Moor to Sea Ecology

Ecological Appraisal

Site location:

Venbridge House, Cheriton Bishop

Report Date:

January 2023

Author:
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[redacted]

Job no.	22.115
Client	Kate Boddington
Site/ Job Name	Venbridge House, Cheriton Bishop
Report Type/ Title	Ecological Appraisal
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Devon Wildlife Checklist (for front of Wildlife Report.)

A.1 Protected and priority species (relates to question 13a in the planning application form). A tick or cross must be placed in all boxes in column two (shaded) and then, where there is a tick, all other boxes in that row. Where species are present please email this form to Devon Biodiversity Records Centre - DBRC@dbrc.org.uk.

Location	Venbridge House, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6HD	Grid reference for the centre of the site (6 digits)	SX 7747 9401	Planning application reference	Not known
Name of surveyor & consultancy	Katie Jones – Moor to Sea Ecology	Date that survey undertaken	20th January 2023	Sent to DBRC Y/N	Y

Designations / important habitats / sites of geological importance (relates to questions 13 b & c in the planning application form)

A tick or cross must be placed in all boxes in column two and then, where there is a tick, all other boxes in that row. Designation	Within site or potential impact	Name of Site	Detailed Conservation Action Statement included	Habitat balance sheet	Relevant organisation consulted & response
No statutory designated sites of nature conservation within a 2km radius of Venbridge House					

Species – terrestrial, intertidal or marine	Walkover shows that suitable habitat present and species reasonably likely that species will be found	Detailed survey needed to clarify impacts and mitigation required	Detailed survey carried out and included	Species Present (P) or assumed to be present (A)	Impact on species	Detailed Conservation Action Statement	EPS offence	Grid reference
Nesting birds	x	x	N/A	Absent	x	Precautionary measures	x	N/A
Roosting bats	x	x	N/A	Absent	x	Precautionary measures	x	N/A
Foraging bats	√	x	N/A	A	Potentially if external lighting is proposed	√	x	N/A

Contents

Executive Summary

This survey report details the findings of an Ecological Appraisal conducted of a part of Venbridge House, Cheriton Bishop. The survey was undertaken to accompany a listed building application to install a skylight in the roof on the northern elevation of a single storey section of the house, and remove a plastic conservatory roof and replace it with a zinc roof on the southern elevation. The report will focus on the potential impact to roosting bats and nesting birds of works undertaken within the single storey structure only.

There are no statutory sites designated for nature conservation within a 2km radius of the site.

No evidence of roosting bats was identified in the loft space of the single storey extension or in the conservatory. Additionally the roof of the single storey extension appears to be in good condition and internally appears to be relatively new, with a breathable membrane underlining and new wooden beams. Therefore the single storey section, where the proposed works will take place, was assessed with negligible suitability to support roosting bats. As a precaution, contractors must be made aware of the very low likelihood for a bat to be uncovered during the works.

Bats are likely to use the areas around the garden and adjacent agricultural pasture and woodland for foraging. Therefore any proposed external lighting should follow the guidelines set out in the Institute of Lighting Professionals (2018) Bats in the Built Environment Series ILP Guidance Note 08/18, details provided in the text.

No evidence of nesting birds was noted on the exterior of the property, within the loft space or in the conservatory. As a precaution, ideally the works should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season i.e. between September and February, however if this is not possible, works could be undertaken in the bird nesting season, providing a nesting bird check is undertaken first.

A Conservation Action Statement has been provided which details biodiversity enhancement measures for roosting bats and nesting birds in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

This summary is an extract of the report. Please ensure the report is read in its entirety for detailed survey findings and recommendations.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and Purpose of Document

Moor to Sea Ecology has been commissioned by the owner of Venbridge House, Kate Boddington, to carry out an Ecological Appraisal comprising a Data Search and Ecological Building survey.

The Data Search will identify any statutory sites designated for wildlife which could be affected by the proposed works. The Ecological Building survey aims to describe baseline ecological conditions and determine potential ecological constraints in the form of legally protected and notable bat and bird species and designated sites. Refer to Appendix 1 for details of policies and legislation relating to roosting bats and nesting birds.

