www.cherryfieldecology.co.uk

Report prepared for: Tracey Reid

For the Site of: The Cottage, Main Street, Winwick, Cambs, PE28 5PN

Version:	Written by:	Checked by:	Final:
Draft	Susie Handley 03/07/2025	Heather Stuckey 10/07/2025	
Final	Sarah Kennard 08/07/2025	Martin O'Connor 10/07/2025	Sarah Kennard 11/07/2025

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.

Sarah Kennard BSc (Hons)

Bat Level 1 and GCN Level 1

sarahk@cherryfieldecology.co.uk

07500 442786

Contents

0.0 Non-Technical Summary 4
0.1 Background 4
0.2 Results and Findings 4
0.3 Impact Assessment and Recommendations 5
1.0 Introduction 7
1.1 Aim 7
1.2 Background Information 7
1.3 Species Specific Information 8
1.3.1 Breeding Birds 9
1.3.2 Bats 9
1.3.3 Reptiles 9
1.3.4 Badgers 10
1.3.5 Great Crested Newts 10
1.3.6 Otter 11
1.3.7 Water Vole 11
1.4 Protected Sites and Priority Habitats 12
2.0 Methods 13
2.1 Limitations 15
3.0 Results 16
3.1 Desk Study 16
3.1.1 MAGIC 16
3.1.2 GCN DLL Zone 17
3.1.3 Biological Records Data 17
3.1.4 Site Location and Surrounds 19

3.2 Habitat, Building, Tree or Other Structure 19
3.2.1 Habitats 20
3.2.2 Species List 25
3.3 Evidence or Likelihood of Species Presence 26
3.3.1 Bats 26
3.3.2 Badgers 27
3.3.3 Breeding Birds 27
3.3.4 Amphibian 28
3.3.5 Reptile 28
3.3.6 Other Species e.g. Hazel Dormouse / Otter / Water Vole 29
3.3.7 Invasive Non-Native (Schedule 9 Species) 29
4.0 Conclusions, Discussion, Impacts and Recommendations 30
4.1 Conclusion and Discussion 30
4.2 Potential Impacts 30
4.3 Recommendations 31
4.4 Additional Recommendations 32
5.0 References 36
Appendix I – Site Plans 37

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 The Cottage, Main Street, Winwick, Cambridgeshire, PE28 5PN.

An Ecological Appraisal was carried out by Cherryfield Ecology on the 16/09/2021 (Cherryfield Ecology, 2021) on the rear garden of The Cottage. The site at the time was shown to consist of a building (shed), hardstanding, amenity grassland, ornamental scrub, hedging and tall ruderal vegetation. No protected species or evidence of protected species were found on site at the time of the survey and no further surveys were recommended.
The client commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake an update EA as the proposals include for a single storey kitchen extension to the rear of the property. Plans have been provided (Appendix I).

0.2 Results and Findings

The site consists of vegetated garden, building, developed land; sealed surface (hardstanding) and artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface (gravel) and ornamental hedgerow.
The site provides negligible potential for badger due to the lack of field signs within the site and the garden comprising of suboptimal habitat. B1 provides negligible potential for roosting bats due to the lack of crevices and roosting features due to

recent reroofing (2018). B2 provides negligible potential due to the shed being recently built with a lack of damage and crevices within the cladding and roofing. B3 provides negligible potential for roosting bats due to the suboptimal material and structure of the shed. The shrub and hedgerow provide moderate potential for breeding birds, however, these are not intended to be impacted. Minor habitat provides low potential for reptiles and GCN due to the presence of flowerbeds, hedgerow and minor debris piles, however, these areas are not intended to be impacted by the works, and the footprint of the extension is located within hardstanding surfaces with a minor area of managed lawn to be impacted.

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 vegetation is not occupied by breeding birds, prior to clearance (if required). 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) – **Unlicensed Method Statement**

The site falls within an amber zone with several waterbodies located within 250m however, the footprint of the works lies within hardstanding surfaces with some suboptimal terrestrial habitat for GCN to be impacted and it is therefore considered disproportionate to the site to enter into the DLL scheme. As the surrounding habitats offer more potential, it is recommended that a precautionary

approach is undertaken and that works are conducted under an Unlicensed Method Statement.

