www.cherryfieldecology.co.uk

Report prepared for: RJ Watkins Limited

For the Site of: 25 St Neots Road, Abbotsley, PE19 6UU

Version:	Written by:	Checked by:	Final:
Draft	Susie Handley 15-01-2025	Heather Stuckey 03/02/2025	
Final	Katie Green 29/01/2025	Martin O'Connor 06/02/2025	Katie Green 06/02/2025

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 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.

Katie Green BSc (Hons)

katie@cherryfieldecology.co.uk

07421 708652

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 8
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 10
1.3.7 Water Vole 11
1.4 Protected Sites and Priority Habitats 11
2.0 Methods 12
2.1 Limitations 14
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 18

3.2 Habitat, Building, Tree or Other Structure 18
3.2.1 Habitats 19
3.2.2 Species List 26
3.3 Evidence or Likelihood of Species Presence 27
3.3.1 Bats 27
3.3.2 Badgers 27
3.3.3 Breeding Birds 27
3.3.4 Amphibian 28
3.3.5 Reptile 29
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 38
Appendix I – Site Plans 40

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 25 St Neots Road, Abbotsley, PE19 6UU.

A previous planning application (23/00841/HHFUL) has been granted on site, under which works to extend the current dwelling have been recently completed.
New proposals include for the construction of an outbuilding within the back garden, and the client commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake an EA for the site.
Plans have been provided (Appendix I)

0.2 Results and Findings

The site consists of a semi-detached two storey dwelling with associated garden.
No protected species or evidence of protected species were found on site at the time of the survey.
The site provides **negligible** potential for badger, Great Crested Newt (GCN) and reptiles due to the lack of suitable habitat and limited connectivity to more suitable habitats.
The building (B1) will not be impacted by the works, and the timber shed (B2) provides **negligible** potential for roosting bats due to the lack of roosting features.
The hedgerow habitat provides **low** 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) – No further survey is necessary; however if GCN are found on site, all works must stop, and advice sought.

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 one year, 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

A previous planning application (23/00841/HHFUL) has been granted on site, under which works to extend the current dwelling have been recently completed.

New proposals include for the construction of an outbuilding within the back garden, and the client commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake an EA for 25 St Neots Road, Abbotsley, PE19 6UU.

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 29th January 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.

A summary of the condition assessments for BNG are included (where required) within Section 3.2.1. The excel sheets for these are released separately.

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.

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.

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 22433 56738 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	~1595m northwest	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
	Small areas throughout search area, nearest ~519m southeast	Deciduous woodland
	~95m northeast	Traditional orchard
	cluster of 3 small areas ~1427m northeast	Lowland fens

