www.BiOMEconsulting.com

The Challenge
Childersgate
Sutton St James
Lincolnshire

Ecological Enhancement Plan

DARREN MITCHELL

VERSION 2

Final

BiOME Consulting Limited, Horseshoe Barn, Norfolk, NR13 3AJ
info@biomeconsulting.com

COPYRIGHT: The concepts and information contained in this document are the property of BiOME Consulting Limited. Use or copying of this document in whole or in part without the written permission of BiOME Consulting Limited constitutes an infringement of copyright.

LIMITATION: This report has been prepared on behalf of and for the exclusive use of BiOME Consulting Limited 's Client, and is subject to and issued in connection with the provisions of the agreement between BiOME Consulting Limited and its Client. BiOME Consulting Limited accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for or in respect of any use of or reliance upon this report by any third party.

CIEEM REGISTERED PRACTICE 2021-2022

Document History and Status

Version	Date	Reviewed By	Approved By	Date	Comment
1	14/12/2021	MO			Draft
2	14/11/2021	MO	MO	14/12/2021	Final

Author	Richard Moores
Project Manager	Richard Moores
Client	Darren Mitchell
Name of Project	The Challenge, Childersgate, Sutton St James, Lincolnshire
Name of Document	Ecological Enhancement Plan
Document Version	2
Document Status	Final

Contents

1. Introduction 1
2. Proposed Works 2
3. Baseline Ecological Conditions 4
   - 3.1. Existing Information 4
   - 3.2. Site Survey 4
     - 3.2.1. Habitats 4
     - 3.2.2. Species 6
4. Ecological Enhancement Measures 7
   - 4.1. Bats 7
   - 4.2. Birds 7
   - 4.3. Hedgerows 9

1. Introduction

BiOME Consulting Ltd was commissioned by Ian H Bix Associates Ltd (on behalf of the site owner, Darren Mitchell) in December 2021 to produce an Ecological Enhancement Plan in relation to proposed works at The Challenge, Childersgate, Sutton St James, Lincolnshire ('the site'). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF408194 (**Figure 1**).

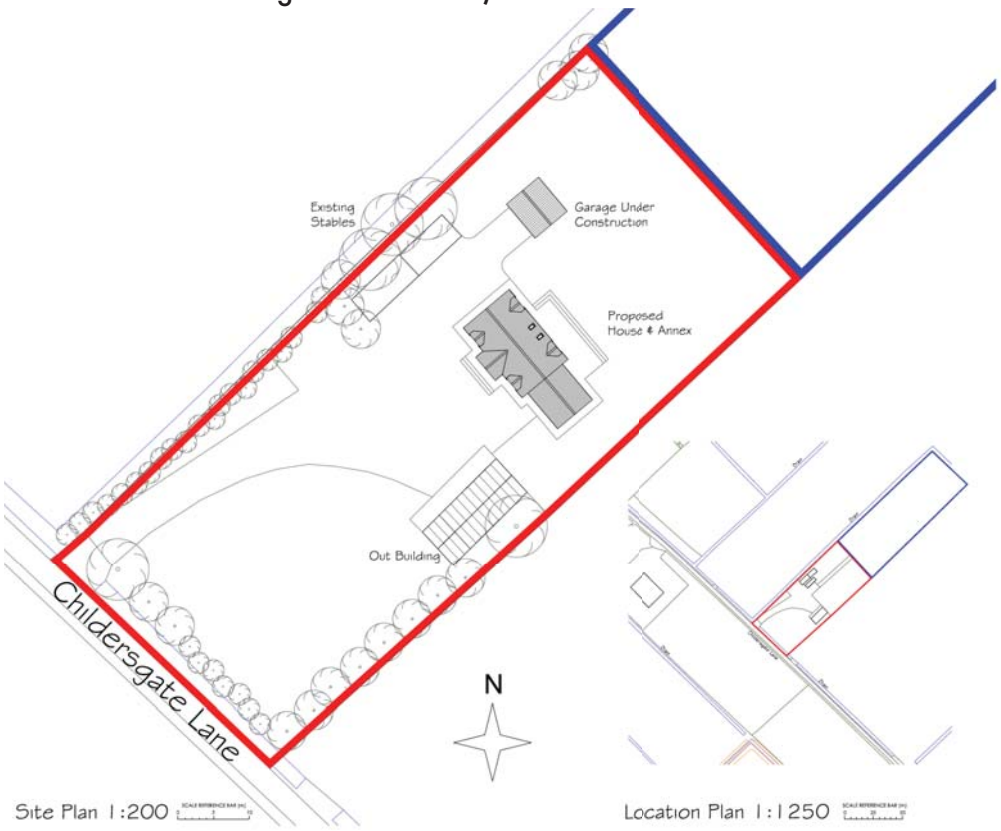
Figure 1. Site location plan



2. Proposed Works

South Holland District Council has granted planning permission for the *'proposed erection of dwelling with attached annex (part retrospective)'* (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2. Proposed site layout and location plan (reproduced from Ian H Bix Associates Ltd drawing no. 2415-00A)



Condition 11 of this permission is as follows:

"11. Before the commencement of the development hereby permitted beyond oversite full details of ecological biodiversity measures to be installed in conjunction with the development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The measures shall be constructed and retained in accordance with the details so approved.

