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Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

(Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey)

of

**The Cedars, Nedging Road, Nedging with
Naughton, Ipswich, IP7 7HW**

Survey Commissioned by:	Wilkinson Planning Ltd., on behalf of Mr Martin Pratt
Project Number:	REP22040
Report issued:	28 th December 2022
Date of survey:	18 th October 2022
Surveyor:	Odette Robson BSc (Hons) PhD MCIEEM

Project number:	Title:	Revision:	Issued:
REP22040	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of The Cedars, Nedging Road, Nedging with Naughton, Ipswich, IP7 7HW.	Final	28 th December 2022

Disclaimer

The findings detailed in this report are based on evidence from thorough survey, where every effort has been taken to provide an accurate assessment of the site at the time of the survey. No liability can be assumed for omissions or changes after the survey has taken place.

This report was instructed by Wilkinson Planning Ltd., on behalf of Mr Martin Pratt, and following the brief agreed. Robson Ecology has made every effort to meet the client's brief.

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Where roosting bats are recorded, a Protected Species Licence may be required: Natural England (the licensing authority in England) require data from the most recent survey season. Where a bat roost is not recorded, data will be valid for a maximum of 18 months from survey date.

The Report is not to be relied upon more than 12 months after its original date.

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1 Summary

Site:	The Cedars, Nedging Road, Nedging with Naughton, Ipswich, IP7 7HW
Grid Reference (taken from centre of site):	TM 01883 49633
Report Commissioned by:	Wilkinson Planning Ltd., on behalf of Mr Martin Pratt
Date of Survey:	18 th October 2022

Considerations	Description	Timings, potential impacts and mitigation.
Statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 2km:	No statutory designated sites and four non-statutory County Wildlife Sites (CWS) within 2km.	No operational or construction stage impacts to the non-statutory sites within 2km are predicted due to the distance to the sites (nearest CWS 700m), low impact of the scheme (single replacement dwelling), and no significant increase in visitor numbers (no additional residential units).
European statutory designated sites	N/a	The Cedars does not lie within the Zone of Influence of a European designated wildlife site.
Further Surveys	None required	No further survey required to inform planning application or wildlife legislation.
Precautionary measures	Hedgehogs	Precautionary measures during construction. Hedgehog links should be created under any close-board/barrier fencing.
	Reptiles and amphibians	Sensitive initial site clearance, and hand removal of any potential hibernacula/refuge opportunities should be carried out under ecological supervision between March and October (inclusive), when herptiles will be active.
	Nesting birds	Clearance of any shrubs, hedges, or trees should be carried out outside the nesting bird season or following a pre-start nesting bird survey.
	Nocturnal mammals.	A plank should be secured within any pits or excavations left open overnight, to provide an escape route for any animals which could become trapped (badger, hedgehog, fox). A sensitive external lighting scheme should be implemented to maintain dark corridors around the boundaries of the site and facilitate movement of bats through the area (during and post-construction).
Habitat types:	Lawn, hedges, scrub, garden-planting, and mature trees.	

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2 Introduction

2.1 Background

Robson Ecology Ltd. was commissioned by Mr Martin Pratt to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the bungalow and garden at *The Cedars, Nedging Road, Nedging with Naughton, Ipswich, IP7 7HW*. The National Grid co-ordinates for the centre of the site are TM 01883 49633. The assessment was required to accompany a planning application for a replacement dwelling: Proposals involve demolition of the existing bungalow and construction of a new house outside the footprint of the existing property.

2.2 Site Description and Context

The site comprises a mature, well-maintained garden and occupied bungalow on the south-western edge of the village of Nedging Tye, approximately 6km to the north of Hadleigh, Suffolk. The outskirts of Ipswich lie 12km to the south-east. A Google Streetview image from 2009 shows a vegetated mound of earth to the east of the house, within the site boundary (Plate 2.1), which was still present in the March 2022 image, but had been cleared and re-profiled to level bare earth at the time of the survey (18th October 2022).

Adjacent to the southern boundary is a quiet village road (Nedging Road); to the north is an arable field; and to the east are large, modern farm buildings associated with Tye Farm. Adjacent to the western boundary is a newbuild detached property, with further residential properties beyond.

Two ponds are marked on available maps within 500m of the site: The nearest is 140m to the west, and the other 460m south-west. Both are separated from the site by residential properties and farmland. The nearest woodland is Park Wood, associated with RAF Wattisham Airfield, 770m to the north-east. There are no significantly large woodlands or water bodies close to the site.

The wider landscape is dominated by agricultural land, mainly arable with intermittent grass pastures/paddocks, small woodlands and villages. The Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site and Special Protection Area (SPA) lies over 16km to the south-east, separated from the site by agricultural land and rural infrastructure. The Orwell Estuary SSSI is of national importance for breeding birds (specifically, avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* and wintering waterfowl), and the assemblage of vascular plants, and intertidal mud habitats.

Plate 2.1: Google Streetview March 2009 (taken from Google Maps, 23.12.22)



2.3 Planning Policy and Legislation

For the purposes of this report, protected species are taken to be those which are protected under European Legislation (The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019) and UK legislation (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Protection of Badgers Act 1992). Protected species, and Species of Principle Importance for conservation of biodiversity in England (SPIE species – formally Biodiversity Action Plan species), are a material consideration for individual planning decisions under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which places responsibility on Local Planning Authorities to aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity in and around developments, promote the enhancement of natural and local environments through planning, and achieve net gains for biodiversity where possible (MHCLG (2021)).

