



ecosupport



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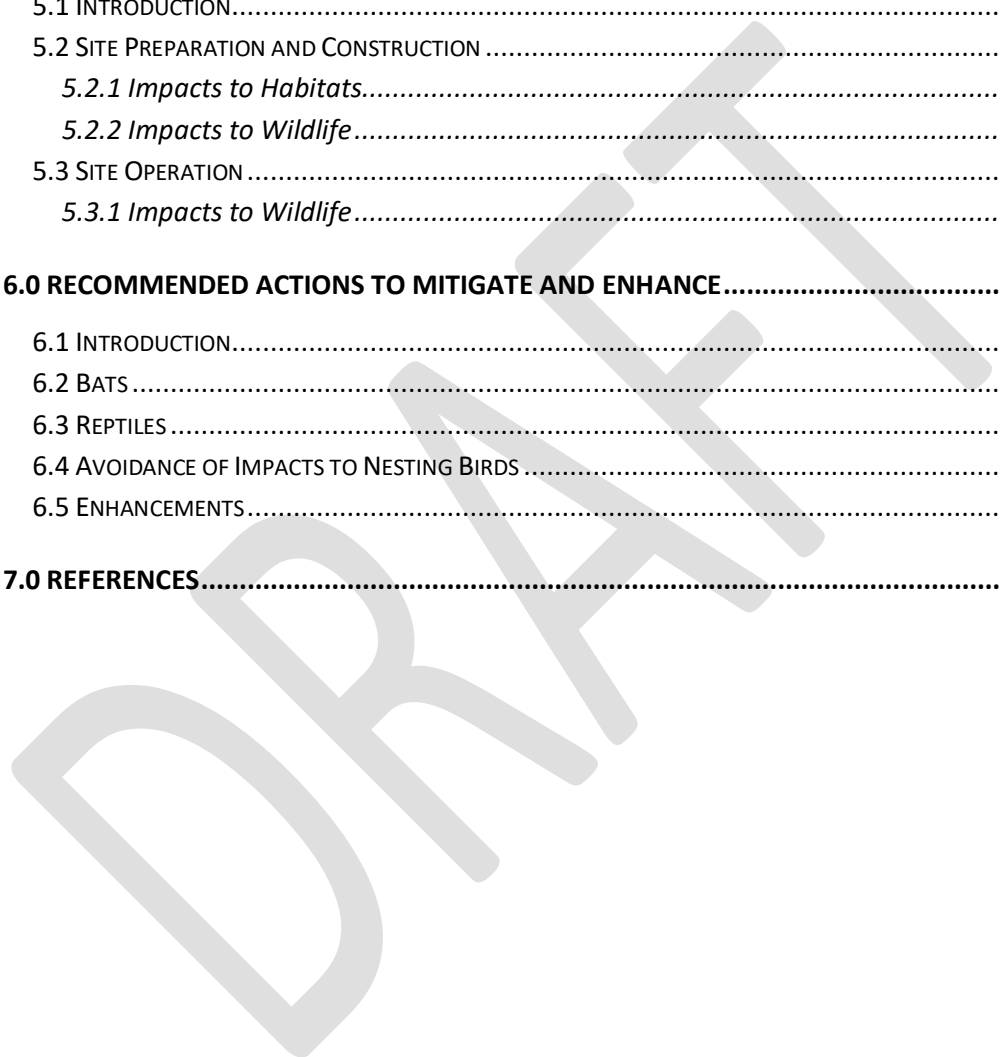
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Executive Summary

Ecosupport Ltd was instructed by Mr David Ember to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of 76 Portsmouth Road, Southampton and associated land to identify any potentially important ecological features that may be affected by the proposed development. As part of this assessment, the following surveys were undertaken:

- Phase I habitat survey (May 2022)
- Preliminary roost assessment (buildings) (May 2022)

The following important ecological features were identified on site following the conclusion of the above survey work and may be subject to adverse impacts in the absence of suitable mitigation / compensation:

- Moderate potential for roosting bats (dwelling)
- Low potential for roosting bats (garages)
- Moderate potential for roosting bats (Oak tree)
- Low potential for reptiles
- Moderate potential for breeding and nesting birds

In the absence of any mitigation measures, the proposed development is anticipated to result in, ***potential adverse effects*** (significance level to be determined following additional survey work). Suitable mitigation measures will be outlined within reports that will accompany this document following the conclusion of the additional survey work recommended.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

Ecosupport Ltd was commissioned by Mr David Ember to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of 76 Portsmouth Road, Southampton and associated land (here after referred to as 'the site'). The purpose of this survey was to assess any ecological impacts that may arise as a result of the proposed development. The objectives of the survey were as follows:

- Assess the ecological value of the site
- Identify any signs of protected species and potential features that may support them
- Make recommendations for further survey work as appropriate.
- Make recommendations for any necessary ecological avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures where possible at a PEA stage
- Make recommendations for site ecological enhancements as per planning policy

NB If the development does not take place within 18 months¹ of this report then the findings of this survey will no longer be considered valid and may require updating.

