

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TEAM (NET)

BIODIVERSITY PLAN

- This form is not valid without an official correlated & current NET signed Certificate of Approval
- This form is solely for use for planning applications falling under the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol.
- Form must be completed in full – **DO NOT AMEND OR REMOVE ANY SECTIONS. FORMS SUBMITTED WITH SECTIONS DELETED WILL BE RETURNED.**

Section A: Planning Application Details

Planning authority	Planning Officer (if known)	Application number (if known)	OUTLINE	FULL	HYBRID	NET USE ONLY Planning decision
DORSET COUNCIL			X			

Proposed development (please state area in hectares where appropriate)

The proposed development is to build 72 new dwellings on the site. Site = 5.24ha.

Number of new units	72	Grid reference	ST 78603 19026			
Site address	Land off Crown Road, Marnhull		Post code	DT10 1LN		
Ecological consultant	Katie Pollard	Ecological consultancy	KP Ecology Ltd			

Section B: Details of Biodiversity Features Affected - None

Protected species / BAP interests	Habitat feature (e.g. sett, pond, hedgerow, roof void, tree roost)	Type of bat roost (e.g. maternity, summer, hibernation, historic)	Population estimate and status (High, Medium, Low or Unknown)
Hedgerow	Boundary hedge	N/A	Loss of 30m
Common lizard	Hedge/Field Margins	N/A	Low - two observed during Phase 1 Survey
Trees	Potential Bat Roost Features (PRFs)	Unknown	Three trees with PRFs
Bats	Hedgerow - commuting and foraging	N/A	Bat records available from DERC
Nesting Birds	Hedges, scrub	Unknown	Unknown
Badgers	Woodland - commuting only. No setts	N/A	Low
Bird's foot trefoil	Floral species - Dorset Notable	N/A	Low

Please tick or place a X in the following boxes:

Worst case scenario for bats	YES		NO	X	DERC search	YES	X	NO		N / A	SNCI (within 1km)	YES		NO	X
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WCS FOR BATS ONLY justification statement: state level of impact and level of potential. Outline implications from delay for the application.

Summary of survey findings: include / or roost description and date of survey(s)

Figure 1. Survey Area



Key: — - Garden hedges (with ruderal species on the W boundary) and a Leylandii hedge to the E.

- Field A is semi-improved grassland, dominated by soft brome and likely to have been agriculturally improved at some point. Cut as hay. It is bordered by a species-rich hedge T4 which has, for several 30m sections of its length, between 7 and 9 woody species. This hedge qualifies as an important hedge under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. The boundary between this field (Field A) and Field B has pockets of Bramble and Hawthorn scrub with Cow parsley and Nettle T1 and includes two mature Sycamore trees, T2 towards its western end.
- Field B is similar to A although there are drier pockets with Red fescue dominant in patches and generally species-poor, but overall semi-improved. However, there were a few small locations indicating unimproved grassland with Bird's foot trefoil, a Dorset notable, growing around dry scrubby edges near the boundary with Field C. At the southern end of the field it becomes increasingly dominated by nutrient-demanding species including Nettle, Cleavers and False-oat grass. There is also an area of scrub to the far south close to Crown Road which surrounds what appears to be a former quarry. There are mature Sycamore trees and dense vegetation indicative of young secondary woodland following disturbance and Buddleia has colonised more open areas between the scrub and open grassland.
- Field C is drier than the other two fields and has pockets of unimproved grassland with abundant Bulbous buttercup indicating lower nutrients present in the soil than in Field A. It has a species-rich hedgerow T5 running along the eastern side which has a maximum of 10 woody species. This hedge qualifies as an important hedge under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- Hedges - All hedgerows are Priority Habitats under Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Communities Act 2006 and as such will be protected and enhanced. Bats, birds, reptiles, insects and reptiles and amphibians all use hedges to forage, commute and shelter.
- Trees - There are three mature Sycamore trees on site, with medium-high bat roost potential.

T1- Small areas of hawthorn scrub which follows a line between A and B. Good breeding bird habitat with amber-listed Dunnock *Prunella modularis* observed.

T2 - Two mature Sycamore trees which both have medium-high bat potential with several cavities which have potential bat roost features (PRFs).

T3 - Appears to be a regularly used mammal run, possibly badger, as they are present in the area over the other side of Sodom Lane (pers. comm.)