Reptiles – No further survey is necessary; however, precautionary working measures should be outlined within the GCN method statement.

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, Tracey Reid, has commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake an EA for the site of The Cottage, Main Street, Winwick, Cambs, PE28 5PN. Planning permission is being sought for a single storey kitchen extension to the rear of the property.

An Ecological Appraisal was carried out by Cherryfield Ecology on the 16/09/2021 (Cherryfield Ecology, 2021) on the rear garden of The Cottage. The site at the time was shown to consist of a building (shed), hardstanding, amenity grassland, ornamental scrub, hedging and tall ruderal vegetation. No protected species or evidence of protected species were found on site at the time of the survey and no further surveys were recommended.

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 07/07/2025.

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 10504 80791 and Postcode – PE28 5PN.

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	n/a	None within search area
Granted protected species licenses	n/a	None within search area
Priority habitat	~294m southwest	Traditional orchard
	~176m southwest	Deciduous woodland
	~1,664m southeast	Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
	~1,664m southeast	Ancient Replanted Woodland

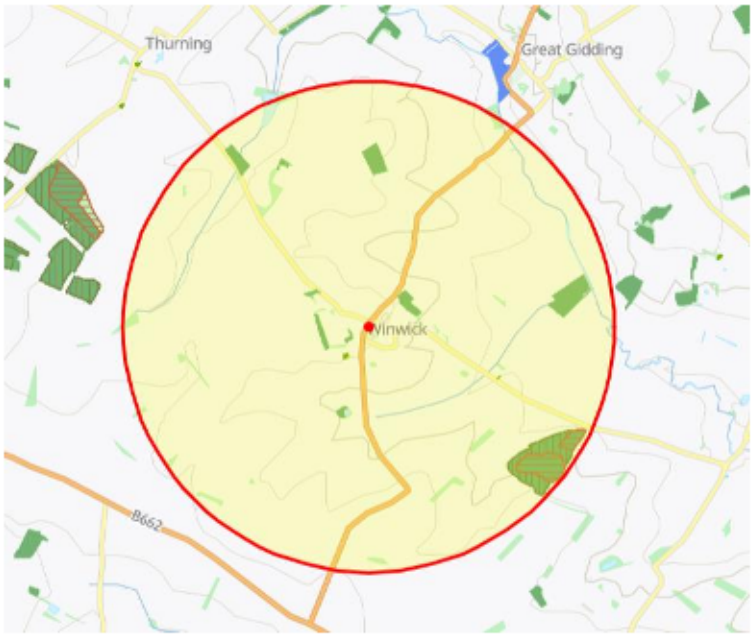


Figure 1: Magic Map Search

3.1.2 GCN DLL Zone

The site falls within an amber zone under the Natural England 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.

Biological records were obtained from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (2025).

Table 3: Biological Records

Species	Number of Records	Closest Record (accuracy)	Most Recent Record (year)
Amphibians			
Common Frog *Rana temporaria*	-	-	-
Common Toad *Bufo bufo*	-	-	-
Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*	2	122m (100m)	2021
Palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus*	-	-	-

Smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*	-	-	-
Bats			
Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*	-	-	-
Brown Long-Eared *Plecotus auritus*	-	-	-
Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	-	-	-
Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii*	-	-	-
Leisler's *Nyctalus leisleri*	-	-	-
Nathusius' Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*	-	-	-
Natterer's *Myotis nattereri*	-	-	-
Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*	-	-	-
Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*	-	-	-
Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	-	-	-
Unidentified Bat *Chiroptera* sp.	-	-	-
Unidentified Long-Eared *Plecotus* sp.	-	-	-
Unidentified Myotis *Myotis* sp.	-	-	-
Unidentified Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus* sp.	-	-	-
Unidentified Vesper *Vespertilionidae*	-	-	-
Whiskered *Myotis mystacinus*	-	-	-
Mammals (exc. Bats)			
Badger *Meles meles*	-	-	-
Hazel Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*	-	-	-
Otter *Lutra lutra*	-	-	-
Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius*	-	-	-
West European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*	-	-	-
Reptiles			
Adder *Vipera berus*	-	-	-
Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara*	-	-	-
Grass Snake *Natrix helvetica*	1	290 (100m)	2020
Slow-Worm *Anguis fragilis*	-	-	-
Other			
Birds, Invertebrates, Plants etc.	Numerous	-	-

3.1.4 Site Location and Surrounds

The site is located in Winwick, Cambridgeshire and is surrounded by medium density housing and amenity grassland in the immediate locale. Table 4 details the commuting, feeding and habitat features in a 1km radius of the site.

