wardell-armstrong.com

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES
LAND AND PROPERTY
MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING
MINERAL ESTATES
WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



SOLAR SAVINGS 4U LTD.

LAND ADJACENT 63 HIGH STREET, OFFORD D'ARCY

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT SCHEME (BES)

FEBRUARY 2025

wardell armstrong | PART OF SLR

Wardell Armstrong
Armstrong House, Lamdin Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, United Kingdom, IP32 6NU
Telephone: +44 (0)1284 765 210 www.wardell-armstrong.com

DATE ISSUED:	**FEBRUARY 2025**
JOB NUMBER:	**BE11198**
REPORT NUMBER:	**01**
VERSION:	**V0.1**
STATUS:	**FINAL**

SOLAR SAVINGS 4U LTD.

LAND ADJACENT 63 HIGH STREET, OFFORD D'ARCY

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT SCHEME (BES)

FEBRUARY 2025

PREPARED BY:		
Lucie Howkins	Ecologist	
REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:		
Richard Sands	Technical Director (Ecology)	

This report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the Contract with the Client. The report is confidential to the Client and Wardell Armstrong LLP accepts no responsibility of whatever nature to third parties to whom this report may be made known.

No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior written approval of Wardell Armstrong LLP.

Wardell Armstrong is the trading name of Wardell Armstrong LLP, Registered in England No. OC307138.

Registered office: Sir Henry Doulton House, Forge Lane, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 5BD, United Kingdom

UK Offices: Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Bury St Edmunds, Cardiff, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Newcastle upon Tyne and Truro. International Office: Almaty

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1
1 INTRODUCTION 2
1.1 **Background** 2
2 ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT 3
2.1 **Purpose and Conservation Objectives** 3
2.2 **Enhancement Features** 3
Bat Boxes 3
Bird Boxes 4
Habitat Pile 5
Species-Rich Native Hedgerow Planting 5
Species Rich Lawn Planting 6
2.3 **Management Plan** 7
3 CONCLUSION 9
4 REFERENCES 10

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Locations Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong was commissioned by Solar Savings 4U Ltd. to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme (BES), to British Standard BS42020, to satisfy Condition 8 of the Planning Permission 22/02357/FUL, for the proposed development located at the land adjacent 63 High Street, Offord D Arcy, PE19 5RF, grid reference TL 219 662.

Condition 8 of the Planning Permission 22/02357/FUL is as follows:

> *No development above slab level shall take place until a detailed Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme 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 enhancements on site will consist of one bat box, three bird boxes, one bee brick, one insect nest box, one habitat pile, species rich native hedgerow planting and species rich lawn planting. Full details of these measures are outlined within this report.

With this Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme implemented as detailed in this report, appropriate enhancement measures for a variety of 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 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 Enhancement Strategy (BES), to British Standard BS42020, to satisfy Condition 8 of the planning application 22/02357/FUL, for the proposed development located at the land adjacent 63 High Street, Offord D Arcy, PE19 5RF, grid reference TL 219 662.

1.1.2 It was understood the proposed development will involve the construction of a single dwelling with associated parking and garden. It was further understood that the eastern and southern hedgerows are to be retained.

1.1.3 Condition 8 of the Planning Permission 22/02357/FUL is as follows:

No development above slab level shall take place until a detailed Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme 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 strategy outlines the ecological enhancements, as recommended within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Adonis Ecology Ltd (2022), 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 BES is to ensure that the proposed development provides ecological enhancements suitable for species which may occur in the local area.

2.1.2 The conservation objective is to provide increased potential for wildlife to shelter on the site, through provision of wildlife boxes and habitat features which may be suitable for invertebrates and many small animals, particularly small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

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 Enhancement Features

Bat Boxes

2.2.1 A single bat box is to be installed of a type that can potentially be used by a range of bat species throughout the year and is to be installed onto a structure on site.