T4 - A length of c.230m of native hedgerow, with nine woody species. This hedge has the potential to support dormice.

T5 - A length of c.270m of native hedgerow, with 10 woody species, which mostly runs alongside Tanzey Lane, with a short section along Crown Road. Common lizard observed, confirming presence of protected reptiles on site. This hedge also has the potential to support dormice.

T6 - A small patch of scrub with bramble and hawthorn with anthills and dry grassland with Bird's foot trefoil, Germander speedwell and drier grassland. Common lizard also observed, confirming presence of protected reptiles on site.

T7 - A mature Sycamore tree with high bat potential with several PRF's.

T8 - Secondary woodland and scrub around a former quarry next to Crown Road. There was no sign of any badger sett within the woodland area to the south of the site, neither was there any evidence that badgers were using the dense bramble alongside the edge of what was a former quarry.

T9 - Very large mature Sycamore with several PRF's.

T10 - There was evidence of foraging by badgers with 'snuffle' holes in the SW corner of Field B. Also pathways running through meadow and into brambles.

Summary

The site is semi-improved to locally unimproved pasture, with c. 500m of mature hedgerows around the road boundaries. There is also a small area of secondary broadleaf woodland and scrub surrounding what appears to be part of a small quarry to the S of the site near Crown Road. It is likely protected species are using this site, ie, nesting birds, bats, badgers and reptiles, but the suitable habitats for these species are the hedges and boundaries, which will be both protected and enhanced. Suitable mitigation and enhancement for all species has been provided to protect these areas.

Data searches

MAGIC - The site is within 1km of Blackmore Vale Commons and Moors Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI).

DERC - DERC data search - A data search for protected and priority species within 2km of the site was commissioned. The following records are on the DERC database;

- Sites - Todbar Copse Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland.
- Mammals (bats) - Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* (2015 - 4 records), Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (205 - 2012 - 13 records), Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (2011 - 2015 - 5 records), Pipistrelle species *Pipistrellus sp.*, Brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus* (2008 - 2015 - 3 records), Long-eared species *Plecotus sp.*
- Reptiles - Slow worm *Anguis fragilis* (2014 - 3 records), Grass snake *Natrix natrix* (2012 - 4 records), Egg/ovum Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (2008 - 2010 - 19 records).
- Mammals (not bats) - West European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* (2005 - 2009 - 5 records), European otter *Lutra lutra* records (2007 - 2010 - 7 records), Eurasian badger *Meles meles* (2005 - 2015 - 7 records).

Section C: BATS ONLY: Existing Bat Roost / Feature - Hedgerows

Roost type e.g. roof void, cavity, tree	Medium/high bat roost potential in three Sycamore trees on site. All trees to remain.			Foraging/commuting habitat	YES	X	NO	
Roost dimensions (m)	Void width		Void length		Void height (at apex)			
Roof aspect	N / S		NE / SW		E / W		SE / NW	

Section D: BATS ONLY: MITIGATION ONLY Summary (Please detail NET GAIN in Section H)

TYPE OF MITIGATION - Lighting scheme

Permanent replacement		Modified roost		Temporary replacement roost		Bat boxes / bricks	
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TIMING OF WORKS TO ROOST (Please specify when works will take place by calendar month) - N/A

When works to existing roost can take place	
Completion of temporary roost provision (if applicable)	
Completion of permanent roost (if applicable)	

EPS Licence required PLEASE TICK OR X RELEVANT BOX.		YES		NO	X	Low impact class licence required		YES	NO	X
DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVE TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT ROOST. INCLUDE: POSITION E.G. EXISTING BUILDING, NEW STRUCTURE, TREE - N/A										
Temporary roost type e.g. bat box										
Temporary roost void dimensions(m)	Void width		Void length				Void height (at apex)			
Roof aspect	N / S		NE / SW			E / W		SE / NW		
Make of bat box			Number		Position					
DETAILS OF PERMANENT ROOST - N/A										
Replacement roost type e.g. roof void, bat box										
Replacement roost void dimensions(m)	Void width		Void length				Void height (at apex)			
Roof aspect	N / S		NE / SW			E / W		SE / NW		
Make of bat box / brick to be installed			Number		Make of bat box / brick to be installed			Number		
DETAILS OF MITIGATION ONLY – INCLUDE FORAGING HABITAT, METHOD STATEMENT, MONITORING/ COMPLIANCE & DESCRIPTION OF BAT ROOST FEATURES. INCLUDE: A PLAN SHOWING LOCATIONS OF ACCESS POINT(S), BAT BRICKS/BOXES, INTERNAL ROOSTING FEATURES. ENSURE MEASURABLE NET GAIN IS PLACED IN SECTION H.										
<p>Lighting mitigation will be approved by the LPA and will include the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the presence of hedges and tree-lines on the boundaries of the site and the probable use of these features by bats, there will be no artificial lighting of the boundaries and no lighting from the new houses will be directed onto the boundary vegetation. The lighting scheme will be agreed with the ecologist and the LPA. The buffer zone will also act as an unlit corridor for foraging bats. 										