1.2 Site Description & Location

The site comprises of a dwelling, garages, greenhouse and associated garden space located off Portsmouth Road, Southampton, SO19 9AN (centred on OS grid reference SU4435710979) (Fig 1). The east, west and southern boundaries of the site are marked by residential properties and Portsmouth Road bounds the site to the north. In the wider landscape the site is located within the city of Southampton, predominantly surrounded by residential properties with scattered patches of recreational grassland and trees.

Figure 1. Aerial image of the site with approximate redline boundary given.



¹ <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf>

1.3 Proposed Development

At this stage it is understood that the proposals involve refurbishment works to several parts of the dwelling and the demolition of the garages and greenhouse with associated landscaping.

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2.0 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICY

2.1 Legislation

2.1.1 *The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)*

This instrument makes changes to the three existing instruments which transpose the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives so that they continue to work (are operable) upon the UK's exit from the European Union (EU). These include The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This instrument also amends section 27 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to ensure existing protections continue. The intention is to ensure habitat and species protection and standards as set out under the Nature Directives are implemented in the same way or an equivalent way when the UK exits the EU.

This transposes the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) into UK domestic law. It provides protection for sites and species deemed to be of conservation importance across Europe. It is an offence to deliberately capture, kill or injure species listed in Schedule 2 or to damage or destroy their breeding sites or shelter. It is also illegal to deliberately disturb these species in such a way that is likely to significantly impact on the local distribution or abundance or affect their ability to survive, breed and rear or nurture their young.

In order for activities that would be likely to result in a breach of species protection under the regulations to legally take place, a European Protected Species (EPS) licence must first be obtained from Natural England.

2.1.2 *The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended)*

This is the primary piece of legislation by which biodiversity is protected within the UK. Protected fauna and flora are listed under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Act. They include all species of bats, making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any bat whilst it is occupying a roost or to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost. Similarly, this Act makes it an offence to kill or injure any species of British reptiles and also makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or to take, damage or destroy their eggs and nests (whilst in use or being built).

2.1.3 *The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)*

This Act places a duty on Government Ministers and Departments to conserve biological diversity and provides police with stronger powers relating to wildlife crimes.

2.1.4 *NERC Act*

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires that public bodies have due regard to the conservation of biodiversity. This means that Planning authorities must consider biodiversity when planning or undertaking activities. Section 41 of the Act lists species found in England which were identified as requiring action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities under the *UK Post – 2010 Biodiversity Framework*.

2.1.5 Protection of Badgers Act

The Protection of Badgers Act (1992) relates to the welfare of Badgers (*Meles meles*) as opposed to nature conservation considerations. The Act prevents:

- The wilful killing, injury, ill treatment or taking of Badgers and / or
- Interference with a Badger sett
- Damaging or destroying all or part of a sett
- Causing a dog to enter a set and
- Disturbing a Badger while it is occupying a sett

Provisions are included within the Act to allow for the lawful licensing of certain activities that would otherwise constitute an offence under the Act.

2.2 Policy

2.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021

Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021) 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment. They should do this by protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity and minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including establishing coherent ecological networks.

The plan states to protect and enhance biodiversity plans should identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks. This includes the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them. Plans should identify the protection and recovery of priority species and opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

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

- if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- 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;
- 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 and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

- development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

2.2.2 Southampton City Council Core Strategy (2015)

The Local Plan is a collection of adopted plans. These consist of the City Centre Action Plan (adopted 2015), Core Strategy including the changes from the Core Strategy Partial Review (adopted 2015), 'saved' policies in the Local Plan Review (amended 2015), the Bassett Neighbourhood Plan (2016) and the Minerals and Waste Plan (adopted 2013). There are also supplementary planning documents with more detailed policies.

The Core Strategy highlights that, although a predominantly built-up area, the city benefits from a high quality natural environment including a network of open spaces and a wealth of wildlife and biodiversity.