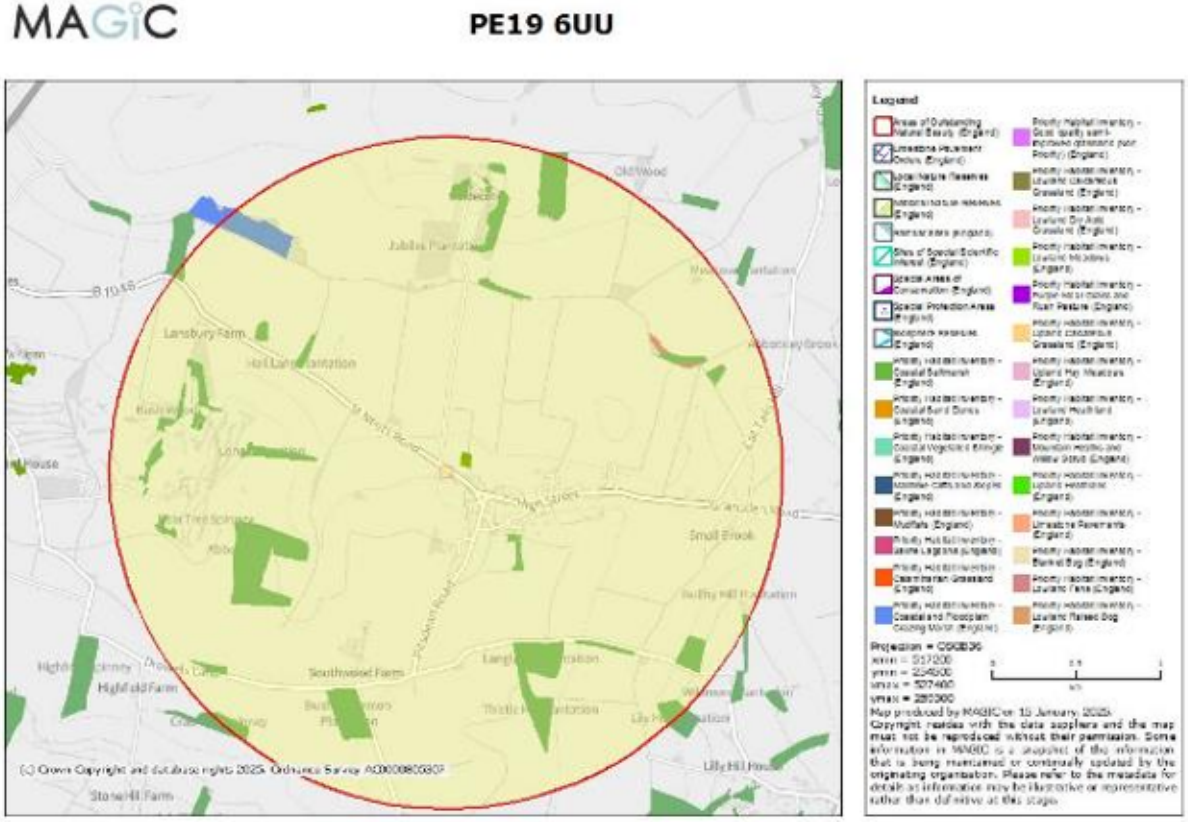


Figure 1: MAGIC Map Search

3.1.2 GCN DLL Zone

Natural England – The site falls within in an AMBER zone.

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.*

Data was collected; however, no data has been collected within the last ten years.

3.1.4 Site Location and Surrounds

The site is located in Abbotsley, Cambridgeshire and is surrounded by low density residential housing and agricultural land in the immediate locale. Table 4 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	Brooks dominate the search area forming a network of tributries, the closest to the site is ~145 east at its closest point.
Waterbodies	Nearest ~123m southeast small pond within a park Four waterbodies within ~562m southeast One waterbody ~444m south One waterbody ~883m east One waterbody ~883m northeast
Woodland	The search area contains four areas of woodland, the nearest is a small woodland copse ~580m southeast.
Linear e.g. hedgerows	Garden and arable hedgerows are found throughout the search area
Pasture/arable/grassland	Arable fields and pasture dominate the search area
Other	Graveyard ~450m southeast

3.2 Habitat, Building, Tree or Other Structure

This section details the structures/habitat reference and descriptions (see Figure 11 for Site Plan).

Table 4: Weather Records

Parameter	Unit/value
Temperature	7°C
Cloud cover	31%
Precipitation	None
Wind	1/12

3.2.1 Habitats

Habitats found on site are mapped using UKHab (UKHab, 2023).

Table 5: Habitat features found on site.

Habitat Features		
UKHab Habitat Type (to the appropriate level)	**UKHab Essential Secondary Codes & Additional Secondary Codes (where relevant)**	**Description**
Developed Land; Sealed Surface (Buildings)		The main building (B1) on site is a double storey semi-detached dwelling. This has had recent works to extend the building under a previously granted planning application. The new proposals will not impact this building. A small timber shed (B2) stands at the rear of the garden. This has a shallow pitched roof, covered in plastic sheeting and is in disrepair.  Figure 3: Front view of B1

		 Figure 4: Rear view of B1.  Figure 5: External of B2.
Artificially Unvegetated, Unsealed Land		A new gravel driveway occupies the front of the site (see figure 3)
Vegetated Garden	200 - Tree	The rear garden has been subject to recent landscaping works and now features dug trenches and spoil piles; emerging vegetation is consistent with that found on waste ground. Previously the garden consisted almost entirely of garden lawn.

		The remains of two garden trees are present. Anecdotal evidence suggests these have been felled for over a year.  Figure 6: Rear Garden
Linear Features		
UKHab Habitat Type (to the appropriate level)	**UKHab Essential Secondary Codes & Additional Secondary Codes (where relevant)**	**Description**
Non-Native & Ornamental Hedgerow		A length of leylandii is found on the northwest boundary of the rear garden. A short length of box honeysuckle lines the southeastern boundary of the front drive.



Figure 7: leylandii hedgerow found within the garden.