The assessment is undertaken in accordance with guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal produced by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2017) and guidelines for Bat Surveys by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins, 2016).

1.2. Site Location and Description

Venbridge House is located on the eastern side of Venbridge Hill, approximately 0.4km to the north of the village of Cheriton Bishop and approximately 0.2km to the north of the A30 (OS Grid Reference at approximate centre SX 7747 9401). The site is bound by agricultural pasture and woodland on the north, eastern and southern boundaries and by Venbridge Hill road to the west. Habitats suitable for roosting and foraging bats include: scattered broadleaved trees immediately adjacent to the northern elevation, broadleaved woodland approximately 35m to the south of the house, a pond approximately 0.2km to the north-east and streams approximately 0.1km to the south.

1.3. Proposed Works

It is proposed to remove a plastic conservatory roof on the southern elevation and replace part of it with a zinc roof and part with an oak framed glazed roof; and install a skylight in the roof on the northern elevation of a single storey section of the house. The application also includes replacing windows and doors and installing a new open porch with a pitched slate roof on the northern elevation of the two storey house. See Drawing No. 105.A North and East Elevation and Drawing No. 100.A Site Plan in Appendix 4 for further details.

2. Survey Methods

2.1. Desk Study

2.1.1. Statutory designated sites

A desk study to identify statutory designated sites of conservation importance within a 2km radius of the site was undertaken using the MAGIC website and the Devon County Council Environment Viewer. These websites were accessed for information in January 2023.

The data search includes records of statutory sites of nature conservation importance such as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It was considered that obtaining a data search of bat records from Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) was not proportional, considering the likely impact of the proposed works.

2.1.2. Ecological building survey

The single storey section and the conservatory were inspected, using a high powered torch, frequency division bat detector (Peersonic RPA3) and video endoscope where necessary to assess the likelihood of the structure to support roosting bats or nesting birds. Evidence of roosting bats could include live animals, carcasses, droppings and feeding remains and evidence of nesting birds could include feathers, nesting material and eggs. Due to the absence of suitable access points, evidence of barn owl Tyto alba was not specifically searched for.

The roof spaces of the main house were not inspected as part of this survey, as the proposed works will not affect these areas.

A rating of between negligible and high suitability was assigned to the building based on the likelihood of supporting roosting bats (Collins, 2016). These levels of suitability are listed below:

- Negligible: Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats;
- Low: A structure with one or more potential roost sites which could be used by individual bats opportunistically, but due to the size, shelter, conditions and surrounding landscape are unlikely to be used by bats on a regular basis or by large numbers of bats i.e. for maternity or hibernation;
- Moderate: A structure with one or more potential roost sites which could be used by bats, due to the size, shelter, conditions and surrounding landscape but are unlikely to support a roost of high conservation concern such as a maternity or hibernation roost; and,
- High: A structure with one or more roost sites which are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a regular basis and potentially for a longer period of time due to size, shelter, conditions and surrounding landscape. Suitable for maternity or hibernation roosts.

3. Survey Results

3.1. Survey Details

Table 1 provides surveyor details and weather conditions for the survey undertaken.

Table 1. Surveyor details and weather conditions

Date:	20th January 2023
Surveyor & Licence No.:	Katie Jones BSc. (Hons) MCIEEM (Principal Ecologist) Natural England Bat Class Licence CL18 (level 2) 2015-11763-CLS-CLS
Weather conditions:	Dry, wind force 0, 7ºC, cloud cover 10%

3.2. Survey Constraints

A number of bat species roost in very small crevices such as the spaces between the roof and the wall tops. Therefore it is possible that individual bats and bat droppings may have been missed. In addition, bird nests in concealed locations may not have been visible to the surveyor.

The northern elevation of the roof was covered with snow, which may have concealed small crevices suitable for roosting bats, although from inside the roof space, the roof appeared to be relatively new and no droppings were present in the loft space. On the southern elevation from ground level, the slate roof was not visible because a conservatory is present immediately in front of the roof.