Note: Development can incorporate a number of simple, low-cost measures to deliver biodiversity benefits and enhance priority habitats and species, such as, the use of bat and barn owl roost boxes and integrating nesting opportunities into buildings. The use of swift bricks on new developments would help minimise the decline in swifts, a priority species.

Reason: To ensure that the development is able to deliver a net gain in biodiversity.
This condition is imposed in accordance with Policy 28 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019 and national guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, 2021."

The purpose of this report is to satisfy the requirements of Condition 11.

3. Baseline Ecological Conditions

3.1. Existing Information

It is understood that no ecological survey work was completed prior to planning permission being granted.

3.2. Site Survey

A site survey to establish baseline ecological conditions was completed on 6 December 2021. This was completed in suitable weather conditions by Richard Moores BSc (Hons) MCIEEM[1].

3.2.1. Habitats

The site (**Photographs 1 & 2**) comprised of heavily modified habitats, with large areas of amenity grassland lawns (including occasional thistles *Cirsium* spp., Daisy *Bellis perennis*, clovers *Trifoloium* spp., nettles *Urtica* spp., Herb-robert *Geranium robertianum*, and Cleavers *Galium aparine*), a wooden stable block, caravan, horse box, lorries, breeze-block/brick outbuilding, new garage base and an area of plantings in southwest corner.

The site was surrounded by post and rail fencing, with hedgerows outside of this fencing along the southwestern, southeastern and northwestern boundaries. The southwestern site boundary (adjacent to Childersgate Lane) hedgerow was defunct, with immature trees including Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Dog-rose *Rosa canina* and Elder *Sambucus nigra along with* bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. The northwestern site boundary hedge was also defunct and was dominated by Hawthorn with occasional Dog-rose and bramble, with a dry ditch beyond. The southwestern half of the southeastern hedgerow comprised semi-mature Leyland Cypress *Leylandii x cupressus* with the northeastern half comprised of tall ruderal vegetation including Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, thistles,

1 Norfolk Mammal and Bat Recorder. Consultant Ecologist for 21 years.

bramble and a small Elder bush with a number of tree stumps that are proposed for removal.

Photograph 1. Site, looking southwest from northeast corner (showing base of proposed garage and existing stables)



Photograph 2. Site, looking north from southeast corner



The site was surrounded arable farmland on three sides, with paddocks to the northeast.

3.2.2. Species

No evidence of any legally protected species was recorded wihin the site and there appeared to be very limited potential for such species to be present at any time based on the habitats present. It is considered possible that occasional Badgers *Meles meles* could use the site for foraging, although no evidence of this species was observed. The site is also likely to be used by small numbers of foraging bats, likely common species. Optimal bat roosting sites were absent.

A small number of bird species were recorded in the area: Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*, Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*, Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*, Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* and Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. The site is likely to be used by small numbers of common bird species for nesting.

4. Ecological Enhancement Measures

4.1. Bats

Two Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'C' (**Plate 1**) will be built into the new dwelling. The inside of the box is designed to create several roosting zones which are ideal for crevice dwelling bats such as pipistrelle sp.. The bottom entrance means that no maintenance is required as droppings simply fall out the base. They will be built into the new dwelling as high as possible, towards the eaves with a clear flight path in and out.

Plate 1. Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'C'



4.2. Birds

Nesting opportunities will be incorporated into the new dwelling as well as in other locations throughout the site.

Swift Apus apus

Three Swift bricks (**Plate 2**) will be integrated into the new dwelling. These will be built-in as high as possible towards the eaves with a clear flight path in and out.

Plate 2. Swift brick (example)



Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

A single Barn Owl box (**Plate 3**) will be erected on the southeastern side of one of the semi-mature Leyland Cypress trees that form the southwestern half of the southeastern boundary. This position would limit any potential disturbance issues. This box must only be checked by licenced persons, if required.

Plate 3. Barn Owl box (example)



Other birds

Two boxes suitable for tits etc. (**Plate 4**) will be erected around the site boundaries.

Plate 4. Tit-style box (example)



All boxes will remain in place for perpetuity.

4.3. Hedgerows

It is recommended that defunct boundary hedgerows are 'improved', with any gaps planted up with typical hedgerow species such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Elder and Hazel *Corylus avellana*. The species used should be native and of local provenance.