2.2.2 It is recommended that one Schwegler 1FE Bat Box (fitted with optional back plate) is to be installed within the masonry of the new residential unit. This type of bat box is suitable for most common bat species and requires no maintenance. It should be noted that there are no diseases known to be associated with bat droppings. The bat box is to be positioned at a height of more than 4m above ground level, not above windows or doors, away from external lighting, and where there is a clear path of flight to the boxes, ideally close to unlit linear features in the form of lines of trees and hedgerows.

2.2.3 As bat roosts are protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended), and Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), should any internal checks of the bat boxes be required, for example in the event the box is damaged and requires replacement, but it cannot be confirmed from ground level that no bats are present in the box, this will only be carried out by a suitably licensed ecologist.

2.2.4 The recommended proposed location for the bat box can be seen on the Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Locations Plan in Appendix 1.

Bird Boxes

2.2.5 The addition of at least three bird boxes positioned in appropriate areas on the new residential building will benefit nesting birds. 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 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 are 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 be built into the masonry of the new residential unit.

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

Bee Bricks and Insect Nesting Aids

2.2.7 One Bee Brick is to be installed within the masonry of the new unit to be built, to create habitat for solitary bees. The Bee Brick is to be installed in a warm sunny spot on a south-facing wall at a minimum height of 1m. No vegetation is to be obstructing the holes, though bee-friendly plants, such as lavender *Lavandula sp.*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and buddleia *Buddleja davidii*, are to be planted nearby so that the bees using the bricks have food readily available.

2.2.8 One Schwegler Clay and Reed Insect Nest (or other type approved in writing by an ecologist if these are unavailable) is to be installed firmly (not allowed to swing) in a sheltered and sunny position on a tree or fence (above 2m), to benefit a variety of

native insects. These nests are designed to attract only insects harmless to humans and pets, including solitary bees which are useful pollinators.

2.2.9 The recommended proposed location for the bee brick and the insect nest box can be seen on the Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Locations Plan in Appendix 1.

2.2.10 Alternative bat, bird and insect nest boxes could be used but these must be confirmed for suitability by an ecologist in writing.

Habitat Pile

2.2.11 One habitat pile is to be created in the south-eastern corner of the site and comprise of vegetation and logs piled to a minimum height of 50cm, covering an area of at least 1m^2. This will provide potential hibernation sites for a variety of wildlife, including reptiles and hedgehogs. Vegetation and logs from site maintenance activities could continue to be added to the pile and used to create additional habitats. Allowing the log pile to naturally decay and break down will also create potential habitat for invertebrates, and in turn, food for birds and bats.

2.2.12 The recommended proposed location for the habitat pile can be seen on the Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Locations Plan in Appendix 1.

Species-Rich Native Hedgerow Planting

2.2.13 Native trees, shrubs and hedgerow present on site are to be retained where possible to enable them to continue providing habitat for birds and other wildlife.

2.2.14 The existing hedgerow along the southern boundary is to be retained and enhanced to include native plant species. New species-rich native hedgerow is to be planted along the western and northern site boundaries, with a minimum of six different species planted per 20m of hedgerow to create a species-rich hedgerow of high value to wildlife, with flowering, nectar-producing, and/or fruit and nut bearing species providing food and habitat sources all through the year, see Table 1 below for species composition. Approximately 70% of the hedgerow is to be made up of hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel and holly. The remaining 30% is to be made up of a variety of species to ensure the hedgerows will be species rich and benefit wildlife to the fullest.

Table 1: Recommended species composition of species-rich native hedgerow planting.			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Percentage of Hedgerow**	**Characteristics**
Plants throughout in hedgerow			
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	20%	Provides food for birds and mammals and help reduce cat predation
Blackthorn	*Prunus Spinosa*	20%	Provides food for birds and mammals and help reduce cat predation
Field maple	*Acer campestre*	10%	Seeds are eaten by small mammals
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*	10%	Provides autumn food for small mammals
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*	10%	Provides screening and refuge habitat all year round as well as berries
Plants in rotation every 20m hedgerow making up the remaining 30%			
Dogwood	*Cornus sanguinea*	5%	Provides berries which are eaten by wildlife
Guelder rose	*Viburnum opulus*	7.5%	Provides berries which are eaten by wildlife
Dog rose	*Rosa canina*	7.5%	Provides nectar for insects and hips for small mammals
Spindle	*Euonymus europaeus*	5%	The seeds are eaten by wildlife
Honeysuckle	*Lonicera periclymenum*	5%	Provides nectar sources for pollinators

2.2.15 If possible, plants of local provenance should be sourced, as these have a better chance of thriving. For bio-security purposes, only UK-grown species should be planted.