Table 4: Habitat features suitable for use by protected species.

Feature	Description
Watercourses	There is a network of drains throughout the search area, found to the north, east and south, the closest is ~582m east.
Waterbodies	There are six ponds and a moat within 250m of the building, one adjacent to the southeast of the building, ~72m southwest, ~82m southwest, ~177m southeast, ~40m west, ~172m southeast, 152m northeast, 254m southeast and 260m southwest. There are two ponds to the east, ~520m and ~889m. Two ponds are found to the southeast, ~360m and ~401m. There is a waterbody ~688m and two ponds ~725m and ~692m south southwest. There is a pond ~311m northwest. There is a pond ~388m north northwest and a pond ~459m northeast.
Woodland	A copse is located 297m from the site to the northeast and 180m to the southwest of the site.
Linear e.g. hedgerows	Garden hedgerows are found in the immediate locale and field margin hedgerows dominate the wider landscape.
Pasture/arable/grassland	Amenity grassland is found in the immediate locale and arable fields and pasture dominate the sider landscape.
Other	n/a

3.2 Habitat, Building, Tree or Other Structure

This section details the structures/habitat reference and descriptions (see Figure 9 for Site Plan).

Table 5: Weather Records

Parameter	Unit/value
Temperature	18°C
Cloud cover	30%
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 watercourse features on site.

Table 6: 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)		B1 A detached dwelling which has undergone several extensions over time onto the original building is present within the site (planning ref: 0702059FUL). Several single storey side extensions are present to the northern end of the dwelling. The dwelling is made of traditional brickwork. A new roof with skylights has been installed within the dwelling in 2018 and comprises of modern clay pantiles. Timber fascia boards are present along the western gable end. A side extension made of timber cladding is located at the eastern end of the building. Slate roof tiles and skylights are located within the roofing.  Figure 2: Rear of property where extension is proposed.

		B2 A wooden shed is found on site, built circa 2010. It is single storey and timber clad to the exterior and is in good condition. The roof consists of a clay pan tile, again in good condition. A lean-to glass house area is found to one end. Internally it is vaulted and used for storage. The tile undersides are exposed. This is not intended to be impacted.  Figure 3: Example of shed. B3 An additional flat roofed shed is located within the front driveway comprised of timber weatherboarding and corrugated sheet roofing. This is not intended to be impacted.
Developed Land; Sealed Surface		Decking is located at the rear of the property within the footprint of the proposed single storey extension. Small areas of patio are located around B2 and at the rear of the garden.

		 Figure 4: Example of patio.  Figure 5: Example of patio.
Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface		A gravel driveway is located at the front of the property.
Built Up Areas & Gardens	828 – Vegetated Garden	Garden is located within the majority of the site, the lawn is mown and comprised of approximately four species on average per m^2, including perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and autumn hawkbit *Scorzoneroides autumnalis*. The eastern boundary is comprised of a flowerbed including lavender *Lavandula sp*, bracken *Pteridium sp*, foxglove

		Digitalis sp, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and geranium *Geranium sp.*  Figure 6: Example of lawn within garden.  Figure 7: Example of flowerbed within garden.
Linear Features		
UKHab Habitat Type (to the appropriate level)	**UKHab Essential & Additional Secondary Codes (where relevant)**	**Description**
Non-Native & Ornamental Hedgerow		An ornamental laurel hedgerow is located at the western boundary of the garden. Occasional ivy and sycamore is located within the hedgerow.

		 Figure 8: Example of hedgerow within garden.

Table 8: Target Notes

Target Note	Description
TG1	Minor debris piles are located at the rear of the garden, however, this will not be impacted.
TG2	Potential roosting features within adjacent building (see Table 10).



