

# **Ecology / Biodiversity Statement**



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

**Duck St Cottage, Duck St,  
Furneux Pelham,  
Herts, SG9 0LA**

**Date: Aug 2023**

## Introduction:

This statement has been prepared in support of an application for full planning permission for the erection of a new dwelling at Duck St Cottage, Duck St, Furneux Pelham, Herts, SG9 0LA



## The Existing Site:

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

## 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:

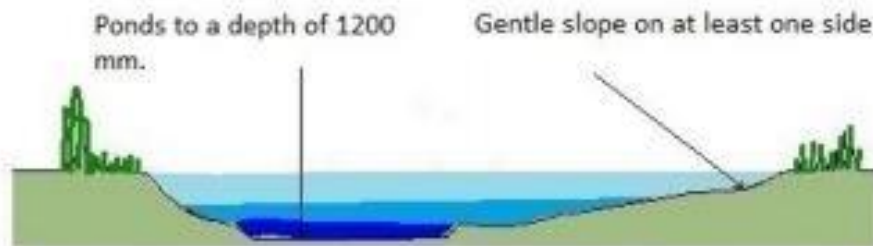
- The site is regularly mown/maintained and provides little habitat to support the above.
- There are currently no ponds on the site.

## The Proposed Site:

- Any existing habitat to the boundaries of the property will be retained and maintained.
- The proposal looks to place the new dwelling in a sympathetic position 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.
- A communication point will be from a new accessway to the front boundary.
- 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.