Lighting used within the development will therefore adhere to the latest guidance from Bat Conservation Trust. Currently this is Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting. Bats & the Built Environment Series 2018, but the requirements may be subject to change and therefore need to be agreed with the LPA.

Currently: a) Lighting levels within five metres of the W boundary will not exceed one lux to create a dark buffer zone, b) Low pressure sodium lighting will be used and light levels will be kept as low as possible (between 1 and 3 lux), c) Lighting will be directed to where it is needed (away from boundaries through the design of the luminaire and by using accessories such as cowls or hoods, d) Lights will not be on constantly throughout the night creating dark periods to allow bats to continue foraging without light spill affecting them, e) Light sources should emit minimal ultra-violet light, peak higher than 550nm and be of a warm/neutral colour <4,200 kelvin.

NB. Should bat transects be required they will be undertaken between May and August. The proposed mitigation/enhancements will be the same ie, ecologist has assumed bats using site to forage/commute given the records received from DERC.

Section E: Other Protected Species (NOT BATS): Mitigation ONLY Summary

(Detail NET GAIN in Section H ONLY) - N/A

TYPE OF MITIGATION

Avoidance of harm through best practice	X	Measures to deter individuals from location	X	Capture and translocation of individuals			
Controlled destruction of place of shelter / breeding site	X	Replacement of place of shelter / breeding site	X	Habitat enhancement measures	X		
EPS/NE Licence required PLEASE TICK OR X RELEVANT BOX.	YES	NO	X	Low impact class licence required	YES	NO	X

Section F: Other Protected Species (NOT BATS) & Habitats: Mitigation & Method Statement

(Detail NET GAIN in Section H ONLY)

List and quantify all mitigation features that *must* be applied to mitigate impacts to protected species and habitats and that will form a permanent part of the new development (e.g. number of bird boxes, length of native hedge planting, number or area of ponds). **Ensure long-term management plans for habitats such as hedgerows are referenced here.**

1. Hedges and Field Margins

- A minimum of 150m of new hedge will be planted around the boundaries of the site. Species will be native and will include at least five woody native species, to include; Hawthorn, Guelder rose, Dog rose, Field maple, Oak, Hazel, Dogwood, Blackthorn.
- To ensure that there are no adverse impacts to the retained hedges and field margins during construction, ground protection and fencing will mark a 3m buffer zone along the existing hedges and field margins on the boundaries of the site (on Sodom Lane, Tanzey Lane & Crown Road). This will require a specification and plan showing the extent and positioning of protective measures including ground protection and fencing. A hedgerow management plan for the existing and new hedgerow will be produced and agreed with Local Planning Authority following finalisation of the plans.
- On completion of construction, the protective fencing will be removed and replaced with post and wire fencing. This will ensure buffer zone (field margin) will be retained. This post and wire fencing will be across the bottom of the new gardens.

- The area with the Bird's foot trefoil (T6) will be included in the buffer zone and will be retained on site.
- The 30m section of hedge to be removed for access into the site, can only be taken out outside of bird nesting season* (*1st March - 31st August).