Figure 9: Site Plan

3.2.2 Species List

Table 9: Species found on site with relevant *DAFOR abundance.

Common Name	Scientific Name	*DAFOR Scale	Habitat
Annual Meadow grass	*Poa annua*	O	Vegetated Garden
Autumn Hawkbit	*Scorzoneroides autumnalis*	O	Vegetated Garden
Bracken	*Pteridium aquilinum*	R	Vegetated Garden
Cherry Laurel	*Prunus laurocerasus*	D	Ornamental Hedgerow
Creeping Buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*	A	Vegetated Garden
Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale agg.*	R	
Daisy	*Leucanthemum sp*	R	
Dogwood	*Cornus sanguinea*	O	

False Oat-Grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	O	Vegetated Garden
Foxglove	*Digitalis purpurea*	R	
Greater Plantain	*Plantago major*	O	
Hollyhock	*Alcea rosea*	R	
Ivy	*Hedera helix*	O	Ornamental Hedgerow
Lavender	*Lavandula sp.*	O	Vegetated Garden
Laurel	*Prunus sp*	R	
Mallow	*Malva sylvestris*	R	
Perennial Rye-Grass	*Lolium perenne*	A	
Selfheal	*Prunella vulgaris*	F	
Sowthistle	*Sonchus oleraceus*	O	
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	R	Ornamental Hedgerow
White Clover	*Trifolium repens*	A	Vegetated Garden
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	R	

*DAFOR - Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional and Rare

3.3 Evidence or Likelihood of Species Presence

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

3.3.1 Bats

Table 10: 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 and B2 -Negligible The building provides negligible potential for roosting bats due to the lack of crevices within the brickwork and tiling due to being of recent construction with a lack of damage and disrepair or ill-fitting tiles. In addition, the cladding of B2 is in good condition with a lack of lifted boards to provide a crevice for roosting bats. B3- Negligible The shed provides negligible potential for roosting bats due to the suboptimal material and structure of the building for roosting bats.

	A neighbouring building to the south of the garden possesses potential roosting features in the form of lifted lead flashing around the brickwork chimney and damaged brickwork around the guttering. However, this is not intended to be impacted.  Figure 10: Example of crevices around chimney. Bats are likely to use the site for foraging and commuting purposes given the proximity to dwellings, gardens and green open spaces.

3.3.2 Badgers

Table 11: 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 There is limited sett building habitat on site. The dwelling is located in close proximity to green spaces including a church cemetery and a green, and arable fields are located in the wider vicinity, therefore, commuting and foraging badger may be present in the area.

3.3.3 Breeding Birds

Table 12: 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 The hedgerows and shrubs on site provide suitable habitat for nesting birds.

3.3.4 Amphibian

Table 13: 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 A small waterbody is located within the neighbouring garden, 23m south of the proposed extension. An additional waterbody is located 40m west and 82m and 72m southwest. A further waterbody is located 172m southeast and 152m northeast. These are connected to the site via gardens and vegetated space with minor roads. In addition, the site is located within an amber risk zone for GCN therefore suitable habitat is located within the area. The flowerbeds, hedgerow and debris piles offer some suitable habitat for GCN with the managed garden lawn providing suboptimal vegetation. Therefore, it is possible for GCN to be present within the site. However, the footprint of the works is largely concentrated on an area of existing decking with a minor area of lawn to be impacted which offers suboptimal habitat for the species.

3.3.5 Reptile

Table 14: 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 –Low Minor habitat in the form of shrubs, flower beds, hedgerow and debris piles are located within the rear garden provides some suitable habitat

	for reptiles. These areas of the site will not be impacted by the proposed development.

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

Table 15: 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 16: 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 single storey kitchen extension to the rear of the property. The site consists of vegetated garden, building, developed land; sealed surface (hardstanding) and artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface (gravel and ornamental hedgerow.

