



Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd.

The Cherries, Ashen Road,

Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8LG

T: 01787 277912

E: roger@skilledecology.co.uk

W: www.skilledecology.co.uk

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) for Development at Heather Cottage, Mill Lane, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9QX.

(Condition 4 Application: DC/23/04639)

On behalf of:

Mr & Mrs M King

February 2024

Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd.

Registered company in England no: 7188811

Registered Office: Alpha 6, Masterlord Office Village, West Road, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9SX.

Contents

0	SUMMARY	3
1	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	Background	4
2	METHODOLOGY	4
2.1	Desk Study	4
3	RESULTS	4
3.1	Site Description & Location.....	4
4	RECOMMENDATIONS	5
4.1	Key Recommendations.....	5
5	CONCLUSION	6
6	REFERENCES	6
6.1	Appendix 1: Proposed Plan.....	7
6.2	Appendix 2: Habitat Boxes/Bricks	8

Figures & Tables

Figure 1: Recommended locations for habitat enhancements.	7
Photograph 1: Beaumaris Bat Box.	8
Photograph 2: Vivara Pro Sparrow Terrace.....	8
Photograph 3: Example of Wildlife Friendly External Lighting- Integral LED 7.5W LED Curve Outdoor Wall Down Light with PIR - IP54 - 3000K Warm White.	8

0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. was commissioned by Mr & Mrs M King to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) in pursuit of condition discharge for development at Heather Cottage, Mill Lane, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9QX. (Condition 4 Application: DC/23/04639).
- 0.2 The proposed development is for erection of part two-storey, part single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory).
- 0.3 The BES has been produced by experienced ecologist Roger Spring BSc MCIEEM (licensed by Natural England to survey for bats and great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*). The report is informed by a Bat Report by Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. (2023), Ordnance Survey Maps, aerial photographs, site photographs and development plans.
- 0.4 The BES includes:
- Wildlife friendly lighting
 - Installation of a new bat box & bird box;
 - Native species planting.
- 0.5 The above would ensure the appropriate and proportionate enhancement of the site by increasing bird nesting and bat roosting habitat. With this report followed accordingly, the site would be enhanced to provide a net gain in accordance with national planning policy and the appropriate condition could be discharged.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. was commissioned by Mr & Mrs M King to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) in pursuit of condition discharge for development at Heather Cottage, Mill Lane, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9QX. (Condition 4 Application: DC/23/04639).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study

- 2.1.1 The BES has been produced by experienced ecologist Roger Spring BSc MCIEEM (licensed by Natural England to survey for bats and great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*). The report is informed by a Bat Report by Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. (2023), Ordnance Survey Maps, aerial photographs, site photographs and development plans.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Site Description & Location

- 3.1.1 The site and proposed development includes proposal to attach a new extension to an existing 1980's extension to a period cottage which has a vaulted ceiling and no loft space. The existing extension has a pitched, tiled roof and fascia boards on the southern elevation gable-end which is the end proposed for the new extension. An existing, typical conservatory with brick plinth and glass windows and roof is also present on the southern elevation and will require removal for the proposed works. It is understood that the new roof will tie into the existing roof and the first row of roof tiles and the fascia on the southern elevation will require impact, though no other roof tiles or soffits etc.
- 3.1.2 The site is positioned in an urban, central village location surrounded by residential properties with modest gardens and roads. Street lighting is noted close to the site on Mill Lane and The Street both of which border the property (Mill Lane to the north east and The Street to the west). No high-quality bat foraging habitat is present nearby. The majority of local habitats include residential housing and beyond the village are arable fields.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Key Recommendations

Sensitive Lighting

4.1.1 As an overview to the potential impacts of lighting on bats, it is now well documented that all UK bat species are sensitive to light and are affected in different ways by light. The types of light most likely to impact negatively upon bats are high wattage white light with an ultraviolet spectrum. The impacts to bats are reduced when the wattage is reduced and ultraviolet light is removed. In addition, bats are less sensitive to red light than white light. Lighting impacts on bats are most detrimental close to roosts which can be abandoned, as well as along foraging routes, such as river corridors, hedgerows and woodland edges and along commuting routes where bats can be forced to use suboptimal habitat for commuting because of lighting and in worse cases can be prevented from reaching foraging grounds altogether by lighting. It is also recognised that some bat species are more sensitive than others to increased lighting levels (Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting, Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2023).

4.1.2 Therefore, to minimise impacts to foraging and commuting bats and other nocturnal wildlife likely to use the boundary habitats, all new external lighting will include only low wattage, warm white, Light Emitting Diode (LED) and be directed downward. The lighting will be set on sensors to reduce the length of time the site is illuminated.

Creation of New Habitats

4.1.3 The following will be undertaken to create new habitats for foraging, nesting and roosting by protected, priority and declining species:

- 1 x Beaumaris Bat Box will be installed onto the wall of the new extension. The box will be installed just below the roofline on the southern gable-end closest to the garden. See Figure 1 in Appendix 1 for location and photographs in Appendix 2.
- 1 x Vivara pro Sparrow Terrace will be installed onto a wall of the existing house. The box will be installed above 4m in height facing a westerly direction. This elevation is well shaded by an adjacent property and is quieter than the northern elevation which faces a road. See Figure 1 in Appendix 1 for location and photographs in Appendix 2.
- All new proposed soft landscaping will be native and/or wildlife attracting.

Management of New Habitats

4.1.4 To maximise the long-term ecological value of the newly created habitats, the following management will occur:

- The bat and bird boxes/bricks do not require specific management and are durable products with a long lifespan. However, the boxes should be annually checked in winter and if lost or damaged within the first five years they should be replaced on a one-for-one basis. During the annual check, if cleaning of bird boxes/bricks is required this should also be undertaken.

4.1.5 Mr & Mrs M King are responsible for following and implementing the Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The BES includes new habitats for locally recorded protected, priority and declining wildlife such as; house sparrow and bats in accordance with the relevant planning condition.

5.2 By following the BES, the site would be proportionately enhanced for local wildlife to provide a net gain in accordance with Condition 4.

6 REFERENCES

Bat Conservation Trust (2023) *Bat Surveys- Good Practise Guidelines, 4th Edition*. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023). National Planning Policy Framework, 2023. Fry Building, London.

Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. (2023). *Bat Report*. Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd.

Websites: NHBS (2024). www.NHBS.co.uk.

6.1 Appendix 1: Proposed Plan

Figure 1: Recommended locations for habitat enhancements.



6.2 Appendix 2: Habitat Boxes/Bricks

Photograph 1: Beaumaris Bat Box.



Photograph 2: Vivara Pro Sparrow Terrace.



Photograph 3: Example of Wildlife Friendly External Lighting- Integral LED 7.5W LED Curve Outdoor Wall Down Light with PIR - IP54 - 3000K Warm White.