The vision of the Core Strategy is for an environmentally sustainable city which protects and enhances the natural environment. The green grid will be extended and enhanced to promote greater biodiversity, to improve the physical connections into and between open spaces for wildlife and residents

Policy S19 Conserve and enhance the city's biodiversity, ensuring that designated sites and protected species are safeguarded. Nature conservation opportunities in existing open spaces and in new development will be maximised and local awareness of biodiversity issues raised.

CS 22 'Promoting Biodiversity and Protecting Habitat' Within Southampton the Council will promote biodiversity through:

- Ensuring development does not adversely affect the integrity of international designations, and the necessary mitigation measures are provided.
- Ensuring development is unlikely to have an unacceptable impact on a national or local designation; and that any such impact (on these or other features of biodiversity value) is avoided, mitigated or as a last resort compensated for.
- Ensuring that development retains, protects and enhances features of biological interest and provides for the appropriate management of these features;
- Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing in provisions for wildlife.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Waterbodies

Any ponds located within 250m of the proposed development (smaller radius used due to the small scale of the proposals) were searched for using Ordnance Survey maps and available aerial images.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Habitats

The field survey work which forms the basis of the findings of this report was carried out by Lewis Lakudzala BSc (Hons) MRes, Ecologist with Ecosupport (2 years post-graduation experience) on the 12th May 2022.

The Phase 1 Habitat survey (JNCC, 2010) methodology was adopted which is a method of classifying and mapping wildlife habitats in Great Britain. It was originally intended to provide “...relatively rapidly, a record of semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitat over large areas of the countryside”. The standard Phase 1 Habitat survey methodology has been ‘extended’ in this report to include the following:

- Floral species lists for each identified habitat;
- Descriptions of habitat structure, the evidence of management and a broad assessment of habitat condition;
- Mapping of additional habitat types (e.g. hardstanding);
- Identification of Priority Habitats under Section 41 of the NERC Act;
- Evidence of, or potential for, the presence of certain species/groups

3.2.2 Badger

The site was thoroughly searched for evidence of use by Badgers (*Meles meles*), with the specific aim of identifying the presence and location of any setts. In accordance with the *Badgers and Development: A Guide to Best Practice and Licensing* (Natural England, 2011) guidance, the survey accounted for a 30m from the site’s boundary (observed where possible i.e. does not conflict with private dwellings). Evidence of Badgers could include latrines, dung pits, feeding remains and foraging evidence, trails and setts.

3.2.3 Bats

An assessment was made of the suitability of the trees and buildings on site to support roosting bats based on the presence of any Potential Roost Features (PRFs) during May 2022. This involved the use of 8 x 42 close focus binoculars and a high-powered torch (where required) for a more detailed inspection of any features. The survey conformed to current best practice guidance as described *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (Collins, 2016) and was conducted by Lewis Lakudzala (working under class level 2 licence of Adam Jessop 2015-13366-CLS-CLS).

3.3 Assessment Methodology

3.3.1 Introduction

The methodology for the assessment of the likely ecological effects of the proposed development is based on CIEEM's *Guidelines for Ecological Assessment in the UK* (CIEEM 2018). Although this assessment does not constitute a formal Ecological/ Environmental Impact Assessment, the CIEEM guidelines provide a useful framework for assessing ecological impacts at any level.

3.3.2 Valuation

Features of ecological interest are valued on a geographic scale. Value is assigned on the basis of legal protection, national and local biodiversity policy and cultural and/or social significance.

3.4 Limitations

3.4.1 Habitats

There were not considered to be any limitations of the survey results with all areas of the site to be impacted upon accessible and the survey conducted at the appropriate time of year.

3.4.2 PRA Limitations

There were not considered to be any significant limitations during the preliminary roost assessment (PRA) as all areas of the loft space were accessible.

4.0 ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

4.1 Desk study

4.1.1 Waterbodies

No waterbodies were identified within 250m of the site.

4.2 Vegetation Survey Results

The vegetation within the site has been described below using the broad Phase I habitat classification terminology as described with JNCC (2010). The below species noted should not be considered an exhaustive list and instead refer to dominant, characteristic and other noteworthy species associated with each community within the survey area. The habitat types on site comprise:

- Poor semi-improved grassland
- Scrub
- Hedgerow
- Scattered trees
- Ruderal
- Ornamental planting
- Hard standing
- Buildings

4.2.1 Poor semi-improved grassland

This type of grassland was the dominant habitat on type and covered the majority of the site to the north, east and south of the main dwelling (**Figs 2 & 3**). Although the species diversity remained similar across each area, sward height was higher in the areas to the east and south of the dwelling (**Fig 3**) as these had been left unmanaged for some time. As such, the species diversity was poor and dominated by grasses. Species noted across the site included Cocksfoot Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Cats ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Crane's-bill (*Geranium dissectum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Daffodil (*Narcissus sp.*), Common Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum agg.*),

Figure 2. Poor semi-improved grassland located north of the main dwelling on site (taken May 2022).



