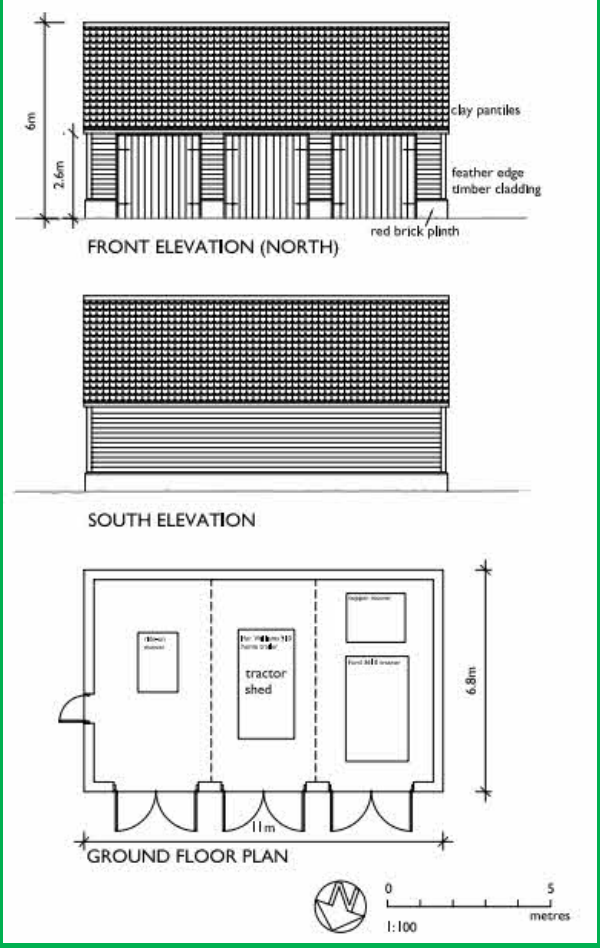
Glaven Ecology



White House Farm Rattlesden

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

Prepared by
Glaven Ecology

February 2024

CIEEM
REGISTERED PRACTICE 2023-2024

Contents

1 Background

1.1.1 Planning has been granted to erect a three bay tractor shed. Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council planning reference DC/21/03677.

1.1.2 This report has been compiled to provide further information on the enhancements as per the ecology report by Hillier Ecology, November 2020 and to fulfil condition 6 of the planning approval:

> *A Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for Protected and Priority species shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority following the recommendations made within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Hillier Ecology Limited, December 2020).*
>
> *The works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and shall be retained in that manner thereafter.*

1.1.3 The content of the report includes the following:

a) Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed biodiversity measures;
b) detailed designs or product descriptions to achieve stated objectives;
c) locations, orientations, and heights 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).

2 Biodiversity strategy

2.1 Purpose and conservation objectives - General

2.1.1 Good working practices during the site clearance and construction phase will minimise any risk to transient wildlife in the vicinity.

2.1.2 Machinery and equipment must be stored on raised pallets or skips.

2.1.3 All waste should be stored in skips prior to removal from site.

2.1.2 All excavations should be covered / back filling each evening to prevent foraging or commuting wildlife, such as hedgehogs and amphibians, from falling in and becoming trapped. If this is not possible then an escape ramp – made from earth or wooden sticks – will need to be placed within each excavation.

2.2 Amphibians

2.1.1 Prior to works commencing Heras fencing will be installed to protect boundary habitats. The fencing will be of sufficient durability to be in place for the duration of the works.

2.1.2 Appropriate signage will be installed on this fencing in appropriate numbers and locations to inform people of the importance of the features it protects.

2.1.3 All fencing will be inspected regularly to ensure that is intact and fit for purpose.

2.1.2 Vegetation will be strimmed/mowed in two successively shorter cuts; the first to 10-15cm in height at least 48 hours prior to the second cut as close to the ground as possible with cuttings removed from the site.

2.1.3 A destructive search will be carried out prior to a soil strip under the supervision of a licenced ecologist.

2.3 Bats

2.3.1 To enhance the site's biodiversity it is recommended that one bat box be installed on the west elevation of the tractor shed and one on a nearby tree.

2.1.3 The Vivara Pro Woodstone bat box, or similar, would be suitable for the tractor shed (Appendix 1). These boxes are suitable for species which are most commonly found roosting in buildings, such as pipistrelle and Natterer's.

2.1.3 Boxes should be mounted as close to the eaves as possible with a clear flight path in and out of the box.

2.1.3 The Miramare Bat Box, or similar, would be suitable for a tree (Appendix 1). The box should be placed at least two to five metres off the ground with a clear flight path for access. To ensure the temperature remains warm the box should be south or southwest facing in a sheltered area.

2.4 Birds

2.1.1 Removal of habitats suitable to support nesting birds should take place outside of the nesting season which is between March and August; where this is not possible an inspection should be completed by a suitably experienced ecologist who will denote appropriate buffer zones where required until young have fledged the nest.

2.1.2 To enhance the sites biodiversity it is recommended that one bird nest box be installed on the eastern aspect of the tractor shed (Appendix 2). Something similar to the Eco Small Bird Box or the Eco Robin box would be suitable.

2.5 Hedgehogs

2.3.1 One hedgehog house to be placed in a quiet corner of site, well hidden in vegetation. See Appendix 3 for suitable products.

