# Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

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| **Document reference** | AR210-Sweetmans.BES |
| **Site** | Sweetmans Barn, Ashurst, BN44 3AP |
| **Client** | Mr A Whitehouse |
| **Author** | Alex Rosenfeld<br>Ecologist |
| **Revision Number** | 2 |
| **Report issue date** | 19/10/2026 |

*The assessment and appraisal are considered relevant for a maximum of 18 months due to the possibility of changes in the habitats on-site and scope of proposals. Should alterations to the proposals or site occur, the ecologist should be consulted to confirm that the appraisal is still valid.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Mr A Whitehouse has commissioned a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for proposals at Sweetmans Barn Kitchen, Ashurst, BN44 3AP *(grid refence:* T*Q17951617, hereafter referred to as 'the site'*).

1.2 The proposals are for a new kitchen-dining room to be built between two existing barns with associated driveway and landscaping.

1.3 This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement has been produced with the intention of satisfying Condition 3 of the Horsham District Council planning decision reference: DC/26/0856

1.4 The report will address the following points:

- Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed enhancement measures;
- Detailed designs or product descriptions to achieve stated objectives;
- Locations, orientations and heights of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate
- Maps and plans (where relevant);
- Persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures; and
- Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (where relevant).

The report produced on 15th August 2026 is based on the following reports:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Alex Rosenfeld, 25th February 2026)

## 2.0 Ecological Context of Site

Site Baseline

2.1 The proposals area consists of two barns of wood and stone construction with a grass/ hardstanding courtyard. Surrounding the proposed works area within the same landholding is a mobile home, and an open sided lean-to storage area with hardstanding and bare ground.

Surrounding Landscape

2.2 The site is located in the village of Ashurst, West Sussex. It is bound to the north by domestic dwellings. To the west and south are pasture fields. The B2135 road bounds the eastern boundary.

2.3 The wider area is rural, comprised primarily of arable fields and pasture divided by hedgerows. Pockets of woodland are present. The town of Henfield lies 1.07km east.

2.4 No ponds are onsite. 9no. ponds are within a 500 meter radius of the site. The closest pond is C.18 meters to the east of the site.

Proposals

2.5 The proposals are for a new kitchen-dining room to be built between two existing barns with associated landscaping and access.

## 3.0 Baseline Conditions

3.1 The following section outlines the ecological state of the site and its context against designated sites within a 2.0km radius.

3.2 Within 2.0km radius of the site no statutory designated sites are noted.

### Baseline Ecological Site Conditions

3.3 The existing site is dominated by modified grassland, other developed land, bare ground and buildings.

3.4 The modified grassland is of 'low' value. The other habitats are of 'negligible' ecological value.

3.5 The site offers foraging and roosting / nesting opportunities for bats / birds and foraging invertebrates.

## 4.0 Aims and Objectives

### Aims

4.1 The aim of the BES is to;

- To maximise biodiversity value of the scheme.
- To ensure sensitive management of new and existing features to maximise their biodiversity value.
- To ensure that proposed enhancement measures are appropriately managed into the future.
- To provide a long-term management plan of the site;

## Objectives of the Proposals

4.2 The below objectives have been identified, which, when implemented, shall ensure the aims of the BES are achieved:

- To identify areas of suitable soft landscaping for use within the site.
- To provide ecological enhancements which provides shelter and foraging opportunities for a range of species. This is achieved through the provision of species which offer a known wildlife value, such as those listed on 'RHS Plants for Pollinators'.
- To create habitat areas at the optimal time of year for their successful establishment.
- To manage these areas to maximise their value.
- To provide additional habitat opportunities for birds, bats, reptiles and invertebrates through the provision of suitable boxes.

## 5.0 Compensation and Enhancement Measures

5.1 The below features are proposed as enhancement and compensation measures. The plan in Appendix A shows approximate locations of enhancements.

5.2 The following enhancements shall provision active nesting, roosting and hibernating opportunities for a range of species.

### Log Piles

5.3 2no. log pile of a minimum 0.5m$^3$ are to be created within the hedgerows on the southern boundary which shall provide shelter and hibernation and foraging opportunities for invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians.

### Bat and Bird Boxes and Invertebrate Features

5.4 2no. bat boxes such as Beaumaris supplied by Wildcare or similar shall be installed to the southern aspect of buildings. The boxes shall be installed at least 4m from the ground and as close to the eaves as possible.

5.5 2no. bird boxes such as the Vivipara Pro Woodstone Open Nest Box supplied by NHBS or similar shall be installed to the northern aspect of buildings. The bird boxes shall be installed between 2-5 meters high.

5.6 2no. 'Bug Hotel' or invertebrate boxes as supplied by NHBS or similar shall be installed in a sunny position within an undisturbed corner of the site.

Implementation Schedule

5.7 The construction works are scheduled to begin from late summer 2026. All wildlife features mentioned in the report can be installed at any time.

## 6.0 Management Prescriptions

6.1 In order to ensure the long-term viability and maximum ecological value of the scheme, detailed prescriptions for initial establishment and long-term management are provided within this section.

Maintenance

6.2 Log piles are to be checked annually and topped up as necessary.

### Bat Boxes

Maintenance

6.3 The bat boxes specified above do not require any cleaning. A visual inspection shall be carried out annually to ensure the boxes remain in good condition. shall they require cleaning or opening, this shall be undertaken by an ecologist with an appropriate bat licence.

### Bird Boxes

Maintenance

6.4 No maintenance necessary. A visual inspection shall be carried out annually to ensure the boxes remain in good condition.

