

## BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Prepared by: C&K Smith Ltd in conjunction with DCS Ecology

### 13. ACTION REQUIRED PRIOR TO BENEFICIAL USE: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

Prior to commencement of development above slab level: a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for Protected and Priority species shall be submitted to and approval in writing by the local planning authority.

#### INTRODUCTION

The following strategy has been designed following recommendations from DCS Ecology Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. The strategy written to parallel the areas which DCS Ecology have highlighted and therefore should meet the requirements to discharge Condition 13; relating to Planning Permission DC/23/02725 – Conversion of existing redundant cattle shed. The Meade Beyton Road, Drinkstone.

The principal contactor, JRF Developments will be responsible for both implementing and maintaining the following strategy. Please note that JRF Developments is both contractor and owner of the property.

#### DCS ECOLOGY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bat boxes, such as Kent bat boxes would increase roosting opportunities for bats within the site. Exact models and locations should be determined by a suitably experienced person.
- New and Replacement plantings within the proposed development should constitute at least 50% native species by area. Ornamental species should include a preponderance of species of known value to wildlife, such as fruiting species providing a nectar source which are attractive to insects. All planting should be structurally diverse, with areas of dense scrub as well as open areas.
- At least two bird boxes are recommended such as Robin FSC Nest Box or WoodStone Seville Box, erect on either gable ends of the cow shed or nearby suitable trees/structures, which would provide addition nesting opportunities for the local bird population.

#### BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

##### Habitat protection and enhancement on site

All existing trees and hedgerows on site are proposed to be retained.

The site mostly consists of established landscaped area which will be protected throughout the construction and retained upon completion of the project to ensure that existing habitats remain.

Habitat will be enhanced with a soft landscaping scheme to the West of the site, to include the planting of a minimum of 50% native species mix carefully selected with fruit bearing species ensure a nectar source to attract insects.

### **Bats**

Installation of two bat boxes (Eco Kent) as recommended by DCS Ecology to be located on each of the gables of the building (see Appendix A).

### **Birds**

Installation of two small bird boxes (Robin FSC Nest Box) to be installed on existing trees within the established landscape garden (See Appendix A)

### **Other Animals**

It is considered the surrounding habitat of the site is suitable for hedgehogs. To maintain potential hedgehog routes within the sites and between the site and further habitats all fencing installed will provide access openings for hedgehogs.

The proposed fencing for around the attenuation basin is post and rail, with the lower rail installed a minimum of 300mm from the ground, thus causing no obstruction to hedgehog movement.

### **Programme of works for existing hedgerow to North Boundary**

<b>Activity/mitigation measure</b>	<b>Timings</b>	<b>Period</b>
Protection of trees, hedgerows on site	Throughout site preparation and construction period	Construction Phase
Management of Hedgerows	Between September and February, on a two-to-three-year rotation, cutting no more than a third of all hedgerows in any year	On-going
Works to the potential bird nesting habitats	Between September and February	On-going

### **Planting and maintenance timetable for new planting**

Planting to take place in the closest planting season post construction, there after the following maintenance will take place:

1	Check/adjust stakes, ties and guards	4 per year (years 1-5 unless removed earlier)
2	Weed control	4 per year (years 1-5 subject to establishment)
3	Watering	as required to ensure healthy growth (years 1-5)
4	Cleaning out and dead wooding	1 per year
5	General pruning operations	1 per year (years 1-5)
6	Replacement planting	1 per year if necessary (first 10 years)
7	Hand weeding of tree and shrub guards	4 per year (first 3 years)
8	Straighten plants and re-firm around roots	4 per year (first 5 years)
9	Remove stakes, ties and guards	1no. Visit (before or at the end year 5 subject to establishment)
10	Litter control	Every maintenance visit

Notes/Key:

- Site Boundary
- Retained Landscaped Area
- Retained Concrete Access
- Soft Landscaping



Eco Robin FSC Nest Box



Eco Kent bat box



Rev.	Date	Revisions.
A	20.10.23	For Discussion

Client:

Job Title:  
The Meade  
Cow Shed Conversion

Drawing Title:  
Ecological  
Enhancement

Scale: 1:500@A1 (Unless Stated)

Date: 20.10.23      Drawn By: CAS

Dwg. No: 2022EE/JRF	Rev: A
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