on sensors to reduce the length of time the site is illuminated.

Creation of New Habitats

- 4.1.3 The following will be undertaken to create new habitats for foraging, nesting and roosting by protected, priority and declining species:

- 1 x Beaumaris Bat Box will be installed onto the wall of the new extension. The box will be installed just below the roofline on the eastern gable-end closest to the garden where bats were recorded foraging. In this location they would be more likely to be used than if positioned south facing as is often the case for bat boxes. See Figure 1 in Appendix 1 for location and photographs in Appendix 2.
- 1 x Schwegler 1B Bird Box will be installed onto a wall or boundary tree. The box will be installed above 4m in height facing a northerly direction on a tree or on the northern elevation of the new extension as detailed below in Figure 1 in Appendix 1.
- 1 x Bee Brick will be installed into the wall of the new extension facing a southerly direction. The brick will be installed high on the wall (above 2m) with the cladding attached around the brick.
- Access provision for hedgehogs into the garden, through the creation of gaps at the base of boundary fencing. Two gaps will be created one in the south boundary fencing and one in the northern boundary fencing. However, this is only required if gaps are not already present. The gaps will be at least 13cm in diameter.
- All new proposed soft landscaping will be native and/or wildlife attracting.

- 4.1.4 Please note that the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal recommended a Swift Box be installed, though this was considered inappropriate due to the insufficient height of the new and existing single-storey building. A bat box on the new extension, as detailed above, was considered more appropriate given the recordings of common pipistrelle bats using the garden.

Management of New Habitats

- 4.1.5 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.
- 4.1.6 Mr Z Fulcher And Miss A Smith 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, invertebrates 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 condition could be discharged.

6 REFERENCES

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

Greenlight Environmental Consultancy Ltd. (2023). *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. Greenlight Environmental Consultancy Ltd. Diss.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023). National Planning Policy Framework, 2023. Fry Building, London.

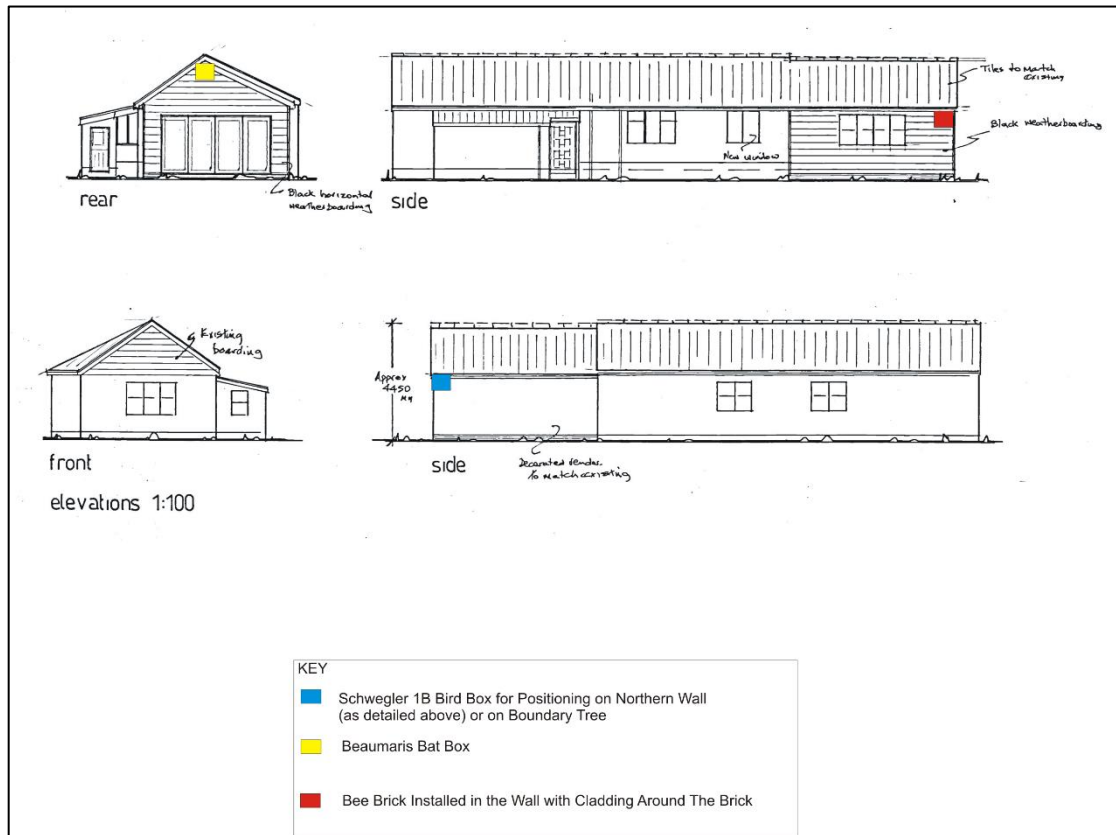
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Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1: Proposed Plan

Figure 1: Recommended locations for habitat enhancements.



6.2 Appendix 2: Habitat Boxes/Bricks

Photograph 1: Beaumaris Bat Box.



Photograph 2: Schwegler 1B Bird Box.



Photograph 3: Bee Brick



Photograph 4: Hedgehog Gap

