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BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT

To the Rear of 35 Horncastle Road, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 9JA

The proposal is for the construction of a pair of semi-detached residential dwellings within the allocated development boundary of Boston Lincolnshire.

The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 (Adopted March 2019) includes a policy relating to The Natural Environment:-

***Policy 28**: The Natural Environment*

A high quality, comprehensive ecological network of interconnected designated sites, sites of nature conservation importance and wildlife-friendly greenspace will be achieved by protecting, enhancing and managing natural assets:

3. Addressing gaps in the ecological network:

a. by ensuring that all development proposals shall provide an overall net gain in biodiversity, by:

i. protecting the biodiversity value of land, buildings and trees (including veteran trees) minimising the fragmentation of habitats;

ii. maximising the opportunities for restoration, enhancement and connection of natural habitats and species of principal importance;

iii. incorporating beneficial biodiversity conservation features on buildings, where appropriate; and maximising opportunities to enhance green infrastructure and ecological corridors, including water space; and

iv. conserving or enhancing biodiversity or geodiversity conservation features that will provide new habitat and help wildlife to adapt to climate change, and if the development is within a Nature Improvement Area (NIA), contributing to the aims and objectives of the NIA.

7.2.14 - Development can also incorporate a number of simple, low-cost measures to deliver biodiversity benefits and enhance priority habitats and species, such as, the use of bat roost boxes, green roofs or walls, and integrating nesting opportunities into buildings and green infrastructure. The use of swift bricks on new developments in Boston in particular, would help minimise the decline in swifts, a priority species. This positive approach will also help the Local Planning Authorities fulfil their 'biodiversity duty' (identified by the Natural Environment Rural Communities Act 2006) and help improve biological resilience to climate change. Good practice can be found in the Climate Change Adaptation by Design - A Guide for Sustainable Communities and Planning for a healthy environment – good practice for green infrastructure and biodiversity.

The existing site is occupied by a combination of existing buildings and concrete hardstanding. There is little or no biodiversity asset created by the existing buildings or infrastructure hence any additions would be a huge benefit.

The location of the site and it's proximity to the town centre, along with the density of properties around it, results in limited opportunities for improving the biodiversity with planting. The proposal does however provide a small garden to the rear of each property which will include an area of grass and could be planted with a mixture of small plants and shrubs to attract wildlife.

The main focus of improving biodiversity however, has been focussed on the installation of bat boxes and 'swift bricks' to which Policy 28 specifically refers to.

The proposed elevations highlight key areas on the building that have measures introduced and their locations:-

Build-In Bat Boxes

The Build-in Bat Box has been specifically designed to fit into the cavity of house walls, with the entrance sitting flush with the outside bricks. It is manufactured from hard-wearing WoodStone and plywood with removable side panels so that several boxes can be placed side by side. The boxes will be positioned at least 2m above ground level, away from artificial light sources. The box is constructed from WoodStone, which is a mixture of sawdust from FSC wood sources and concrete, and it is designed to last for years. It is breathable so there will be no problems with condensation and Woodstone maintains a consistent temperature inside, providing excellent insulation for roosting bats.

Swift Bricks

Swifts (Apus apus) are summer visitors to the UK. Each year they make the long journey from their wintering grounds in Africa to breed, before returning again in August.

The Eco-habitat box for Swifts is designed to be incorporated into the brickwork of a new build property. It will provide a suitable nesting site for a pair of swifts whilst being a discrete addition to the building. These boxes will be sited high up in an external wall, as close to the eaves as possible. The nest boxes will be sited at a height of at least five metres, with a clear flight path to the entrance.