



## WILD FRONTIER ECOLOGY

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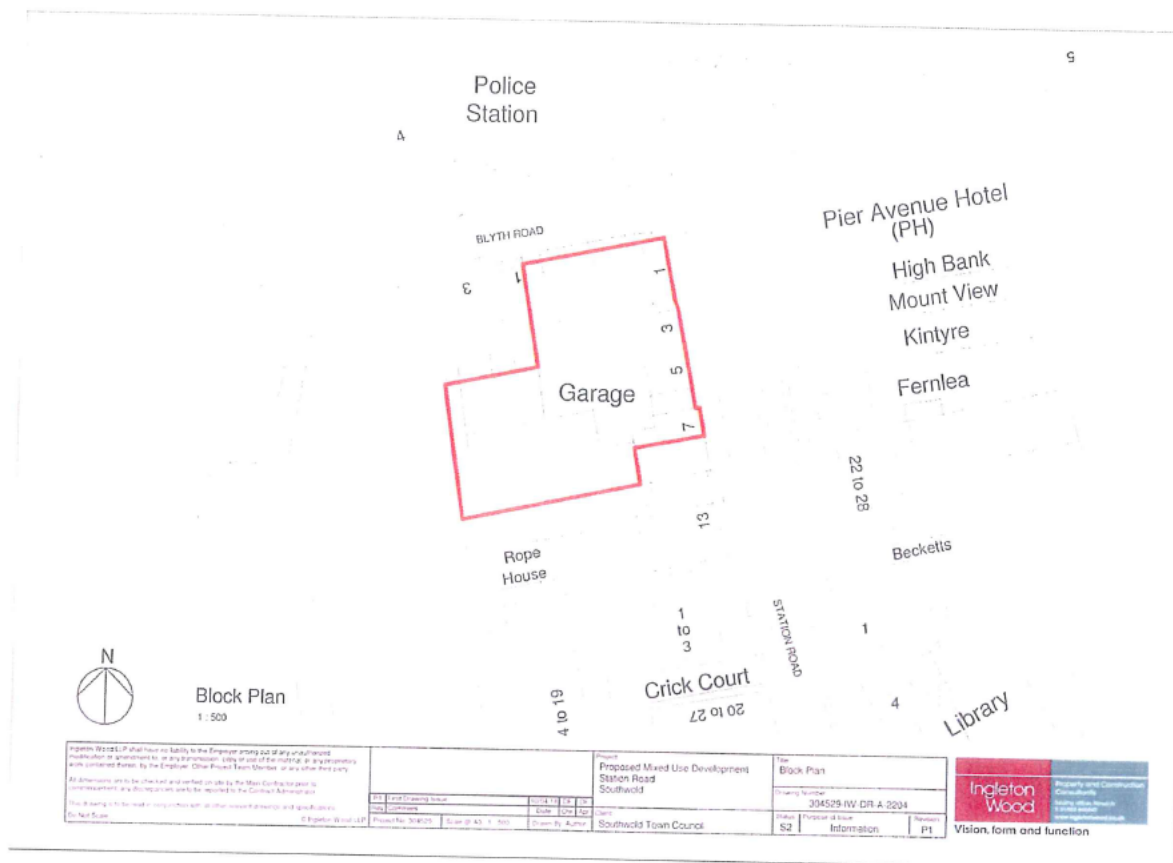
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

