



ECOLOGY REPORT

Marshlands, The Marsh, Breamore, Hampshire SP6 2EJ

Prepared for: Mr & Mrs Woodward, Marshlands, The Marsh, Breamore, Hampshire SP6 2EJ

Prepared by: Katie Pollard BSc, MSc, PhD, MCIEEM

Prepared on: 23rd May 2021

Version no: 1

Summary

No bats, evidence of bats, or potential bat roost features (PRFs) were found in/on the building and therefore it is considered to have negligible bat potential. No nesting birds, or evidence of nesting birds were found in the building. No other protected species, evidence of protected species, or habitats for protected species were found on site. It is concluded that the proposed development is unlikely to impact upon any protected species or associated habitats.

Enhancements are proposed for the site development to ensure Biodiversity Net Gain in line with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019.

1.0. Introduction

1.1. Survey - The aim of the ecology survey was to confirm the presence/absence of; any protected/notable plant or animal species, any suitable habitats for protected species, such as bats, barn owls and other nesting birds on the site, badgers, reptiles and amphibians.

Local Planning Authorities are required to take into account nature conservation issues, incl. species and habitats protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) when making planning decisions. Local Planning Authorities also aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity (National Policy Planning Framework 2019 (NPPF)) and to have regard to conserving biodiversity, which includes restoring and enhancing a population or habitat under the Natural Environment & Communities Act 2006 (NERC 2006)).

1.2. Report - The aim of the report is to clearly set out the results of the survey, highlighting any effects of the proposed development on any protected species or habitats suitable for protected species on or adjacent to the site and provide mitigation and/or enhancement as appropriate.

1.3. Location of site - Marshlands, The Marsh, Breamore, Hampshire SP6 2EJ (Fig. 1), grid reference SU 15677 18226.

1.4. Description of Site - The site is in a rural location, on the outskirts of Breamore, backing onto fields (Fig. 1). The outbuilding is single storey brick building with a clay tile roof at the N and S ends and perspex roof on the E elevation in the middle section. There is a gravel drive on two sides (S & W), a lawn to the E and a paddock to the N. The building is split into three sections; a workshop/storage area with doors on both sides, a garden room (open to the E) and a carport area (open to the W). There is a wooden mower shed at the S end of the building (Figs. 2 - 7).

1.5. Description of Proposals - The proposed development is extend the outbuilding at the N end, by adding a new carport onto the W side and extending the mower shed to the S. The type and scope of the survey is appropriate to the nature and extent of development and scale of impact.

