

STUD FARM MITIGATION MEASURES.

1. Introduction.

1.1. Condition 21 of planning consent 2019/0213 for the above site requires that prior to development full details of the mitigation measures identified in the Ecology Survey report, including a timetable for their implementation, shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.2. This document is designed to satisfy that condition.

2. Mitigation Measures.

2.1. Breeding Birds.

2.1.1. Where possible no vegetation clearance or commencement of works on any individual building will be undertaken between March and September to avoid the nesting bird season. Where initial works need to be undertaken during this time, the works will be preceded by a nesting bird survey. Any active nests found will be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

2.1.2. To enhance the Biodiversity of the site nest boxes will be provided in particular for house sparrows, starlings, swallows and swifts.

2.1.3. Two sparrow terraces will be incorporated into the new buildings erected on site. The design will be as shown below or equivalent. The map shown in section 3 shows the locations for these marked as yellow circles.



2.1.4. Two starling nest boxes will be incorporated into the new buildings erected on site. The design will be as shown below or equivalent. The map shown in section 3 shows the locations marked as green circles.



2.1.5. Two swallow/house martin nest cups will be incorporated into the new buildings erected on site. The design will be as shown below or equivalent. The map shown in section 3 shows the locations for these marked as orange circles.



2.1.6. Two swift nest boxes will be incorporated into the new buildings erected on site. The design will be as shown below or equivalent. The map shown in section 3 shows the locations for these marked as yellow circles.



2.2. Bats.

2.2.1. A dusk emergence survey of the buildings on the site identified a low level of Common Pipistrelle bat activity. No bats emerged from the buildings and it is assessed that no further bat surveys are necessary. See separate bat survey report for more detail.

2.2.2. To enhance the Biodiversity of the site, four integrated bat bricks will be incorporated into the new buildings erected on the site. The design shown below or equivalent will be used to match the outer skin of the new buildings. The map shown in section 3 shows the locations marked as red circles.



2.3. Badgers.

2.3.1. The Toolbox talk on badgers appended to this report will be available in the site cabin and all personnel employed on the site will be briefed with respect to their possible presence.

2.3.2. Any excavations left open overnight will either be covered or will be furnished with a ramp to enable badgers or other wildlife that may fall into the trench the means to escape.

2.3.3. Any pipe ends over 200mm diameter left open overnight will be capped to prevent badgers from entering.

3.3. Site Plan showing position of Mitigation Measures.



3.4. Timing.

All mitigation measures will be installed as each house is completed and before occupation.

Prepared by:

Derek Whitcher, BSc, MCIEEM, MCM

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Toolbox Talk: Badgers

Identification.

Badgers are a nocturnal mammal that has a silvery grey back with distinct black and white stripes running from their shoulders to their nose. They are short stocky animals and can grow to approximately 80cm from head to tail.



Badgers are rarely seen during the day therefore the presence of badgers is usually identified from field signs such as setts, prints, paths or dung pits.

Badger prints are very distinctive and will often be found in soft areas of mud. The print has five toes which are almost in a straight line. Where the ground is very soft the print will display claws, but these may not always be visible.

Badgers are animals of habit and therefore they follow set paths throughout their territory leaving the paths very well worn in some areas. Well-worn badger paths may look like public footpaths when very well worn although they may lead under dense areas of vegetation and fences.



Another common badger field sign is the presence of shallow holes scraped in the ground containing dung. These are known as dung pits or, where found in large numbers, as a territorial marking, latrines.

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Habitat.

Badgers live in a series of underground tunnels called a "sett". A badger sett may be anything from a single entrance with a small spoil heap to an extensive area of entrances and large spoil heaps.



Badgers may also use existing features as setts such as culverts, caves, mines or any underground structure that will provide them with shelter.

Legislation.

Badgers and their setts are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under the Act it is illegal to:

- Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger or attempt to do so.
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger.
- Interfere with a sett by doing any of the following:
 - Damaging a badger sett or any part of it.
 - Destroying a badger sett.
 - Obstructing access to a badger sett.
 - Causing a dog to enter a sett.
 - Disturbing a badger while it is occupying a sett.

Penalties for offences under the Act are up to six months in prison and a fine of £5,000 for each offence.

Disturbance to a badger in a sett can be caused by working close to a sett.

If badgers or badger field signs are identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk

Toolbox Talk: Bats



18 species of bat have been recorded in Britain, 17 of which are known to breed here.

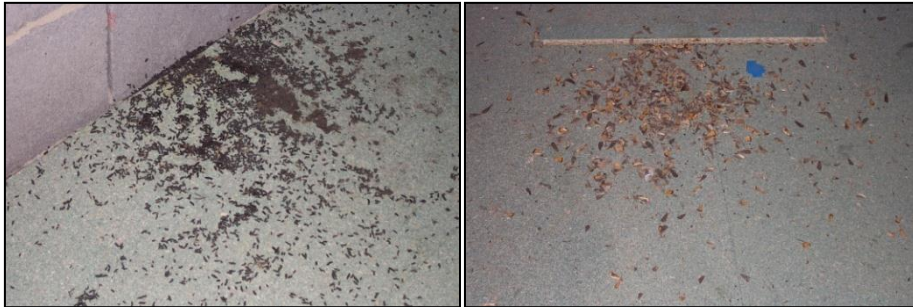
Identification.

Some species can be extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

Species such as the Brown Long Eared bat pictured above can be more easily identified in the hand. Whereas, the Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle are more difficult to identify.



Bats are more easily identified by field signs such as droppings or feeding remains.



Habitat.

Bats are highly specialised creatures and require a relatively narrow range of suitable conditions in order to sustain a viable population. Bats require an abundant supply of flying insect food in places where they can easily be caught and they need safe and reliable roosting sites, particularly during breeding and hibernation.

Bats are heavily dependent on buildings and trees for their roost sites and therefore extremely susceptible to disturbance from human activities. Development schemes can also isolate bat populations and sever roost sites from favoured feeding areas by removing hedgerows or other features used as commuting routes.

Bats are susceptible to disturbance and have been known to abandon roost sites after instances of disturbance. The effects of disturbance are more pronounced at different times of year. Serious disturbance during breeding can result in the breeding females being killed or the abandonment and subsequent starvation of dependant young. Repeated disturbance during winter hibernation can result in the death of adult animals from starvation.

The level of protection afforded to bats in the UK and European legislation reflects the fact that it is now generally accepted that bats have declined substantially, maybe by as much as 60%, over recent years. Most species are declining and vulnerable with all species being protected.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and occasionally the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly Pipistrelle, can quickly adapt to manmade structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Legislation.

Bats and their roosts are fully protected at all times (whether the bats are currently present or not). This protection comes from the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (updated by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000) and the Habitats Regulations 1994. Under this legislation it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, capture or disturb bats or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

Under the Habitats Regulations, where bats may be affected by development proposals, a licence is required from Natural England. Natural England's published guidelines on the licence procedure indicate that if, on the basis of survey information and specialist knowledge of the species concerned, the proposed activity is reasonably likely to result in an offence then a licence is required. If, on the other hand the proposed activity is reasonably unlikely to result in an offence, then a licence is not required.

If bats or bat field signs are identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk