

Condition 4: *Biodiversity Method Statement*

1 Elton Gated Road, Water Newton

October 2024

Prepared by Principal Ecologist Helen Archer BSc (Hons) MCIEEM on behalf of:

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Report Overview	
Client details	Jon Richards Architectural Design
Works extent	1 Elton Gated Road, Water Newton
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Prepared by	Helen Archer BSc (Hons) MCIEEM – Principal Ecologist

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

NB: This plan has been prepared with reference to the preceding Preliminary Ecological Appraisal issued by Archer Ecology Ltd in September 2024[1] *and should be read in conjunction with this supporting report.*

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Archer Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Jon Richards Architectural Design to prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) with respect to proposals for a side extension and porch to the front elevation of the dwelling, and the construction of a detached garage and a pool house, within the curtilage of 1 Elton Gated Road in Water Newton, Cambridgeshire (hereafter referred to as 'the application site'). The application site is situated within a principally rural and agricultural setting and is located immediately east of Elton Gated Road. The location of the application site – centred at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OSGR) TL 10623 96381 - is shown in Figure 1, below.

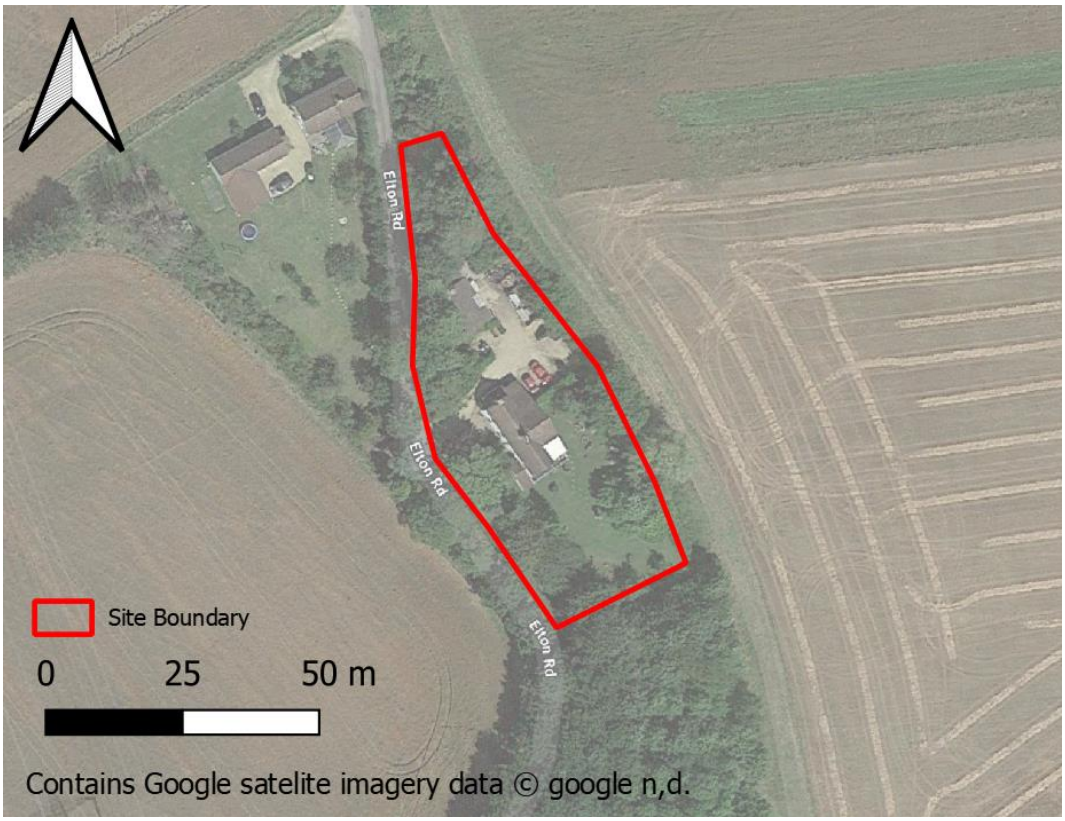


Figure 1 – Location of the site in context with the local landscape

[1] Archer Ecology Ltd (2024) *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – 1 Elton Gated Road, Water Newton.* Archer Ecology Ltd (unpublished).