Figure 1. Location Plan

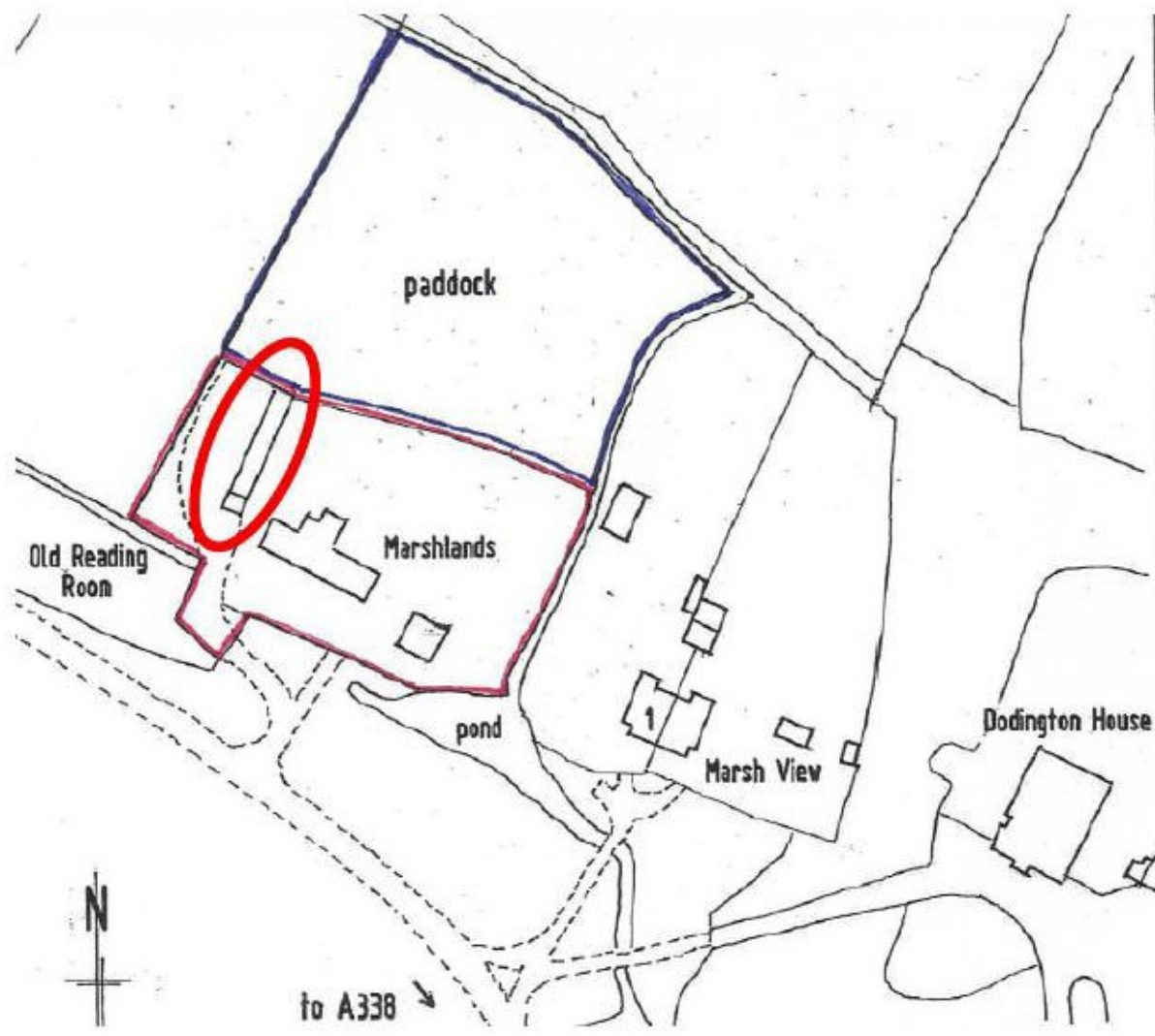


Figure 2. E elevation of outbuilding



Figure 3. W and S elevation of outbuilding



Figure 4. Interior of Workshop



Figure 5. Loft area of Workshop



Figure 6. Garden room area of building



Figure 7. Interior of carport area



2.0. Method

2.1. Desk Study - The Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) was used to search for data on protected habitats.

2.2. Field Survey - The ecology survey was carried out on 23rd April 2021, assessing the site for species and/or habitats protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Surveys were carried out following all relevant guidelines (see Reference section). The weather was fine, still and clear.

2.2.1. Bats & Buildings - All the external walls, roof coverings, soffits, fascias, internal spaces, beams, ledges, windowsills, floors, holes and cavities, etc., were checked for evidence of use by bats. Regular use is indicated by staining, droppings and worn surfaces. Bat roost features were noted, ie, gappy tiles, lifted lead flashing, gaps/holes in soffits/fascias, missing mortar around roof, etc.

2.2.3. Other Protected Species - The survey assessed the site for signs of use by protected species that could be affected by the proposed development, eg, barn owls – pellets, staining on beams/walls, feathers and other nesting birds – nests, nesting material, etc., for badgers – badger holes, latrines, hair on wire fencing, snuffle holes, etc., for reptiles/amphibians – suitable habitat, presence in/under various materials, eg, in wood piles, etc.

2.3. Field Equipment - Equipment used to carry out the survey incl. torch, ladder, endoscope, binoculars, compass, notebook and pen.