### Invertebrate features

Maintenance

6.5 No maintenance necessary. A visual inspection shall be carried out annually to ensure the box is in good condition.

## 7.0 Long-Term Management and Monitoring

### Log Piles, Bird and Bat Boxes and Invertebrate Features

Inspection and replacement

7.1 Log Piles - areas of dead wood shall be created as the logs breakdown and replenished. The condition of log piles shall be checked on an annual basis and replenished where necessary.

7.2 Bird and Bat Boxes - the bat boxes specified above do not require any cleaning. A visual inspection should be carried out annually to ensure the boxes remain in good condition. If the boxes have broken down or disintegrated, they shall be replaced. A visual inspection shall be carried out annually to ensure the boxes remain in good condition. Boxes which have shown no signs of use after 3 years shall be moved to a more appropriate location if considered necessary during the monitoring visits.

7.3 Invertebrate boxes – Inspection annually and replace if significantly degraded.

## 8.0 Implementation Schedule

**Table No 01 – Annual Maintenance Schedule**

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bird and Bat Boxes and Invertebrate Features** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleaning (bird boxes) | | | | | | | | | | **X** | | |
| Check Condition | | | | | | | | | | | **X** | |

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Log Piles** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Restock if needed | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |

## 9.0 References

Bat Conservation Trust and Institution for Lighting Professionals (BCT/ILP, 2023). Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. Available online: https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/

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CIEEM (2020) Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. Winchester, UK.

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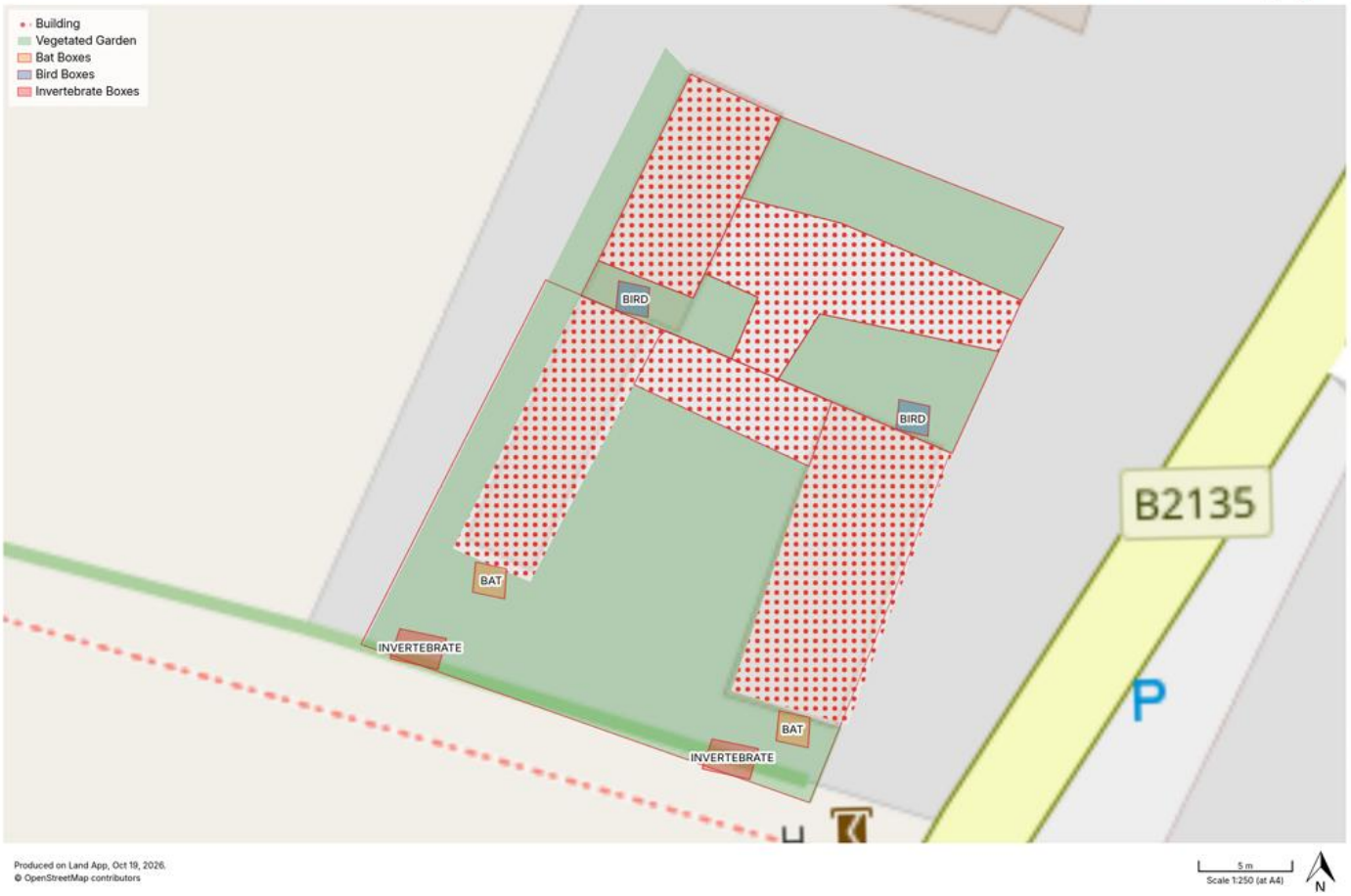
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Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC 2010). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit. Available online: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2468

MAGIC Interactive Map Tool (Accessed 14th August 2026): www.magic.gov.uk

## Appendix A – Ecological Enhancement Positions


Building
Vegetated Garden
Bat Boxes
Bird Boxes
Invertebrate Boxes
BIRD
BIRD
BAT
BAT
INVERTEBRATE
INVERTEBRATE
B2135
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Produced on Land App, Oct 19, 2026.
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Scale 1:250 (at A4)
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