2.4 Aims and Objectives

- Identify the presence, or potential presence, of any protected, locally rare or notable species or habitats on the site, or within the zone of impact;
- assess the potential impact of the proposals on any protected or notable species and/or habitats present, including designated nature conservation sites on the site, or within the zone of impact;
- make recommendations for further surveys to inform the planning application (if required);
- detail any precautions required to protect habitats or species from impact, and/or mitigation or compensation, where necessary.

3 Survey Methodology

3.1 Site Survey

The site survey was undertaken by Odette Robson BSc (Hons) PhD MCIEEM, a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (MCIEEM), subject to the CIEEM Professional Code of Conduct and licensed by Natural England to survey for great crested newts (WML-CL09; Level 2), bats (WML-CL18; Level 2) and dormice (WML-CL10A).

During the survey on 18th October 2022, the temperature was 15-16°C; the wind was light (Beaufort scale 1-2), <5% cloud cover and excellent visibility.

The survey was undertaken in accordance with Guidelines for Preliminary Ecology Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017), and the broad methodology and principles of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Phase 1 Habitat Survey (JNCC 2010), which included mapping habitat types and identifying plant species observed on the site, including Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 9 invasive plant species.

The Phase 1 Habitat Map in Appendix B shows main habitat types, and features of interest, identified as target notes.

The potential for presence of protected, SPIE/BAP and rare species was assessed as follows:

Amphibians - Known ponds within 500m of the site (unless ecologically separated by significant barriers) were addressed for potential to support breeding amphibians. Habitat on

the site, was surveyed for potential to support amphibians during their aquatic and terrestrial phases.

Bats – Habitat within, and adjacent to, the site boundary was assessed for potential to support roosting, foraging and commuting bats, aided by aerial images of the surrounding landscape.

Dormice – the site was assessed for potential to support dormice: Wooded/scrub areas or hedges with good under-storey/shrub layer and a diversity of foraging opportunities covering the active dormouse season.

Reptiles – Habitats were assessed for potential to support foraging or breeding reptiles and hibernation or refuge opportunities (Gent and Gibson, 1998; Froglife, 1999).

Invertebrates - The site was surveyed for high quality aquatic, deadwood or other habitats which could be used by significant assemblages of invertebrates, or by invertebrates identified in the data search.

Flora and habitats - Habitats and all plant species which were identifiable at the time of the survey were recorded, including Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 9 invasive plant species, such as Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* and Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*.

Hedges were assessed for potential to be covered by the Hedgerow Regulations (1997). These regulations prescribe the criteria for determining 'important' hedgerows, and removal or replacement of hedges. Criteria 6 to 8 cover the Wildlife and Landscape value of a hedgerow and define the diversity of flora and type of features present that would qualify a hedgerow as 'important'.

Water voles and otters – Water bodies within impact distance of the site were identified and (where necessary) assessed for potential to support water voles and otters.

Badgers - A visual assessment for setts, hair, latrines, prints, foraging disturbance or other signs of badgers was undertaken within, and directly adjacent to, the site boundary (where access allowed).

Birds - A visual survey of suitable nesting or foraging habitats was carried out, to determine if any habitats on the site would be used by WCA Schedule 1 birds, Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC), SPIE, Suffolk BAP, or other common and widespread nesting birds.

Adjacent habitat - Aerial photographs and available maps were used, and the area beyond the site boundary surveyed (where access was available), to identify any habitat in the wider landscape which could be impacted by proposed works.

3.2 Desk Study and Biodiversity Information Search

A 2km radius search for statutory designated sites was conducted using "MAGIC", the Multi-Agency Geographic Information system for the Countryside. The search radius was extended to the Zone of Influence (Zoi) associated with individual European designated sites: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites, where the potential risk of impact to the qualifying features (species or habitats) of these sites may extend over a wider area (up to 22km).


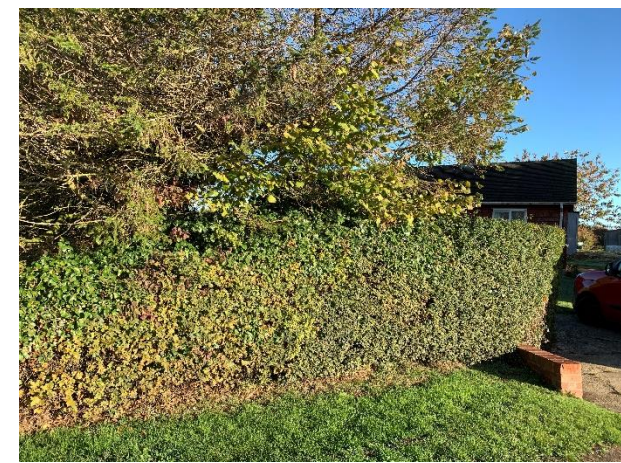
Suffolk Biodiversity Information Services (SBIS) was consulted for records of protected and locally rare species, and designated wildlife sites, within a 2km radius of the site (data provided on 17th October 2022).



The site is covered by the Local BAP for Suffolk.