2.4. Details of Surveyor - Katie Pollard BSc, MSc, PhD, MCIEEM. Director and Principal Ecologist at KP Ecology. Ecologist for over 20 years. Natural England Licences held; Bat Class Licence 2015-11253-CLS-CLS and Barn Owl Class Licence CL29/00032.

3.0. Constraints to Survey

None.

4.0. Results

4.1. Outbuilding

No bats or evidence of bats eg, bat droppings, staining or feeding remains were found in any of the three sections of the outbuilding, or the mower shed. The loft area in the workshop is very cluttered and is lined with breathable membrane on the W side and bitumen underfelt on the E. The garden roof has no loft space and has clear perspex on the E side. The carport area is open and there is no lining under the roof tiles. There were no splits/cracks in the wood suitable for bats to roost.

The roof of the outbuilding has no gappy tiles, although only the tiles northern end are lined. There are no potential roost features (PRFs).

The outbuilding and the mower shed are not being used by bats to roost. They both have NEGLIGIBLE bat potential.

4.2. Area around Outbuilding & Mower Shed

The area around the two buildings that will be affected by the proposed work is a gravel drive., used for parking There are no protected species, evidence of protected species or habitats for protected species in this area.

The paddock to the N, garden to the E and surrounding fields, will not be affected by the proposed works. No vehicles, machinery, materials or equipment will be parked/stored on any of these areas, as the gravel drive provides ample space for all storage and parking.

4.3. MAGIC Search

The site is within 400m of Breamore Marsh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and within 1km of the River Avon System SSSI, the New Forest National Park and the River Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The SSSI is down a gravel drive and across the other side of the road from the building. There will be no adverse effect on the SSSI from this proposed development.

There are a number of ponds and Great Crested Newt records within 400m of the site. However, the proposed work will only involve work to an existing building adjacent to a gravel driveway and only part of this gravel driveway will be lost to the proposed building extension. The driveway is not suitable for Great Crested Newts, nor would they need to traverse the area to move between fields, as the field areas are to the N of the building and will not be affected by the proposed works.

4.4. Biodiversity Net Gain

There is no loss to biodiversity from the proposed works in this application. Biodiversity gains on site will be;

- Two integral bat bricks built into the W and S gable ends of the extensions to the building.
- One bird box built into the N gable end of the building.

5.0. Conclusion

None of the buildings on site have any bats or evidence of bats, Barn owls or nesting birds and there are no protected species or habitats suitable for protected species on site.

There will be no adverse effects on the protected sites, as the proposed work is within the existing curtilage of the house and grounds. The enhancements put forward will ensure net biodiversity gain for the site.

