

Ecology Statement

To accompany a Listed Building Consent and Full planning application for the division of property back to form 2 No. Separate dwellings including erection of boundary screening and replacing rear window with purpose made French doors:

This statement, provided by a suitably qualified ecologist, is in support of the planning application and drawings submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council to reinstate Stead Cottage as a separate dwelling (it being the former village surgery) from The Homestead.

Ecologist

This Ecological Assessment for the Homestead application was prepared by Susan Deakin BSc MSc CMLI, of Susan Deakin Ecology. Susan Deakin is a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) with over 30 years' experience as an ecological consultant working on a wide range of planning submissions and other ecological surveys and assessments.

Summary of Impacts

The proposed application to reinstate Stead Cottage as a separate dwelling from The Homestead will incur no loss of vegetation of any significance, other than minor losses of species-poor grass to provide parking spaces. There are no other ecological losses or impacts and no envisaged tree losses. The mature plane tree close to the proposed garden boundary fence will not be impacted, as the fence will be specifically designed to avoid any material impacts on the Root Protection Area of the tree. There will be no impacts to the roof which could affect roosting bats.

The scheme does, however, provide the opportunity for positive ecological impacts ie Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

Proposed Native Hedgerow (BNG)



The proposed sub-division of the existing garden into two garden plots will involve the installation of a new woven hazel fence, 25m of this fence will be flanked on either side by a new mixed native species hedgerow (C-D on Block Plan, see Photo 1 & 2).

This will provide in the order of 50m of new hedgerow to be made up of the following mix:

<i>Species</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Hawthorn</i>	30
<i>Holly</i>	20
<i>Field maple</i>	15
<i>Blackthorn</i>	10
<i>Dogwood</i>	10
<i>Wild privet</i>	5
<i>Dog rose</i>	5
<i>Hazel</i>	5

The plants to be provided as 45-60cm whips, to ensure rapid establishment and to be planted in a double staggered row at 5 plants / linear m. This will provide a total of 250 no. native shrub species.

Photo 1. Proposed new hedge line (orange stakes)

The species have been chosen to provide a lengthy seasonal provision of flowers and berries, hips, haws and nuts, to ensure maximum provision of nectar and pollen for a characteristic range of insects and other invertebrates and also a long lasting and plentiful food source for a variety of birdlife over the autumn and winter months. The plants will be planted in a random mix of 2-5 of each species and there will be a variation along the length of the hedge to allow for different micro-climatic conditions including aspect and shade. For example, in the vicinity of the mature plane tree lying close to the new garden boundary (see Photo 1 above), shade tolerant species such as holly and hazel will be selected.



Photo 2. Proposed new hedgerow looking towards The Homestead (orange stakes)

Proposed Bird Boxes (BNG)

In addition, it is proposed to install two bird boxes selected to promote use by species known in this part of Suffolk. A Schwegler woodcrete bird box with a 32mm round entrance hole (manufacturers reference 1B) will be installed in the retained mature plane tree (Photo 3). It will be hung on a branch or attached to the trunk at a height exceeding 2m and sited with a northerly or easterly aspect, to ensure reasonably cool conditions for the hatchlings. This to encourage use by tits, nuthatches and other small birds including robins, pied wagtails, wrens and spotted flycatchers within the retained plane tree.



SCHWEGLER 1B BIRD BOX - 32MM HOLE

Photo 3. Proposed Schwegler bird box with 32mm entrance hole.

The scheme proposals also include two Schwegler double house martin nests (manufacturers reference 9A) and droppings boards (Photo 4), under the eaves of each of The Homestead and Stead Cottage, to help combat the loss of suitable nesting opportunities for house martins. They are each located facing in a north-easterly direction, in order to avoid direct sunlight and also to avoid wet, westerly winds. The installation of two boxes with a total of 4 nesting cups, is particularly advantageous as house martins are gregarious and like to nest communally. The Stead Cottage box location is shown on plan PL1 and The Homestead box will be located in a similarly favourable position.



SCHWEGLER 9A HOUSE MARTIN EAVES NEST - DOUBLE

Photo 4. Proposed Schwegler double house martin nest.