3.3. Data Search

There are no statutory designated sites for nature conservation either within, adjacent to or within a 2km radius of Venbridge House. See Appendix 2 for the data search plan.

3.4. Ecological Building Survey

3.4.1. Building description

Venbridge House is a large Grade 2 listed house, dating from the late 18th century with external alterations made in the 19th century. The proposed works which could impact on bats are limited to a single storey structure, which links the two, 2 storey sections of the house. On the northern elevation, the area surveyed comprises rendered stone walls, with a pitched slate roof. There is also a wooden painted bargeboard and a recessed porch with a wooden painted door. On the southern elevation, a wooden framed conservatory is present, in front of the single storey section. The conservatory also extends to the south-east of the house. The conservatory has a sloping corrugated plastic roof and glass panes on the southern, eastern and western sides.

Internally, the loft space of the single storey section is underlined with a breathable membrane and laid onto new wooden supports. The original roof beams which were lower than the current roof

structure are present within the loft space. The eastern gable end of the adjacent house is visible and is constructed of cob. Rat and mouse droppings was seen in the loft space.

3.4.2. Evidence of roosting bats

No evidence of roosting bats was found within the loft space of the single storey section and there appears to be no gaps in the roof that would allow bats to access the loft space. There was additionally no evidence of bats within the conservatory on the southern elevation.

Therefore within the single storey section and adjacent conservatory, the suitability for roosting bats is negligible.

3.4.3. Foraging bats

The habitats surrounding Venbridge House, primarily comprise agricultural pasture and woodland, which is likely to be relatively dark and sheltered, and therefore used by a variety of foraging bat species. Consequently, if any additional external security or garden lighting is proposed, this could impact on bat foraging and commuting routes.

3.4.4. Evidence of nesting birds

No evidence of nesting birds was noted either within the loft space of the single storey section, in the conservatory or on the exterior.

4. Evaluation and Recommendations

Site evaluation has been undertaken based on the current level of survey findings including a Desk Study and Ecological Building survey. Legislation is summarised within the current section; Appendix 1 provides full details of the legislation relating to species.

Recommendations with regard to likely impacts and requirements for mitigation, compensation or protected species licensing (where necessary) have been given based on the proposals given in Section 1.3 and current best practice guidance documents where appropriate. A Conservation Action Statement (CAS), Appendix 5 provides further detail regarding enhancement measures for nesting birds and roosting bats.

If the site or habitats within it changes (or if development proposals alter) the potential impacts on bat and bird species may change accordingly. Moor to Sea Ecology should be contacted for advice in such situations.

4.1. Designated Sites

There are no statutory sites designated for the purposes of nature conservation within a 2km radius of Venbridge House, therefore there are no recommendations pertaining to designated sites.

4.2. Bat species

Evaluation

British bat species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This makes it an offence to kill or injure bats or damage or destroy a place of shelter or protection. Deliberate or reckless disturbance of bats which could affect the ability of any significant group of animals to survive, breed, rear or nurture their young may also result in an offence.

No evidence of roosting bats was observed either within the loft space of the single storey extension, in the conservatory or on the exterior of these structures. Therefore the area of the proposed works i.e. small section of the roof on the northern elevation and conservatory roof, were assessed with negligible suitability to support bats.

Bats are likely to use the garden, and adjacent agricultural pasture and woodland for foraging and commuting. Therefore any new security or garden lighting which will illuminate either the garden or adjacent habitats could impact on foraging bats.

Recommendations

Roosting bats

The presence of roosting bats can never be completely ruled out and therefore a precautionary method of slate and corrugated plastic removal must be employed. Contractors must be made aware of the very low likelihood for a bat to be uncovered during the works. If a bat is found, sheltering materials should be replaced around the bat, all works should stop in that area and the bat allowed to naturally disperse. If it does not disperse, Moor to Sea Ecology should be contacted for further advice.