6.0. Enhancements

6.1. Two integral bat brick will be built into the new extensions, on the W and S gable ends (Figs. 8 & 9).

Figure 8. W elevation of carport

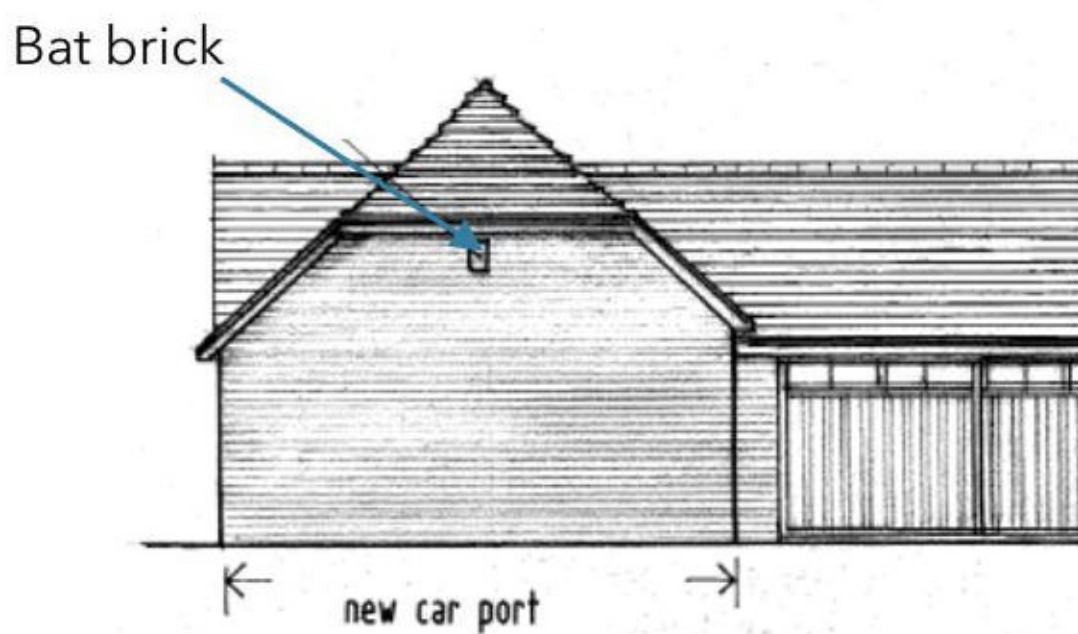
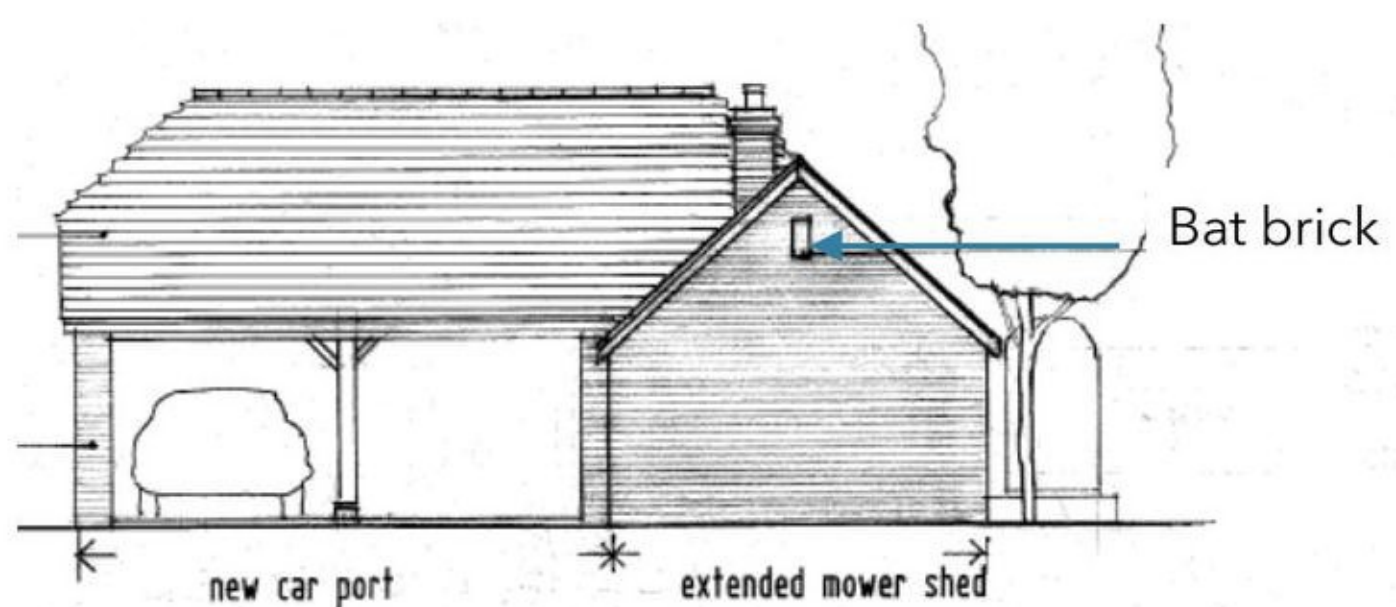
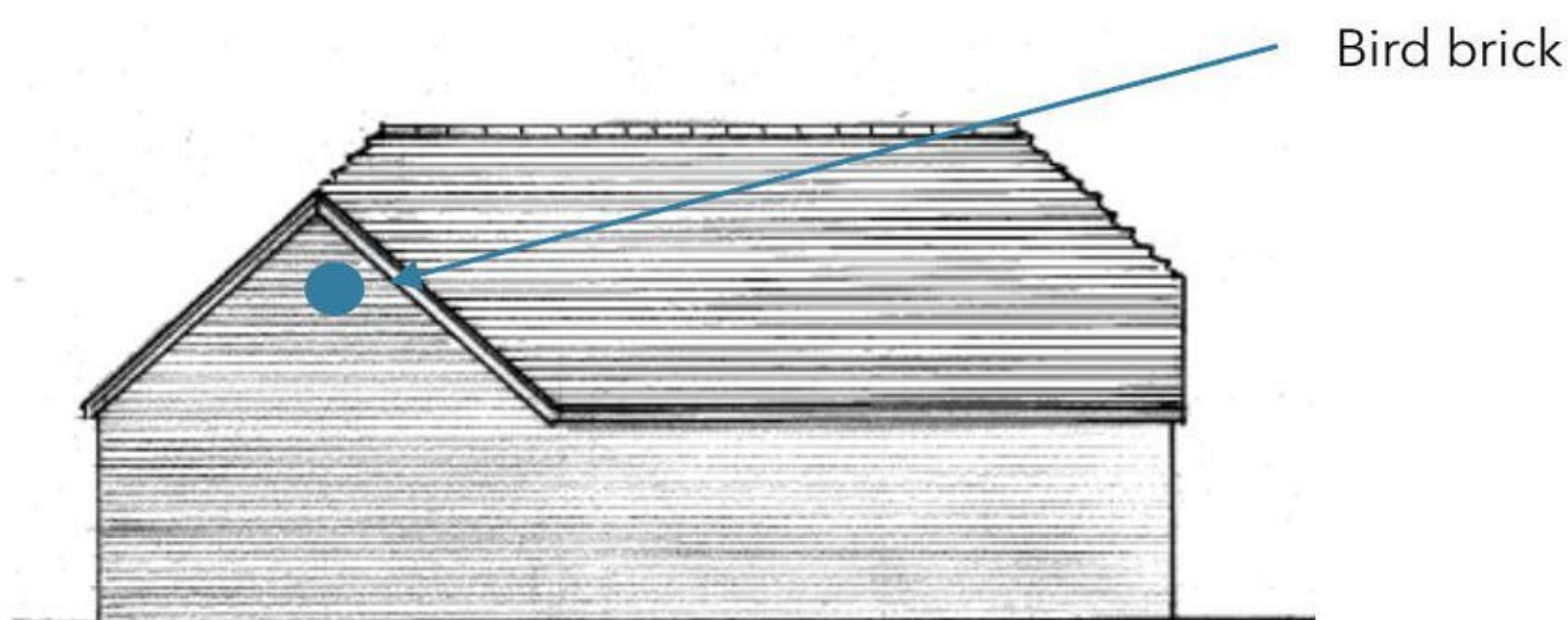


Figure 9. S elevation of mower shed



6.2. One bird brick will be built into the N gable end of building

Figure 16. Stables - NW elevation



7.0. References

- BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development (2013).
- CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2nd Ed.). <https://www.cieem.net/PEA>
- Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd ed.). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- Froglife (1999). Reptile surveys. An introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation. (Advice Sheet 10).
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). *Handbook for Phase I Habitat Survey*. JNCC.
- National Planning Policy Framework (2019) <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/NPPF>
- Oldham, R.S., Brady, L.D., Sewell, D.L. & Baker J.M.R. (2008). ARG UK Advice Note 4: Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index. Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom.
- Oldham, R.S., Keeble, J., Swan, M.J.S. & Jeffcote, M. (2000). Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*). *Herpetological Journal* 10 (4), 143-155.
- Wray S; Wells D, Long E and Mitchell-Jones T (2010). In Practice December 2010, 23-25; Valuing Bats in Ecological Impact Assessment.

Ecologist Signature



Dr K. A. Pollard MCIEEM