[REDACTED]  
Ingleton Wood  
By email

RE: Protected species inspection of buildings at Station Road, Southwold

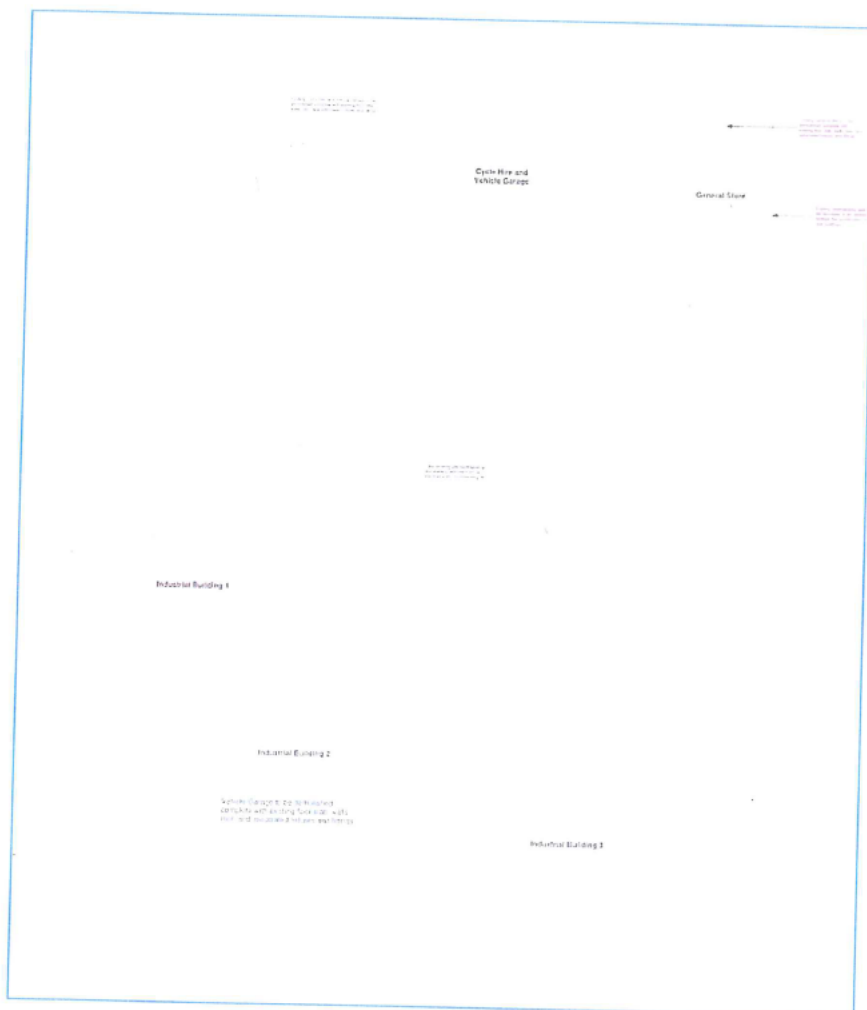
Dear [REDACTED]

Wild Frontier Ecology were commissioned to evaluate the protected species potential of buildings which are proposed to be demolished and replaced at Station Road, Southwold. The plan below shows the buildings concerned outlined in red.





The buildings to be demolished are shaded in grey in the plan below.



The site was visited on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 by [REDACTED] bat survey licence 2015-11368-CLS-CLS; and accredited agent on barn owl disturbance licence registration # 2015-8522-SCI-SCI. A high-powered torch, ladder, digital endoscope and binoculars were all on hand for use in the inspection as needed.

There are five main buildings, which are labelled above.

- Industrial building 1 (photo 1) is an open-fronted shed with breeze block walls and a cement-fibre roof, supported by a concrete-steel frame. There are roof lights.
- Industrial building 2 (photo 2) is an enclosed shed with cement-fibre walls and roof, and a steel frame. There are large roof lights.
- Industrial building 3 (photo 3) is a two storey corrugated metal walled construction, with large lights in the corrugated roof.
- The cycle hire and vehicle garage (photo 4) is a compartmentalised two storey shed with cement fibre walls and roof. The roof has large lights. On the rear of this building is a small section of weatherboarding (photo 5).

- The general store is a flat-roofed brick building, with sealed eaves, and is still in use (photo 6).

The only realistic potential for bat roosting within the complex is the section of weatherboarding on the rear of the cycle hire and vehicle garage. It was possible to see under the gaps in the weatherboard from ground level using binoculars and a powerful torch, which revealed no roosting bats or signs of use. It is therefore concluded that the buildings have negligible potential to support roosting bats.