Foraging bats

Any proposed external lighting should follow the guidelines set out in the Institute of Lighting Professionals (2018) Bats in the Built Environment Series ILP Guidance Note 08/18. In summary,

- LED luminaires should be used due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.
- A warm white spectrum (ideally<2700Kelvin) should be adopted to reduce blue light component.
- Luminaires should feature peak wavelengths higher than 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats.
- Only luminaires with an upward light ratio of 0% and with good optical control should be used.
- Luminaires should always be mounted on the horizontal, i.e. no upward tilt.
- Any external security lighting should be set on motion-sensors and short (1min) timers.
- As a last resort, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres should be used to reduce light spill and direct it only to where it is needed.

4.3. Bird species

Evaluation

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is illegal to take, damage or destroy the nests of wild birds whilst being built or in use. Bird species also listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which include barn owl, receive additional protection including protection from intentional or reckless disturbance when they are nesting or rearing dependant young (see Appendix 1 for more details).

No evidence of nesting birds was identified during the survey.

Recommendations

As a precaution, it is recommended that the installation of the skylight and removal of the plastic roof is undertaken outside of the main bird nesting period (i.e. between September and February). It should be noted that nesting may extend outside of this period and is dependent on weather conditions and species.

If it is not possible to undertake the works between September and February, a nesting check should be undertaken prior to start of the works. Any active birds nests found, must be retained in-situ until the birds have fledged and left the nest.

4.4. Biodiversity Enhancements

Biodiversity enhancement recommendations are required in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out the government's policies on achieving net biodiversity gain through the planning system. Detailed enhancement recommendations for birds and bats are included within the Conservation Action Statement (CAS) on Appendix 5.

5. References

CIEEM (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Collins, J (2016). Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd edition. Bat Conservation Trust.

Devon County Council (2023). Environment Viewer. Available from: · https://map.devon.gov.uk/dccviewer/

English Nature (now Natural England) (2004). Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough.

Institute of Lighting Professionals (2018). Bats and artificial lighting in the UK. Bats in the Built Environment Series ILP Guidance Note 08/18.

Magic (2023). Available from https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx

Stone, E., Jones, G., and Harris, S. (2009). Street lighting disturbs commuting bats. Current Biology 9:1-5.

Williams, C. (2010). Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings: A Technical Guide for New Build.

Appendix 1 Summary of Relevant Policies and Legislation

This includes a brief summary of legislation relevant to wildlife referred to in this document. The original texts of the relevant legislation or specific legal advice should be consulted in individual cases where appropriate. This section does not constitute legal advice.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on the 24th July 2018. It replaces the first NPPF published in March 2012.

Sections of the NPPF with particular relevance to biological conservation include:

Paragraph 8 and 8 c):

8. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

c) an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

Paragraph 170 d):

170. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

Paragraph 171:

171. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

Paragraph 174:

174. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity[56]; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation[57]; and

b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Paragraph 175:

175. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons[58] and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Paragraph 176:

176. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites[59]; and

c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Paragraph 177:

177. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment because of its potential impact on a habitats site is being planned or determined.

[56] Circular 06/2005 provides further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and geological conservation and their impact within the planning system. [57] Where areas that are part of the Nature Recovery Network are identified in plans, it may be appropriate to specify the types of

development that may be suitable within them. [58] For example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat. [59] Potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Ramsar sites are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a Special Protection Area, candidate Special Area of Conservation or Ramsar site.

Protected Species

Protected Species (PS) include those species present on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora (Habitats Directive) into English Law. EPS referred to within this report include:

- Bat species

All PS also receive legal protection under the national legislation within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). When these two pieces of legislation are considered together, it makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill any wild animal of these species.
- Possess or control any live or dead specimens or any part, or anything derived from animals of these species.
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of such species, where the disturbance is likely to:
  a) impair their ability to
     i) survive, breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or
     ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate
  b) affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species.
- Intentionally, deliberately or recklessly damage or destroy the breeding or resting place of such an animal, or obstruct access to such a place.
- Sell (or offer for sale) or exchange parts of these species (alive or dead).