Figure 3. Unmanaged poor semi-improved grassland located south of the main dwelling on site (taken May 2022).



4.2.2 Scrub

Areas of scrub were located along the northern and southern boundary of site (**Fig 4**). These were dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and supported a similar species composition across both areas. Species recorded included: Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*) and Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*).

Figure 4. Scrub located along the north on site (taken May 2022).



4.2.3 Hedgerow

Several hedgerows were recorded on site. A *Leylandii* hedge was situated along the western boundary of the site (Fig 5). Native species hedgerows were recorded along the north, south and parts of the east boundaries, as well as two isolated hedgerows east of the main dwelling (Fig 6). Hedgerows on site supported similar species compositions which included: Laurel (*Prunus* sp.), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Privet (*Ligustrum Ovalifolium*), Purging Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Ivy.

Figure 5. *Leylandii* hedgerow located along the western boundary of the site (taken May 2022).



Figure 6. A native hedgerow located to the east of the main dwelling (taken May 2022).



4.2.4 Scattered Trees

Several mature trees were recorded on site at the front and rear of the main dwelling (**Fig 7**). 7 trees were recorded in total and species recorded consisted of: Oak (*Quercus robur*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Cypress (*Cupressus x leylandii*), Yew (*Taxus baccata*), Lime (*Tilia x europaea*) and Apple (*Malus* sp.).

Figure 7. Mature Sycamore, Cypress and Oak located along the northern boundary of the site (taken May 2022).



4.2.5 Ruderal

Where areas of the site have been left unmanaged for some time patches of ruderal vegetation had established, particularly by the garages and greenhouse at the rear of the dwelling (**Fig 8**). A small patch of ruderal vegetation was also recorded along the eastern boundary of the site. Species recorded include Bramble, Thistle (*Cirsium* sp.), Dandelion and Ragwort.

Figure 8. The ruderal vegetation by the greenhouse on the west of site (taken May 2022).



4.2.6 Ornamental Planting

The boundaries of the rear garden were formed by areas of ornamental planting (**Fig 9**). The species in this area were non-native ornamentals.

Figure 9. Ornamental planting located along the southern boundary of the site (taken May 2022).



4.2.7 Hard Standing

Areas of hard standing were present to the front and rear of the main dwelling formed of concrete (**Fig 10**).

Figure 10. Hard standing driveway located to the front of the main dwelling (taken May 2022).



4.2.8 Buildings

The final habitat type on site is buildings that are described in greater detail in the next section.

4.3 Bat Survey Results

4.3.1 Trees

During the preliminary roost assessment (PRA) of the trees on site, 3 Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) were identified on the mature Oak located on the north of the site (pictured in **Fig 7**). A large woodpecker hole (approx. 6-7cm in diameter) was visible on a limb on the southeastern face of the tree (**Fig 11**). A smaller woodpecker hole was recorded on the western facing side of the oak (**Fig 12**), in addition to a small opening on the main trunk of the tree (**Fig 13**). It was not determined whether this hole supported a large enough cavity for roosting bats.

It is not understood at this stage whether the mature trees on site will be impacted by the proposed works, however if works will affect these trees (either removal or crown reduction), a detailed assessment may be required (such as climbed inspection).

Figure 11. The large woodpecker hole on the southeastern face of a mature oak (taken May 2022).



Figure 12. The smaller woodpecker hole on the western side of a mature oak (taken May 2022).



Figure 13. A small opening identified on the southern face of the main trunk (taken May 2022).



4.3.2 Buildings

The findings of the preliminary roost assessment of the buildings on site is outlined in **Table 1** below.

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Table 1. Bat roost assessment of buildings on site.