4 Results and Discussion




4.1 Target Notes

Table 4.1: Target Notes – locations shown in Appendix B. (Photos: O. Robson, 18/10/22)

Target note	Habitat Description	Photo
1	<p>Bungalow (approx. 60 years old) with double-pitch roof and gable ends. Brick plinth with Cedar shingle-tiles on walls and roof.</p> <p>Internally, the loft is well-sealed with no apparent access points for bats. Loft-windows boarded and wired (high internal light levels). No crevices in roof timbers and no internal roof-lining. Loft-space cluttered with internal supports/timber truss and a water tank. No bat droppings recorded. Negligible bat roosting potential.</p>	
2	<p>Well-managed Box Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera nitida</i> hedge at 1-2m height. Occasional Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i> and Blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>.</p>	

<p>3</p>	<p>Sparse line of mature Fir trees. Former hedge, now outgrown and minimally managed.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Well-managed lawn (approximately 5cm sward height). Typical fine-leaved amenity grass species (<i>Agrostis</i> and <i>Festuca</i> species), with frequent Cock's-foot <i>Dactylus glomerata</i>. Common amenity grassland forbs: Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>, Creeping Cinquefoil <i>Potentilla reptans</i>, Creeping Buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, Dove's-foot Cranesbill <i>Geranium molle</i>, Daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i>, Dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg., Bristly Ox-tongue <i>Picris echioides</i>, Selfheal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>, Birds-foot Trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> and Ribwort Plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> hedge managed at 1-2m height with high levels of Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>.</p>	

<p>6</p>	<p>Dilapidated garden sheds with broken windows.: Two with double-pitched felt (degraded) and corrugated tin sheet roofs, and one with a mono-pitched, corrugated tin sheet roof.</p> <p>Negligible bat roosting potential.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Flower-beds adjacent to the bungalow with sparse remnant Snapdragons/flowers and weeds.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Line of four Cherry <i>Prunus</i> spp. trees – three approximately 5m to the north-east of the bungalow, and one close to the western boundary sheds (TN6).</p> <p>All four trees were well-sealed with no notable crevices or cavities. Well-sealed pruning cuts. Negligible bat roosting potential.</p>	

<p>9</p>	<p>Dense, unmanaged Blackthorn and Bramble (3-4m height) on north-west boundary, separating the site from arable land. Approximately 5m wide and 20m in length.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Recent earthworks – bare earth with encroaching ruderals: Cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>, Red Dead-nettle <i>Lamium purpureum</i>, Sow-thistle spp. <i>Sonchus</i> spp., Cock’s-foot, Annual Mercury <i>Mercurialis annua</i>, Mallow <i>Malva sylvestris</i>, and Black Bindweed <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>Continuous line of scrub and trees, partly managed as hedge adjacent to the road, and partly outgrown into the site and minimally managed. Hawthorn, Ash, Field Maple, Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>, Dog Rose <i>Rosa canina</i>, Cedar <i>Cedrus</i> spp. Ground cover included Ivy, Bramble and composted garden waste/lawn clippings.</p>	

4.2 Desk Study

MAGIC was accessed (21st December 2022), to identify the presence of statutory designated sites and habitats.

The site lies within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ), for addressing likely impacts on statutory designated sites. Consultation with Natural England is required for aviation proposals, and livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons & digestate stores > 750m², and manure stores > 3500t. As the proposed development is for a single replacement residential dwelling, consultation with Natural England regarding the IRZ is not necessary.

No statutory sites designated for wildlife are located within 2km of the site, and the site does not lie within the Zol of any European protected sites. Three non-statutory County Wildlife Sites (CWS) and a Roadside Nature Reserve (RNR), within 2km are detailed in Table 4.2.

The only EPS licence within 5km of the site is a bat licence, as shown in Table 4.3. The nearest great crested newt EPS licence is 5.3km to the west of the site, and the nearest positive record of great crested newts from pond survey data (MAGIC, 23/12/22) is 1.1km to the south-west.

Table 4.2: Non-statutory wildlife sites within 2km (SBIS, 17/10/22)

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (approx.)	Description
RNR69	RNR	1.7km NW	Man Orchid, Sulphur clover. This site is also a Roadside Nature Reserve.
Glebe Town Grove	CWS	1.7km SW	Glebe Town Grove is a small area of ancient woodland which is set amidst arable fields to the south west of Nedging Tye. It is listed in English Nature's Inventory of Ancient Woodland. It is partly enclosed by a ditch and bank, which is a characteristic feature of ancient woodlands. The wood is uniform throughout, consisting of old oak standards with occasional mature ash coppice. In addition, small quantities of spindle, dogwood and Midland hawthorn are scattered throughout the wood. Dog's mercury with abundant nettle colonise the woodland floor. A number of more uncommon species are also present for example moschatel, wood sedge and primrose. There are large amounts of fallen branches and numerous fallen trees. This provides important habitat for dead wood invertebrates. Additional habitat diversity is provided by a pond situated to the north western edge of the wood. The wood is used for occasional shooting. It should be noted that Glebe Town Grove is the site of a specially protected species (Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981).
Tyrells Grove	CWS	1.9km SW	Tyrell's Grove is listed in English Nature's Ancient Woodland Inventory. It is a small woodland enclosed by a ditch and bank on all sides; a characteristic feature of old woodlands. In addition, large ash stools, another indication of the wood's antiquity are present in the wood. Neglected ash, maple and hazel coppice cover much of the wood, although small areas in the southern half and along the northern boundary are colonised by elm, which is mainly diseased. Crab apple and field maple standards are scattered throughout. Beneath the tree canopy, the ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury interspersed with nettle and bramble. Small patches of bluebell, primrose and greater stitchwort add diversity to the field layer. The wood is at present unmanaged. A re-

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (approx.)	Description
			introduction of the coppicing system would improve the health of the coppice and encourage regeneration in the open areas.
RAF Wattisham Woodlands	CWS	660m NE	This County Wildlife Site consists of two areas of woodland, namely Park Wood situated to the south of the airfield and Ten Wood located immediately to the north of the main airfield buildings. Both woodlands are listed in English Nature's Inventory of Ancient Woodland and consist of a wet ash-field maple stand type. Ash is the dominant species, with frequent hazel and field maple coppice and occasional oak standards. Other tree species include crab apple, silver birch, goat willow and elm. The ground flora is dominated by bramble and dog's mercury with smaller quantities of bugle, violet and primrose. The central area of Park Wood and the northern half of Ten Wood is occupied by an ash and elm woodland community. Many of the elms are diseased and ash is now becoming the dominant species. The remainder of the woodlands, particularly the north-eastern corner of Park Wood and the central part of Ten Wood consists of oak and ash standards with hazel, silver birch and aspen also present. A number of scarce ancient woodland indicator plants, for example pendulous sedge can be found in small quantities. Following a survey carried out in 1988, English Nature provided management guidelines which if implemented, would increase the conservation value of these woods.