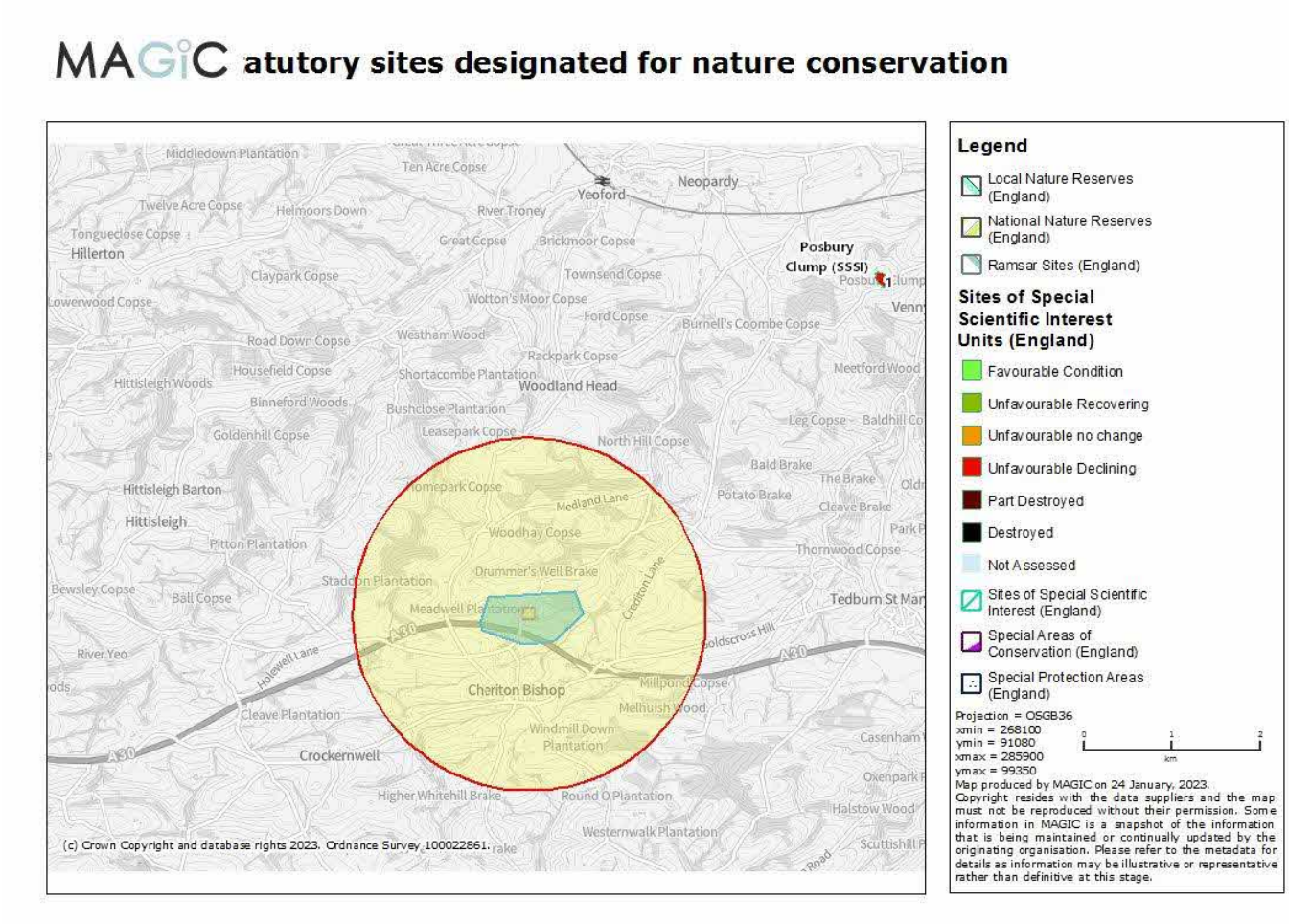
Nesting Birds

All wild birds are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is therefore an offence in the UK to:

- Take damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is being built or in use.
- Kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- Take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird.

In order to avoid committing an offence with regards nesting birds no works which may impact bird nests whilst in use (e.g. whilst nests are being constructed, eggs incubated or dependant juveniles reared) should take place. Such works should only take place once all young have fully fledged.