The site provides negligible potential for badger due to the lack of field signs within the site and comprising of suboptimal habitat. B1 provides negligible potential for roosting bats due to the lack of crevices and roosting features due to recent reroofing (2018). B2 provides negligible potential due to the shed being recently built with a lack of damage and crevices within the cladding and roofing. B3 provides negligible potential for roosting bats due to the suboptimal material and structure of the shed. The shrub and hedgerow provide moderate potential for breeding birds, however, these are not intended to be impacted. Minor habitat provides low potential for reptiles and GCN due to the presence of flowerbeds, hedgerow and minor debris piles, however, these areas are not intended to be impacted by the works and the footprint of the extension is located within hardstanding surfaces with a minor area of managed lawn to be impacted.

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 17 details a proportionate impact assessment based on current information.

Table 17: Impact Assessment

Impact	GCN – Loss of habitat.

	Reptiles – Loss of habitat.
Characterisation of unmitigated impact on the feature	GCN – A low-level loss/impact at a local level. Reptiles - A low-level loss/impact at a local level.
Effect without mitigation	Without mitigation, individual GCN and reptiles could be killed, injured or trapped during the works.
Mitigation and/or potential enhancement	See Table 17 and Table 18
Significance of effects of residual impacts (after mitigation)	GCN – If mitigation is followed, the effects would be negligible. Reptiles – 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 vegetation is not occupied by breeding birds, prior to clearance (if required). 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) – **Unlicensed Method Statement**

The site falls within an amber zone with several waterbodies located within 250m however, the footprint of the works lies within hardstanding surfaces with some suboptimal terrestrial habitat for GCN to be impacted and it is therefore considered disproportionate to the site to enter into the DLL scheme. As the

surrounding habitats offer more potential, it is recommended that a precautionary approach is undertaken and that works are conducted under an Unlicensed Method Statement.

Reptiles –No further survey is necessary; however, precautionary working measures should be outlined within the GCN method statement.

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.

4.4 Additional Recommendations

Table 18: 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 to 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 19: 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.	Bat boxes can be installed on the existing dwelling due to the proposed single storey extension being of suboptimal height for bat box or bat tube placement. One Chillon Woodstone bat box(es) or similar boxes (Figure 11) can be hung on the building at a minimum of 3m from ground level and face south/southwesterly. These boxes are known to be used by crevice and void dwelling species.  Figure 11: Chillon Woodstone Bat Box (British-made) A variety of insect boxes can be installed in the area; a minimum of one box is recommended (Figure 12 and Figure 13).

	 Figure 12: Urban bee nesting box, used for solitary bees and wasps.  Figure 13: Bug biome, ideal for ladybirds, lacewings and bees.
Swifts *Apus apus*	Swift nest boxes (Figure 14) are recommended due to the increased lack of nesting opportunities swifts are finding in modern-built dwelling homes. Information is adapted from the RSPB https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news/news/stories/swift-advice-for-ecologists/ and http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com The following will be undertaken: ▪ Wherever possible, swift boxes will be installed into new or restored buildings to increase the overall availability of nest sites for swifts and other species. Birds such as house sparrows can use swift bricks, but swifts cannot use house sparrow nest bricks. ▪ Try to ensure swift boxes have a minimum of 5m clearance beneath and in front. Always avoid locating them above doors and windows to help prevent a disturbance issue to both the birds and human owners.



Figure 14: Swift box, *source*: *http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/p/diy-swift-box-designs.html*

5.0 References

BCT/ILP (2023), Bats and artificial lighting at night, https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/ accessed at time of report

CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, September 2018. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester, online at https://www.cieem.net/data/files/ECIA%20Guidelines.pdf

Collins, J. (ed.), (2023), Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition, BCT, London

Google Earth, (2025), Located on site postcode, online

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey a technique for environmental audit.

MAGIC, (2025): Magic maps, NEPS licences and designated sites, online http://www.magic.gov.uk/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fMagicMap.aspx, accessed as report date.

National Planning Policy Framework, 2023

Natural England (2007). Badgers and Development a Guide to Best Practice and Licensing. Natural England. Bristol.