Table 4.3: European Protected Species licence applications within 5km (MAGIC, 23rd December 2022).

EPS Reference number	Species	Distance from Site (approx.)	Description
2016-26782- EPS-MIT	Common pipistrelle	4.7km SE	Destroy a resting place

4.3 Environmental Records Centre Consultation

Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service provided records (2km radius search) on 17th October 2022. Full lists of SPIE (formally UK BAP) and protected reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and mammals are shown below in Table 4.4. Reduced lists of UK BAP and protected birds and plants are shown: These have been selected based on their likelihood of being recorded at the site, given the habitat types present.

Table 4.4: Protected, SPIE and locally scarce species records (SBIS 17/10/22).

Species	Protection	Records: Date and distance to the site
Bats		
Common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	CHSR 2017; WCA. SBAP	Four records (2014-2021) - 650m SE.
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	CHSR 2017; WCA; SPIE & SBAP.	Single record (2020) – 1.7km NE
Soprano pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	CHSR 2017; WCA; SPIE & SBAP.	Single record over 1km W (2014)
Brown long-eared bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	CHSR 2017; WCA; SPIE & SBAP.	Two records (2017-2020) – nearest 280m ESE
Nathusius's Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	CHSR 2017; WCA; SBAP.	Single record (2020) – 1.7km NE
Amphibians and Reptiles		
Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	CHSR 2017; WCA; SPIE & SBAP.	Two records (2017): 1km and 1.1km SW
Grass snake <i>Natrix helvetica</i>	WCA, SPIE & SBAP	Single record (2002) within 20m of the site.
Other Mammals		
Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	SPIE & SBAP	Thirteen records (2006–2017): Nearest 160m NE
Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	SPIE & SBAP.	Three records (2015 – 2019) – all over 1km from the site.
Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	Protection of Badger Act (1992).	Single record (2022) – 1.8km SW
Harvest Mouse <i>Micromys minutus</i>	SPIE & SBAP	Three records (2010) – all approximately 1.3km NW
Nesting and protected, WCA, SPIE bird		
<p>A large number of bird records were provided, many of which would not typically use garden habitats. SPIE/BAP or Schedule 1 bird species recorded within 2km of the site, which could use habitats on, or adjacent to, the site for either nesting or foraging, included:</p> <p>SPIE/BAP and Red-listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC): Yellowhammer, skylark, spotted flycatcher, house sparrow, song thrush, starling, linnet, grey partridge, marsh tit, cuckoo, turtle dove.</p> <p>SPIE/BAP and Amber-listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC): Dunnock, bullfinch.</p> <p>Schedule 1 (WCA) species: Barn Owl, redwing, fieldfare.</p> <p>Red-listed but not SPIE/LBAP: Mistle thrush, greenfinch, house martin..</p> <p>Red listed - Suffolk Priority Species: Swift</p>		

Species	Protection	Records: Date and distance to the site
Protected and SPIE plants		
Numerous plant species records were provided by SBIS – mostly grassland specialist species which would not grow on the heavily managed lawn, and annual species which are generally found in frequently disturbed areas and managed arable fields – these species would also not grow in permanent lawn or scrub habitats.		
Protected and SPIE invertebrates		
Lepidoptera	BAP/SPIE/RDB/SBAP	Two species of butterfly have been recorded locally: Small heath and white-letter hairstreak

SBAP = Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan species; SPIE = Species of Principal Importance in England (formally National BAP); CHSR = Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; WCA = Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

4.4 Potential for Protected Species and Habitats

The site was assessed to identify whether the proposals could potentially impact on protected or locally rare species or habitats either during the construction, or operational, phase.

4.4.1 Habitats and Flora

The survey was undertaken in October which is outside the optimal botanical survey season. However, most plant species were identifiable to species level, and broad species assemblages and habitat types could be identified.

4.4.1.1 Lawn (TN4)

Well-managed established, short-mown lawn with common amenity grass forbs. Approximately 5cm sward height. (Table 4.1 – TN4).

4.4.1.2 Planted Beds (TN7)

The majority of the garden was a well-managed lawn. Small, minimally managed flower-beds adjacent to the bungalow walls had remnant garden flowering plants and sparse weeds.

4.4.1.3 Hedgerows (TN2, TN5, TN11)

The garden was surrounded by a mix of managed and unmanaged hedges: A short section of well-managed non-native *Lonicera nitida* shrub hedge at the site entrance (TN2); former conifer hedge (TN3) with no evidence of recent management; well-managed Hawthorn hedge at TN5; and partially managed mixed, native hedge and tree-line at TN11.

Hedges forming the curtilage of a residential property are not covered by the Hedgerow Regulations (1997). The hedges are also all species-poor and lacking associated features such as standards, connectivity, and banks. However, all hedges (including those not classified as 'important' under the Hedgerow Regulations) would be classified as 'Hedgerow Priority Habitat' under BAP criteria:

'A hedgerow is defined as any boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide, and where any gaps between the trees or shrub species are less than 20m wide.' (Bickmore, 2002).

