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Report prepared for: Hayley Robinson

For the Site of: 8 St Neots Rd, Abbotsley, St. Neots PE19 6UU

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Cherryfield Ecology has prepared this report for the named clients' use only.
Ecological reports are limited in shelf life, Natural England usually expect reports for licences to be from the most recent or current season, e.g. May 2024 to May 2025 for bats. Therefore, should the project not proceed within 12 to 18 months of this report an updated survey should be undertaken in order to check for changes that may have occurred on site. Information is believed to be accurate at the time of the survey; recommendations are made without bias based on good practice guidelines within the industry. However, species presence and ecological parameters can change over time.

[redacted] BA (Hons)
Bat Licence Level 1, GCN Licence Level 1
[redacted]
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Ecological Appraisal (EA)

0.0 Non-Technical Summary

0.1 Background

This report follows national guidelines JNCC (2010) and UKHab's (2023) allowing for a daytime inspection and recommends for further surveys if considered necessary. If a deviation from the guidelines has been made, this will be detailed in the Method Section.

The following report details the findings and recommendations for the site of 8 St Neots Rd, Abbotsley, St. Neots PE19 6UU.

The client commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake an EA as the proposals include for a rear extension to the existing property. Plans have been provided (Appendix I).

0.2 Results and Findings

The site consists of a semi-detached residential property and associated garden. The only habitat that will be impacted by the works is a small section of garden patio.
No protected species or evidence of protected species were found on site at the time of the survey.
The buildings (B1 & B2) provide negligible potential for roosting bats due to a lack of suitable roosting features and access points. B2 will not be impacted by the works.
The rear garden habitat is largely laid to gravel and provides negligible potential for badger or reptile. A small ornamental pond within a shrub bed hosts a small population of smooth newt, however, this pond returns an HSI score of 'Below Average' for GCN, and as much of the garden habitat consists of gravel and patio, there is low potential for GCN to be present.

The introduced shrub and bird box habitats provide moderate potential for breeding birds.

The site provides negligible potential for other protected species due to the lack of suitable habitat.

0.3 Impact Assessment and Recommendations

Badger – No further surveys are necessary; however, if any badger setts are found throughout works, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Bats – No further surveys are necessary; however, if bats are found throughout works, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Breeding Birds - No further surveys are recommended; however, the development should take place outside the nesting season (March to August). If this is not possible, it is recommended that a qualified ecologist is on-site to ensure the building/vegetation is not occupied by breeding birds, prior to demolition/clearance. Should an occupied nest be found, a buffer zone would need to be created until the nest is no longer in use.

Great Crested Newt (GCN) – The site falls within an amber risk zone, however, the habitat to be affected consists solely of a small section of garden patio, therefore, the risks to GCN are considered to be low. As there is a small known population of smooth newt within the rear garden, and a further pond within 50m of the site, it is recommended that a precautionary approach to the works is taken and that an **Unlicenced Method Statement** be followed.

Reptiles – No further survey is necessary; however, if reptiles are found on-site, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Other protected species – No further survey is necessary; however, if any other protected species are found on site, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Habitats – All habitats found are common and widespread, no impacts are foreseen.

The findings outlined in this report are valid for 12-18 months, after which updated surveys will be required.

Enhancements and mitigation are recommended (please see Section 4.4 for further details).

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Aim

The aim of this report is to inform of ecological constraints that may affect the development proposals and recommend to the client if further surveys are required for protected species. An impact assessment is undertaken at this stage; however, if further surveys are required, additional and unexpected impacts may result. The information within this report can be used as the baseline for any Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) metric requirements, however, the calculations are not included within this report.

1.2 Background Information

The client, Hayley Robinson, has commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake an EA for the site of 8 St Neots Rd, Abbotsley, St. Neots PE19 6UU. Planning permission is being sought to extend the existing property.

This survey has checked all habitats, buildings, trees (from ground level only) or structures due to be affected by the proposals on site; it includes checking for protected species, signs of protected species or habitat value e.g. crevices, badger setts, ponds etc. as well as mapping the habitats on site.

The inspection was conducted 09/05/2025.

The survey can only ever provide a 'snapshot' of the site at the time of the survey and circumstances may change following this report. Health and Safety restrictions or obstructions may limit the ability to find evidence.

Biological records have been requested to give the report context and allow a study of the surrounding area. The information is often sensitive and therefore a synopsis is provided.

The survey can be conducted year-round with the optimal period between mid-March and mid-October (south)/1st April and 30th September (north). However, it can be limited due to bad weather and in the winter, when some species are not as active, thus evidence and species are often not found. During these periods, habitat value (likely presence) becomes more important to the assessment of the site.

Summary of legislation and National Planning Policy that protects wildlife in England:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.
- Countrywide and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- National Planning Policy Framework ("NPPF").
- Circular 06/05.

This legislation makes it illegal to:

- Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture a protected species.
- Deliberately disturb a protected species, whether at rest or not.
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to a resting place.
- Possess or transport a protected species or any part of that species, unless acquired legally.
- Sell, barter or exchange a protected species, or any part of a species.