Figure 8: Honeysuckle located within the front driveway.

Table 6: Target Notes

Target Note	Description
TN1	A shallow ditch (wet at the time of the survey following rainfall) runs along the adjacent roadside.

	 Figure 9: Ditch that runs close to site.
TN2	A pond is located ~123m southeast of the site. This was located within a public park. The pond was mostly shaded and vegetation was mainly comprised of bullrush *Typha latifolia*.  Figure 10: Pond located close to site.



Figure 11: Site Plan



Figure 12: Location of target notes in relation to the site

3.2.2 Species List

Table 7: Species found on site with relevant *DAFOR abundance.

Common Name	Scientific Name	*DAFOR Scale	Habitat
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus* agg.	R	Vegetated Garden
Bristly Oxtongue	*Picris echioides*	F	Vegetated Garden
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*	F	Vegetated Garden
Common Chickweed	*Stellaria media*	O	Vegetated Garden
Cow Parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*	R	Vegetated Garden
Crane's-Bill	*Geranium* sp.	F	Vegetated Garden
Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale* agg.	O	Vegetated Garden
Groundsel	*Senecio vulgaris*	O	Vegetated Garden
Herb-Robert	*Geranium robertianum*	O	Vegetated Garden
Honeysuckle (Ornamental)	*Lonicera* sp.	R	Vegetated Garden
Leyland Cypress	*Cuprocyparis leylandii*	R	Vegetated Garden
Nettle	*Urtica dioica*	R	Vegetated Garden
Perennial Rye-Grass	*Lolium perenne*	A	Vegetated Garden
Petty Spurge	*Euphorbia peplus*	O	Vegetated Garden
Red Dead-Nettle	*Lamium purpureum*	O	Vegetated Garden
Shephard's Purse	*Capsella bursa-pastoris*	O	Vegetated Garden
Spear Thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	R	Vegetated Garden
White Dead-Nettle	*Lamium album*	R	Vegetated Garden
Wood Avens	*Geum urbanum*	R	Vegetated Garden
Yorkshire Fog	*Holcus lanatus*	O	Vegetated Garden

*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 8: 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 - This building has undergone recent works under a separate planning application and will not be affected by the new proposals. B2- Negligible The timber shed (B2) provides negligible potential for roosting bats due to a lack of suitable roosting features. Bats may use the surrounding habitat for foraging and commuting purposes.

3.3.2 Badgers

Table 9: 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 no suitable habitat for badgers on site and limited connectivity to other more suitable habitats.

3.3.3 Breeding Birds

Table 10: 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 – Low Suitable nesting habitat on site is limited to the short lengths of ornamental hedgerow.

3.3.4 Amphibian

Table 11: 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 – Negligible The site sits within an Amber zone. The nearest pond (TN2) is located ~123m from the site and a ditch (TN1) is located on the roadside. The pond was subject to an HSI calculation which resulted in a score of good. Table 13A: HSI Calculation

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

Although there is some suitable habitat within the surrounding area, there is no suitable habitat on site, having previously consisted of short mown

	garden lawn that has been subject to regular disturbance and now consists of bare ground.

3.3.5 Reptile

Table 12: 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 There is no suitable habitat for reptiles on site and limited connectivity to other more suitable habitats.

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

Table 13: 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 14: 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 the construction of an outbuilding within the rear garden.

The site consists of a semi-detached two storey dwelling with associated garden.

No protected species or evidence of protected species were found on site at the time of the survey.

The site provides negligible potential for badger, Great Crested Newt (GCN) and reptiles due to the lack of suitable habitat and limited connectivity to more suitable habitats.

The building (B1) will not be impacted by the works, and the building (B2) provides negligible potential for roosting bats due to the lack of roosting features.

The hedgerow habitats provide low potential for breeding birds.

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

4.2 Potential Impacts

Impact assessments must be proportionate to the scale of the development (CIEEM, 2018) and Table 16 details a proportionate impact assessment based on current information.

Table 15: Impact Assessment

Impact	Breeding Birds - Active nests may be lost in the development.
Characterisation of unmitigated impact on the feature	Breeding Birds - A low-level loss/impact at a local level.
Effect without mitigation	Without mitigation, individual birds 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)	Breeding Birds – If lost habitat is replaced by bird boxes and 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) – No further survey is necessary; however if GCN are found on site, all works must stop, and advice sought.

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.