2.2.16 The recommended proposed locations for the new species-rich native hedgerow can be seen on the Proposed Biodiversity Enhancement Locations Plan in Appendix 1.

Species Rich Lawn Planting

2.2.17 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.

2.2.18 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).

2.2.19 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.

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

2.3 Management Plan

2.3.1 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 to 63 High Street, Offord D'arcy.

Month	Years	Task	Notes
Enhancement			
Any	1	Installation of bat box.	To be installed following manufacturer's instructions, during construction of the building. Location as in Appendix 1.
Any	1	Installation of bird boxes.	To be installed following manufacturer's instructions during construction of the building. Locations as in Appendix 1.
Any	1	Installation of bee brick and insect nesting aid.	To be installed following manufacturer's instructions during construction. Location as in Appendix 1.
Any	1	Creation of habitat pile.	Construct habitat pile using materials from site clearance where possible. Location as in Appendix 1.
November to February	1	Creation of species-rich native hedgerow.	To be planted either bare rooted or in pots and promptly watered generously.
Autumn or spring	1	Creation of species rich lawn.	Surface sown by machine or hand, as per producers' guidance.
Habitat Management			
April to September	2-5	Check habitat piles are still present annually.	Add tree prunings or logs to piles as necessary to maintain initial size.
October to February	2-5	Check integrated bat and bird boxes.	Replace lost or damaged boxes only if not occupied, or with a suitable licence holder present.

Table 2: Summary and Timings of Ecological Enhancements and Management Procedures for Land Adjacent to 63 High Street, Offord D'arcy.			
October to February	2-5	Check insect box.	Replace lost or damaged boxes or cut back vegetation to allow access if needed.
June to August	2-3	Native hedgerow management.	Keep earth around shrubs well-watered during dry spells in summer to ensure successful establishment. Replace any damaged shrubs.
Any	2-5	Lawn management	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 Enhancement Scheme implemented as detailed, appropriate enhancement measures for a variety of 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 features for the future.