1.3 Species Specific Information

All UK-protected species have the same protection and the detail under Bats also applies to GCN, Dormouse, Otters and the two UK-protected reptiles.

1.3.1 Breeding Birds

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. Furthermore, a number of birds enjoy further protection under that Act and are listed on Schedule 1 of the Act. These further protected birds are also protected from disturbance and it may be necessary to operate a "no-go" buffer zone around such nests - typically out to 5m.

1.3.2 Bats

All 18 species of bat common in the UK (17 known to be breeding) are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981 through inclusion in Schedule V of the Act. All bat species in the UK are also included in Schedule II of The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which transpose Annex II of the Directive 92/43/EEC 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora ("Habitats Directive") which defines United Kingdom protected species of animals.

Bats species are afforded further protection by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

This combined legislation makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture bats.
- Deliberately disturb bats, whether at roost or not.
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts.
- Possess or transport bats, unless acquired legally.
- Sell, barter or exchange bats.

1.3.3 Reptiles

There are six species of reptiles in Great Britain (Edgar *et al.*, 2010) and four of these are commonly found; the Barred Grass Snake *Natrix helvetica,* Adder *Vipera berus*, Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and Slow Worm *Anguis fragilis*.

All native British species of reptiles are legally protected through their inclusion in Schedule V of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As such, all species are protected from deliberate killing or injury. Therefore, where development is permitted, and there will be a significant change in land use, a reasonable effort must be undertaken to avoid committing an offence. The same act makes the trading of native reptile species a criminal offence without appropriate licensing.

Two species of reptile; the Smooth Snake *Coronella austriaca* and Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis* are further protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species

(Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which defines UK protected species of animals ("rare reptiles").

1.3.4 Badgers

Badger *Meles meles* and its habitat are protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Schedule V of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and Appendix III of the Bern Convention 1979.

This legislation makes it an offence to:

- Kill, injure, take or possess a badger.
- Interfere with, damage or destroy a badger sett including e.g. obstructing access to a badger sett.
- Cruelly treat or harm a badger.
- Disturb a badger in a sett.

1.3.5 Great Crested Newts

Great Crested Newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* are listed in both The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and in Schedule V of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

GCN are afforded further protection by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

1.3.6 Otter

The Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* is the only Otter species native to the UK. The Eurasian Otter is fully protected under Schedule V of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981 and in Schedule II of The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which transpose Annex II of the Directive 92/43/EEC 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora ("Habitats Directive") which defines United Kingdom protected species of animals. This legislation makes it illegal to:

- capture, kill, disturb or injure otters (on purpose or by not taking enough care).
- damage or destroy a breeding or resting place (deliberately or by not taking enough care).
- obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places (deliberately or by not taking enough care).
- possess, sell, control or transport live or dead otters, or parts of otters.

1.3.7 Water Vole

The Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius* is protected under Schedule V of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and is a priority conservation species. This legislation makes it illegal to:

- intentionally capture, kill or injure water voles.
- damage, destroy or block access to their places of shelter or protection (on purpose or by not taking enough care).
- disturb them in a place of shelter or protection (on purpose or by not taking enough care).
- possess, sell, control or transport live or dead water voles or parts of them (not water voles bred in captivity).

1.4 Protected Sites and Priority Habitats

Some areas with distinctive plants, animals, habitats, geology or landforms are protected at the international, European, national and local-level under statutory and non-statutory sites. Some habitats have been identified as needing priority conservation action; UK BAP Priority Habitats are a range of semi-natural habitat types that are identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action.

2.0 Methods

The survey follows the national guidelines JNCC (2010) and UKHabs (2023), and the following equipment is available for the inspection:

- Torches (e.g. LED Lensar type).
- Ladders (Standard 4m telescopic surveying ladder).
- Endoscope where holes, cracks and crevices are accessible.
- Mirrors (extendable and movable mirror face).
- Binoculars (Pentax close focus).
- Thermometer/hygrometer.
- Camera.
- Sample bags for collecting dropping and feeding evidence.
- Quadrat for vegetation sampling.

The survey can be conducted year-round with the optimal period between mid-March and mid-October (south)/1st April and 30th September (north). However, it can be limited due to bad weather and in the winter, when some species are not as active, thus evidence and species are often not found. During these periods, habitat value (likely presence) becomes more important to the assessment of the site.

Trees and building exteriors are checked from ground level only. Buildings are checked internally where access is available.

Ponds are checked in person where access is available. If access is not available, for example the pond is situated on private land, ponds are assessed as far as is possible from satellite imagery.

Target notes are made when appropriate to highlight, for example, protected species evidence or other feature(s) of ecological note.

Great Crested Newt District Level License Zones explained, these criteria are from the two schemes -

Natural England Scheme -

- Red zones contain key populations of GCN, which are important on a regional, national or international scale and include designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest for GCN. *If in a red zone traditional surveys methods will have to be used going forward.*
- Amber zones contain main population centres for GCN and comprise important connecting habitat that aids natural dispersal.
- Green zones contain sparsely distributed GCN and are less likely to contain important pathways of connecting habitat for this species.
- White zones contain no GCN. However, as most of England forms the natural range of GCN, white zones are rare and will only be used when it is certain that there are no GCN.

