



BRADFORD ROAD, BATLEY.

OS REF SE 2482 2336.

ECOLOGICAL DESIGN STRATEGY (EDS).

Ref No: 210460/EDS.

Date: 2nd May 2021.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. An application for the discharge of condition with respect to planning application 2021/90361 requires under Condition 5 that an Ecological Design Strategy (EDS) be submitted due to the close proximity to the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network and Batley Beck.

1.2. The response states that Local Plan Policy LP30ii requires development to “*minimise impact on biodiversity and provide net biodiversity gains through good design*”. Therefore, the condition for an ecological design strategy was applied in order to secure ecological enhancement post-development. Suggested enhancements were included within the original response by Kirklees Council Ecology. Due to the proximity to the KWHN therein also lies opportunities to strengthen and safeguard this network in accordance with LP30iii.

1.3. Normally the EDS shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) *Purposed and conservation objectives for the proposed works.*
- b) *Review of site potential and constraints.*
- c) *Detailed design(s) and/or working method(s) to achieve stated objectives.*
- d) *Extent and location/area of proposed works on appropriate scale maps and plans.*
- e) *Type and source of materials to be used where appropriate, e.g., native species of local provenance.*
- f) *Timetable for implementation demonstrating that works are aligned with the proposed phasing of development.*
- g) *Persons responsible for implementing the works.*
- h) *Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance.*
- i) *Details for monitoring and remedial measures.*
- j) *Details for disposal of any wastes arising from the works.*

1.4. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd were therefore commissioned to prepare this EDS document to satisfy that condition.

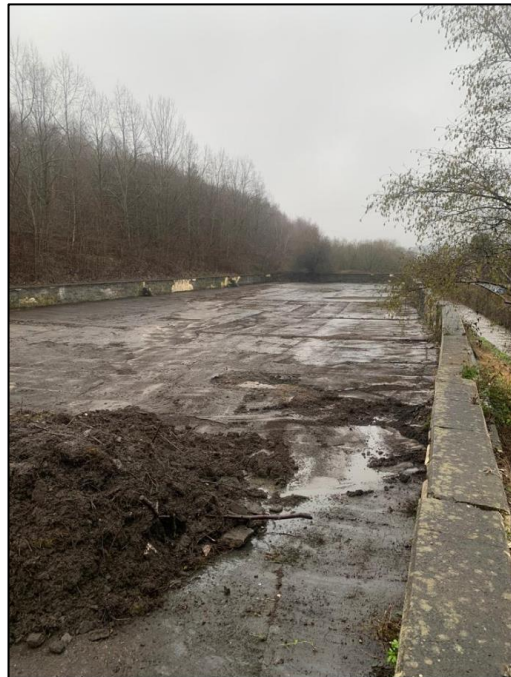
1.5. Appendix I includes the development plans for the site.

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.

2.1. The development site is an area of bare ground located between Batley Beck to the west and an area of woodland to the east, between the site and the railway line that is part of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network, marked by a red arrow on the aerial map below.



2.2. The photograph below shows that the site is currently an area of concrete between the wood and the beck.



3. MITIGATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MAINTENANCE.

3.1. The following includes detailed designs for the mitigation and enhancement measures recommended for the site. Where appropriate the document also includes details of long-term maintenance required on the site. The purpose is to retain the ecological value of the site and to provide ecological enhancements in line with chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

3.2. The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been split to cover each area separately for ease of reading.

3.3.1. Habitats/Landscaping.

3.3.1.1. The site is currently bare concrete with no vegetation present.

3.3.1.2. The landscaping of the site will include the provision of two native species hedgerows, one at either end of the site connecting with adjacent off-site habitat.

3.3.1.3. Species to be planted in the hedgerows include hawthorn, holly, field maple, elder, beech, hazel and dog rose.

3.3.1.4. The two new hedges will be protected during the development of the site with Heras fencing erected around the root protection zone to prevent accidental damage to any of the trees.

3.3.2. Adjacent Habitats.

The site development will not impact on the woodland adjacent to the site. There will be a gap maintained between the new buildings and the woodland edge.

3.3.2. Birds.

3.3.2.1. There will be no vegetation clearance in connection with the development and therefore, no need to restrict activities during the nesting bird season.

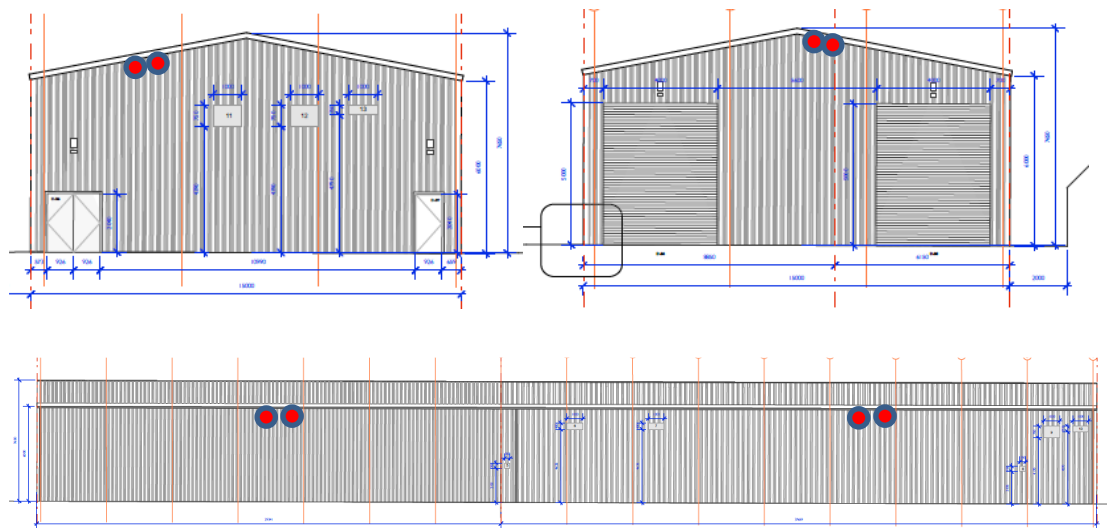
3.3.2.2. In the very unlikely event that any vegetation is to be affected, works will either be carried out outside the nesting season, between March and September or an