4.4 Additional Recommendations

Table 16: 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 cannot 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 17: 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 tubes can be installed in the new outbuilding (Figure 13). 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 13: Example of bat tube. Bird boxes for a variety of different species can also be installed.
Bat, bird and insect box enhancement.	A selection of open-fronted boxes and songbird boxes can be installed (Figure 14 and Figure 15); it is recommended that a minimum of one of each of the boxes are installed. These will be installed at a minimum of 2m high and ideally face north to east.  Figure 14: Robin box.



Figure 15: Songbird box.

A variety of insect boxes can be installed in the area; a minimum of one box is recommended (Figure 16 and Figure 17).



Figure 16: Urban bee nesting box, used for solitary bees and wasps.



Figure 17: Bug biome, ideal for ladybirds, lacewings and bees.

Hedgehog highways and small mammal connectivity.	Hedgehog highways 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 (Figure 18). 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 18: Hedgehog Highway, *Source - Wildlife Trust - http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaee8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/Hedgehog%20Highway.jpg*
Hedgerows	Hedgerows provide excellent corridors for wildlife and are extremely important to many species of wildlife. A hedgerow could be included in development plans to assist a range of species (Figure 19).

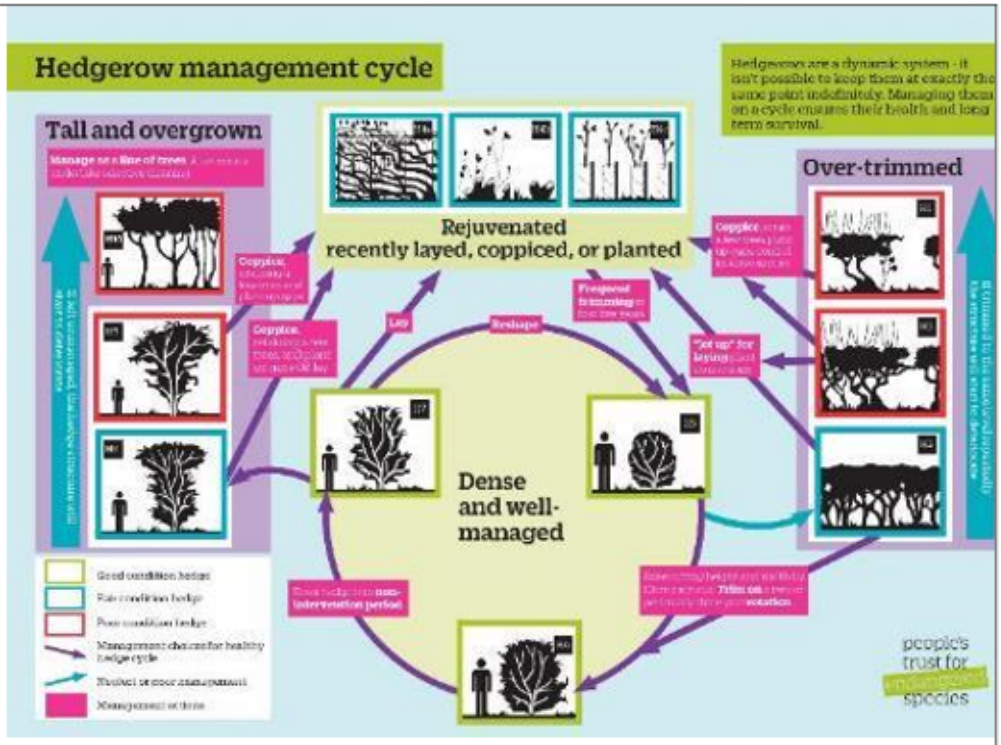


Figure 19: Hedgerow management cycle (https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org/).

It is recommended that a diversity of hedgerow species is included in the proposed hedgerows on site. Suitable hedgerow species include:

- Hawthorn (*Crateagus monogyna*)
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)
- Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
- Wayfaring Tree (*Viburnum lantana*)
- Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)
- Spindle (*Euonymus europaea*)
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

The hedgerow should include 5 or more woody species within a 30m length in order to be classified as **species-rich**.

	Where possible, no cutting will take place during peak bird nesting season, which runs from March to September. Where possible, shrubs and hedgerows will not be cut back annually, as flower buds often form on second-year growth. Trimming hedges on a two-year or three-year rotation, targeting different sections each year, will make sure there are always flowers for pollinators in spring and berries for birds in autumn. Hedges cut every three years can produce two and a half times as many blossoms as those cut annually. Rotational cutting can also save time and money that would be invested in annual cutting.