NatureSpace Scheme -

- Black - nationally or regionally important site for great crested newt - excluded from development impacts under the District Licence Scheme.
- Red - highly suitable habitat - the most important areas for great crested newts.
- Amber - suitable habitat - great crested newts are likely to be present.
- Green - moderate habitat suitability - great crested newts may be present.
- White - low habitat suitability - low probability of great crested newt presence.

Table 1: Habitat value (likelihood) of protected species presence assessed against Collins (2023), Edgar *et al.* (2010) and Natural England (2007) etc.

Likelihood of species presence (Habitat Value)	Features that species can use, regardless of evidence being present.
Confirmed Presence	Species are found to be present during the survey. Evidence of species is found to be present during the survey.
Higher likelihood of presence	Buildings, trees or other structures or habitat features of particular significance for use by protected species e.g. nesting habitat, roosting opportunities, and ponds. Habitat of high quality for foraging e.g. broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is connected with the wider landscape by strong linear features that would be used by commuting species e.g. river and or stream valleys and hedgerows. Site is close to known locations of records for protected species.
Moderate and Lower likelihood of species presence	Several potential habitat opportunities in buildings, trees or other habitats. Habitat could be used for foraging e.g. trees, shrub, grassland or water. Site is connected with the wider landscape by linear features that could be used by commuting species e.g. lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. A small number of less significant habitat opportunities. Isolated habitat for foraging e.g. a lone tree or patch of scrub. An isolated site not connected by prominent linear landscape features.
Negligible likelihood of species presence	No features suitable for roosting, minor foraging or commuting.

2.1 Limitations

This survey provides a snapshot of the site at the time of the survey only. Species are highly mobile and can turn up from time to time unexpectedly. All care has been taken to ensure the results and recommendations are suitable to the context of the development and the information gathered on surveys.

If a deviation from the guidelines has been made the reason and justification will be explained below:

No deviation from the standard guidelines has been made for this survey.

3.0 Results

The following section details the results of the desk study, inspection and survey; it includes MAGIC information, biological records data and map/aerial photo information. The results detail the building, structure or tree (numbered for reference) description of any evidence found and habitat value if no evidence has been located.

3.1 Desk Study

The desk study is centred on Grid Reference - TL 22597 56648 and Postcode - PE19 6UU.

3.1.1 MAGIC

The following statutory sites and Natural England Protected Species (NEPS) have been located within the 2km search area (Figure 1).

Table 2: Magic search results

Receptor	Distance and Direction to Nearest (m/km)	Description
Statutory sites	None within search area	
Granted protected species licenses	None within search area	
Priority habitat	~114m N	Traditional orchard
	~337m SE	Deciduous woodland
	~1363m NE	Lowland Fens
	~1752m NW	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