2. Grassland

- The grassland on site covers the whole site, with the exception of the wooded area on the southern boundary of the site (0.27ha). The total area of grassland is 4.97ha. The grassland to be retained on site will be 1.34ha, with a further 0.13ha with the 3m grassland buffer alongside the hedges on Tanzy, Sodom and Crown Lanes. Total of 1.47ha.
- In total 3.5ha of semi-improved and unimproved grassland will be lost to the development. One of the county ecologists has advised (pers. comm.) that compensation will be required for loss of grassland, which is based on the Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) Dorset Notable Plant list (updated 2012) for grasslands and related vegetation which includes other 'indicator' species. On this site, there is one Dorset Notable plant species, Common birds-foot trefoil, which was found occasionally along the margins in Field B and three 'indicator' species. These were; Meadow vetchling - found occasionally in hedges & along fences, whilst Common sorrel and Germander speedwell were found frequently in all fields, particularly alongside the hedges. Therefore all four of these species will be included in the 3m buffer zone and will therefore be retained on the site.

3. Woodland Area (T8)

This area will be protected by fencing off the whole area using ground protection and HERAS fencing during construction, to ensure no vehicles, materials or equipment are stored in this area. Post-construction this area will be retained (0.27ha), as a wildlife area for badgers, birds and reptiles.

4. Trees

- The three Sycamore trees on the site with potential roost features (PRFs), ie, splits, cracks, holes, along one or more of their limbs, will be fenced off to ensure their root protection zones (RPZs) are not damaged during construction using protective Heras fencing to comply with BS 5837:2012. Should any work be carried out to these trees in the future a tree climbing bat survey with an endoscope will be required to ascertain whether the trees are being used by bats to roost. No work, including pruning can be carried out without this climbing survey.
- There are Sycamore trees in the secondary woodland area, to be retained. Should any work be carried out to these trees in the future a tree climbing bat survey with an endoscope will be required to ascertain whether the trees are being used by bats to roost. No work, including pruning can be carried out without this climbing survey.

5. Vegetation

No part of the hedgerow or any scrub habitat is to be removed during bird nesting season (1st March - 31st August), unless otherwise agreed with the ecologist.

6. Badgers

- The retention of the existing hedges and 3m field margins along the Sodom Lane, Tanzy Lane and Crown Road, with new hedge planting along the boundaries, incl. with the houses on the W of the site and a 3m field margin, will provide a corridor for badgers to move through the site.
- The woodland area to the S of the site will be protected during development and retained on the site following completion of work. This area is 0.27ha.
- A plank of wood/scaffold will be put into the foundations every night, in order for any badgers/wildlife on site to be able to get out, should they fall in.

7. Reptiles

To encourage any reptiles in the field to move away from the development area naturally, the habitat within the development area will be made unsuitable for reptiles by strimming the field (and leaving a 3m buffer strip along the existing hedges). This will be undertaken in a directional method to encourage any reptiles into the hedgerows and the retained field margins along Sodom Lane, Tanzy Lane and Crown Road. This habitat degradation technique will be carried out under the supervision of an ecologist. Once the vegetation within the field is short, it will be kept short at all times prior to commencement of construction.

8. Photographic evidence of the completed mitigation measures will be required and will be sent to the ecologist and to the Natural Environment Team at net@dorsetcc.gov.uk

9. The consultant will supply the applicant with the information required to enable the Planning Authority to discharge the biodiversity condition.

Section G: Off-site Compensation (N.B. Off-site measures will not be covered by planning condition)

Residual biodiversity losses may occur due to loss of nesting habitat, rough grasslands, hedgerows etc. and maybe addressed by an appropriate funding contribution or equivalent measures on another site.

After on-site mitigation will the scheme result in a residual loss to biodiversity?

NB. If 'yes' summarise additional off-site compensation measures below.

YES

X

NO

DCC NET Dorset Compensation Framework Assessment from Lyn Cooch, Natural Environment Team Grassland Compensation

- KP Ecology Ltd has identified a residual loss of local interest grassland of 3.5 ha.
- Mitigation - enhancement. Some grassland areas on site; margins, SUDS and area of POS will be enhanced to improve its species diversity through changing grassland management/restoration techniques.
- Grassland of local interest to be enhanced = 1.47 ha
- These enhanced areas will reduce the residual loss of grassland requiring compensation to 2.03 ha

Habitat to be compensated:

Compensatory habitat required using Framework metrics

Grassland of local interest

Area = 2.03 ha Justification: Area to be lost

Risk = 1.5 Justification: Medium risk for creation of lowland meadow/pasture.

Spatial = 2 Justification: Compensation habitat to be delivered on unspecified site through Dorset Biodiversity Partnership.

Time = 1.4 Justification: 10-year minimum period for creating grassland of local interest.