4.4.1.4 Scrub (TN9)

A band of dense mature Blackthorn scrub/trees at TN9 buffers the site from the arable land to the north.

4.4.2 Bats

All UK species of bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Five species of bat have been recorded within 2km of the site (SBIS, 2022).

4.4.2.1 Roosting Bats in Trees

The majority of trees were at the garden boundary and would not be impacted by the proposed development. Within the site, there were four Cherry trees (TN8) which did not offer roosting opportunities for bats, being well-managed specimen trees growing within the lawn that had well-sealed pruning cuts and lacked cavities or other potential roost features. These trees were assessed as 'negligible' roosting potential and no further surveys or precautions are necessary.

4.4.2.2 Roosting Bats in Buildings

Shed (TN6) and bungalow (TN1) had negligible roosting potential.

The bungalow loft inspection recorded no evidence of bats accessing the roof void of the bungalow or having accessed in the past. There were no obvious entry points for bats – the void was well-sealed and the windows at both gable ends were both fully bird/bat-proofed (board and grills), and causing high internal light levels. The roof was not internally lined – shingle tiles were laid directly to roof timbers. Roof and wall shingle tiles were tightly sealed with no crevices beneath.

Negligible risk of bats using the bungalow: No further surveys or precautions are required.

4.4.2.3 Foraging and Commuting Bats

Trees and shrubs provide potential foraging and commuting opportunities, though there was no ecological connectivity to high quality foraging grounds (large water bodies or woodlands). Any external lighting should be minimized, as required for safety and security only. Dark corridors should be maintained around the site boundary (see Section 5.2.5).

4.4.3 Reptiles

All UK reptile species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with two species afforded higher levels of protection under the European Habitat Regulations. A single grass snake record was provided by SBIS (2002), from within 20m from the site.

The site itself was sub-optimal for reptiles being dominated by short-mown lawn, buildings, and hardstanding paths. There was poor ecological connectivity at the site boundaries due to the road at the south of the site; arable land (south and north); farm buildings to the east; and new-build houses to the west, which reduced connectivity to reptile habitat in the wider landscape. Potential reptile habitat within the clearance zone was limited to the site boundaries where the grass was longer at the hedgerow/scrub edges.

Due to the small extent of suitable habitat within the clearance zone, which is sub-optimal for reptiles, it is considered unlikely that reptiles would use habitat within the site boundary. No further surveys are necessary, however, precautions during site clearance should be implemented (Section 5) to reduce the residual low risk of impact to negligible.

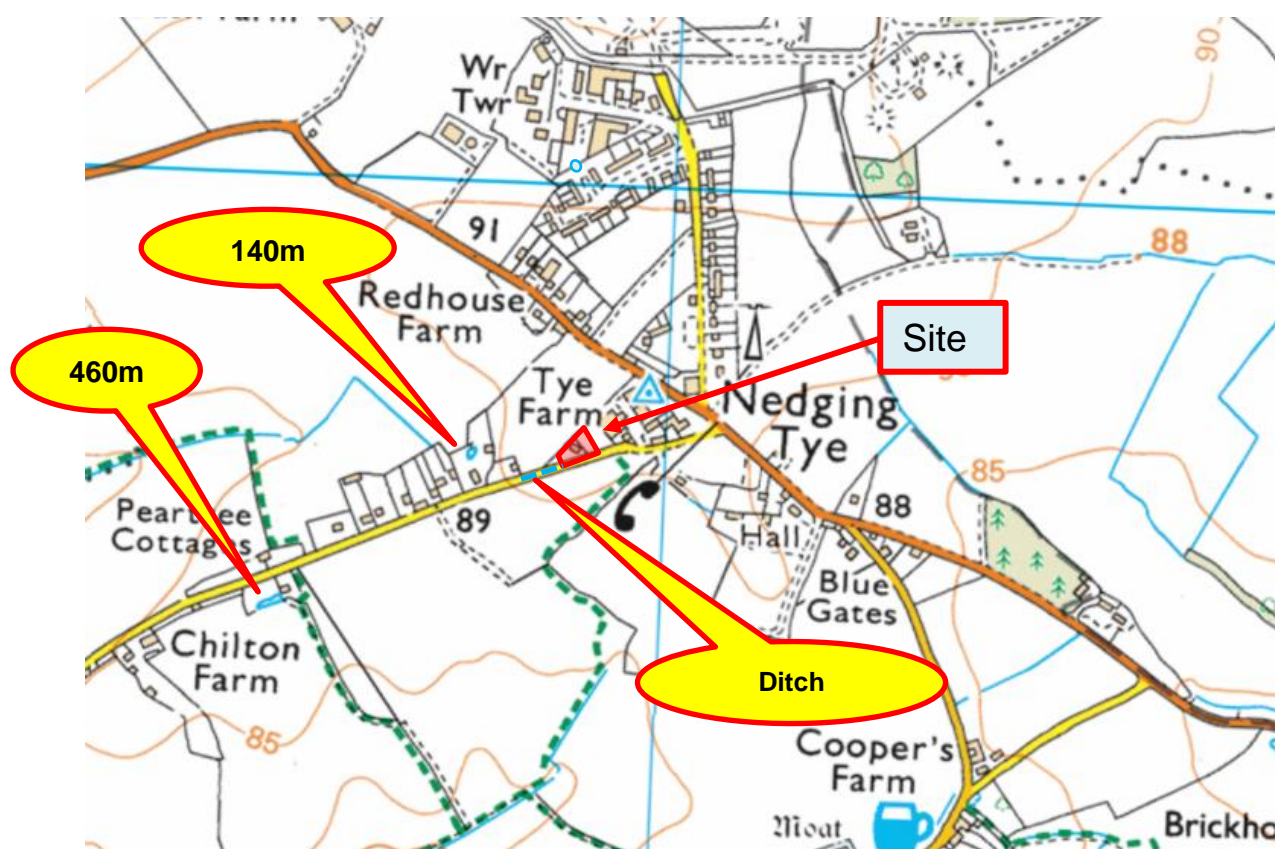
4.4.4 Amphibians

Great crested newts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service provided two records of great crested newts from 2017, both of which were over 1km from the site. There were no water bodies within the site boundary. Ditches along the roadside boundary are likely to be predominantly dry, but seasonally inundated, taking excess water which drains from the road.