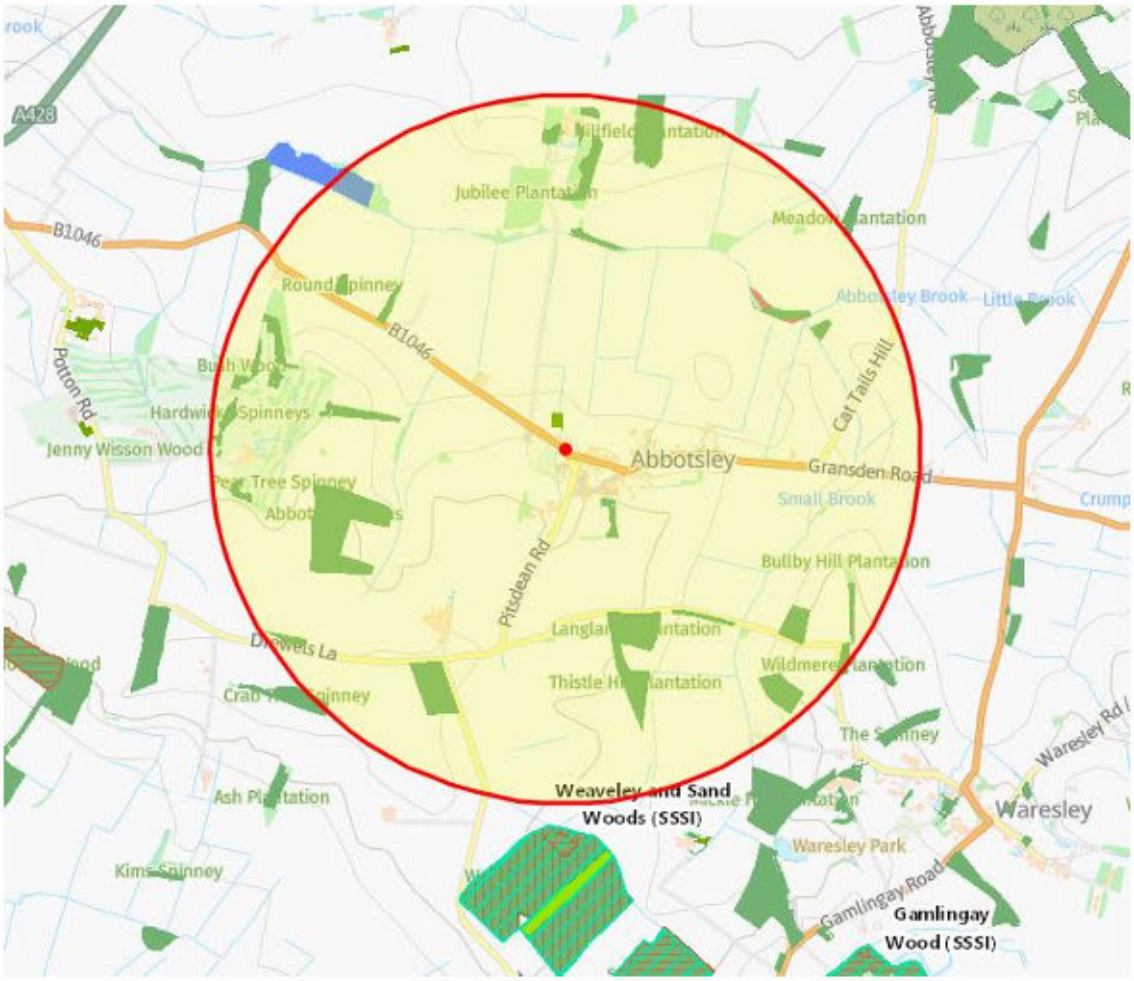


Figure 1: Magic Map Search

3.1.2 GCN DLL Zone

The site falls within an amber zone under the NatureSpace District Level Licencing Scheme (DLL) in Cambridgeshire.

3.1.3 Biological Records Data

A standard data search of existing records for protected species and nature reserves has been commissioned, below details the results and site context. *Data older than 10 years old will not be included.*

Biological records were obtained, however, no data within the last 10 years has been retained.

3.1.4 Site Location and Surrounds

The site is located in Abbotsley, Cambridgeshire and is surrounded by medium density housing and arable fields in the immediate locale. Table 3 details the commuting, feeding and habitat features in a 1km radius of the site.

Table 3: Habitat features suitable for use by protected species.

Feature	Description
Watercourses	There is a network of agricultural drains most of which are within the north section of the search area, that feed into Hen's Brook which lies just outside the search area to the north. The closest drain lies ~30m west of the site.
Waterbodies	A small ornamental garden pond is present on site. A further public pond is found ~50m west of the site. Five ponds are found to the south of the site, the closest ~252m southeast.
Woodland	Priority deciduous woodland located ~337m southeast of the site. There are approx. eight additional small copse scattered throughout the search area.
Linear e.g. hedgerows	Arable hedgerows dominate the search area. To a lesser extent garden hedgerows can also be found.
Pasture/arable/grassland	Arable fields and pasture dominate the search area, the closet ~50m northeast of the site. Recreational sports fields ~37m west.
Other	Church graveyard ~225m southeast.

3.2 Habitat, Building, Tree or Other Structure

This section details the structures/habitat reference and descriptions (see Figure 13 for Site Plan).

Table 4: Weather Records

Parameter	Unit/value
Temperature	14°C
Cloud cover	10%
Precipitation	None
Wind	1/12

3.2.1 Habitats

Habitats found on site are mapped using UKHab (UKHab, 2023). Where deviations from UKHabs occurs, these are informed by the user guidance for the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (DEFRA 2024). There are no hedgerow or watercourse features on site.

Table 5: Habitat features found on site.

Habitat Features		
UKHab Habitat Type (to the appropriate level)	**UKHab Essential & Additional Secondary Codes (where relevant)**	**Description**
Developed Land; Sealed Surface (Buildings)		There are two buildings on site, the main house (B1) and a small shed (B2). The main house is a double-storey, semi-detached residence, with a gable ended roof covered in concrete roof tiles. A single-storey, mono-pitched extension is found to the rear. Both elevations of the main roof feature solar panels, and there are two chimneys present with lead flashing at the base. Within, there is a single loft void below the main roof. This is partially boarded and insulated at floor level. The tiles are lined with bitumen felt and a large water tank takes up a large amount of space within the void.



Figure 2: Front elevation of B1



Figure 3: Rear elevation of B1



Figure 4: Interior of the loft void of B1



Figure 5: Interior of loft void of B1

B2 is a timber shed at the rear end of the garden. This has a mono-pitched roof with a metal corrugated roof. Within, the walls and roof are unlined.

		 Figure 6: Exterior of B2
Developed Land; Sealed Surface		Hardstanding driveway and patio areas are found on site.  Figure 7: Patio area to the rear of B1 (area to be impacted by the extension)
Artificially Unvegetated, Unsealed Land		The majority of the rear garden is laid to gravel.

