



HYBRID ECOLOGY LTD
joined up thinking

46 Hullbridge Road
South Woodham Ferrers
Chelmsford
Essex
CM3 5NG

Mr and Mrs Webber
Old School House
Church Road
Ashbocking
Suffolk
IP6 9LG

19th October 2023

Dear Mr and Mrs Webber,

Re: Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for The Old School House, Ashbocking

Introduction

1.1 Hybrid Ecology Ltd. was instructed by Mr. Webber to provide a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy to discharge Condition 5 of planning reference: DC/23/02431. The condition reads:

5. PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT COMMENCEMENT: 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. Reason: To enhance protected and Priority species & habitats and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species).

1.2 This report has been written by Gemma Holmes who is a qualified ecologist (BSc, Hons), Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (ACIEEM) and is licensed to carry out surveys for great crested newt and bats (Licence references: 2016-27305-CLS-CLS and 2015-19096-CLS-CLS).

Discharge of Condition 5: Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

Baseline information

- 1.3 A site visit was conducted in June 2023. The site is situated in a rural location with good ecological provision and connectivity. The site comprises a house and maintained garden. The wider surrounds and garden boundaries include habitats (trees, hedgerows, ponds, scrub) that are likely to attract a range of species. These habitats are unaffected.
- 1.4 There is already a good diversity of trees, wildlife friendly shrubs and hedgerows, therefore we have not recommended any further planting in this strategy.
- 1.5 The planning application was supported by a Preliminary Roost Assessment (Hybrid Ecology, June 2023) which focused on bats. A great crested newt method statement has also been produced to discharge condition 4 and deals with protection of GCN during the build.

Enhancement commitments

- 1.6 Following the baseline assessment, the following ecological features have been included in the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy:

- Bird boxes
- Bat boxes
- Solitary bee hive

Recommended positions of habitat boxes/features are shown in Appendix 1. Recommended habitat boxes are provided in Appendix 2.

- 1.7 The purpose of this enhancement strategy is to provide an increase in bat roosting and bird nesting opportunities, over what is currently present on the site. The soft landscaping will provide an increase in tree habitat on the site post-development.

Bird Boxes

Purpose and conservation objectives

- 1.8 To provide nesting habitat for a variety of bird species that are likely to utilise the site post-development.

Design and aftercare

- 1.9 Two open-fronted bird boxes that are suitable for use by robin and wren will be installed on suitable retained trees on the northern site boundary. Two 32mm bird boxes suitable for great tits, nuthatches and house sparrows will be installed on suitable retained trees on the north-eastern boundary.
- 1.10 Bird boxes will be installed facing north or east (i.e. away from direct sunlight) above 2 metres. The boxes will be woodcrete or woodstone for longevity/thermal stability.
- 1.11 The exact manufacturer/supplier of these boxes is irrelevant, provided they meet the required specifications for each species.

- 1.12 If any of the boxes become damaged, the landowner will replace them like-for-like. The landowner will also be responsible for clearing out the boxes each winter to remove old nesting material and detritus.

Bat Boxes

Purpose and conservation objectives

- 1.13 To provide multiple roosting opportunities for a variety of crevice-roosting bat species on the site.

Design and management

- 1.14 Two bat boxes will be installed on a mature boundary tree, above 3 metres facing south/south-east or south-west (for maximum solar gain). Boxes will be woodstone, woodcrete or ecostyrocete for longevity/thermal stability.
- 1.15 Bat boxes will not require any maintenance once installed and should only ever be inspected by a bat-licensed ecologist to prevent disturbance issues and ensure legal compliance.

Solitary bee hive

- 1.16 One solitary bee hive will be provided in a sunny position in the garden. The recommended box (see Appendix 2) is manufactured from durable FSC timber and provides valuable habitat for bees in modern gardens.
- 1.17 It is designed specifically to attract non swarming bees like the Red Mason Bee, Leafcutter Bee and other solitary bees which are naturally attracted to holes in wood. Chemical treatments are not required as the habitat is made from durable FSC certified timber. To keep the full bee tubes protected, it is possible to fill with mesh to prevent predation by woodpeckers.

Responsibilities

- 1.18 The landowner will be responsible for the implementation of enhancement measures and all ongoing maintenance and aftercare.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Gemma Holmes BSc (Hons) ACIEEM

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Appendix 1. Biodiversity enhancement layout



Appendix 2. Recommended habitat boxes

SINGLE CREVICE BAT BOX



£36

Individually Handmade - Specifications are in CM and approximate.
External: 43 high x 21.5 wide x 6.8 deep.
Internal: 41 x 16.5 x 1.8 crevices @ 1.
Made with small groups of crevice dwelling bat species in mind, such as pipistrelles. Approx. 4.75kg

TWO CREVICE BAT BOX



£48

Individually Handmade - Specifications are in CM and approximate.
External: 43 high x 21.5 wide x 6.8 deep.
Internal: 41 x 16.5 x 1.8 crevices @ 2.
Made with small groups of crevice dwelling bat species in mind, such as pipistrelles. Approx. 6.75kg

Bat boxes for trees [Home](#) | [Greenwood's Ecohabitats \(greenwoodsecohabitats.co.uk\)](http://Greenwood's Ecohabitats (greenwoodsecohabitats.co.uk))



Vivara Pro woodcrete 32mm bird box.



Vivara Pro woodcrete open-fronted bird box.

All Vivara Pro boxes can be found here - [Search results \(wildcare.co.uk\)](#)



[Solitary Bee Hive | Buy Online at Vine House Farm](#)