ecologist will be commissioned to undertake a nesting bird survey a maximum of two days prior to the works being carried out of all areas to be affected.

3.3.2.3. In the event that any active nests are found during that survey, a buffer zone will be demarcated around the nest and a report will be written up clearly showing the nest locations and buffer zones. This will be presented to the developer and personnel on site who will be instructed not to carry out any works of any nature within the buffer zones.

3.3.2.4. The active nests will be monitored until the ecologist confirms that the young have fledged and gives the go ahead for the area to be cleared.

3.3.2.5. Eight swift nest boxes will be erected on the new buildings. A pair of boxes will be erected on either end of the building and a further two pairs on the west facing elevation of the building.



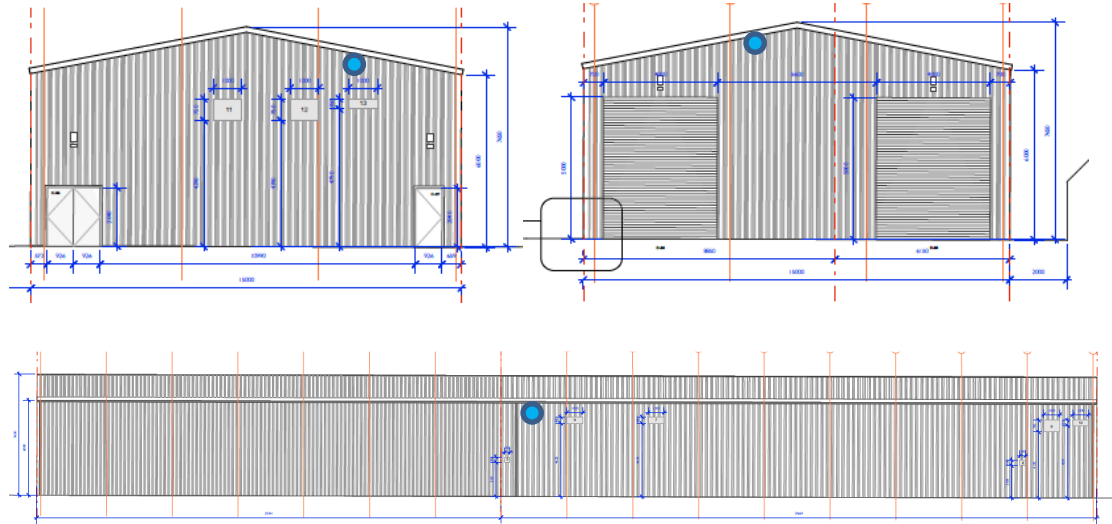
3.3.2.6. Because the building will be clad externally, the swift boxes will be mounted on the outside of the cladding. The following design or equivalent will be used.



3.3.2.7. This box is made from woodcrete and will withstand the weather for many years.

3.3.3. Bats.

3.3.3.1. Three bat boxes will be installed on the outside of the building. These will be in the positions shown by the blue circles on the elevation plans below.



3.3.2. Each bat box will be a Beaumaris woodstone box, as shown below, or equivalent.



3.3.3.3. There is one light on the site at this present time and no further external lights are to be erected on the site. This will ensure no light impact on the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat or on any bats that may forage along the woodland edge or that may forage along the beck or the new hedgerows.

3.3.3.4. Should lights be erected in the future, these must be downlights, erected on the building that will not cause any light impact to the woodland edge, the beck or the bat boxes erected on the new building.

3.3.4. *Mammals.*

3.3.4.1. For the duration of the development all excavations left open overnight will have a sloped side to allow animals that become trapped to escape. All pipe ends will be capped at the end of each shift to prevent animals from seeking refuge inside.

3.3.4.2. In the event that site personnel identify any species within the development site at any stage of the development, works in that area of the site will cease and the site manager will be informed. Where necessary the site manager will contact the ecologist to seek additional advice. Works will not re-commence until authorised by the ecologist.

3.3.5. Site Maintenance.

3.3.5.1. During construction it is the responsibility of the site contractor to maintain the site and to ensure the mitigation measures above are included in the development.

3.3.5.2. All waste created during construction will be removed from site by a licenced waste handler to an appropriate disposal site.

3.3.5.3. Once the construction of the site completed by the contractor the responsibility for the maintenance of the site will become the responsibility of the resident of the property.

3.3.5.4. Maintenance will include periodic trimming of the new hedges outside the nesting bird season. Any plants within the hedgerow that do not survive will be replaced with the equivalent.

3.3.6. Biodiversity Net Gain.

The present site is all hard standing and has no Biodiversity value. Planting of 53m of native, species rich hedgerow will create an additional 0.03 Biodiversity Units as calculated using the DEFRA metric 2.0.

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Appendix I. DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