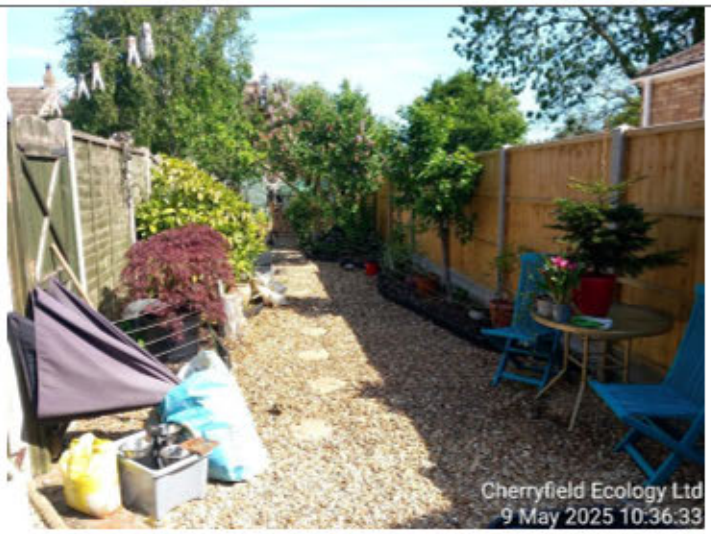
		 Figure 8: View along rear garden
Built Up Areas & Gardens	828 - Vegetated Garden 200 - Tree	Ornamental shrub beds are present along the garden boundaries, with four small ornamental trees including buddleja *Buddleja davidii* and cherry *Prunus sp.*  Figure 9: Ornamental shrub beds on site
Standing Open Water & Canals	46 - Ornamental Lake or Pond	A small ornamental pond is present within one of the garden shrub beds (P1). This consists of a plastic preformed pond, with aquatic vegetation and a pebble boundary. A smooth newt was observed in the pond at the time of the survey, and anecdotal evidence suggests there is a population count of five newts present.



Figure 10: Small ornamental pond on site (P1)

Table 6: Target Notes

Target Note	Description
TN1	A publicly accessible pond (P2) is present ~50m to the west of the site. The pond was mostly shaded, and vegetation was mainly comprised of bullrush *Typha latifolia*.



Figure 11: P2, near to the site



Figure 12: Site Plan



Figure 12A: Location of P2 in relation to the site

3.3 Evidence or Likelihood of Species Presence

This section details the evidence located and likelihood of species presence.

3.3.1 Bats

Table 7: Bats, evidence or the potential for the species use.

Bats found	No bats were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of bat use	No evidence of bats was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for bat use	Level of likelihood of presence - B1 - Negligible B2 - Negligible The roof tiles across B1 are tight fitting, and no gaps were observed at the ridge tiles, verge tiles, the eaves or under the lead flashing at the chimney bases.

The bitumen felt lining within the loft void was in good condition and no potential access points were observed.



Figure 13: Tight-fitting roof tiles on B1



Figure 14: No gaps observed at the gable end

No potential roosting features were observed on B2, and B2 will not be impacted by the works.

3.3.2 Badgers

Table 8: Badgers, evidence or the potential for the species use.

Badgers found	No badgers were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of badger use	No evidence of badger use was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for badger use	Level of likelihood of presence – Negligible Much of the rear garden is laid to gravel and therefore, there is no suitable habitat on site for badgers.

3.3.3 Breeding Birds

Table 9: Breeding birds, evidence or potential for the species use.

Breeding birds found	No breeding birds were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of breeding bird use	No evidence of breeding birds was found at the time of the survey
Potential for breeding bird use	Level of likelihood of presence - Moderate Bird boxes are hung around the garden, providing nesting opportunities. No boxes were in use at the time of the survey.

3.3.4 Amphibian

Table 10: Amphibians, evidence or potential for species use.

Amphibians found	No Great Crested Newt (GCN) were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of amphibian use	No evidence of GCN was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for amphibian use	Level of likelihood of presence – Low P1 and P2 were subject to an HSI calculation (Tables 10A and 10B below), with Pond 1 returning a score of 'Below Average' and Pond 2 returning a score of 'Good'. Though P2 has good suitability for GCN, and P1 is known to support a small population of smooth newt, the habitat that is due to be impacted by the works consists solely of hardstanding patio area (see Figure 7 above).

Therefore, no vegetated habitat will be lost and no additional barriers for the movement of amphibians will be created.