4 REFERENCES

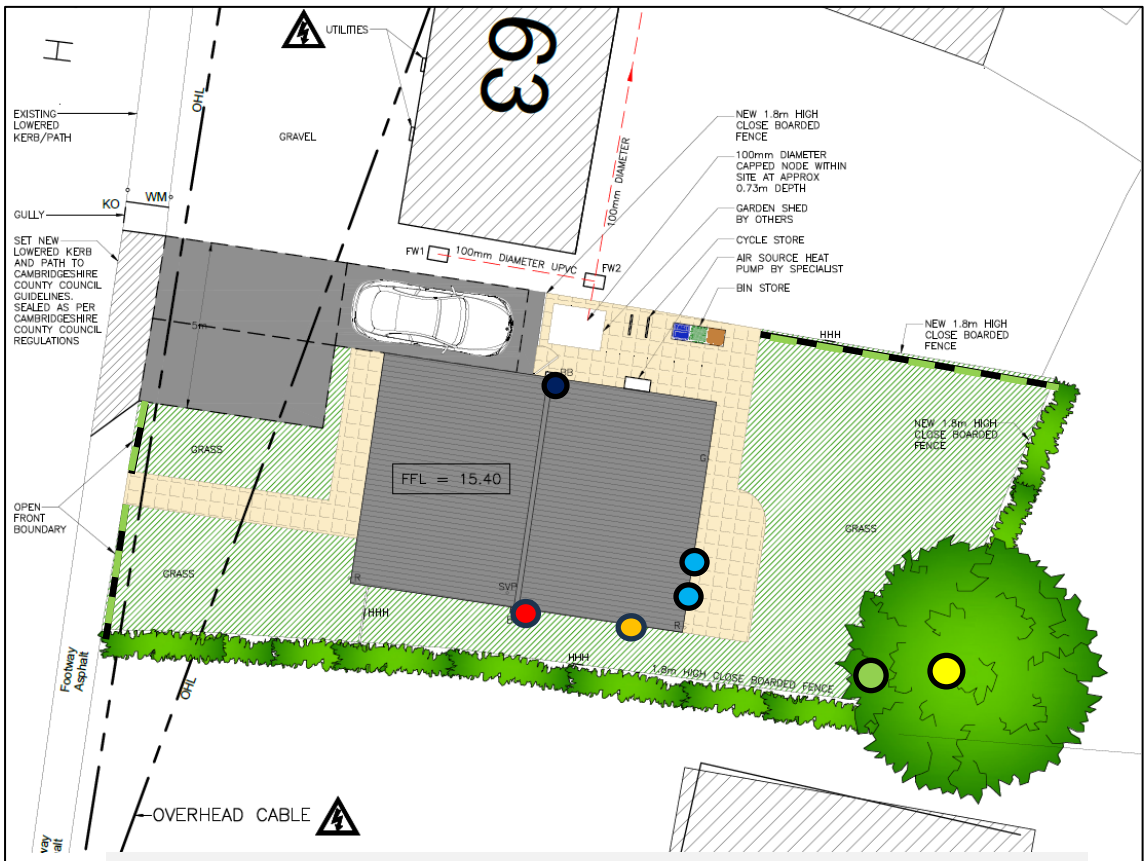
Adonis Ecology Ltd. (2022). *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of Land on High Street, Offord D'arcy, Cambridgeshire, to Support a Planning Application*. Adonis Ecology Ltd., Sudbury.

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

Huntingdonshire District Council. (2023). *Planning Permission Application Reference: 22/02357/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

- 1FE Schwegler Bat Access Panel fitted with optional back plate
- 'S' Swift Brick box
- Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace
- Bee Brick
- Schwegler Clay and Reed Insect Nest
- Habitat Pile
- Species-Rich Native-Hedgerow Planting

Background image adapted from "Existing Site Plan, Proposed Site Plan & Location Plan" produced by Morton & Hall Consulting Limited, Drawing No. H9358/00, dated October 2024.

wardell-armstrong.com

STOKE-ON-TRENT
Sir Henry Doulton House
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BD
Tel: +44 (0)1782 276 700

BIRMINGHAM
Two Devon Way
Longbridge Technology Park
Longbridge
Birmingham
B31 2TS
Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

BOLTON
41-50 Futura Park
Aspinall Way
Middlebrook
Bolton
BL6 6SU
Tel: +44 (0)1204 227 227

BRISTOL
Temple Studios
Temple Gate
Redcliffe
Bristol
BS1 6QA
Tel: +44 (0)117 203 4477

BURY ST EDMUNDS
Armstrong House
Lamdin Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 6NU
Tel: +44 (0)1284 765 210

CARDIFF
Tudor House
16 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CARLISLE
Marconi Road
Burgh Road Industrial Estate
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 7NA
Tel: +44 (0)1228 550 575

EDINBURGH
Great Michael House
14 Links Place
Edinburgh
EH6 7EZ
Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GLASGOW
24 St Vincent Place
Glasgow
G1 2EU
Tel: +44 (0)141 428 4499

LEEDS
36 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 5JL
Tel: +44 (0)113 831 5533

LONDON
Third Floor
46 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1JE
Tel: +44 (0)207 242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
City Quadrant
11 Waterloo Square
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4DP
Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943

TRURO
Baldhu House
Wheal Jane Earth Science Park
Baldhu
Truro
TR3 6EH
Tel: +44 (0)187 256 0738

International office:

ALMATY
29/6 Satpaev Avenue
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Office Tower
Almaty
Kazakhstan
050040
Tel: +7(727) 334 1310

wardell armstrong