Appendix 2 Data Search



Appendix 3 Photo Plates

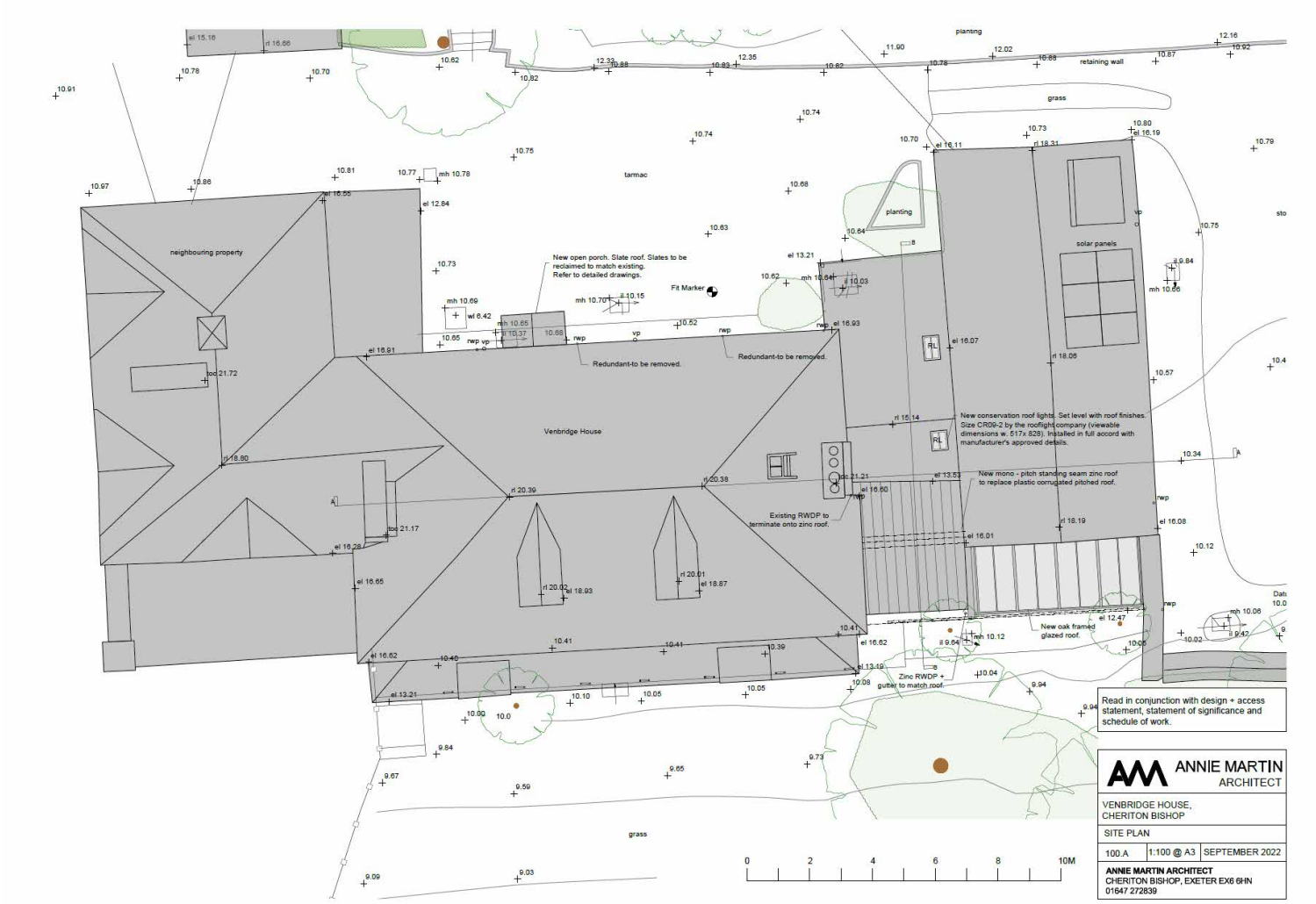
Plate 1. The northern elevation of the area surveyed