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 on Dec 2023

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 Record Centre (2025)

The Great British Hedgerow Survey (2019), People's Trust for Endangered Species, online https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org/, accessed report date.

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)

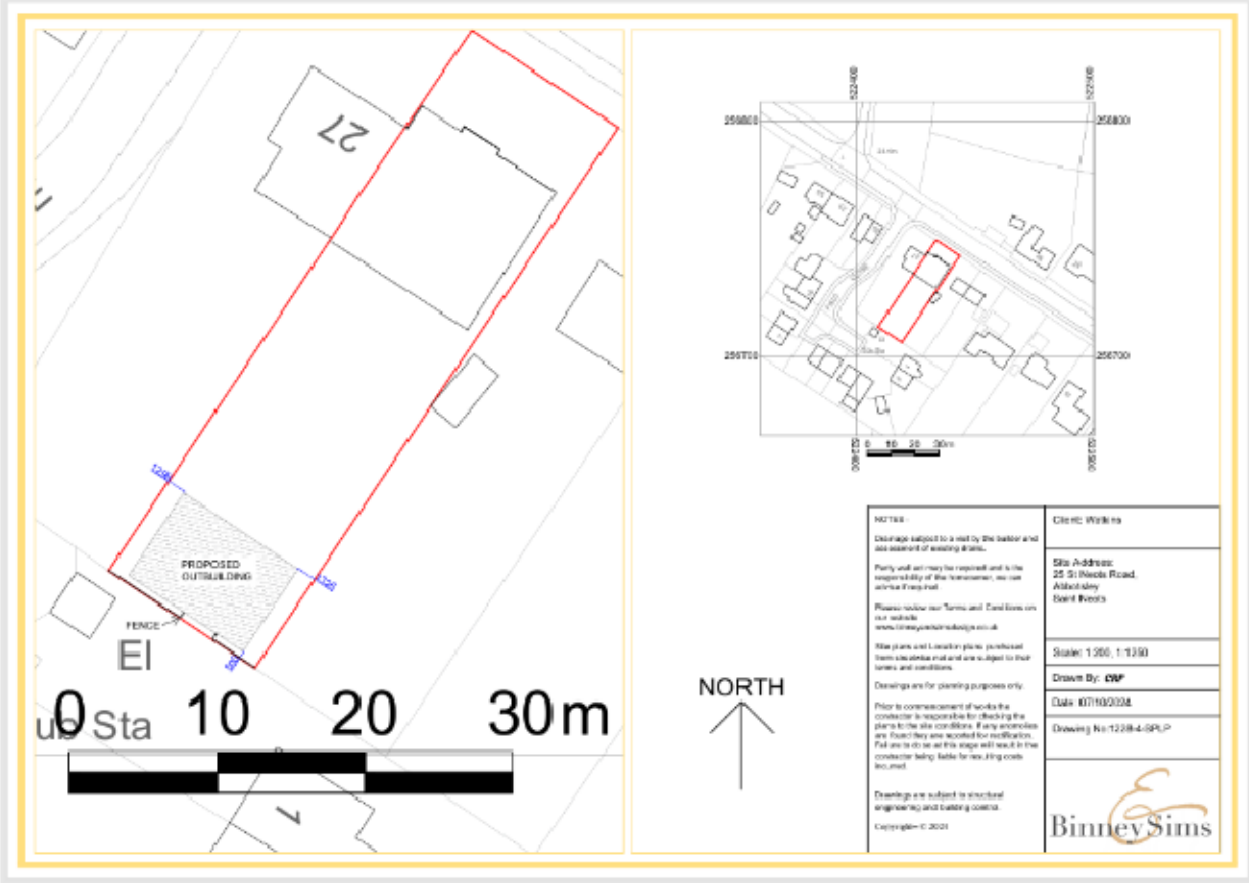
Hedgerow Survey Handbook (2nd Edition), DEFRA, 2007, online at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attach

ment_data/file/69285/pb11951-hedgerow-survey-handbook-070314.pdf accessed on 20/10/2022

Appendix I - Site Plans



Existing Site Plan (Planning Portal, 2023)



Proposed Site Plan (Binney Sims, 2024)