2.6 Persons Responsible

2.3.1 It is the landowner/developer's responsibility (and their contractor as instructed) to install and maintain the agreed enhancements as listed in this report.

2.7 Management

2.1.1 Bat boxes can be checked to ensure they remain secure, with cobwebs removed from the outside, but should not otherwise be disturbed.

2.1.2 A well-designed bird box will only need one annual clean in the autumn. It is important not to clean out bird boxes before August as they may still be occupied. Wait until autumn and then remove the contents, scattering them on the ground some way from the box to help prevent parasites re-infesting the nest box. Wear gloves and use a small brush or scraper to remove debris from the corners. Boiling water can be used to kill any parasites remaining in the box, leaving the lid off afterwards until it is fully dry.

2.1.3 Do not wait until the winter to clean out nest boxes as birds may already be roosting in them.

2.1.2 Hedgehogs naturally have external parasites such as ticks and fleas that can be transferred through nest use. Remove any bedding and then wash out the box using boiling water and leave it to dry out, and this will kill off any parasites. Wear gloves and/or a mask when cleaning to avoid the transfer of parasites.

2.1.3 If a hedgehog is using the box, do not to disturb it. Find out by placing a piece of scrunched up paper or a large flower head in front of the entrance one evening, and if it's still there the next day you can probably assume that the box is vacant.

Appendix 1 - Specification of bat boxes

Vivara Pro WoodStone Bat Box

This box is made from woodstone, a mixture of wood fibres from fully certified FSC wood sources and concrete, and it is designed to last for years.

It is breathable so there will be no problems with condensation and maintains a consistent temperature inside, providing excellent insulation for roosting bats.

Woodstone also provides a rough surface which the bats can easily cling to and move around the box.

Height: 250mm; Width: 190mm; Depth: 165mm; Weight: 4.5kg

Miramare bat box

The Miramare Bat Box has been designed to replicate a natural roost within a hollow tree and has four internal roosting compartments. It is painted black to absorb heat, providing bats with a warm roosting area.

This bat box is constructed from FSC certified WoodStone which is a highly durable material meaning it requires little, if any, maintenance.

It can be mounted using brackets and has two additional fixing eyes that allow for a rope or wire to be passed around a tree trunk, ideal for more exposed sites.

Diameter: 250mm; Height: 850mm; Weight: 22.5kg

Appendix 2 - Specification of Bird boxes

Eco small bird nest box

This nest box consists of a weatherproof outer shell made from UV stabilised 100% recycled plastic. Inside the outer shell is a wooden nest box to provide the ideal environment for birds to nest in.

The wooden box has drainage holes in the base and can be removed from the plastic case.

The outer shell has been precision cut and uses an ingenious system of tabs to hold it together. This further extends the lifespan by ensuring that there are no metal fixings that could rust or degrade over time.

Dimensions: height: 260mm, Width: 1700mm, Weight: 1.1kg

Eco robin nest box

The robin box is an open-fronted nest box. As well as providing a suitable nest box for robins, it's also ideal for other birds that use open-fronted boxes such as wrens, pied wagtails and spotted flycatchers

Dimensions: height: 260mm, Width: 1700mm, Weight: 0.8kg

Appendix 3 – Hedgehog boxes

Hedgehog nest box

This nestbox has been designed and ultimately tested extensively with great success over a period of 12 months by the Hedgehog Preservation Society.

Fully built-in tunnel with 5" square access for even the largest hedgehog to avoid unwanted visitors.

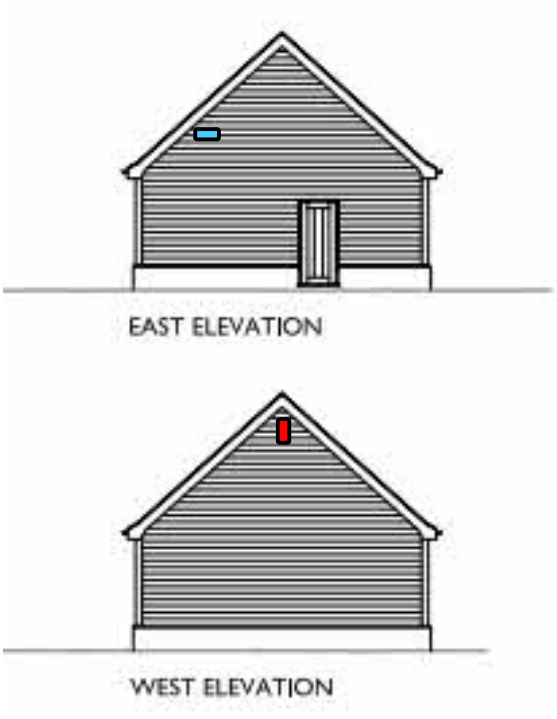
Specially designed inbuilt "unblockable" ventilation to provide just the right temperature and humidity without draughts.

Underfloor runners letting air to the underside of the box but allowing the box to be pushed easily into place in undergrowth.

Dimensions: height: 260mm, Width: 1700mm, Weight: 1.1kg

Appendix 4 – Enhancement Locations

These are the indicative locations of the enhancements listed within this report.



KEY:

- Bat box
- bird box
- Hedgehog box