BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

Erection of single storey rear extension. Installation of external wall Insulation with timber cladding and render, and insertion of 4No. rooflights in existing roof. Blocking up of door on southern elevation and installation of new air source heat pump.

1 AMIES MILL FARM COTTAGES, KERVES LANE, HORSHAM, RH13 6RL

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A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD REMAIN ON SITE AT ALL TIMES DURING DEVELOPMENT

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1 Introduction

1.1 Executive Summary

This Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) details the proposed biodiversity and habitat enhancement plans that have been identified at 1 AMIES MILL FARM cottages, RH13 6RL. The measures proposed in this BES have been committed to and will support both the Protected/Priority species and the habitat of the area.

Reason: To enhance protected and Priority species & habitats and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the NPPF 2021 and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species).

This plan demonstrates how the LPA (Horsham District Planning) shall discharge its duties under s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species), ensuring that ecology and biodiversity of the area is enhanced and Protected and Priority Species/habitats are safeguarded in accordance with Policy 31 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).

The content of the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy shall include the following:
a) purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed enhancement measures;
b) detailed designs to achieve stated objectives;
c) locations of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate maps and plans;
d) persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures;
e) details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (where relevant).

2 General Site Information

2.1 Site Setting & Location

The site is located at:
1 AMIES MILL FARM COTTAGES
KERVES LANE
HORSHAM
RH13 6RL

The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 18247 29140.

2.2 Overview of Development

The application consists of the construction of a single storey extension and additional energy efficiency measures.

2.3 Contact Details

The contact details for relevant personnel and organisations are shown below:
Main Contractor: Sustainabuild Sussex
Telephone: 07584497578

Applicant: Mrs and Mrs A Isted
Address: 1 Amies Mill Farm Cottages, Kerves Lane, Horsham, H13 6RL
Email: aims.isted@gmail.com

Local Planning Authority: Horsham District Council
Address: Horsham District Council
Parkside
Chart Way
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 1RL
Telephone: 01403 215100

Complaints/Local Authority: Horsham District Council
Address: publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk

Telephone: 01403 215641

3 Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

3.1 Habitat Restoration of flood plain

It is widely accepted that increase in climate change and frequency of extreme rainfall events make areas of flood storage capacity increasingly important for the flood resilience of the Upper Arun, Horsham Area.

Four acres of land of surrounding 1 Amies Mill Farm Cottages is located within a flood zone 3 area. The current owners are undertaking an ambitious plan to increase the flood resilience of the site through a series of nature-based solutions that also enhance species diversity and reduce soil erosion.

3.2 Wetland scrapes

The owner has created 4 wetland Scrapes in the flood plain. These are shallow ponds, less than 1m in depth, which hold rain or flood water seasonally but stay damp for most of the year. They make a significant difference to wildlife and are important because they allow excess surface water to drain from agricultural land and roads in a controlled way.

The scrapes support an abundance of aquatic wildlife, particularly wetland plants and insects such as
water beetles, dragonflies and hoverflies. Larger, shallow ditches and scrapes can be valuable for wading birds, amphibians and small mammals.

The scrapes provide a wet habitats making them increasingly important wildlife corridors and surveys of the land record that the areas are being re-colonised by species diverse plants that had been lost when it was in agricultural use.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MAINTENANCE REGIME
Land Owner	[Continue to] leave wetland area to re-wild and become naturally colonised by species rich grasses, flowers and sapling trees

3.3 Re-Wilding

The wetland area has been intentionally left to re-wild and is no longer topped/mowed, allowing species diversity to colonise including a multitude of wetland grasses, wildflowers and alder saplings.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MAINTENANCE REGIME
Land Owner	[Continue to] leave wetland area to re-wild and become naturally colonised by species rich grasses, flowers and sapling trees

3.4 Introduction of species rich wetland meadow wildflower mix

Vegetation on the banks and wildflower-rich grassland have been encouraged and there are many more plants now, providing valuable food for wildlife. The introduction of yellow rattle is helping to supress grass species and encourage the growth of the wildflowers.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MAINTENANCE REGIME
Land Owner	[Continue to] leave wetland area to re-wild and become naturally colonised by species rich grasses, flowers and sapling trees. Sow yellow rattle to encourage suppression of out competing grass species.

