

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.**



23 BAR LANE, MAPPLEWELL.

OS REF: SE 33692 09758.

**BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT AND
MITIGATION STRATEGY.**

Ref No: 260506/BEMS

Date: 13th July 2026.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Planning permission for the site at 23 Bar Lane is expected to be granted shortly. As part of the consultee comments, the ecology team at Barnsley Council have requested that a Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy (BMS) be conditioned. Their wording is below.

'Notwithstanding the submitted details, no development shall take place (including demolition, ground works and vegetation clearance) until a Biodiversity Mitigation Scheme (BMS) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The BMS will set out any precautionary measures to be adopted on site during construction, such as protection of retained features and reasonable avoidance measures for protected and priority species. Incorporation of features such as creation, retention and/or enhancement of habitats, integral bat and bird boxes on proposed buildings and hedgehog access points within proposed fencing, etc. in line with the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, should also be detailed.'

1.2. Therefore, Whitcher Wildlife Ltd have been commissioned to prepare a document to satisfy the planning condition.

1.3. This document was prepared by Mitchel Greenhalgh, Managing Director of Whitcher Wildlife, and an Ecological Consultant with an array of experience in conducting surveys on a variety of flora and fauna in a professional capacity. Mitchel holds a level two Natural England survey licence in respect of both bats and great crested newts, a NatureScot licence in respect of bats and Natural England class licences for various invertebrates. He is also working towards gaining further survey licences. He has attended courses run by CIEEM, the Species Recovery Trust and the FSC and also holds a BSc in environmental science attained from the University of Leeds. He is an Associate member of CIEEM and he is therefore committed to continuous professional development.

2. SITE INFORMATION.

2.1. The survey area comprised a large, neglected residential garden belonging to the 23 Bar Lane, which presently hosts one detached dwelling and a small number of outbuildings. The property is surrounded by the village of Mapplewell, with other green space now limited since the clearance of all land to the north as part of another ongoing development.



2.2. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has previously been carried out, as well as a repeat Preliminary Roost Assessment and dusk emergence survey survey.

3. REQUIREMENTS.

3.1. Nesting birds

3.1.1. Any vegetation or site clearance works will be carried out outside the nesting bird season. Where this is not possible, the clearance works will be immediately preceded by a nesting bird survey, carried out by a competent ecologist. Any active nests found plus a suitable buffer around them, will be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

3.1.2. In addition, the following type and number of bird boxes will be provided to ensure adequate enhancements for birds across the site.

3.1.3. One nest box will be integrated into each new building. These will be the Ibstock Eco-Habitat for Swifts, as shown below, or similar. Swift boxes have also been proven to be used by other small birds, including sparrows and therefore will cater for a variety of bird species. These will be positioned at least 5m above ground on the eastern elevations of the buildings, with clear adjacent airspace, and will not be placed directly above any windows or doors.



3.1.4. The swift boxes will be installed as part of the construction program and will be in place before the property is occupied. They will remain in perpetuity.

3.2. *Bats*

3.2.1. All buildings on site will be demolished with due care. In the unlikely event that any bats are identified during the works, then the works will cease immediately and professional ecological advice will be sought.

3.2.2. A sensitive lighting scheme will be implemented as part of the new development. All lighting will be downward directional and directed away from any boundary vegetation or trees.

3.2.3. In addition, bat boxes will be provided to ensure adequate enhancements for bats across the site.

3.2.4. One new bat box will be provided in each property. This will be integrated into the buildings, of a design similar to that as shown below.



3.2.5. The bat box will be installed under the eaves of the building away from windows and doors, just below eaves height or at least 5m above ground level.

3.2.6. The bat box will be installed as part of the construction program and will be in place before the property is occupied. It will remain in perpetuity.

3.3. Amphibians, reptiles, and hedgehogs

3.3.1. The following measures will protect amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and hedgehogs during the construction phase:

3.3.2. All onsite personnel will be briefed on the identification of common reptiles. A toolbox talk has been provided at the end of this document to aid with identification.

3.3.3. In the unlikely event that numerous amphibians, multiple reptiles or any hibernating reptiles are discovered, works will stop immediately, and professional ecological advice will be sought.