1.2 Proposed works

1.2.1 In line with the development proposals provided at the time of being commissioned (refer to the *'Proposed Site Plan'* – Drawing No. EGR-PR-PL-01 - prepared by Jon Richards Architectural Design; See Appendix I), it is understood that the proposals are for a side extension and porch to the front elevation of the dwelling, and the construction of a detached garage and a pool house, within the curtilage of 1 Elton Gated Road in Water Newton. This will be introduced adjacent the eastern site periphery. The site preparatory works are expected to incur localised vegetation removal within the footprint of the proposed garage.

1.2.2 It is expected that the existing vehicular access point from Elton Gated Road (which flanks the western site boundary) will be utilised during the construction and operational phases of the development.

1.3 Purpose

1.3.1 This plan has been prepared to satisfy Condition 4 of the Decision Notice issued by Huntingdonshire District Council in response to the respective planning application (reference 24/01229/HHFUL). Specifically, the condition has requested that:

'Condition 4

Prior to first occupation/use of the development hereby permitted, a Biodiversity Method Statement which provides details of the installation of 2 bat boxes and 2 bird boxes shall be 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.'

1.3.2 This plan stipulates details of the proposed enhancement features to be installed, including nesting bird and bat roost boxes, and includes details of the responsible personnel for carrying out these measures together with details on the appropriate mechanism and timing schedule for delivery.

2.0 LEGISLATION

2.1 UK Bat Species

2.1.1 Bats receive protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to

- Deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats whilst they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection or obstruct access to any such place.
- Damage or destroy the breeding or resting place (roost) of a bat, whether in use or not.

2.1.2 It is also an offence to obstruct access to any bat roost or to disturb bats occupying a roost. The above offences carry penalties of up to £5,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment per offence.

2.2 Birds

2.2.1 All nesting birds and active nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended) which makes it an offence to take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, and to take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

2.2.2 Certain birds, listed under Schedule 1 of the Act, are also protected against disturbance whilst building a nest, or when on or near a nest containing eggs/unfledged young.

3.0 MITIGATION / COMPENSATORY MEASURES

3.1 Construction Phase

3.1.1 An overview of mitigation/compensation measures, to be completed after the construction works, are shown in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Overview of mitigative/compensation actions including timings and personnel

Receptor / habitat	Mitigative/Compensation Action	Timings	Responsible personnel	Future Monitoring required?	Evidence needed
Roosting bats	To provide additional enhancements for roosting bats, two *2FE Schwegler Bat Boxes* will be installed on the south-eastern elevation of the proposed garage. This type of bat box inherently provides good thermal insulation properties and is adapted to be affixed against external walls. The proposed locations of the units are annotated on the plan under Appendix II. Under the supervision of an experienced ecologist, the bat boxes will be installed at eaves height. The installation will follow the manufacturer's instruction. The boxes will be positioned within close proximity to the existing retained tree line and hedgerow which occurs along the eastern site periphery and offers foraging and commuting habitat for local bats.	The bat boxes will be installed immediately following the construction phase	Appointed ecologist, building contractor and landowner	No	Yes, photographs of the installed boxes are to be included in a report to be submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council.

