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SOLAR SAVINGS 4U LTD.

LAND ADJACENT 8 OLIVIA ROAD, BRAMPTON

BIODIVERSITY METHOD STATEMENT (BMS)

FEBRUARY 2025

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DATE ISSUED:	**FEBRUARY 2025**
JOB NUMBER:	**BE11199**
REPORT NUMBER:	**01**
VERSION:	**V0.1**
STATUS:	**FINAL**

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FEBRUARY 2025

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APPENDIX 1 Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Locations Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong was commissioned by Solar Savings 4U Ltd. to produce a Biodiversity Method Statement (BMS), to British Standard BS42020, to satisfy Condition 10 of the Planning Permission 23/00787/FUL, for the proposed development located at the land adjacent 8 Olivia Road, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE284RP, grid reference TL 203 710.

Condition 10 of the Planning Permission 23/00787/FUL is as follows:

> *No development above slab level shall take place until a Biodiversity Method Statement which provides details of how the recommendations contained in the Preliminary Ecology Appraisal by Adonis Ecology Limited dated 30th January 2023 will be carried out has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The details shall include but not be limited to; specification, location, timing, an implementation programme, maintenance, and monitoring. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

The biodiversity mitigation measures on site will consist of the clearance of shrubs outside of the bird nesting season to avoid disturbance to potential nesting birds, alongside general precautions to prevent risk of harm to badgers and any other small animals that may occasionally be present on the site.

The biodiversity enhancements on site will consist of four bird boxes and species rich lawn planting. Full details of these measures are outlined within this report.

With this Biodiversity Method Statement implemented as detailed, appropriate mitigation measures and enhancement features that will benefit the local wildlife will have been provided on the site with the proposed development. The described management should be adhered to in order to maintain the created enhancement features for the future.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong was commissioned by Solar Savings 4U Ltd. to produce a Biodiversity Method Statement (BMS), to British Standard BS42020, to satisfy Condition 10 of the Planning Permission 23/00787/FUL, for the proposed development located at the land adjacent 8 Olivia Road, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE284RP, grid reference TL 203 710.

1.1.2 It was understood that it is proposed to build a single residential dwelling with associated parking and garden areas.

1.1.3 Condition 10 of the Planning Permission 23/00787/FUL is as follows:

No development above slab level shall take place until a Biodiversity Method Statement which provides details of how the recommendations contained in the Preliminary Ecology Appraisal by Adonis Ecology Limited dated 30th January 2023 will be carried out has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The details shall include but not be limited to; specification, location, timing, an implementation programme, maintenance, and monitoring. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

1.1.4 This statement outlines the biodiversity mitigation measures and ecological enhancements, as recommended within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Adonis Ecology Ltd (2023), for the site to meet the above condition, as well as a timescale for implementation and future management.

1.1.5 The site owner will be responsible for implementing the enhancement measures on the site during the construction works.

1.1.6 The management and maintenance of the enhancement features will be the responsibility of the future site owner.

2 ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT

2.1 Purpose and Conservation Objectives

2.1.1 The purpose of this BMS is to ensure that the proposed development provides biodiversity mitigation and enhancements suitable for species within the local area.

2.1.2 The conservation objective is to mitigate any potential risk of impact on species which may occur on site and to provide increased potential for wildlife to shelter on site. This can be achieved through provision of bird boxes and species rich lawn planting to improve the suitability of the site for birds and invertebrates.

2.1.3 The species targeted were chosen based upon:

- conservation status;
- likely occurrence in the local area;
- suitability of habitats on and immediately surrounding the site.

2.2 Mitigation Measures

Common Nesting Birds

2.2.1 To prevent risk of harm to active bird nests, any cutting back of the trees or shrubs on site is to be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (taken to be March to the end of September).

2.2.2 Where this is not possible, trees or shrubs to be cut back are to be checked by an ecologist for active bird nests no more than seven days before works begin. If an active bird nest was found, then the nest must remain undisturbed until an ecologist confirms the birds have finished nesting.

General Precautions

2.2.3 To prevent risk of harm to badgers and any other small animals that may occasionally be present on the site, the following general precautions are to be undertaken:

- any trenches or holes which will be left overnight are to be either be fully covered, or have a wooden plank placed in them in such a way that any wildlife that falls in can climb out safely. Alternatively, one end of the trench is to be sloped or stepped to allow animals to climb out;
- materials brought to the site for the construction works are to be kept off the ground on pallets, so as to prevent small animals seeking refuge within them and coming into harm's way;

- rubbish and waste is to be removed off site immediately or placed in a skip, to prevent small animals using the waste as a refuge, and thus coming into harm's way.