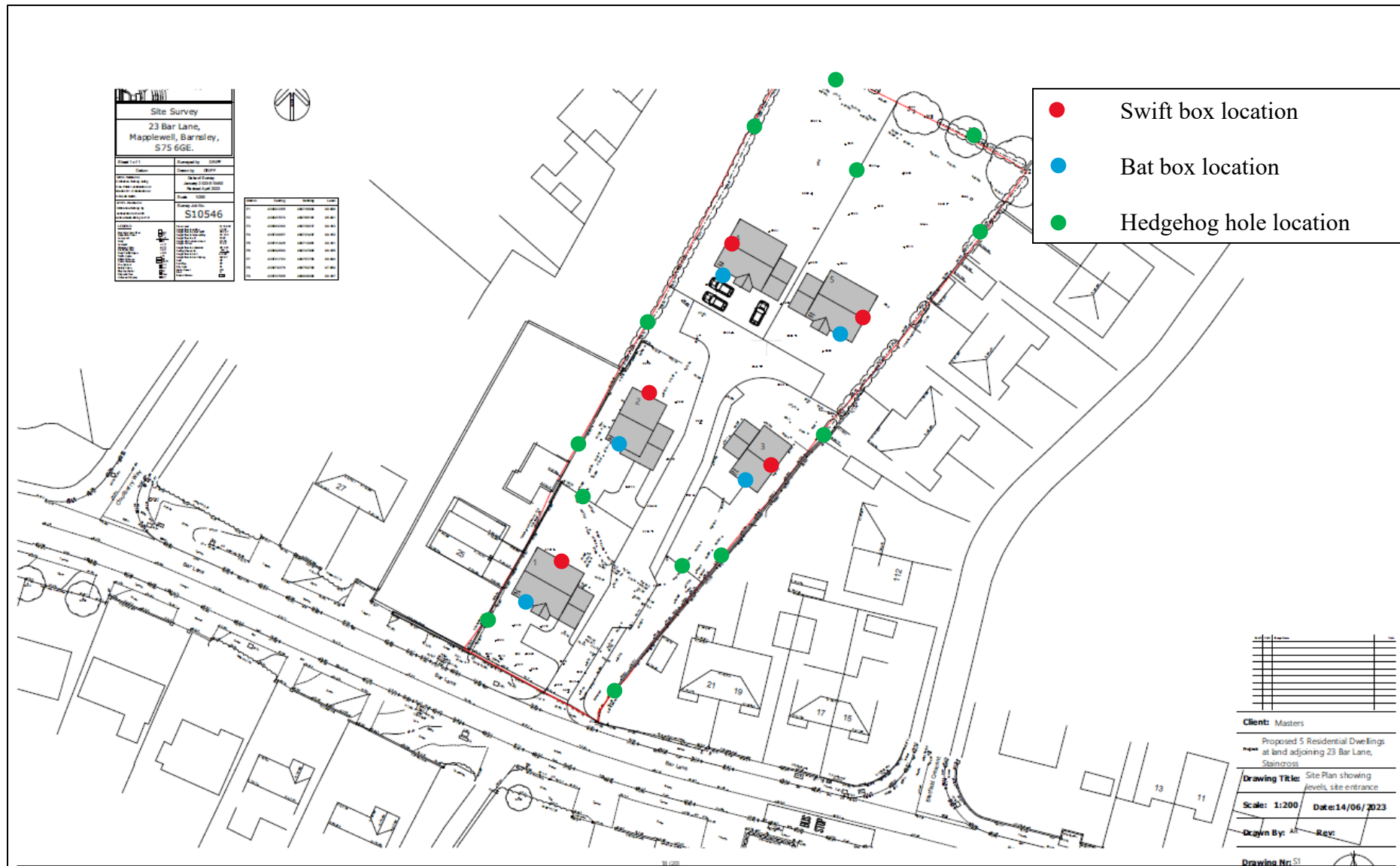
3.3.4. Any stored materials moved from the ground will be carefully lifted and not dragged along the ground to prevent harm to any fauna species that may be sheltering beneath.

3.3.5. Prior to site clearance, all vegetation will be cut to a minimum of 200mm above ground level and the arisings should be carefully removed from site. This will encourage any amphibians, reptiles or hedgehogs at ground level to vacate the area and will deter them from returning.

Prepared by:	
Mitch Greenhalgh BSc ACIEEM	Date: 13 th July 2026

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4. LOCATION PLAN



Toolbox Talk: Reptiles

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Identification: Grass Snakes.

The grass snake can be up to 120cm long. It is generally dark green in colour but may occasionally appear grey with vertical black bars and spots that run along its sides. There is usually a yellow marking around the neck.



Other Reptiles.

In addition to the reptiles outlined on this document, there are also two other reptile species in Great Britain, the smooth snakes and the sand lizard. These reptiles are a lot less common than the four species covered with the smooth snake being predominantly found on heathland in southern England and the sand lizard found throughout Great Britain in coastal dune areas.

These species are also afforded a higher level of protection because they are European Protected Species.

Identification: Adders.

The adder is the only native species that is venomous, but it is rarely harmful to humans. Adult adders are generally up to 66cm long. Back ground colouration is a light shade of grey or brown with a black zigzag marking along the length of the back. As with all reptiles, colouration varies and becomes duller as sloughing (skin shedding) approaches.



Habitat.

Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies and then later they may move back into the shade so as not to overheat. Hence, reptiles require a habitat that provides a range of suitable refugia for shelter such as dense vegetation, rubble or log piles, or crevices and open areas for basking such as bare ground, rocks or railway ballast shoulders. During hot summers reptiles may be found in damper, cooler sites. Reptiles hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators.

Identification: Slow Worms.

Slow worms grow to around 45cm in length. The males and females display a marked difference in colour when fully grown. In general, the species displays colouring that varies from light brown, dark brown, grey, bronze or brick red with the females often displaying a dark vertebral stripe and both males and females displaying occasional markings on the flanks.



Identification: Common Lizards.

Common lizards grow to around 16cm. They are grey brown to dark brown, often with a darker streak that may run the entire length of the spine. A continuous dark band bordered by light yellow or white spots is often seen on either side of the body. The underside of the males is egg yolk yellow to orange spotted with black. Females are yellowish grey.



When disturbed in their natural habitat reptiles will usually move away quickly.

Legislation.

Reptiles are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

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