

Easole Street, Nonington, Kent

Biodiversity Method Statement

4th December 2023 / Ref No 2021/02/26

Client: Roma Capital Group



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1 Introduction

Planning Permission 21/01615 has been granted for the erection of 27 dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping (existing industrial buildings demolished) at The Old Malt House Easole Street Nonington CT15 4HF.

The present Biodiversity Method Statement aims to satisfy Condition 17 of the planning permission which states:

17. No development will take place (including demolition and site clearance works), until a method statement for the protection of bats, nesting birds and hedgehogs during site, vegetation clearance and construction works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The protection measures for bats will be in respect of the ivy-covered wall along the southwestern boundary of the site and will include hand-removal of the vegetation. The content of the method statement will include:
- a. Purpose and objectives of the method statement.
 - b. Working method, including timings, necessary to achieve stated objectives.
 - c. Extent and location of all features with potential ecological interest shown on appropriate scale plans.
 - d. Provision for species rescue.
 - e. Persons responsible for implementing works, including times during site clearance / construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to undertake / oversee works.
 - f. 'Toolbox talk' information regarding species encounters that will be provided to contractors prior to works commencing.
- The works will be carried out in accordance with the approved details.
Reason: In the interest of biodiversity.

The present document has been written by Katia Bresso CEnv MIEEM, a qualified professional consultant ecologist with over 20 years of experience, who undertook the initial survey work at the site in 2021.

The reader is referred to:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report by KB Ecology Ltd dated 1st April 2021 / Ref No 2021/02/26;
- Bat survey dated 7th September 2021;
- Bat survey and Assessment dated 1st August 2022.

2 Constraints

Birds are likely to nest in trees, scrub and ivy (between March and August). It is also considered that the site and surrounding area have potential to support hedgehogs.

3 Legislation



All species of bird whilst actively nesting are afforded legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and special penalties are available for offences related to birds listed on Schedule 1. Some species are also listed as species of principal conservation importance, including sky lark, common cuckoo, house sparrow, tree sparrow and song thrush.

Hedgehogs are a Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2008 updated list). All mammals are afforded protection against unnecessary suffering by the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

4 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

1. Before work commences, all site operatives will be briefed on the presence of protected wildlife they may encounter during the course of their site operations and the legal context via a 'Toolbox Talk'. This will help in the identification of protected species, give advice on safe working methods and what to do if one is discovered.
2. The effect on birds will be avoided by doing any necessary tree cutting and above ground vegetation clearance as well as ivy clearance by hand and outside of the bird nesting season (which extends from March – August inclusive).
3. Retained vegetation will be protected during construction in line with standard arboriculture best practice (BS5837:20122) and in line with any submitted arboriculture report.
4. Whenever possible, building materials will be stored so as not to provide attractive places for hibernation or nesting. Before, disturbing any long-standing stockpiles, a thorough check will be made for secreted wildlife.
5. Excavations will be backfilled, covered overnight, or ramps placed in to allow any animals to escape.
6. In the unlikely even that a protected species is found, works would stop and advice sought from a qualified ecologist.

Proposed Timeline:

Tool box talk to operatives		
	Tree, ivy and scrub clearance September to February	
		Ground and construction works starting