Table 10A: HSI Calculation for P1

Suitability Index	Factor	Notes	Score
SI 1	Location	Optimal	1.00
SI 2	Pond area	>50m2	0.05
SI 3	Pond drying	Never	0.90
SI 4	Water quality	Poor	0.33
SI 5	Shoreline shade	30%	1.00
SI 6	Fowl	Absent	1.00
SI 7	Fish	Absent	1.00
SI 8	No ponds/km^{2}*	5	0.70
SI 9	Terrestrial habitat	Poor	0.33
SI 10	Macrophytes	40%	0.70
HSI			0.55
Result			Below Average

* Not separated by major barrier

Table 10B: HSI Calculation for P2

Suitability Index	Factor	Notes	Score
SI 1	Location	Optimal	1.00
SI 2	Pond area	250m2	0.40
SI 3	Pond drying	Never	0.90
SI 4	Water quality	Poor	0.33
SI 5	Shoreline shade	60%	1.00
SI 6	Fowl	Minor	0.67
SI 7	Fish	Absent	1.00
SI 8	No ponds/km^{2}*	5	0.70
SI 9	Terrestrial habitat	Good	1.00
SI 10	Macrophytes	50%	0.80
HSI			0.73
Result			Good

* Not separated by major barrier

3.3.5 Reptile

Table 11: Reptiles, evidence or potential for species use.

Reptiles found	No reptiles were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of reptile use	No evidence of reptiles was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for reptile use	Level of likelihood of presence – Negligible Much of the rear garden is laid to gravel, with only occasional shrub beds, therefore, there is no suitable habitat for reptile on site. Connectivity to other suitable habitat is also limited.

3.3.6 Other Species e.g. Hazel Dormouse / Otter / Water Vole

Table 12: Other protected species, evidence or potential for species use.

Species found	No other protected species were found at the time of the survey.
Evidence of species use	No evidence of other protected species was found at the time of the survey.
Potential for species use	Level of likelihood of presence – Negligible There is no suitable habitat on site for any other protected species.

3.3.7 Invasive Non-Native (Schedule 9 Species)

Table 13: Invasive non-native species found.

Species found	No invasive non-native species were found at the time of the survey.

4.0 Conclusions, Discussion, Impacts and Recommendations

The following section details the conclusions, discussion, impacts and recommendations in the context of the proposed works.

4.1 Conclusion and Discussion

The proposals include for a rear extension to the existing property.
The site consists of a semi-detached residential property and associated garden. The only habitat that will beimpacted by the works is a small section of garden patio.
No protected species or evidence of protected species were found on site at the time of the survey.
The buildings (B1 & B2) provide negligible potential for roosting bats due to a lack of suitable roosting features and access points. B2 will not be impacted by the works.
The rear garden habitat is largely laid to gravel and provide negligible potential for badger or reptile. A small ornamental pond within a shrub bed hosts a small population of smooth newt, however, this pond returns an HSI score of 'Below Average' for GCN, and as much of the garden habitat consists of gravel and patio, there is low potential for GCN to be present.
The introduced shrub and bird box habitats provide moderate potential for breeding birds.
The site provides negligible potential for other protected species due to the lack of suitable habitat.
Recommended surveys are found in section 4.3.

4.2 Potential Impacts

Impact assessments must be proportionate to the scale of the development (CIEEM, 2018) and Table 14 details a proportionate impact assessment based on current information.

Table 14: Impact Assessment

Impact	Breeding Birds - Active nests may be lost in the development. GCN - Minor disturbance.
Characterisation of unmitigated impact on the feature	Breeding Birds - A low-level loss/impact at a local level. GCN - A low-level impact at a local level.
Effect without mitigation	Without mitigation, individual birds and GCN could be killed, injured or trapped during the works.
Mitigation and/or potential enhancement	See Table 15 and Table 16
Significance of effects of residual impacts (after mitigation)	Breeding Birds - If lost habitat is replaced by bird boxes and mitigation is followed, the effects would be negligible. GCN - If mitigation is followed, the effects would be negligible.

4.3 Recommendations

Badger - No further surveys are necessary; however, if any badger setts are found throughout works, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Bats - No further surveys are necessary; however, if bats are found throughout works, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Breeding Birds - No further surveys are recommended; however, the development should take place outside the nesting season (March to August). If this is not possible, it is recommended that a qualified ecologist is on-site to ensure the building/vegetation is not occupied by breeding birds, prior to demolition/clearance. Should an occupied nest be found, a buffer zone would need to be created until the nest is no longer in use.

Great Crested Newt (GCN) - The site falls within an amber risk zone, however, the habitat to be affected consists solely of a small section of garden patio, therefore, the risks to GCN are considered to be low. As there is a small known population of smooth newt within the rear garden, and a further pond within 50m of the site, it

is recommended that a precautionary approach to the works is taken and that an **Unlicenced Method Statement** be followed.

Reptiles - No further survey is necessary; however, if reptiles are found on-site, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Other protected species - No further survey is necessary; however, if any other protected species are found on site, all works must stop, and advice sought.

Habitats - All habitats found are common and widespread, no impacts are foreseen.

The findings outlined in this report are valid for 12-18 months, after which updated surveys will be required.

4.4 Additional Recommendations

Table 15: Additional Recommendations

Work	Specification
General information	The following must be undertaken: ▪ All works must be undertaken within 12 months of this report, thereafter a material change check will be required to check for changes that could affect potential protected species habitat. ▪ If any protected species are found at any point whatsoever during works, works will stop and further advice will be sought.
General Precautions	▪ Trenches and open holes - All trenches and open holes should be covered overnight, or if the hole or trench can't be covered it should be filled in or a rough sawn timber plank installed as an escape route for any species. ▪ General maintenance - If grassland and vegetation is kept in a mown/cut state this should be maintained for the duration of the works. ▪ Store all material on hardstanding or in buildings to prevent artificial refuges from being created.
Lighting	Any lighting near or shining onto any trees/buildings etc, will be designed to minimise the impact it has on potential species and commuting.

