

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.**



RED HOUSE, GOMERSAL.

OS REF: SE 20749 26229.

**BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS
MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

Ref No: 250738 / BEMP / 1.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. A planning application has been approved for the development of the site known as Red House, on Oxford Road in Gomersall.

1.2. As part of the planning conditions set out by Kirklees Council, Condition 24 states the following:

A Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan must be provided to the LPA prior to the commencement of works on-site. It must include the following items that will be installed post development:

- *2 Small holes within fences (and other mechanisms) for hedgehogs' mobility.*
- *2no bat boxes*
- *2no bird boxes*
- *A planting scheme should be implemented within the scheme to create a trees and hedgerows. Plantings should comprise native species of high biodiversity value*

1.3. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to prepare this document to satisfy the above requirement.

2. ENHANCEMENTS FOR FAUNA.

2.1. The site currently has stone boundary walls that will be retained post development, with no new boundary fencing proposed and no other fences or barriers to be erected anywhere on the site. Access for hedgehogs on and off the site will be maintained as it currently is.

2.2. If any gates on the boundaries are to be replaced, gaps at least 13 cm x 13 cm in size will be maintained along the bottom of the gates to allow continued access for hedgehogs underneath. Signage will be fixed above them to ensure that they are not purposely blocked.



2.3. Two bat boxes will be provided on the site. One will be erected on a mature tree on the northern boundary of the site, this will be a 'Kent bat box' design. The second bat box will be an 'Improved crevice bat box' or similar, and will be fixed onto the southern elevation of Red House. These will be fitted at least 5m above ground level, but also avoiding any artificial lighting or being directly above any windows or doors.



NHBS Kent Bat Box



NHBS Improved Cavity
Bat Box

2.3. Integrated swift boxes will be provided on the site. These will be incorporated in pairs into the walls of Red House (western elevation) and the barn (western elevation). These will be integrated swift boxes, similar to the design shown below, fitted at eaves level, but also avoiding any artificial lighting or being directly above any windows or doors.



2.4. The plan below shows the locations of where all of the above features will be installed.



3. PLANTING SCHEME.

3.1. A copy of the landscaping scheme for the site is appended at the end of this report.

3.2. Trees.

3.2.1. There is a high tree cover area in the baseline of the site in the form of woodland and individual trees. Only one tree on the edge of the woodland will need to be removed to facilitate the development. All other trees will be retained maintaining a high tree cover across the site, with no space to accommodate any additional tree planting that will not compromise the area of open space for the residents to utilise, which is already limited. This is demonstrated in the landscaping plan provided.

3.3. Hedgerows.

New native hedgerows will be planted around the boundaries of the western part of the site, comprising a good mix of native species including field maple, dogwood, hazel and guelder rose. Non-native species will also be incorporated, but these will not exceed 20% of the total length of the hedgerows.

3.4. Native Scrub.

Two small areas around the edges of the retained woodland and garden shrubs will be planted with mixed native scrub species. This will include hazel, field maple, wild privet, dogwood and guelder rose.

3.5. Wildflower Grassland.

Emorsgate wildflower mixes will be seeded across much of the site. The species mix will be appropriate for the location, for example a EM1 shade mix will be utilised under the tree and woodland canopies, an EM1 for meadow in the open areas, EM1 for verges along narrow edges and a species rich lawn mix for those areas that will be more susceptible to foot traffic.

3.6. Overall, the site proposals will allow for retention of the majority of the higher value habitats, with some supplementary native scrub, native hedgerow and wildflower

grassland planting to further compliment the site and retain the ecological function of the site for various fauna species.

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