3.5 Native Tree Planting

The site has also undergone extensive tree planting, with the planting of 300+ bare root trees in since 2020. The site has now been planted with a native mix of oak, hazel, alder, maple as well as an orchard of fruit trees.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MAINTENANCE REGIME
Land Owner	2022 - Planted 100x bare root trees 2023 - Planted 100x bare root trees 2024 - Planted 100x bare root trees 2025 – Planned- Plant 100x bare root trees

3.6 Native Hedgerow planting

The site has undergone extensive reinstatement of traditional native hedgerow – the current owners have planted over 2000 bare root plant hedging trees since 2016, and have now established a hedge that is approaching maturity and is due to be laid in Winter 2024. This has created enhanced green corridors around the site. Hedgerows are surveyed annually to assess heath and identify any area that would benefit from additional hedgerow plants.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MAINTENANCE REGIME
Land Owner	2022 - Planted 50 x bare root hedge trees 2023 - Planted 50 x bare root hedge trees 2024 - Planted 50 x bare root hedge trees 2025 - Planned plant 50 x bare root hedge trees

3.7 Natural field boundaries

The field boundaries of blackthorn, hawthorn, bramble and elder have been left to grow and now extend to 10m+ into the field, providing species rich habitats that support a wide variety of nesting birds and is priority habitat for the Brown Hairstreak Butterfly.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MAINTENANCE REGIME

Land Owner	[Continue to] leave generous 10m+ field boundaries to re-wild and become naturally colonised by species rich blackthorn, hawthorn, elder and hazel, bramble and sapling trees.

3.8 Pond/wetland creation

In addition to the wetland scrapes, the current owner has created a small wildlife pond that has been colonised by smooth newt, palmate newt, frogs and toads as well as a plethora of insects and water beetle.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MAINTENANCE REGIME
Land Owner	Annual maintenance of the pond to help maintain natural nutrient balance and encourage colonisation of native amphibians and invertebrates.

3.9 Bat/Bird/Owl Box installation

Among the 8.5 acre site a variety of boxes have been installed in the surrounding trees (As shown in Appendix A):

- 1 x owl box
- 2 x bat boxes
- 6 x bird boxes (As per shown below)
- 2 x solitary bee box



RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MAINTENANCE REGIME
Land Owner	Annual maintenance of the boxes and survey of occupancy. Annual installation of additional boxes: 1 x bat box 1 x bird box 1 x owl box

3.10 Eradication of INNS – Himalayan Balsam/Skunk Cabbage

An extensive removal programme has been underway since 2016 to eradicate all INNS (Invasive non native species) from the site. Previously the site was heavily colonised by Himalayan Balsam. An annual hand pulling programme now exists to eradicate it from the site and prevent the spread of seeds down stream. In addition, the banks of the River Arun and Hornbrook are regularly surveyed for Skunk Cabbage and where it is identified it is destroyed and removed from the banks of the River Arun and Hornbook to prevent spread down stream.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MAINTENANCE REGIME
Land Owner	Monthly survey and weekly in summer months to identify INNS. Immediate removal when identified.

4 Priority/Protected Species

The following section outlines the site location, general overview and relevant contact details.

4.1 Nesting Birds

All nesting birds are protected by law. To avoid any loss or damage to nesting birds it is recommended that all vegetation management should take place outside of nesting bird season (March – August).

Site Recommendations:
Any vegetation clearance within the nesting season will be preceded by a nesting bird survey, carried out by a suitably experienced person and any active nests found will be left undisturbed, along with a buffer zone around them, until the young have fledged.

4.2 Reptiles/Amphibians

Habitats within the wider site have been assessed as suitable to support reptiles. These include areas of grassland and scrub which provide suitable habitat for supporting common species of reptile.

The area surrounding the site is part of an extensive restoration and biodiversity enhancement strategy. This area should be maintained to maximise the suitability for amphibians.

Site Recommendations:
All vegetation management to be supervised by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and follow 3 stage approach.

4.3 Bats

As per the report by Babec Ecological Consultants (R001, IST101, 07/07/2023), the tile hanging elevation of the property has been surveyed and shown to be suitable habitat for
"A single soprano pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pygmaeus) emerged from beneath a hanging tile on building B1 during the emergence surveys, indicating the presence of a soprano pipistrelle day/transitional roost used by low numbers of bats on an occasional basis. No other bat roosts were identified on building B1 or B2 during the emergence surveys."

Site Recommendations:

Ecological enhancements, as proposed in 6.2.1 of the report (Babec Ecological Consultants, Bat Survey and Assessment, July 2023), have been installed on site to enhance the value of the property for bats, in-line with national and local planning policy.

“The installation of at least one bat box on a suitable nearby tree [or external wall]. Bat boxes should be installed at least 3m above the ground, with the entrance free from obstruction and not be illuminated by external lighting” (Babec Ecological Consultants, Bat Survey and Assessment, July 2023).

INSTALLED ALREADY/COMPLETED:

- Installed: x2 no. approved “General Purpose” bat boxes on suitable nearby tree(s). (as shown in Appendix A).
- These bat boxes have been installed at least 3m above the ground, with the entrances free from obstruction and not be illuminated by external lighting.
- These locations are shown in the plan/map contained within APPENDIX A.

