



Mr & Mrs Phillips  
36 Cooper Road,  
Gosbeck  
Suffolk.  
IP6 9SW.

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

## **Re: Ecology Assessment at 36 Cooper Road, Gosbeck Suffolk. IP6 9SW.**

### **Introduction & Methodology**

Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd. was instructed to undertake an Ecological Assessment for proposed development including two modest, single-storey extensions, one of which is replacing an existing conservatory at 36 Cooper Road, Gosbeck, Suffolk. IP6 9SW.

Due to the very small scale of the project a survey was considered unnecessary and this report is based on a desk study exercise, using proposed development plans, site photographs taken by Build-to-Plans, Ordnance Survey Maps, aerial photography and Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC).

### **Study Results**

The site includes a rendered, semi-detached, double-storey house set in a rural location surrounded by mostly arable fields. Two local ponds are present including approximately 25m south west and 95m south west.

The closest designated nature conservation site is Gosbeck Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located approximately 600m north east and designated for ancient woodland habitats.

The proposed construction zones are built environments and include:

Area 1: an existing doorway proposed for a 1800x3600mm new porch constructed over an existing paved area. A very small area (a few meters) of very short lawn may also be impacted in this area.

Area 2: an existing UPVC conservatory approximately 4500x2500mm in a courtyard with paving and negligible vegetation proposed for a new single-storey extension.

Please note that both construction zones will be set below the existing roof and soffits which will remain unaffected by the proposed works.

## Discussion & Conclusion

The proposed development is a very small-scale project with negligible greenspace proposed for impact. Proposed development plans and site photographs indicate that no loft, soffits or roof area are proposed for impact. No trees, hedgerows or other notable habitat are proposed for impact. Therefore, the risk of presence or impact to protected, priority or notable wildlife such as: bats, nesting birds, great crested newts, reptiles, badgers etc. was considered negligible. No suitable bat roosting habitat will be affected- UPVC conservatories are unsuitable for roosting bats. No suitable bird nesting habitat will be affected, and the works are mostly over built habitats (paving and an existing conservatory etc.) which is unsuitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts etc.

It was further considered that even if the nearby ponds support breeding great crested newts, the risk of impact is negligible given the small-scale of the project and the negligible suitability of the terrestrial habitats proposed for works. This was further confirmed when consulting the Natural England Great Crested Newt Rapid Risk Assessment, see below.

Component	Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)	Notional offence probability score
Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	0.001 - 0.01 ha lost or damaged	0.05
Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
	Maximum:	0.05
Rapid risk assessment result:	<b>GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY</b>	

Therefore, further ecological surveys or the provision of mitigation were considered unnecessary for the development to proceed.

However, to minimise any residual risk of negative impact to protected, priority or rare species and notable habitats and to provide biodiversity net gain, the below recommendations should be followed.

## Precautionary Recommendations

### *Bats*

- If at any point during works bats or evidence of bats (droppings) are found works should stop and an ecologist called for advice.
- Any proposed new external lighting should be minimised using only warm white LED lamps (<3000k) direct down and ideally on short timers.

### *Hedgehogs & Great Crested Newts*

- Ground vegetation should be maintained short by regular cutting to prevent habitats improving for wildlife before any construction or demolition works;
- During development, waste material should be removed off site immediately and construction materials should be stored on hardstanding or off the ground on pallets, to prevent wildlife from sheltering in the materials and being harmed by movement of the materials;
- The site should be well drained and ground vegetation maintained short throughout the development, to prevent attracting wildlife into harm's way;
- Any excavations for the development should be covered at night or have a roughly sawn plank placed in them to facilitate escape for any wildlife which may fall in;
- No construction/demolition works at night when amphibians and hedgehogs are mostly active;
- In the unlikely event that a hedgehog or amphibian is observed on the site during development, activities in that area should cease and the animal should be allowed to disperse of its own accord. If rescuing is required and ecologist should be called for advice.

### **Biodiversity Enhancements**

By following the below biodiversity enhancements, the development will improve the site for local wildlife and provide a net-gain in accordance with national planning policy (NPPF, 2023).

The addition of a bat box and a bird box on the house will increase the potential roosting and nesting sites for local bats and birds. Specifically, the following boxes should be used;

- 1 x Beaumaris Bat Box;
- 1 x Vivara Pro Sparrow Terrace;

Bat boxes and bird boxes can be purchased on-line through suppliers such as The Wildlife Shop and NHBS.

Boxes should be installed high on the building (just below the roof) with the bird box facing a northerly aspect and the bat box facing a southerly aspect.

Any new soft landscaping should be native and/or wildlife attracting. New lawn areas required following disturbance caused during development works should be created by using a wildflower meadow mix such as EM1 by Emorsgate Seeds.