2.3 Enhancement Features

Bird Boxes

2.3.1 The addition of at least four bird boxes in appropriate areas on the new residential building or retained trees would benefit nesting birds by significantly increasing the nesting potential on site. The boxes are to be positioned out of the reach of predatory cats, not be south facing, and not be in direct sunlight, to avoid nestlings overheating and dying. Installing mainly integrated boxes within the masonry of the new residential building will ensure the boxes are not removed by future tenants and thereby ensures their long-term survival. The recommended choice of boxes is to include the following:

- Two 'S' Brick boxes from Action for Swifts suitable for swifts *Apus apus* and Section 41 species house sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Swifts are colonial nesters so the two bricks are to be integrated into the masonry of the new residential unit, positioned close together, under soffits or eaves, at least 5m above the ground with no obstructions present in the flight path leading up to the box.
- One Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace for the red-listed BoCC and Section 41 species house sparrow *Passer domesticus*. This box consists of three individual nesting spaces which is ideal for sparrows as they are colonial nesters. The nest box is to be positioned at least 2m above ground and to be built into the masonry of the new residential unit.
- One Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box, suitable for blue tits *Cyanistes caeruleus*, great tits *Parus major*, coal tits *Periparus ater*, crested tits *Lophophanes cristatus*, nuthatches *Sitta europaea*, pied flycatchers *Ficedula hypoleuca*, tree sparrows *Passer montanus* and house sparrows *Passer domesticus*. The box is to be installed firmly (not allowed to swing) between 1.5-3m high on a retained tree in the southeast corner of the site.

2.3.2 The recommended proposed locations for the bird boxes can be seen on the Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Locations Plan in Appendix 1.

2.3.3 Alternative bird nest boxes could be used but these must be confirmed for suitability by an ecologist in writing.

Species Rich Lawn Planting

2.3.4 Any area of the site which is to be laid to lawn is to be sown with a species rich lawn mixture to become a low-maintenance amenity lawn. This will provide a valuable resource for bees and other insects, which in turn provides food for other wildlife such as bats and nesting birds. Pausing the mowing of the lawns in May and June to allow the wildflowers to bloom will be of particular value to invertebrates and other wildlife.

2.3.5 EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture from Emorsgate seeds is recommended as it will create a slow growing grass lawn with flowering species that tolerate regular mowing. EL1 comprises of 20% wildflowers and 80% meadow grasses. Full composition of species can be seen on the Emorsgate website (other seed mixes of a similar composition can be used as an alternative but must be approved in writing by an ecologist prior to planting).

2.3.6 Sowing and maintenance is to follow the Emorsgate guidance to ensure efficient habitat creation and upkeep is maintained in the future. This is outlined within the management plan in section 2.3 below.

2.3.7 The locations of the species rich lawn can be seen on the Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Locations Plan in Appendix 1.

2.4 Management Plan

2.4.1 Table 2 below provides a summary of enhancements as well as management prescriptions that will be undertaken on site, with planned timescales and any subsequent requirements:

Table 2: Summary and Timings of Ecological Enhancements and Management Procedures for Land Adjacent 8 Olivia Road Brampton.

Month	Years	Task	Notes
Enhancement			
Any	1	Installation of bird boxes.	To be installed following manufacturer's instructions during construction. Locations as in Appendix 1.
Autumn or spring	1	Creation of species rich lawn.	Surface sown by machine or hand, as per producers' guidance.
Habitat Management			
October to February	2-5	Check bird boxes.	Replace lost or damaged boxes only if not occupied, or with a suitable licence holder present.

Any	2-5	Management of species rich lawn.	Mow regularly during the first year to establish a good sward structure. Mowing can be reduced during subsequent years and delayed late spring to allow flowers to bloom.

3 CONCLUSION

3.1.1 With this Biodiversity Method Statement implemented as detailed, appropriate mitigation measures and enhancement features that will benefit the local wildlife will have been provided on the site with the proposed development. The described management should be adhered to in order to maintain the created enhancement features for the future.

4 REFERENCES

Adonis Ecology Ltd. (2023). *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of Land Adjacent to 8 Olivia Road, Brampton, to Support a Planning Application.* Adonis Ecology Ltd., Sudbury.

British Standards Institute. (2013). *Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development*. BS 42020:2013.

Huntingdonshire District Council. (2023). *Planning Permission Application Reference: 23/00787/FUL*. Huntingdonshire District Council, Huntingdon.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Locations Plan.



Species Rich Lawn
Amenity lawn composed of 20% wildflowers and 80% meadow grasses, as indicated as GRASS on the Proposed Site Plan by Morton & Hall Consulting Limited. EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture from Emorsgate Seeds is to be used in these areas.

Key

- ‘S’ Swift Brick box
- Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace
- Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box

Background image adapted from “Existing Site Plan, Proposed Site Plan & Location Plan” produced by Morton & Hall Consulting Limited, Drawing No. H9354/00A, dated October 2024.

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