

KFD ARCHITECTURE

Bellrope View, Rectory Road, Shelfanger, Diss, Norfolk. IP22 2DC

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STATEMENT

1.0 – Introduction and Site Location

- 1.1 This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement is in support of a Householder Application, submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council for the erection of a rear extension, replacement roof to create first floor habitable rooms and internal / external alterations to existing dwelling.
- 1.2 The areas edged in red on the submitted existing location and proposed site plan measure approximately **2900m²**.
- 1.3 The site lies South of Pakenham and North of Thurston, with vehicular access directly off Orchard Lane.
- 1.4 The site is heavily screened by existing trees / hedges to the perimeter of the site, with a gravel track to the garage and grassland to the remaining area.
- 1.5 This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement sets out the ecological enhancement measures proposed to secure biodiversity net gains for the site. Mitigation measures shall be implemented and vulnerable locations surrounding the works identified.

2.0 Policy SP09 & Policy LP16

Policy SP09 – Enhancement and Management of the Environment

1. *The Councils will require development to support and contribute to the conservation, enhancement and management of the natural and local environment and networks of green infrastructure, including: landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and the historic environment and historic landscapes.*
4. *Through biodiversity net gain, all development will be required to protect and enhance biodiversity ensuring the measures are resilient to climate change.*

Policy LP16 – Biodiversity & Geodiversity

1. *All development must follow the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy.*
2. *Development must:*
 - a. *Protect designated and, where known, potentially designated sites. Proposed development which is likely to have an adverse impact upon designated and potentially designated sites, or that will result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable biodiversity or geological features or habitats (such as ancient woodland and veteran/ancient trees) will not be supported;*
 - b. *Protect and improve sites of geological value and in particular geological sites of international, national and local significance;*

- c. *Conserve, restore and contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity and geological conservation interests including Priority habitats and species. Enhancement for biodiversity should be commensurate with the scale of development;*
- d. *Where possible plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of local networks of biodiversity with wildlife corridors that connect areas. This could include links to existing green infrastructure networks and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation so that these ecological networks will be more resilient to current and future pressures;*
- e. *Identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains, equivalent of a minimum 10% increase, for biodiversity. The Councils will Babergh District Council & Mid Suffolk District Council Joint Local Plan – Part 1 - November 2023 73 26 Legislation including but not exclusively - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017), the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), the Protection of Badgers Act (1992), and listed as Priority Habitats and Species (s41 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) seek appropriate resources from developers for monitoring of biodiversity net gain from developments. Where biodiversity assets cannot be retained or enhanced on site, the Councils will support the delivery of net gain in biodiversity off-site; and*
- f. *Apply measures to assist with the recovery of species listed in S41 of the NERC Act 2006.*

2.1 The assessment carried out by Norfolk Wildlife Services concluded that the two ponds within 250mm of the site were not suitable for Great Crested Newts.

2.2 The Ecologist for Mid Suffolk submitted a consultation response to our application on 31st October 2023, stating *'I am satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available for determination of this application.'* However, they recommend the following further information:

'precautionary measures for the construction period are secured for mobile Priority species such as Hedgehog.' And,

'condition for a Biodiversity Enhancement Layout (BEL), which should contain full details proposed enhancements.'

2.3 Section 3.0 below will outline the ecological enhancement measures proposed to secure biodiversity net gains.

3.0 Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

- 3.1 **General** – Construction activities will be restricted to the normal working day (7am to 7pm) to avoid any disturbance to nocturnal animals.
- 3.2 Heras fencing will be installed around the perimeter of the construction zone to prevent any vehicle or construction encroachment onto habitats beyond site.
- 3.3 Trenches or open excavations will be covered at the end of each working day, or include a means of escape such as sloping ramp for any wildlife that may fall in.

- 3.4 Trees / Hedges** – All existing trees / hedges are to be retained.
- 3.5** A Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) will be created along the line of any Root Protection Areas (RPA). Fencing will be maintained and inspected by the site manager regularly and repairs to damaged fencing rectified within 24 hours.
- 3.6** Protective fencing is only to be removed once all construction work is completed and final inspections have been made. Protection fencing must be in place before any works commence.
- 3.7 Bird / Bat Boxes** – 1 no. bat box and 1 no. bird box to be installed on the dwelling, as shown on the proposed site plan and elevations drawing.
- 3.8** Bat box to be Schwegler 1B Hole Nest Box or similar to be installed, positioned 4m above ground level facing in a South or South-Westerly direction with a clear flight path to / from the entrance and facing landscapes areas. Unit to be positioned away from artificial light.
- 3.9** Bird box to be incorporated on the dwelling providing a nesting habitat for birds, Schwegler type or similar. The boxes should be positioned 4m above ground level and sheltered from prevailing wind, rain, and strong sunlight.
- 3.10 Timetable / Implementing** – The working methods will be adopted immediately from the offset of pre-construction / general site set-up.
- 3.11** Ecology mitigations will be implemented and installed throughout the construction phase, subject to exact bird / bat box type (integrated).
- 3.12** The developer / contractor / applicant will be responsible for implementing the mitigation works.
- 3.13 Aftercare / Long Term Maintenance** – Ecology mitigations to be maintained in perpetuity.