	Lighting will be in line with the BCT lighting guidelines (Bats and Lighting in the UK (Bat Conservation Trust, 2023) *https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/* This lighting, where possible, will be of low level, be on downward deflectors and be on PIR sensors. Using LED directional lighting can also be a way of minimising the light spill affecting the habitat. No up-lighting should be used. Light spill must be minimised too as low as possible. This will ensure that the foraging and commuting resources that the protected species are likely to be using is maintained.

Table 16: The local authority has a duty to enhance biodiversity in its day-to-day duties; the following are suggested enhancements that are easily installed into a development and can be cost-effective whilst ensuring a gain for local wildlife.

Work	Specification
Bat, bird and insect box enhancement.	Bird and insect boxes are already installed within the rear garden, however, bat tubes could be installed in the new extension (Figure 15). These require no maintenance, can be installed on a gable end/under an eave (no less than 3m above ground level), face south or north and can be faced in any material to provide an aesthetic matching the building.  Figure 15: Example of bat tube.
Hedgehog highways and small mammal connectivity.	Hedgehog highways (Figure 16) can be installed in order to allow hedgehogs and other small mammals a continuous corridor across the site, thus linking the garden/site etc. and green spaces in the area. A 13cm-by-13cm is sufficient for any hedgehog to pass through. This will be too small for nearly all pets. Either: ▪ Remove a brick from the bottom of the wall, creating a 13cm-by-13cm hole.

- Cut a small hole in your fence if there are no gaps.
- Dig a channel underneath your wall, fence or gate.

Ideally, rather than walls or fences, a hedge will provide foraging, shelter and a route along as well as through the site.



Figure 16: Hedgehog Highway, *Source - Wildlife Trust - http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaee8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/Hedgehog%20Highway.jpg*