Known ponds within 250m of the site were identified from available OS maps (Figure 4.1). The nearest pond (140m to the west) was on private land and not accessible to survey. This was separated from the site by garden and arable land. A managed channel/ditch adjacent to the road, close to site entrance had been culverted to facilitate entrance to the two recently completed new-build houses, adjacent to the west of the site.

Figure 4.1: Ponds within 500m of the site (as marked on available maps).



Distance from a potentially suitable water body/terrestrial connectivity is a major factor in reducing the potential suitability of a site to be used by great crested newts during their terrestrial phase. Small numbers of great crested newts have been known to range significant distances (1km) to colonise new ponds. However, research undertaken by English Nature (2006) has shown that it is most common to encounter them within 50m of a breeding pond, with few moving further than 100m unless significant linear features or suitable terrestrial habitat is involved, when great crested newts can be encountered at distances of between 150m – 200m. At distances, greater than 200-250m great crested newts are hardly ever encountered.

Habitats within the site boundary (dominated by well-managed lawn) were largely sub-optimal for amphibians such as great crested newts, during their terrestrial phase. Site boundaries could be used by newts for foraging and commuting, though there is very low risk of newts being present in the area due to lack of ponds connected to the site and sub-optimal habitat with the site boundary. It is considered highly unlikely that amphibians, including toads and newts, would use the site or would be impacted by the proposed works.

No further surveys are necessary. Precautions during site clearance should be implemented (Section 5.2).

4.4.5 Birds

4.4.5.1 BAP/SPIE/Red-list Birds and Common Nesting Birds

A large number of national SPIE, Suffolk BAP and Schedule 1 bird records were provided by SBIS, however, many would not use the garden habitat which would be impacted by the proposed replacement dwelling.

Boundary habitat (scrub, hedges and trees) could provide foraging and nesting opportunities for small numbers of birds.

4.4.6 Badger

Badgers and active setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. A single badger record was listed in the data search, from 1.8km to the south-west, separated from the site by arable land.

No evidence of badger activity was identified within the site boundary, and it is unlikely that badgers use the site given the small extent of suitable foraging habitats and lack of sett-creation opportunities.

No further surveys are necessary, however, standard good practice precautionary working methods for the construction phase are detailed in Section 5.

4.4.7 Other Mammals

4.4.7.1 Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have been recorded locally, with the nearest record 160m to the north-east of the site boundary. Garden habitats are well-used by hedgehogs: Cover is available for refuge, in addition to foraging habitat the lawns/planted beds, and around the boundary hedge/scrub/trees.

Hibernation opportunities were limited, though there was a small composting/garden waste area on the southern boundary.

Due to potential for hedgehogs to be present on the site, precautionary methods, as detailed in Section 5, should be implemented to prevent harm to any hedgehogs during the construction phase.

On completion, garden habitat will be restored so there will be no net loss in hedgehog habitat. Any new or existing solid fences at the boundary of, or within, the site should include 'hedgehog links' to maintain connectivity through the local landscape. A single gap at the base

of each length of fence, approximately 13cm x 13cm, is sufficient to allow hedgehogs to move between the site and neighbouring habitats.

4.4.7.2 Water Vole

No water vole or otter records were provided by SBIS. There were no suitable ditches or water bodies on, or adjacent to, the site which could potentially be used by water voles, and the site is ecologically separated from suitable habitat in the wider landscape. No further survey or precautions are necessary for riparian species.

4.4.8 Invertebrates

Two species of butterflies were the only invertebrate records provided by SBIS

Habitats at the site were of limited extent and suitability for invertebrates therefore, it is unlikely that a significant assemblage of invertebrates would be impacted by the proposals.

No aquatic habitat, species-rich grassland, woodland, significantly rotting deadwood, or other high-quality habitats which could support invertebrates were present within the site boundary.

No further surveys or precautions are necessary.

4.4.9 Impact on Local, National or European-protected Wildlife Sites

The nearest designated (non-statutory) County Wildlife Site was 700m to the north-east and separated from the site by arable land.

The nearest European designated site is the Stour and Orwell estuaries which are designated a Special Protected Area (SPA) under the European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC 1979), a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and a Ramsar site (for wetland habitats). Any suitable habitat (such as pasture/arable land) within the surrounding landscape could be considered supporting habitat for the waders and wildfowl that use habitats close to the estuary for feeding and roosting. The estuaries are 16km to the south-east, and the site therefore lies outside the 13km Zone of Influence and is not suitable to support any of the wading/wildfowl species for which these estuaries were designated.

The proposals involve the demolition of a bungalow and replacement with single residential dwelling (house) outside the footprint of the existing bungalow. It is considered unlikely that there would be any direct impact (during the construction or operational phase) to any protected local wildlife sites, given the distance to these sites and intervening arable land.