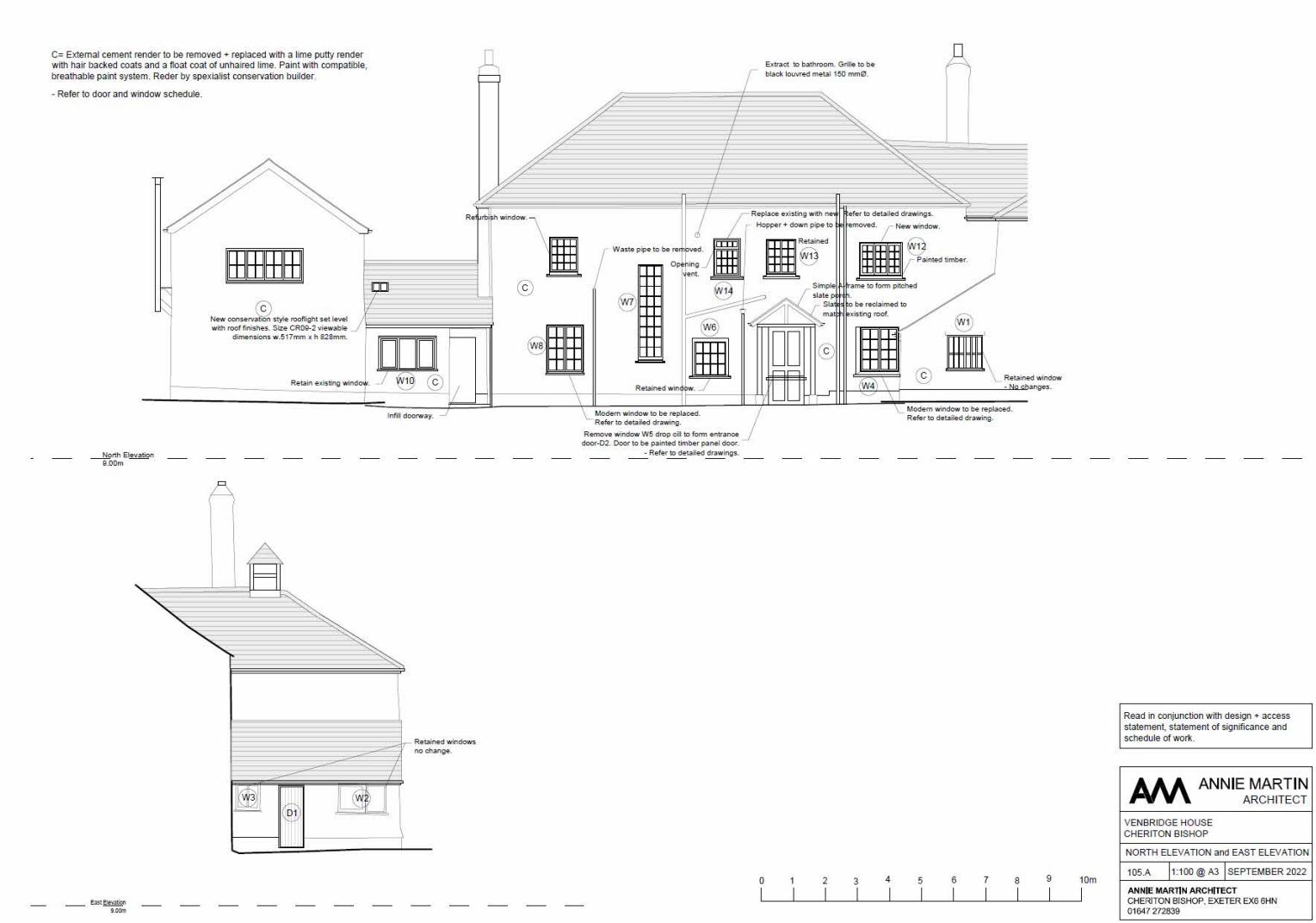
Plate 2. The southern elevation of the area surveyed looking west

