

Biodiversity Management Plan

1 Station Road, Gunness

DN15 8SU

1.0 Introduction

There is no requirement for a Protected Species Survey supporting this Application, as the site is vacant.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that:

“The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;*
- *recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;*
- *minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures...*

and

opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged;”

It is recommended by the Local Authority Environment Team, that biodiversity enhancement should be considered.

This Plan will identify proposals to improve the biodiversity of the area post-development.

2.0 Mitigation and Compensation – Birds

The proposals considered in this report are set to improve the biodiversity of the area.

Birds are afforded various levels of protection and levels of conservation status on a species-by-species basis.

The most significant general legislation for British birds lies within Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to, kill, injure or take any wild bird, take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built, take, or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

To provide biodiversity enhancements, the following bird boxes should be incorporated into the proposed scheme, to improve bird habitats:

- 1 no. Starling nest box from the RSPB website, or similar, incorporated within the garden area, at least 2.500m above the ground.

3.0 Mitigation and Compensation – Bats

It is important to note that bat roosts are protected throughout the year, whether bats are present or not.

The site has no recorded bat roosts at present, but bats may be active adjacent to the site.

There are no mandatory timing constraints surrounding bat box installations, but the installation of the bat brick/box must be installed before building works are completed.

To enhance bat activity and habitats locally, specially designed bat boxes may be incorporated into the new dwellings, as below:

- 1 no. built-in bat box from Ibstock or similar, incorporated 3-5 metres above ground level.

4.0 Mitigation and Compensation – Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have a degree of legal protection in the UK. They are listed on schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) which makes it illegal to kill or capture wild hedgehogs, they are also listed under the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996), which prohibits cruel treatment of hedgehogs, and they are considered a species of 'Principal importance' under the NERC Act, which is meant to confer a 'duty of responsibility' to public bodies.

The site is likely to have hedgehog activity, and development on the site will affect their movements. As a result, the development will include provisions to allow hedgehogs to pass freely through each garden.

At least one hole at base of each garden boundary fence, of around 130x130mm, shall be left to allow hedgehogs to pass through. This is usually too small for most domestic pets to pass through.

5.0 General Mitigation and Notes

The bird boxes identified can be sourced from the RSPB website (<http://shopping.rspb.org.uk/birds-wildlife/nestboxes/garden-bird-nestboxes/swift-nestbox.html>), but other manufacturers are available.

The bat boxes identified can be sourced from Ibstock (<http://www.ibstock.com/sustainability-ecozone.asp>), but other manufacturers are available.

Any variations to the proposed boxes must be approved in writing by the Local Authority.

Built-in boxes are preferred as they are more permanent and unlikely to be removed, as well as looking more permanent and providing improved weather resistance over cheaper, surface mounted timber boxes, which may deteriorate over time.

It is considered that the site is well suited to provide natural habitats for wildlife. The retained trees and shrubs provide good shelter and nesting sites for birds and other animals.

To ensure the retention of as many natural site elements as possible, any existing trees and hedges and fencing or boundary treatments, on or adjacent to the site, will be retained.

To provide additional natural enhancements to general wildlife, new trees and shrub plants should be encouraged, from the following list shall be planted in the plot.

Trees shall be planted as feathered whips or larger; shrubs shall be planted as at least 60-90 cm plants. All trees and shrubs shall be supported with appropriate stakes or canes and shall be weeded and maintained for at least five years. Any plants damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the subsequent planting season (November to the end of February).

Trees:

Wild Service	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Domestic apple	<i>Malus pumila</i>
Domestic plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>

Shrubs:

Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Redcurrant	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>
Californian lilac	<i>Ceanothus sp.</i>

There are no specific external lighting proposals for the development. However, any new external lights should be LED based, low energy lights, which do not emit ultra-violet light.

Any external lights installed should be designed to light a small area in front of the light, rather than light-up whole areas, this is to reduce the impact of light pollution on foraging habitats.

There is no security lighting proposed on this development, however, it is suggested that any security lights be installed be on a short timer and motion sensitive to large objects only.