Indirect impacts are generally caused through an increase in public pressure on local accessible wildlife sites, particularly where dog walking is permitted. As the proposal is for a single replacement dwelling, there is unlikely to be any increase in the local population.

4.5 Limitations and Assumptions

The baseline conditions reported and assessed in this document represent those identified during a single site survey, on the 18th October 2022, beyond the optimal season for ecological surveys, but when most plant species were identifiable to species level and broad habitat types were identifiable. A reasonable assessment of habitats can be made during a single survey however, seasonal variations cannot be observed. The survey provides an overview of the likelihood of protected species occurring on the site, based on the habitats recorded: Where no evidence is found, this does not mean that species are not present, or using the site. Further surveys are recommended if there is a significant likelihood that protected species may be

present and impacted by the proposed development, based on the suitability of the habitat and any direct evidence. Access was available to all areas of the site on the day of the survey, including the loft void. Ponds within 500m of the site were on private land and were not accessible to survey. Constraints were within normal limits and have been accounted for in the recommendations given.

The desk study used records and historical data provided by SBIS, which depend on the availability of recorders and survey effort in the area, and do not list all species likely to be present. Data supplement the site visit, but absence of records does not confirm absence of species.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Further Surveys

No further surveys are required to inform the planning application and facilitate compliance with wildlife legislation, if precautions detailed in Section 5.2 are implemented: This includes a nesting bird survey (vegetation removal during the nesting season); and (due to the very low risk of reptiles, hedgehogs, and amphibians using the site) a Precautionary Method Statement (Section 5.2.1), to be implemented at the ground clearance stage.

5.2 Precautionary Measures

5.2.1 Precautionary Ground Clearance

- Clearance of any suitable vegetation or potential refuge habitat should be carried out under the supervision of a suitably licensed/experienced ecologist, during the active season (March to October inclusive): This would minimise the low risk of encountering newts or reptiles when hibernating. Clearance at this time of year will also reduce the risk of causing harm to hedgehogs. Any herptiles/mammals found can be safely moved (by a suitably licensed/experience ecologist, as appropriate) to the boundary where they can disperse naturally to appropriate surrounding habitat.
- If areas of long vegetation (any unmown areas that have been allowed to grow) will be impacted by the proposals, these should be strimmed to a height of 100mm. Strimming should be carried out sequentially in a northerly direction (away from the road) to allow any wildlife to disperse into adjacent suitable habitat. Following strimming, the arisings should be left for 24 hours, then the surface scraped using a digger with a toothed bucket and under the supervision of a newt-licensed ecologist.
- During the construction phase, any temporarily stored materials (bricks, paving slabs, debris piles) should be kept above the ground on pallets to avoid forming refuge opportunities.
- Temporary pools of water should not be allowed to accumulate within the site during the construction phase.
- If great crested newts are found at any time during the construction phase, the project ecologist must be informed immediately, and the need for a Natural England mitigation licence re-evaluated.

5.2.2 Hedgehogs

Any new boundary solid fencing should have 'hedgehog links', to enable small mammals to move through the site and to adjacent habitats. These should be small gaps (13cm x 13cm) at ground level, along each fence line.

5.2.3 Nesting Birds

Tree/shrub clearance should be undertaken outside the nesting bird season, due to the risk of nesting bird presence. If this is not feasible, a precautionary survey of the site prior to start of works should be carried out, to check for active bird nests, and avoid infringing legislation which protects all nesting birds (WCA 1981). If an active nest is recorded, clearance of that part of the site (including a buffer zone defined by the ecologist), will be postponed until all young birds have fledged and left the area.

5.2.4 Nocturnal Animals (badgers and hedgehog)

Any deep holes or foundations left uncovered overnight should have an escape ramp (secured scaffold board), to enable any nocturnal animals that become trapped to escape.

5.2.5 Lighting Strategy

Lighting at the site should be minimized to encourage bats to use the site, both during the construction works, and on completion. Guidance from the Institute of Lighting Professionals and the Bat Conservation Trust (IPL 2018; ILE 2012, BCT 2009) has been used to inform the following considerations:

- External lighting proposed at the site should not be directed towards the boundary hedges or trees.
- LED luminaires should be used where possible (No UV elements: Metal halide, fluorescent sources should not be used).
- A warm white spectrum (ideally <2700Kelvin) should be used to reduce the blue light component.
- Peak wavelengths higher than 550nm should be used to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats (Stone, 2012).
- Internal luminaires can be recessed where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill.
- The use of specialist bollard or low-level downward directional luminaires to retain darkness above can be considered (where this is feasible and meets safety standards).
- Column heights should be as low as functionally feasible to minimise light spill.
- Only luminaires with an upward light ratio of 0% and with good optical control should be used (See ILP 2011).
- Luminaires should be mounted on the horizontal to avoid upward tilt.
- Any external security lighting should be set on motion-sensors sensitive to large moving objects only, and short (<1 minute) timers.
- All external lighting should be kept to the minimal feasible level and be directed downward: Baffles, hoods or louvres can be used to reduce light spill and direct it only to where needed.
- Lighting should be appropriately directed to avoid illuminating the trees/hedges at the garden boundaries, and any newly installed enhancement bat and bird boxes.
- Construction works should only be undertaken during daylight hours and task lighting should not be used during the construction phase of the development.

5.3 Enhancement Recommendations and Biodiversity Net Gain

These additional recommendations would enhance the value of the site for wildlife, as encouraged through the NPPF, and to help achieve Suffolk biodiversity targets and biodiversity net gain.