Plate 3. The southern elevation looking east

Plate 4. The interior of the conservatory on the southern elevation

Appendix 4 Proposed Site Plans




C= External cement render to be removed + replaced with a lime putty render with hair backed coats and a float coat of unhaired lime. Paint with compatible, breathable paint system. Reder by spexialist conservation builder.
- Refer to door and window schedule.
Extract to bathroom. Grille to be black louvred metal 150 mmØ.
Refurbish window.
Replace existing with new. Refer to detailed drawings.
Hopper + down pipe to be removed.
New window.
Waste pipe to be removed.
Retained
W13
W12
Painted timber.
Opening vent.
W14
W7
Simple A-frame to form pitched slate porch.
Slates to be reclaimed to match existing roof.
W6
W8
W1
C
New conservation style rooflight set level with roof finishes. Size CR09-2 viewable dimensions w.517mm x h 828mm.
Retain existing window.
W10
Retained window.
W4
Retained window - No changes.
Infill doorway.
Modern window to be replaced. Refer to detailed drawing.
Remove window W5 drop cill to form entrance door-D2. Door to be painted timber panel door. - Refer to detailed drawings.
Modern window to be replaced. Refer to detailed drawing.
North Elevation
9.00m
Retained windows no change.
W3
W2
D1
East Elevation
9.00m
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10m
Read in conjunction with design + access statement, statement of significance and schedule of work.
ANNIE MARTIN
ARCHITECT
VENBRIDGE HOUSE
CHERITON BISHOP
NORTH ELEVATION and EAST ELEVATION
105.A
1:100 @ A3
SEPTEMBER 2022
ANNIE MARTIN ARCHITECT
CHERITON BISHOP, EXETER EX6 6HN
01647 272839

Appendix 5 Conservation Action Statement

This document has been constructed following guidance provided by Devon County Council at www.devon.gov.uk/wildlife. The Conservation Action Statement (CAS) demonstrates measures to avoid, mitigate and compensate for anticipated ecological impacts (where possible or appropriate). Proportionate measures to enhance the site for biodiversity in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are also given.

Site Details

Address	Venbridge House, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6HD
Grid reference	SX 7747 9401
Planning Application Ref.	Not known
Drawing No.	Drawing No. 105.A North and East Elevation and Drawing No. 100.A Site Plan

Measures to avoid/ mitigate/ compensate impacts

Potential Impact	Measures to avoid/ mitigate/ compensate impacts
Roosting bats	No evidence of roosting bats was found and the roof appears to be in good condition, however there is still a very low likelihood that individual bats may roost in the roof on occasion. Therefore a precautionary method of roof removal is employed. Contractors should be made aware of the very low likelihood for a bat to be uncovered. If a bat is found, sheltering materials should be replaced around the bat, all works should stop in that area and the bat allowed to naturally disperse. If it does not disperse, Moor to Sea Ecology should be contacted for further advice.
Foraging bats	Any proposed external lighting should follow the guidelines set out in the Institute of Lighting Professionals (2018) Bats in the Built Environment Series ILP Guidance Note 08/18 and should seek to avoid illuminating the garden and adjacent pasture and woodland.
Nesting birds	Removal of the roof will ideally be commenced during the period mid-September to end of February to avoid harm to active nests and birds whilst nesting. If this is not possible and works will be undertaken in the bird nesting season (between March and the end of August), a nesting bird check will be undertaken prior to the works started. If any active nests are found, they must be left in-situ until the birds have fledged and left the nest.

Measures to enhance the site for biodiversity

Note: recommended nest and roost box designs can be purchased from nhbs at www.nhbs.com or 01803 865913.

Receptor	Enhancement Measure
Robin, blue tit, wren & house sparrow	 At least two Schwegler 1B nest boxes could be installed on the northern or eastern elevations of either Venbridge House or trees in the vicinity .Care should be taken to avoid siting nest boxes above windows or doors. The 1B nest box will attract a wide range of species and is available with different entrance hole sizes to prevent birds from competing with each other for the boxes. Available from: https://www.nhbs.com/1b-schwegler-nest-box