## Photographs

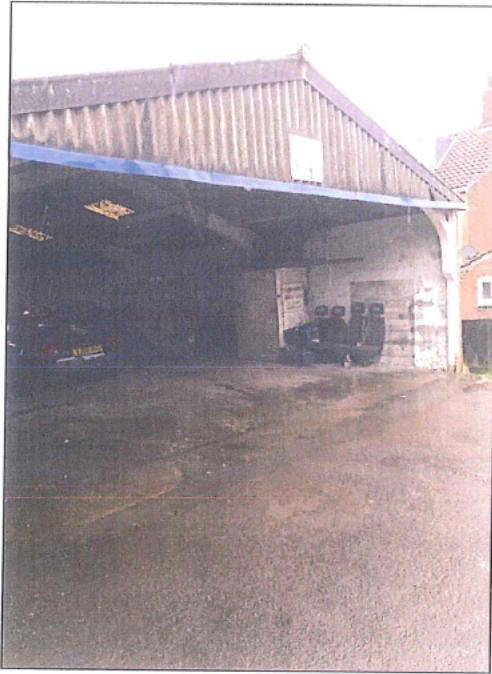


Photo 1 - Industrial building 1 - exterior



Photo 2 - Industrial building 2 - interior

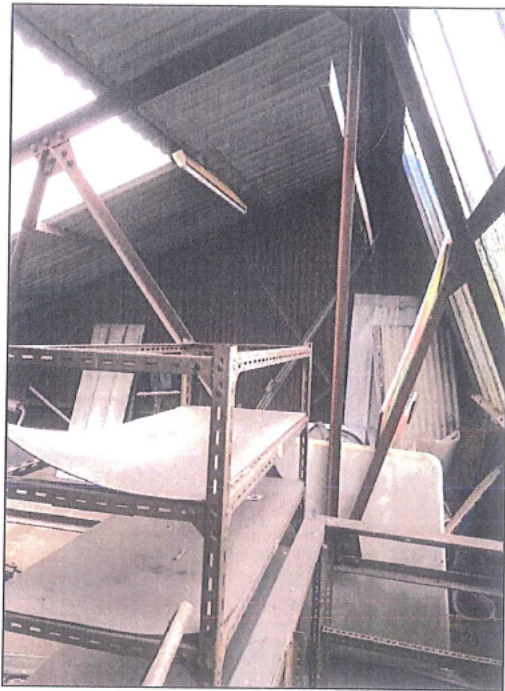


Photo 3: Industrial building 3 - upstairs



Photo 4 - Cycle hire and vehicle garage exterior



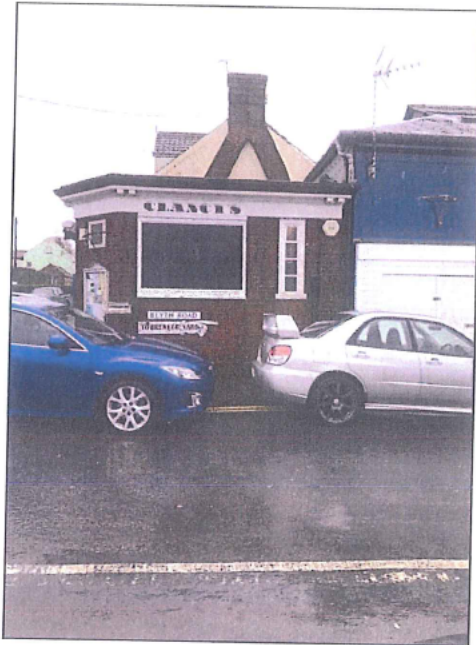


Photo 5: General store exterior

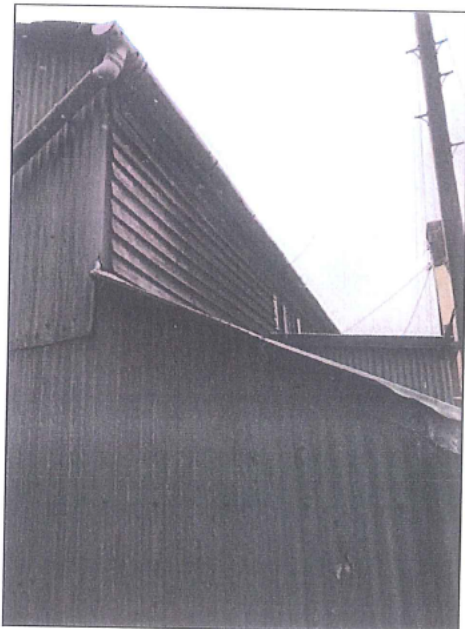


Photo 6: Weatherboarding on cycle hire and vehicle garage building - inspected.

In line with section 5.2.9 of the Bat Conservation Trust's Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (2016), I consider the buildings to have low enough bat roosting evidence/potential that a visual inspection alone provides reasonable confidence in a negative roost assessment. There should be no reasonable expectation that impacts to bats, such as would be considered an offence under Article 12(1) of the Habitats Directive and its UK enactment, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, will occur as a result of the proposed development.

Of course, it must always be acknowledged that the potential for a roosting bat is very seldom ever absolutely absent. Bats are very small and highly mobile mammals which could conceivably occupy a structure with even minimal roosting potential, if only for a very short while. All contractors working on the project should at least be familiar with the laws pertaining to bats as a protected species and should proceed with reasonable caution. If a bat or evident bat roost was to be encountered during the project, then the works should desist and a licensed bat worker contacted to re-assess the situation. Similarly, any bird nests encountered should be left to reach a natural conclusion. To this end, demolition would be best targeted outside the main breeding bird season of March to August inclusive.

As a biodiversity enhancement, 3 bird boxes and 2 bat boxes are to be installed in or on the new buildings. The bird boxes should be targeted to garden bird species of conservation concern such as house sparrow, house martin or swift. Details of installing the boxes can be found on RSPB website<sup>1</sup>.

Yours sincerely,



Principal Ecologist

Wild Frontier Ecology Ltd.

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<sup>1</sup> RSPB, Making and Placing a Bird Box. [online] Available at: < <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/making-and-placing-a-bird-box/> > [Accessed 27 April 2018].