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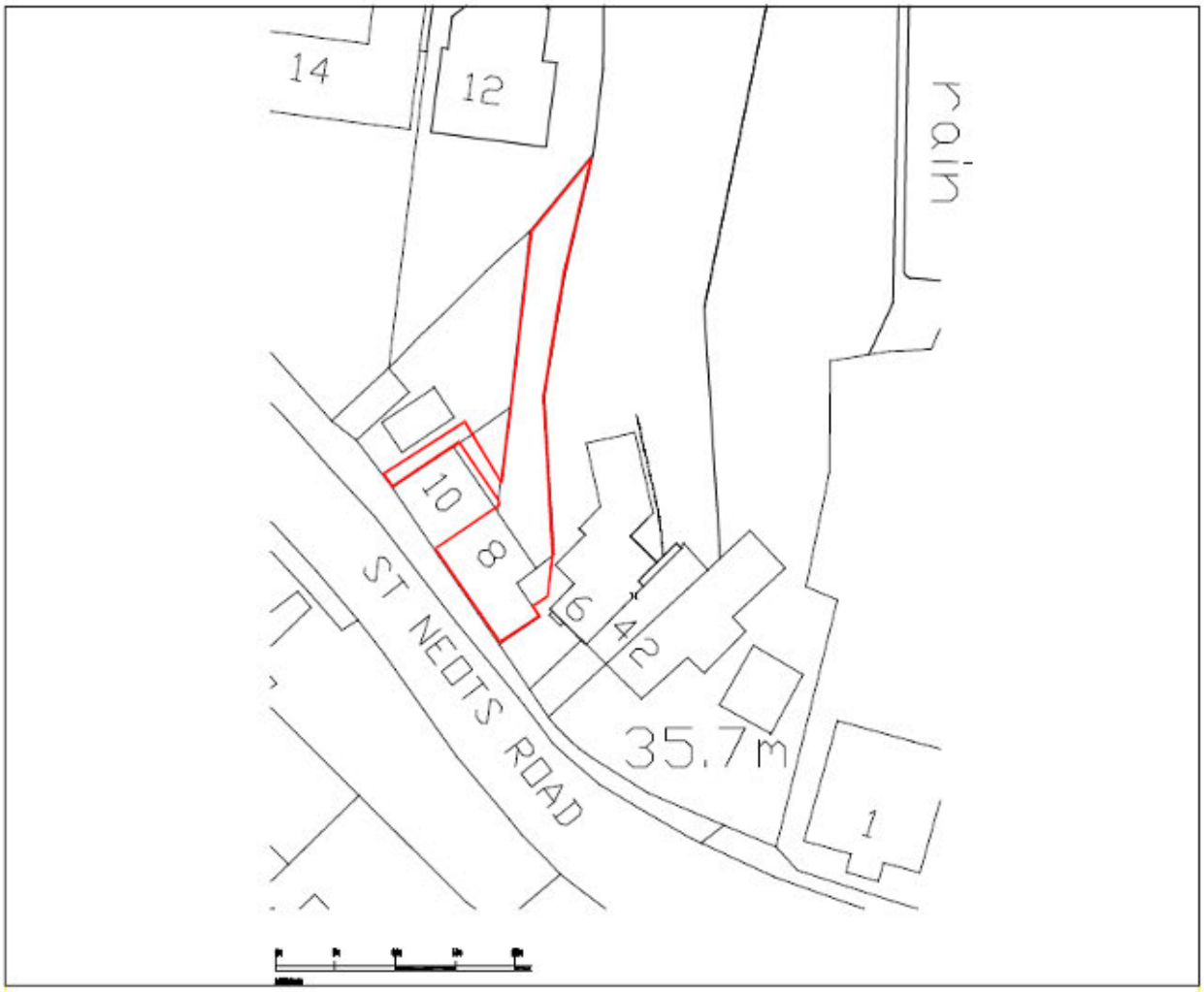
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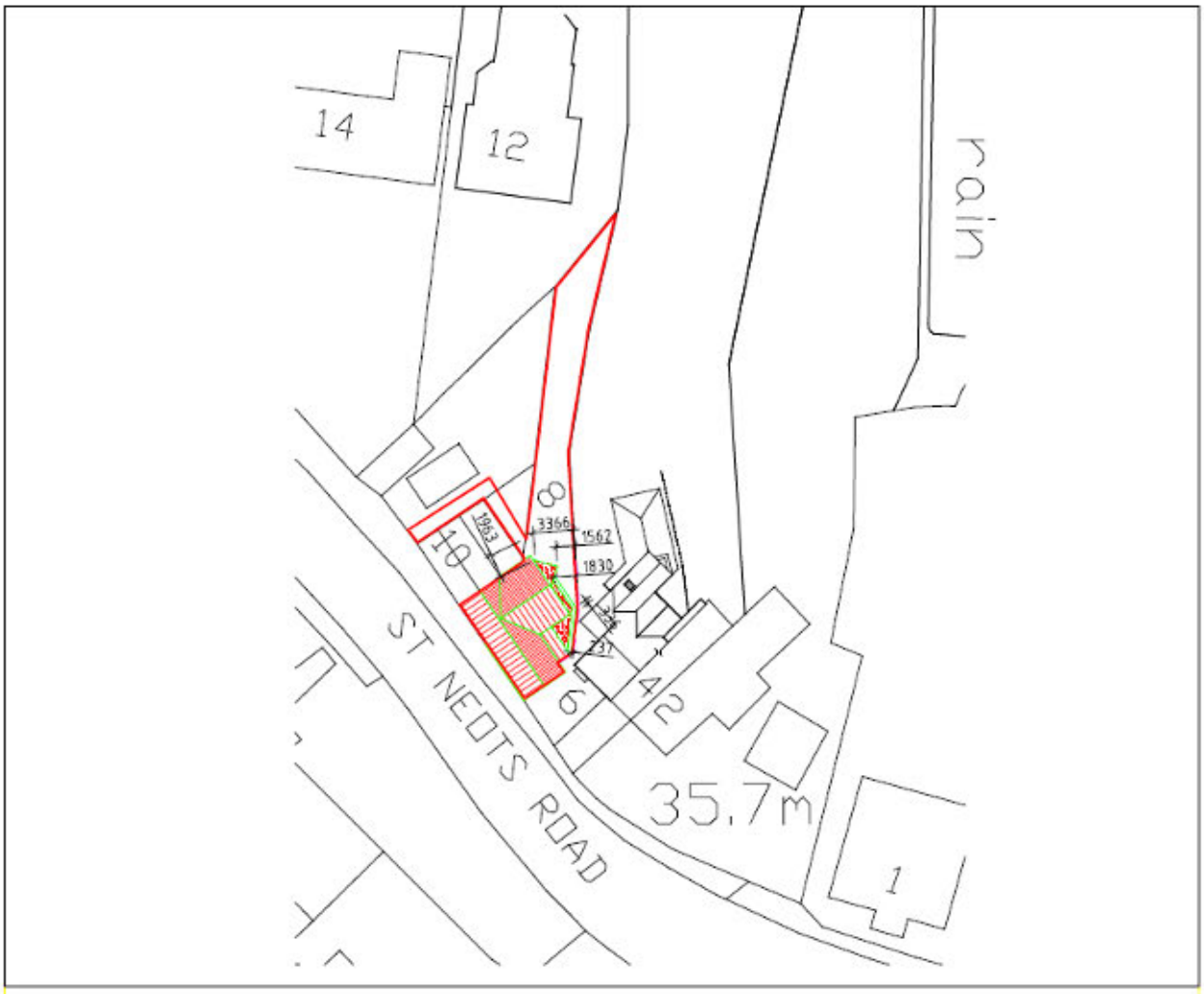
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Appendix I - Site Plans



Site Location Plan (Architectural and Construction Services Ltd, 2025)



Proposed Site Plan (Architectural and Construction Services Ltd, 2025)