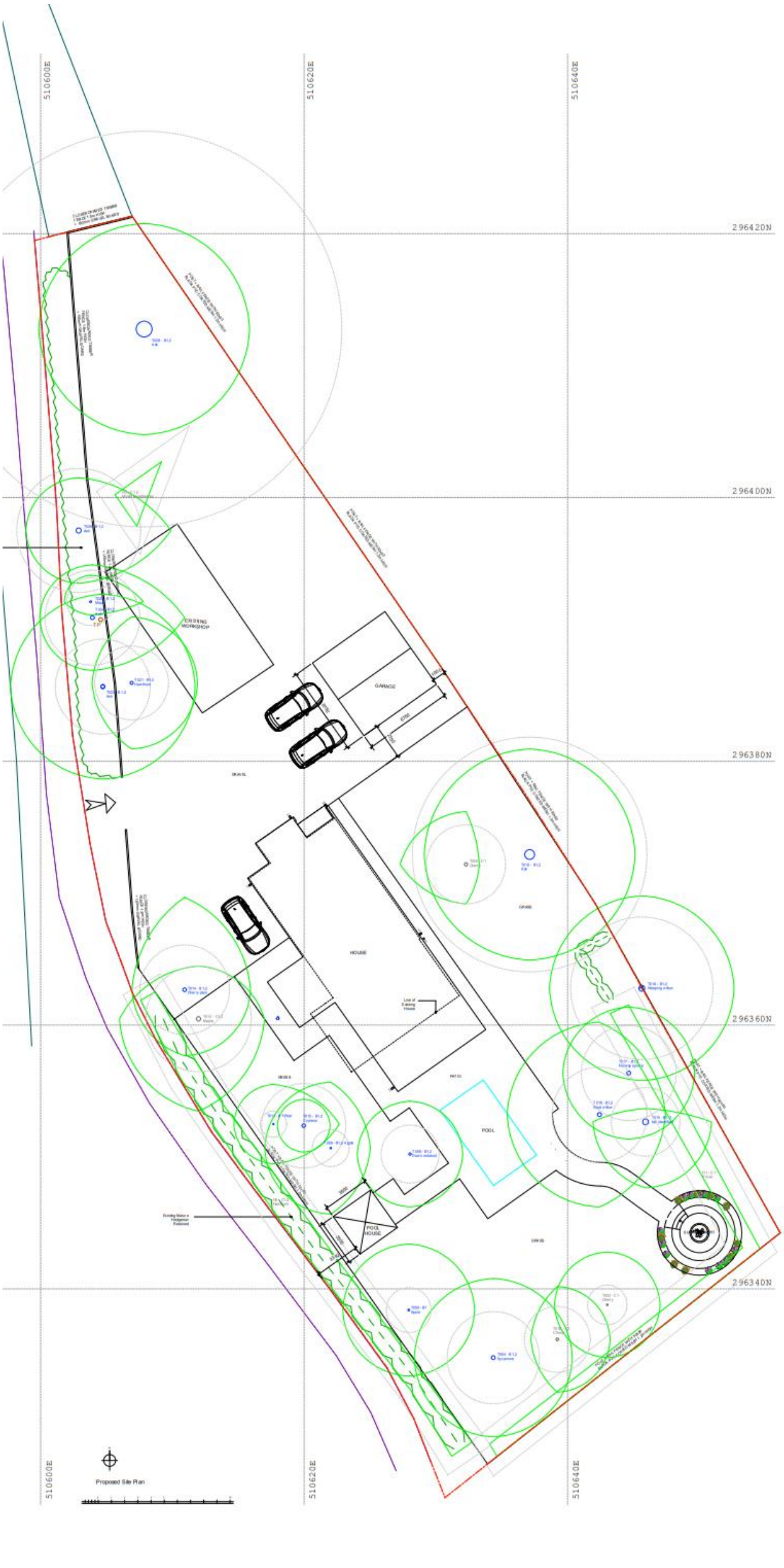
Receptor / habitat	Mitigative/Compensation Action	Timings	Responsible personnel	Future Monitoring required?	Evidence needed
Nesting birds	To provide additional enhancements for nesting birds, traditional wooden nest boxes will be installed on the proposed garage. One of the boxes will feature a 25mm entrance hole and one of the boxes will feature a 32mm entrance hole. These have the potential to attract smaller tit species and sparrows. Suitable products are currently available from NHBS at https://www.nhbs.com/ nhbs-wooden-bird-nest-box. The nest boxes will be installed following manufacturer's instructions and under the supervision of an experienced ecologist. The proposed locations of the units are shown as annotations in Appendix II. The units will be installed on the north-eastern elevation of the proposed garage (at eaves height), which occurs adjacent to trees and hedgerows occurring along and adjacent to the eastern site periphery.	The bird boxes will be installed immediately following the construction phase	Appointed ecologist, building contractor and landowner	No	Yes, photographs of the installed boxes are to be included in a report to be submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council