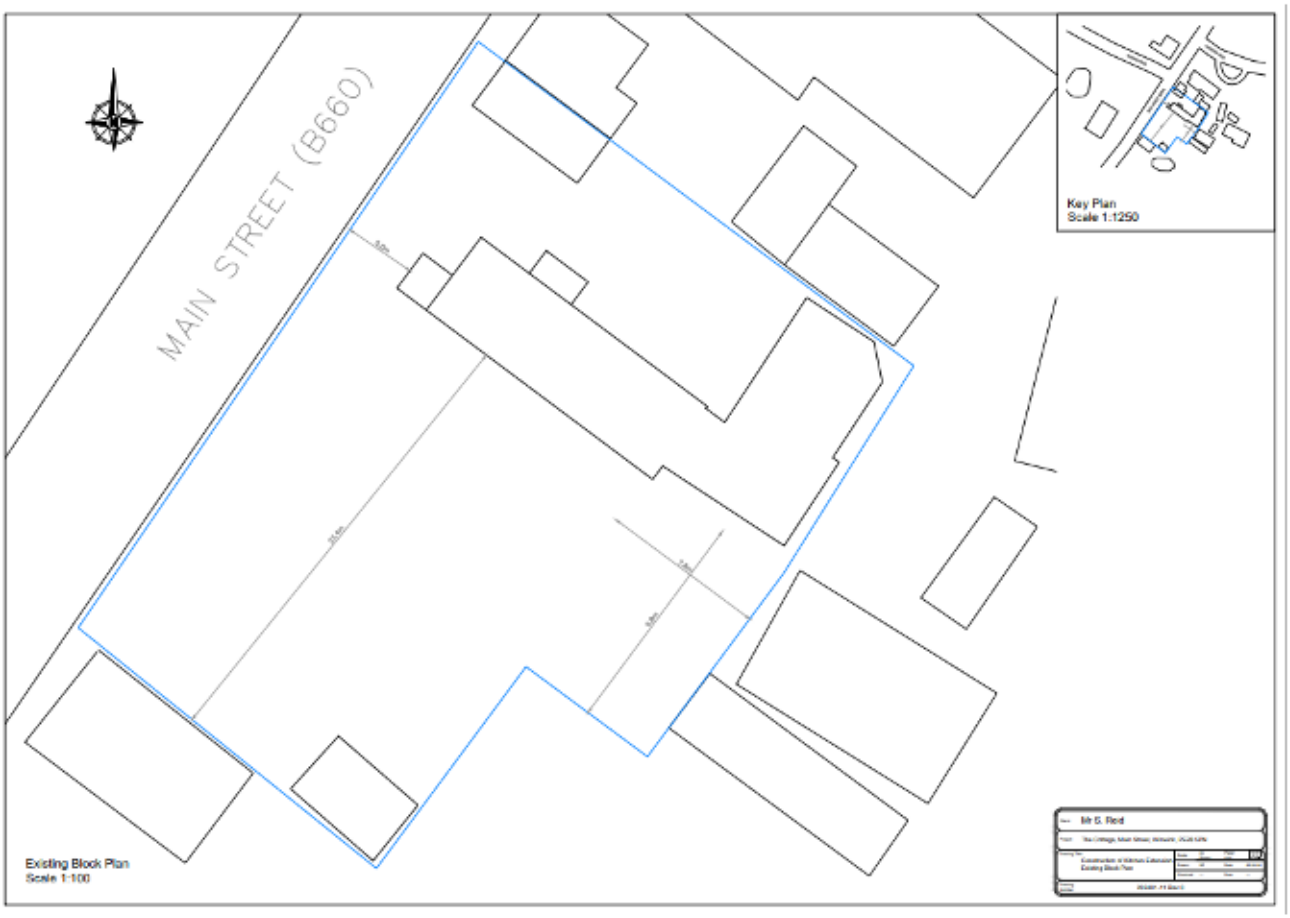
Paul Edgar, Jim Foster and John Baker (2010). Reptile Habitat Management Handbook. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth

Records: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (2025).

Tom Langton, Catherine Beckett and Jim Foster (2001). Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook. Froglife.

UKHab (2023), *UKHabitat Classification*, UKHab, [Online] https://ukhab.org/ (Accessed at time of report).

Appendix I - Site Plans



Existing Site Plan (2024)



Proposed Site Plan (2024).