Yours sincerely,

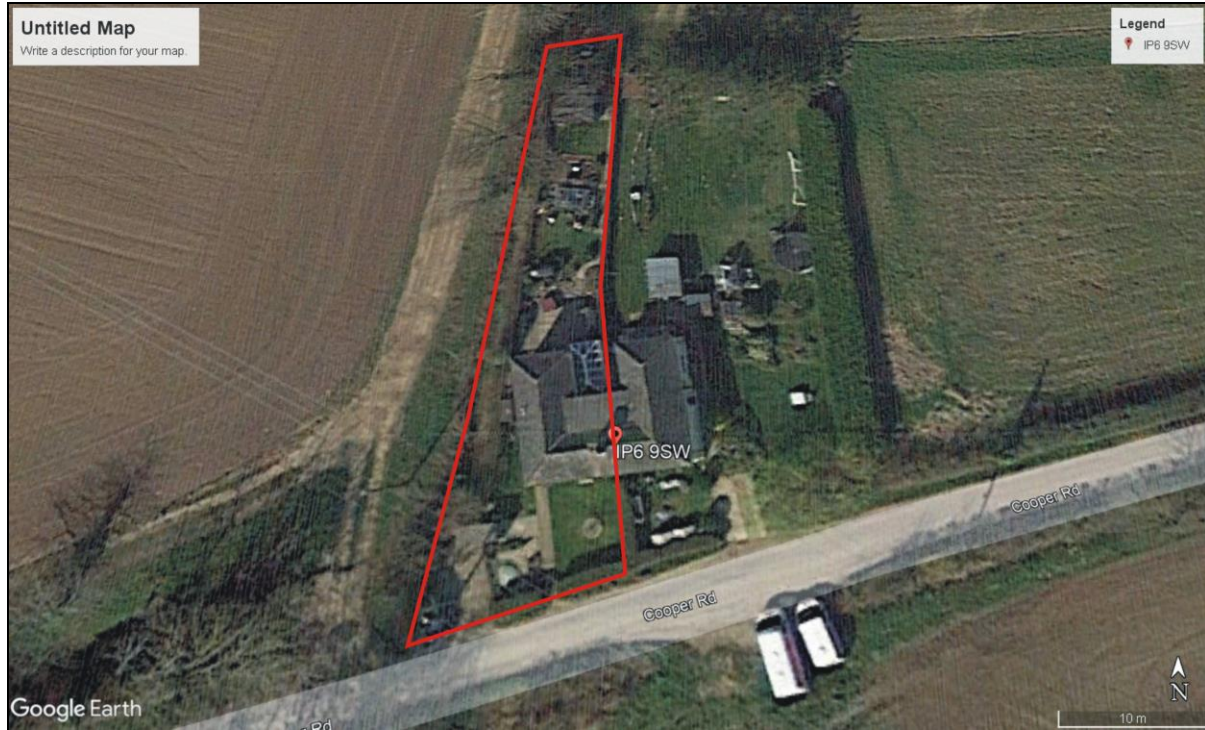


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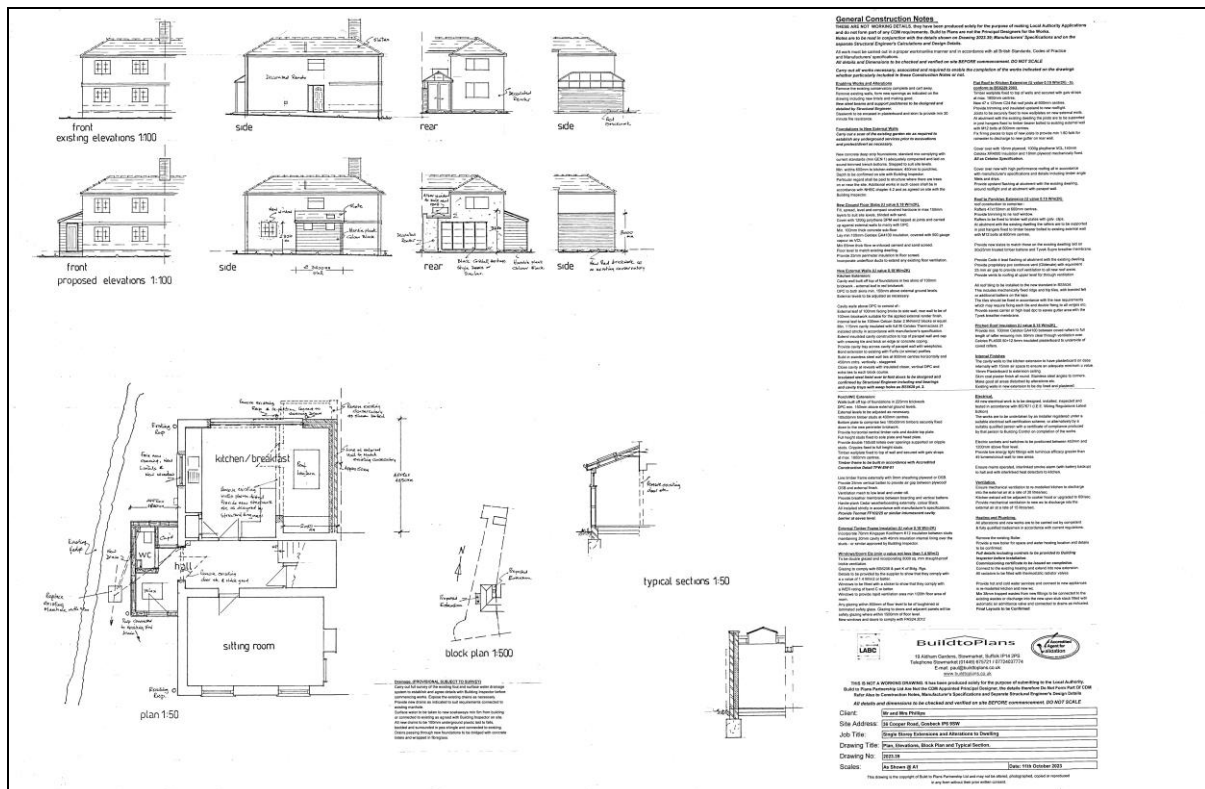
# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1: Figures & Photographs

### Site Location Plan.



### Proposed development.



**Photograph 1: Location for Proposed Installation of a New Porch at 36 Cooper Road.**



**Photograph 2: Location for proposed extension to replace the conservatory at 36 Cooper Road.**