Compensation required = $2.03 \times 1.5 \times 2 \times 1.4 = 8.526$ ha

Calculation of Equivalent Compensation Funding

Biodiversity compensation cost for capital cost and 30 years discounted (3% p.a. discount) maintenance cost for lowland meadow/pasture grassland is £5305

$8.526 \text{ ha} \times £5521 = £ 45,230$

TOTAL COMPENSATION BASED ON CURRENT FIGURES £ 45,230

Section H: Net gain ONLY Measures (ALL SPECIES)

Summarise the measures to be secured in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework and Section 40 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006. **DO NOT INCLUDE MITIGATION IN THIS SECTION.**

1. Hedges - Enrichment planting using native species of shrubs along the boundaries, and at least 10% native fruit trees will be used to bolster the screening and improve the hedgerow habitat on site for invertebrates, birds and bats. Species will include; Blackthorn, Dog rose, Holly, Hawthorn, Dogwood, Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, Beech and Ash. Hedgerow enhancement will be agreed with the ecologist and the Local Planning Authority. A minimum of 50m will be planted.
2. Field Margins - The field margins along the new hedges will be over-sown with Germinal seed mix (WFG18 Butterfly and Honeybee and A19 All Purpose Landscaping mix) and will be 3m wide, to act as a buffer/corridor for wildlife.
3. Reptiles - A hibernacula will be constructed in the wooded area of the site, to the S.. The area is 0.27ha. Additional scrub planting of native species will be included to provide cover for reptiles. Exact location will be agreed with the ecologist.
4. Bat Boxes - Approx. 50% of houses around the boundaries of the site will have bat boxes built integrally into either the S or W facing elevations. Exact positions will be agreed with the ecologist.
5. Bee Bricks - Approx. 20% of houses will have bee bricks installed. Exact positions will be agreed with the ecologist.
6. Bird Boxes - The provision of five Schwegler 1B bird boxes and three Schwegler 1N nest boxes will be installed on mature trees on the site after landscaping is completed. Exact location will be agreed with the ecologist.
7. Photographic evidence of the completed enhancement measures will be required and will be sent to the ecologist and to the Natural Environment Team at net@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Section I: Include an annotated illustrative masterplan for all residential developments / plan drawings for householder applications. Make sure that ecological features, mitigation and enhancements are clearly indicated.

Figure 2. Proposed Site Layout



Section J: Specify compliance measure(s) WHICH MUST BE EVIDENCED AND SUPPLIED TO THE NET.

<p>Tick here for cases requiring an EPS licence or of an area greater than 0.1ha for a post construction compliance visit and report to be sent to the NET.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Tick here for simple cases where photographic evidence of the completed mitigation / enhancement measures is appropriate.</p>	
<p>Does the development fall between 400m-5km of the Dorset Heaths SAC /Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>X</p>

Section K: Declaration (To be completed by applicant/agent/ecological consultant PRIOR TO SUBMISSION)

NB. THIS FORM IS NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED BY ALL PARTIES AS SET OUT BELOW

I hereby confirm that the measures set out in this BP will be completed in full including where stated above an application for an EPS/NE/Low Impact Class Licence.

Name of APPLICANT/AGENT	Mr Adam Bennett (Agent) Ken Parke Planning Consultants		14/10/2020
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OR The applicant will comply with the measures set out in this BP and complete them in full.

Name of ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANT		Signed		Date
NET signature		Date		

- **This form is solely for use under the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol.**
- **Read the published guidance for completing BP forms and ensure it is FULLY complied with.**
- Visit www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk to read the guidance documents.
- Ensure **ALL** BPs are submitted with ecology reports (unless agreed otherwise with the Natural Environment Team **prior** to submission) to net@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
- Expand boxes above or use a continuation sheet. Ensure **ALL** continuation sheets are clearly referenced to the BP.
- Payment **MUST** be made with submission. For charges & payment methods visit www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
- Certificates will be issued using the date of the signature.
- Compliance (Section J) is for NET information only and must not be relied upon for the discharge of planning conditions.
- **The Applicant and not the Ecological Consultant is responsible for complying with the measures set out in this BP and for completing them in full.**
- Where ecological consultants sign this form on behalf of the applicant, the applicant is not obliged to engage that consultant for further work.
- Data submitted may be extracted by Dorset Environmental Records Centre.