



Robson Ecology

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Mr Philip Isbell
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
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Reference: LET23041/091123/OR
Your Reference: DC/23/04758

9th November 2023

Dear Mr Isbell,

Re: DC/23/04758: Ecology Assessment at Brome Cottage, 30 Eye Road, Brome and Oakley, Eye, IP23 8AL.

An application for Listed Building Consent (LBC) was recently submitted for the erection of a small porch to the rear of Brome Cottage, 30 Eye Road, Brome and Oakley, IP23 8AL (reference DC/23/04758). Your letter to Ian Alderton of Architectural Management Ltd., (dated 13th October 2023) requested additional biodiversity information to enable the application to be validated, due to:

- works to a pre-1960 detached building or structure within 200m of woodland and/or water – bats.
- minor and householder proposals within 100m of pond/moat - great crested newts, water voles and amphibians.

A site survey was carried out by ecologist Odette Robson BSc (Hons) PhD MCIEEM: a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM) and licensed by Natural England to survey for great crested newts (WML-CL09; Level 2), bats (WML-CL18; Level 2) and dormice (WML-CL10A); a NE Registered Consultant under the Bat Mitigation Class Licence, the Bats in Churches Class Licence, and Bat Earned Recognition Class Licence.

The survey, on 30th October 2023, assessed the property for potential to support roosting bats in the parts of the property which would be impacted by construction of the proposed new porch. The terrestrial habitat which would be impacted was also assessed in relation to potential protected species issues (such as great crested newt presence).

The proposed new porch is on the south-eastern elevation at the rear of the property. This area was found to be an intact rendered external wall with sealed door and no crevices between frame and surrounds (Plate 2). The thatched eaves above the proposed new porch were fully wired leaving no access gaps for small mammals (Plate 3). The new porch would be joined to the existing wall below the eaves, and not disturb the existing roof. The property has no accessible loft void. No other features that bats could use for roosting (e.g., tiles, soffits, barge-boards) would be impacted and there is negligible risk of impact to bats through construction of the porch.

The only known pond within 100m is a farm-pond approximately 80m to the south-east. The pond (Plate 1) was holding minimal water (<20cm depth) at the time of the survey, which was carried out in the week following extreme flooding over much of Suffolk when water bodies and water courses locally were at capacity. Given the lack of presence of aquatic vegetation and high incidence of Nettles throughout the base of the depression, it appears that the pond is only seasonally inundated and is likely to be a dry depression for much of the year, reducing the potential for great crested newts to use the pond for breeding. The pond is separated from the proposed porch area by arable land and the garden of Brome Cottage, which is largely laid to short-mown lawn. The pond itself is immediately surrounded by dense hedges, mature trees, scrub, and associated wide field margins surrounding the arable land. There is negligible potential for any amphibians using this pond to use terrestrial habitat at the location of the proposed works. The construction area is beyond the impact zone for water voles and there was no evidence of water voles using the pond. Suitability of the pond for water voles was very low/negligible due to poor water quality, lack of foraging resource, low/fluctuating water levels, and poor connectivity to other more suitable water course/ditch networks.

Having carried out a site assessment, I am satisfied that the property has negligible potential to support bats and there will be no impact to other protected species (great crested newts, reptiles, water voles). No further surveys or precautions are necessary to implement the proposed new porch. I have appended photos below to verify the above and trust that this will be sufficient to enable you to validate and determine the LBC application. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Odette Robson BSc (Hons) PhD MCIEEM

Plate 1: Pond to south-east of Brome Cottage (Photo: O. Robson, 30/10/23)



Plate 2: Location of proposed new porch at back door of Brome Cottage (Photo: O. Robson, 30/10/23)



Plate 3: Eaves above proposed new porch – fully wired onto the rendered wall
(Photo: O. Robson, 30/10/23)



Plate 4: Garden to the south and east of Brome Cottage – well-managed as short-mown lawn (Photo: O. Robson, 30/10/23)