5.3.1 Native trees and shrubs

Hedges and tree-lines form ecologically important linear features, linking habitats in the wider landscape. These should be retained, enhanced, and an appropriate management plan implemented, including a rotational cutting regime which would benefit wildlife. If removal of a hedge section is necessary to create a visibility splay, the minimum amount of hedgerow should be removed, as required for safety only.

The inclusion of native or wildlife attracting trees and shrubs to supplement the predominantly Hawthorn boundary hedge at TN5, the neglected hedge at TN11, and any parts of the garden boundaries not already hedged (the north-eastern boundary), would provide birds and invertebrates with additional foraging opportunities. Species such as Field Maple, Oak *Quercus robur*, Dog Rose, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*, Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris* and Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* would be appropriate.

5.3.2 Bird Boxes

Bird boxes could be provided on the new dwelling or on the retained boundary trees. These should be installed at least 3m above the ground and should avoid direct sunlight (not directly south-facing), prevailing wind, and be out of reach of cats and other predators:

- House sparrows (SPIE and SBAP) are a colonial-nesting species: Sparrow terrace-boxes could be used, or a group of at least three individual sparrow boxes located together. Sparrow terraces/boxes on buildings should be located just below the eaves. The Schwegler 1SP Sparrow terrace, which can accommodate three families, would be appropriate for location on a gable or below the eaves of the new house, or a shed/outbuilding close to the boundary hedge, where there is access for birds to foraging resource. For location on trees, the Schwegler 1B bird box (32mm hole) could be used, in a group of three.
- Song thrushes (SPIE and SBAP) use open-fronted nest-boxes: The Schwegler 2H open-fronted nest box, or other box-types to approved BTO-standards, could be installed in retained boundary trees (adjacent to the road), to provide further nesting opportunities. Open-fronted nest boxes are also used by SPIE/BAP spotted flycatchers.

5.3.3 Bat Boxes

Bat boxes/bricks could be installed on the new dwelling; located at least 5m above the ground and facing south-east or south-west, to receive sun for part of the day, with open flight access to vegetation and trees. The Schwegler 1FF, Chillon low-profile or the Beaumaris Woodstone Bat Box (or similar and approved) would be suitable for positioning on an external wall of the new dwelling (high on a gable end or below eaves). Alternatively, integrated bat bricks could be built into the structure (e.g., the Schwegler 1FR bat tube, Integrated Eco Bat Box which is made of recycled plastics, or similar and approved).

Bat boxes should be sited out of reach of cats. There should be unobstructed flight access enabling entry/exit for bats, but with suitable flight-lines in close proximity. Schwegler (or

similar woodcrete) boxes are durable and long-lasting. The access hole is at the base so that the boxes are self-cleaning and do not require any maintenance. Bat boxes should be left in perpetuity, and only checked or moved by individuals licenced by Natural England to survey and handle bats.

6 Conclusion

The survey was undertaken beyond the optimal botanical survey season, but when most plant species were identifiable to species level and broad habitat-types determined: There was no indication of protected or locally rare habitat or plant species within the site or wider zone of impact.

No further surveys are necessary to inform mitigation and design considerations.

The proposed works can be undertaken in compliance with wildlife legislation, and with minimal impact on protected or locally rare species or habitats, if the precautionary methods detailed in Section 5.2, are carried out to minimise any impact on nesting birds, herptiles, hedgehogs and other nocturnal species.

There is scope to further enhance the site if some, or all, of the additional recommendations in Section 5.3 are implemented.

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8 Appendix A – Legislation & Planning Policy

8.1 Habitat Regulations

Legislation (The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive) into English law, making it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb wild animals listed under Schedule 2 of the Regulations. It is also an offence to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal (even if the animal is not present at the time).

8.2 Wildlife & Countryside Act

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive), making it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests (with certain exceptions) and disturb any bird species listed under Schedule 1 to the Act, or its dependent young while it is nesting;
- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly disturb certain Schedule 5 animal species while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection;
- Pick or uproot any wild plant listed under Schedule 8 of the Act.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are designated under this Act.

Special Protection Areas (SPA) are strictly protected sites, designated under the Birds Directive, for rare and vulnerable birds and for regularly occurring migratory species.

8.3 Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act

The NERC 2006 places a duty on authorities to have due regard for biodiversity and nature conservation during the course of their operations.

8.4 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) –2021

The NPPF replaced PPS9 in April 2012, and works in conjunction with Government Circular 06/2005 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact within the Planning System*.

Updated in 2021, the NPPF sets out current government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation and places a duty on planners to make material consideration to the effect of a development on legally protected species when considering planning applications. The NPPF also promotes sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity and that it is conserved and enhanced within a development

8.5 Biodiversity Action Plans

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) was organised to fulfil the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992, to which the UK is a signatory.

There is no longer a UK Biodiversity Action Plan; this has been replaced by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012). The England Biodiversity Strategy has been replaced by Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011). As a result, the BAP process has been devolved to local level with each county deciding its own way forward.

8.6 Relevant Protected Species Legislation

Species	Relevant Legislation	Level of Protection
Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European protected species under the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017. Full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981) (Listed on Schedule 5) – as amended. <p>Protected by the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.</p>	<p>Under the WCA (1981), it an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intentionally kill, injure, or take any species of bat; intentionally or recklessly disturb bats; <p>intentionally or recklessly damage destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts.</p>
Birds	<p>Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended with the exception of some species listed in Schedule 2 of the Act</p>	<p>Under the WCA (1981) it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird Intentionally take, damage or destroy nests in use or being built (including ground nesting birds) Intentionally take, damage or destroy eggs <p>Species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA or their dependant young are afforded additional protection from disturbance whilst they are at their nests</p>

9 Appendix B - Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan (indicative)

