Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

CLAYTON FIELDS, EDGERTON, HUDDERSFIELD.

OS REF: SE 133 177.

BAT MITIGATION AND BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY.

Ref No: **250232**

Date: **13th February 2025.**

Unit 34, The Business Village, Cudworth, Barnsley, S72 8RP.
info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk
Company No. 4401613.2502332

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to develop a number of new properties on an area of open space at Clayton Fields, Edgerton, Huddersfield.

1.2. As part of the submission to the local planning authority, a Biodiversity Enhancement and Bat Mitigation Strategy is required. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd were commissioned to undertake this Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy to satisfy this condition. The conditions are as shown below:

"*No development shall take place until a comprehensive written mitigation strategy detailing how the development shall be completed without harm to any bat species and without loss or detriment to the wildlife habitat used by said species, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved method statement*"

"*Prior to the occupation of any of the dwellings hereby approved bat roosts and bird nesting boxes shall have been installed in accordance with details first submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved bat roosts and bird nesting boxes shall be retained at all times thereafter*."

1.3. This document includes the following information:

- The purpose and details of biodiversity enhancements to ensure the ecological value of the site for bats is maintained.
- Locations of the proposed enhancements for bats, including recommendations for nesting birds and other wildlife.
- Personnel responsible for implementing the proposed enhancements.
- Maintenance requirements.

****

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.

2.1. The survey area comprises large areas of tall ruderal scrub with areas of improved neutral grassland. There are scattered trees around the boundary and across the site with large areas of shredded vegetation both levelled out and in piles. The survey area is surrounded by residential housing to the eastern, southern and western sides with a small tree lined watercourse flowing along the northern boundary. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the survey area and the direct surrounding area.

2.2. The survey area is predominantly within a built-up location with residential housing surroundings. The aerial photograph below highlights the location of the survey area within the wider landscape.

2.3. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd previously completed Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEAs) of the site, however, these are generally around 10 years old. Below is an overview of the findings of those surveys.

2.4. This survey was undertaken using the Phase 1 habitat classification methodology. The habitats on and adjacent to the site are:

- Scrub.
- Tall Ruderal.
- Non-Ruderal.
- Ephemeral/Short Perennial.
- Improved Grassland.
- Introduced Scrub.
- Broadleaf Scattered Trees.
- Bare Ground.
- Fence.
- Wall.
- Boundary Removed.
- Buildings.
- Running Water.

2.5. The survey area comprises a large area of scrub habitat, primarily within the southern aspect of the site, in addition to tall ruderal shrubs and introduced shrubs. The eastern extent of the survey area is dominated by ephemeral and short perennial species, whilst the west is comprised of improved grassland and ruderal species. Broadleaf scattered trees are spread sporadically throughout the site and along the extent of the site boundary, which extends into ana rea of woodland to the north of the survey area boundary. The Clayton Dike watercourse flows along this, and is shallow and rocky, with variable bank vegetation and gradients throughout its length. The riparian corridor alongside this has been assessed as the habitat of highest importance within this site. There are two buildings within the survey area, including an electric building to the west and a Grade II listed bus shelter, as well as areas of bare ground, and fencing and walls along the site boundary.

****

3. SUMMARY OF BAT MITIGATION.

3.1. The habitats within the survey area have been assessed as providing valuable foraging and commuting habitat for bats, with a particular focus on the riparian corridor to the north which provides a habitat of significance importance for bats. To mitigate any impact that the works may have on bats, the following measures are recommended.

3.2. The proposed works, including devegetation works, should not encroach any closer to the riparian habitat to the north than the limits of the approved site boundary, to ensure no impact on any wildlife utilising this corridor, including bats.

3.3. Where possible, any works should be completed during standard daylight hours to prevent any impact on bats. Should any nighttime working be required, all artificial lighting should be downlit, and care should be taken to ensure no light spill beyond the work site.

3.4. It is recommended that high fencing is installed to the rear of the properties to the north, to ensure there is no light infringement on the riparian corridor during hours of natural darkness.

3.5. It is recommended that integrated bat boxes are installed in several of the buildings. These should ideally be south facing and located at least 4m above ground level.

3.6 The proposed works will result in the loss of suitable nesting habitat for birds. Clearance of vegetation may result in a direct impact on nesting birds.

****

4. SUMMARY OF BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS.

4.1. The objective of the enhancement is to complete the development without causing harm to any bat species or other local wildlife, and without loss or detriment to the wildlife habitat used by said species.

4.1. Enhancements relating to Bats.

4.1.1. Sensitive Lighting Scheme.

4.1.1.1. A sensitive lighting strategy will be designed to limit ensure the adjacent habitats are not subjected to any direct light during hours of natural darkness. This will reduce the likelihood of the proposed works having an impact on roosting, as well as commuting and foraging bats.

4.1.1.2. The sensitive lighting scheme will apply to the entirety of the site but will certainly ensure no excess light infringement on the riparian corridor.

4.1.1.3. The lighting scheme should be adhered to both during the construction phase of the development and for all future usage of the site. The site manager should ensure that the lighting strategy has been implemented adequately.

4.1.1.4. The lighting strategy will require little aftercare or long-term maintenance other than ensuring that the strategy is adhered to.

4.1.2. Integrated Bat Boxes.

4.1.2.1. Integrated bat boxes will be installed in at least 25% of the new buildings on site. These will be built into the gable end or rear walls of the new dwellings. These will be Habibat boxes as shown below or similar matched to the finish of the wall.

4.1.2.2. The bat boxes should be installed by on-site personnel following the guidance provided above. The site manager will ensure that these have been adequately fitted.

4.2. Enhancements relating to Nesting Birds.

4.2.1. Where possible, vegetation will be cleared outside of the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August inclusive. Nesting bird surveys are to be conducted by an ecologist a maximum of 48 hours prior to any clearance during the nesting season.

4.2.2. Integrated swift boxes will be installed in at least 25% of the new buildings on site. At least one bird box should be placed on either the north or eastern face of each building and will be built into the gable end or rear walls of the buildings. These should be placed at least 5m above ground level and have a clear flight path. Swift boxes can also be utilised by other bird species.

4.2.3. The bird boxes should be installed by on-site personnel following the guidance provided above. The site manager will ensure that these have been adequately fitted.

4.2.4. Bird boxes often do not need maintenance and may be cleared out by birds. However, should they appear obstructed, they may be cleared out during the winter months, before February, to ensure they are usable the following nesting season. This should be carried out by the relevant on-site personnel.

4.3. Enhancements relating to Other Wildlife.

4.3.1. Hedgehog highways will be included within all fencing on site where it is reasonably practicable to do so. This will entail a small gap approximately 13x13cm being cut into either the bottom of the fence or gravel board as shown below. This will ensure hedgehogs have the freedom to travel throughout the development.

4.3.2. Each access will be marked with an appropriate sign to indicate that it needs to be retained and unobstructed.

****

Prepared by:	
Frances Teasdale BSc	Date: 27th February 2025.

Checked by:	
Mitchel Greenhalgh BSc ACIEEM	Date: 10th March 2025.