Bat Box Location Photographs



Image 1: General Purpose Bat Box

Image 2: Bat Box 1 in tree (BB1)

Image 3: Bat Box 2 in tree (BB2)

(See Appendix A for locations)



Whilst not mandatory, the following recommendations made in section 6.2.1 of the Bat Survey and Assessment (Babec Ltd, 2023) may also be adopted in addition to the bat boxes already installed:

• Incorporating an integrated bat box or bat brick into the wall behind the new timber cladding of building B1, with an appropriate gap (20mm x 40mm) between boards suitable to allow bats to access the feature. Bat boxes should be installed at least 3m above the ground, with the entrances free from obstruction and not be illuminated by external lighting.

• Incorporating at least two crevices suitable for roosting bats beneath the clay roof tiles of the new extension. This can be achieved by using mortar or wooden spacers to raise the end of a tile by approximately 20mm, providing bats access to a crevice between the tile and roof membrane. If bat roosting features are incorporated into the roof, the membrane must be a bituminous roofing felt that does not contain polypropylene/polyethylene filaments, such as hessian reinforced type 1F felt, or must have passed a certified snagging propensity test to ensure it does not pose an entanglement risk to bats.

4.4 Statutory Designations

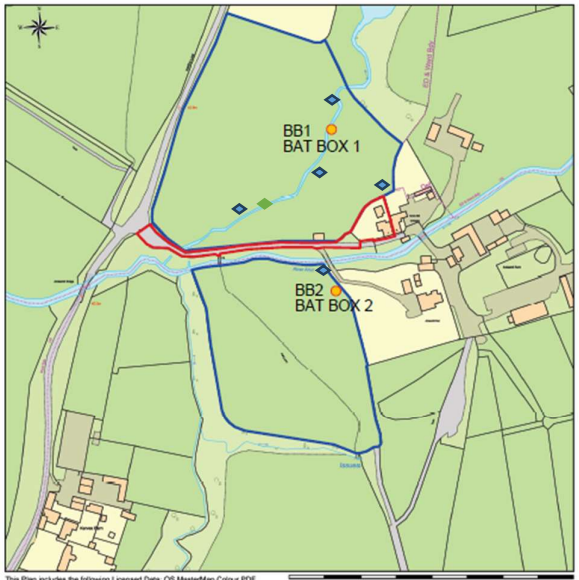
The site was checked for the following designations within 500m.

protected wetlands (Ramsar sites)	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	None
Special Protection Areas	None

Special Areas of Conservation	None
Priority habitats and county wildlife sites	Chesworth Farm - Lowland meadows Good quality semi-improved grassland Brown Hairstreak Butterfly
Scheduled Monument	Site is located 500m from Chesworth House

5 APPENDIX A – BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN – Location of installed bat boxes

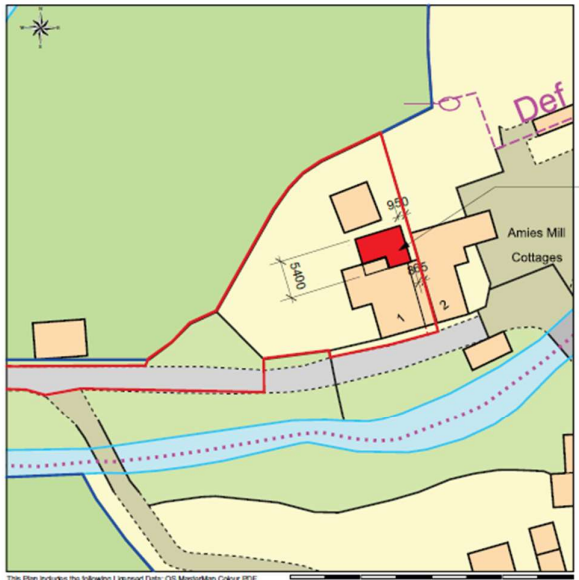
APPENDIX A:
BAT BOX LOCATIONS - SHOWN BY YELLOW CIRCLE



Key: BIRD BOX LOCATIONS

OWL BOX LOCATION

1 Location Plan
Scale: 1:2500



2 Block Plan
Scale: 1:500

DRAFT

Grain Architecture Ltd
natural sustainable design

Project: AMIES MILL FARM, 1 AMIES MILL FARM COTTAGES, KERVES LANE, HORSHAM, RH13 6RL
Client: AMY & ANDY ISTED
Title: Location and Block Plan
Stage: PLANNING
Scale: 1:2500 & 1:500 @A3
Date: 13/06/2023
Drawing No.: AMF/0/01 Rev: C

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