3.2 Mechanism for Delivery

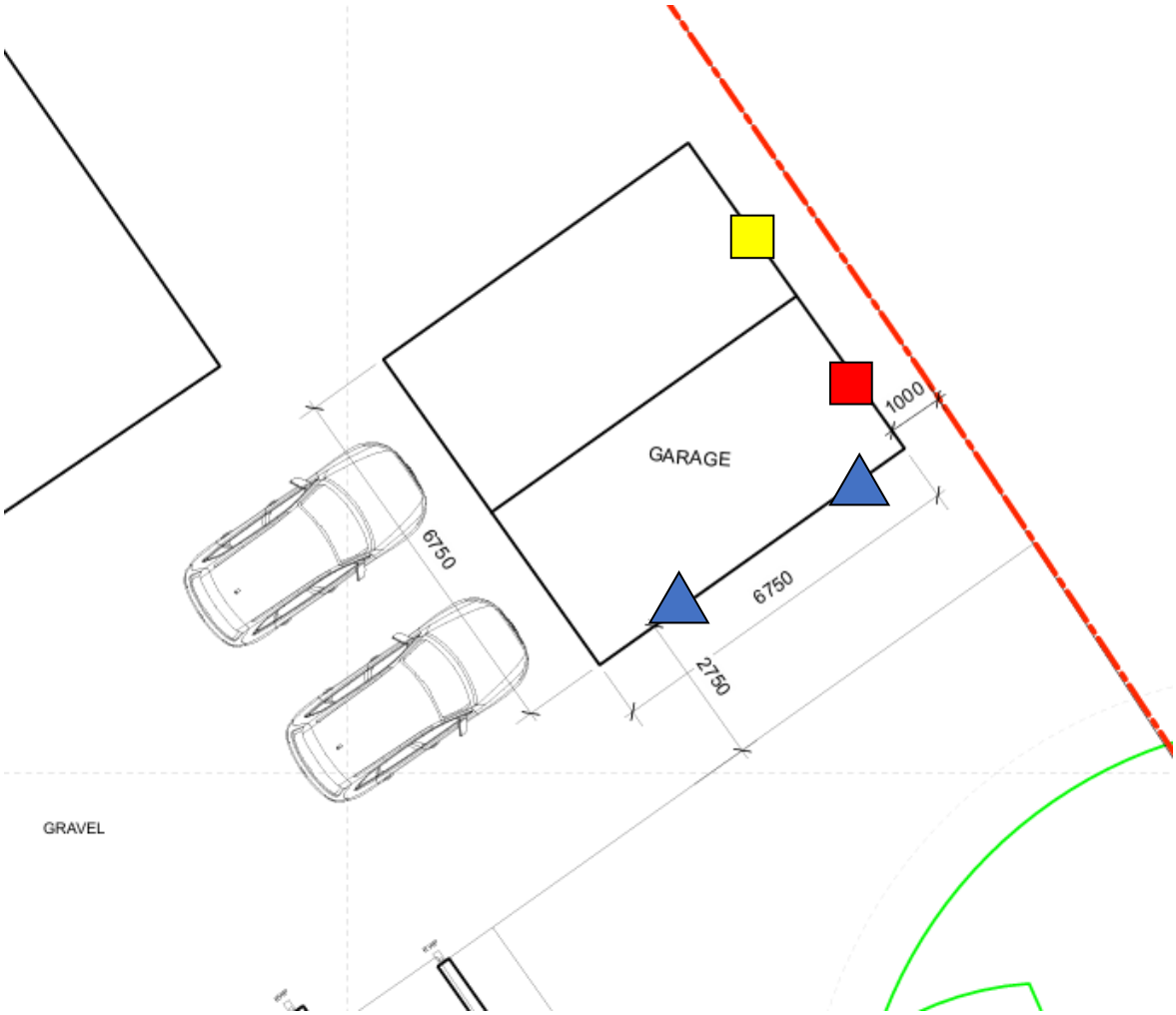
3.2.1 A progress report, pertaining to each mitigative action shown in Table 1, will be produced and submitted to the Huntingdonshire District Council upon completion of each action.

3.2.2 The report will evidence the implementation of this plan and will be completed jointly by the ecologist and site applicant or their successor. The report will further identify the success or failure of each mitigative action and, where necessary, the need to amend this plan.

APPENDIX I – PROPOSED SITE PLAN



APPENDIX II – ENHANCEMENT FEATURES PLAN



Key

- 2FE Schwegler Bat Box
- 32mm nest box
- 25mm nest box