

Ecology / Biodiversity Statement



**In support of:
Full Planning Application to –**

**Land West The Cottage, Green
End, Herts**

Date: April 2023

Introduction:

This statement has been prepared in support of an application for full planning permission for the erection of a new dwelling at Land West of The Cottage, Greenend, Herts.



The Existing Site:

- The property benefits from a generous garden to the side and rear which is regularly mown/maintained in keeping with formal garden space.
- The new dwelling will be positioned within the existing tennis court of an existing property.
- The property itself is located adjacent a public highway.
- All existing trees and planting to the boundaries will be retained and enhanced.
- Access to the site will be via an established access point.

SSSI, IRZ, RAMS Local Wildlife Site, Special Roadside Verge and Priority Habitat

- The development site is not within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is not within 100m of a National Nature Reserve or Local Nature Reserve.
- The development does not trigger a financial contribution in line with the Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).
- There is not a Local Wildlife Site within 100 metres of the development.
- There is not a Special Roadside Verge within 100 metres of the development.
- There is not an irreplaceable/Priority habitat within the boundary of the site.

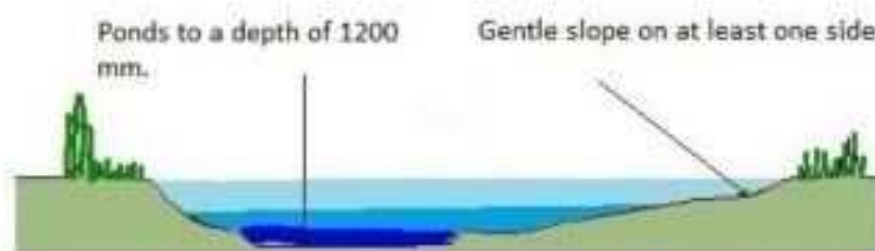
Existing Habitat for: - Bats, Birds and Ground Nesting Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians:

- The site is an existing tennis court and regularly mown/maintained lawn and provides little habitat to support the above.
- There are currently no ponds on the site.

The Proposed Site:

- Any existing habitat to the boundaries of the property will be retained and maintained, with the exception of a small area of hedge located at the front of the proposed dwelling.
- This hedge will be replaced with a new native species hedge once the unit has been completed as part of the proposed landscaping plan.
- The proposal looks to place the new dwelling in a position over the existing tennis court and will be sympathetic to both the existing property and the existing established garden space.
- The proposal will retain all existing boundary trees/hedges and planting.

- The proposal will look to keep the amount of hard standing to the front of the property to the minimum required for access.
- The proposal will create an opportunity to implement a large amount of biodiversity enhancements and in particular the following features: -
 1. Proposed new lined pond (refer to below) with planting to the borders of the pond to include:
 - Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)
 - Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)
 - Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
 - Rushes (*Juncus* spp)
 - Sedges (*Carex* spp)
 - Greater spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*)
 - Water mint (*Mentha aquatica*)
 - Water forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*)
 - The above are recommended by the RSPB to support surrounding ecology.



Section of Proposed Pond(nts)
Ecological connectivity; soft landscape around margin of ponds to integrate aquatic environment with terrestrial habitat



Plan of Proposed Pond (nts)

2. Planting of New Trees to include: -
 - Birch – *Betula pendula*
 - Beech – *Fagus sylvatica*
 - Oak – *Quercus robur*
 - Hazel – *Corylus avellana*
 - Hornbeam – *Carpinus*
 - Sorbus torminalis
 - Crab apple - *Malus sylvestris*
 - Bird Cherry – *Prunus padus*
 - Common Hornbeam – *Carpinus betulus*
 - The above are recommended by the RSPB to support surrounding ecology.
3. Existing hedge will be enhanced and infilled with a combination of:
 - Hazel,
 - Field Maple,
 - Common privet
 - Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
 - Dog rose

Proposed Bio Enhancement Features:

1. Installation of Swift Brick/box to new structures
2. Installation of Bird Box to new structures
3. Installation of Bat Box
4. Installation of Hedgehog Box
5. Installation of Bumble Bee Nest Box
(All in accordance with the below Bio enhancement plan)

Conclusion:

- The proposal looks to retain as many onsite features as possible (protecting the existing habitats) reducing disturbance to the site and any natural habitats.
- All communication point to and from the site will be retained as existing ensuring transit to and from existing habitats are retained.
- The implementation of bio enhancements to the garden space will increase the biodiversity/habitat on the site and go some distance to counter the disruption provided by the proximity of the main road on existing natural habitats.