Building	Fig	Description of Construction	PRFs / Evidence of Occupation	Assessed Roost Potential
Main dwelling	<p data-bbox="387 435 1028 496">Figure 14. External view of the northern (front) elevation of the main dwelling.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1050 435 1464 579">Detached, two-storey property constructed from a mixture of brick, rendered wall and hanging slate tiles on the rear (Fig 14).</p> <p data-bbox="1050 616 1464 791">The roof is constructed of mostly slate tiles with a small area of bitumen roofing material located on the southwestern corner of the building. The ridge tiles are constructed of clay.</p> <p data-bbox="1050 828 1464 932">It also supports a conservatory and small single-storey extension at the rear of the property.</p>	<p data-bbox="1485 435 1821 611">Due to the nature of the hanging slate tiles, several gaps were present on the walls at the rear of the property (Fig 15).</p> <p data-bbox="1485 647 1821 823">A central ridge tile (visible from the eastern elevation) had lifted, and gaps had formed from raised lead flashing.</p>	<i>Moderate potential</i>

Figure 15. Gaps between slate tiles on the southern elevation of the dwelling.



Figure 16. Internal view of the within the main dwelling.



The internal wooden frame is of a typical truss design and bitumen felt lined the loft space throughout (**Fig 16**).

Two gaps were visible within the internals of the building where tiles had lifted (**Fig 17**). No other PRFs or evidence of bats was identified during the internal inspection.



	<p>Figure 17. Gaps within the loft space that provide access into the internals of the dwelling.</p> 			
<p>Garages</p>	<p>Figure 18. External view of the northern (front) elevation of the garages.</p> 	<p>Garage of brick construction with a corrugated metal roof (Fig 18). The garage supported multiple sections separated by brick walls, each with a separate entrance door and window (Fig 19).</p>	<p>A large crack had formed along the side of the building where a section of wood had broken off (Fig 20).</p> <p>A gap was identified above one of the doors that provided access to the internals of the building (Fig 21).</p> <p>Due to the windows, each section supported large amounts of light (Fig 19).</p>	<p>Low</p>



Figure 19. Internal view of the garages.



The internals were constructed with wooden supports that backed directly onto the corrugated metal and brick (Fig 19). The internals of the garage are currently used for storage.

Figure 20. External view of the western (side) elevation of the garages.



	<p>Figure 21. The greenhouse located to the west of the main dwelling.</p> 			
<p>Greenhouse</p>	<p>Figure 22. The greenhouse located to the west of the main dwelling.</p> 	<p>Disused greenhouse located to the west of the main dwelling (Fig 21). The internal space had become completely overrun from vegetation.</p>	<p>No PRFs or signs of use (droppings, insect remains etc) were noted during the assessment.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>

4.4 Badgers

No evidence of resident Badgers was noted whilst on site although with scattered trees located on the southern boundary and poor semi-improved grassland present on site, suitable habitat for foraging and commuting Badgers is present.

4.5 Reptiles

The poor semi-improved grassland located to the east and south of the main dwelling supported a longer sward length and tussocky structure in comparison to the other areas of grassland on site. Although these areas support the required structure and heterogeneity favoured by reptile species due to their unmanaged nature, they are relatively small and isolated from additional areas of suitable reptile habitat in the wider habitat and as such, the site is assessed as being of **Low** potential for reptiles.

4.6 Breeding and Nesting Birds

The mature scattered trees, hedgerows, ornamental planting and garages can be considered to provide a suitable habitat for a range of bird species. Therefore, the site is considered to have **Moderate** potential to support breeding and nesting birds.

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5.0 LIKELY ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS IN ABSENCE OF MITIGATION

5.1 Introduction

The CIEEM guidelines (CIEEM 2018) require that the potential impacts of the proposals should be considered in absence of mitigation. In order for a significant adverse effect to occur, the feature being affected must be at least of local value. However, in some cases, features of less than local value may be protected by legislation and/or policy and these are also considered within the assessment. Although significant effects may be identified at this stage of the assessment, it is often possible to provide appropriate mitigation.

5.2 Site Preparation and Construction

5.2.1 Impacts to Habitats

There are no habitats of significant ecological value that will be lost as a result of the works, with the majority of the site comprising of poor semi-improved grassland, hedgerows, ornamental planting and buildings (habitats only considered to be of value at the **Site** level of significance).

The northern and southern boundary tree line however are well established and supports a number of mature specimens and can therefore be considered to be of **Local** value. Consequently, the development is assessed as having **minor adverse impacts** to habitats of significance at both the site (poor semi-improved grassland) and local levels (mature scattered trees via root zone compaction or removal).

It should be noted that at this stage it is not known whether the trees and hedgerows will be impacted by the proposed development.

5.2.2 Impacts to Wildlife

Further Phase II surveys will be required to fully establish the impacts in the absence of mitigation. The following information is based on impacts in the event species are indeed present:

The main dwelling and garages were both considered to hold potential for roosting bats. Therefore, an **adverse impact at site level** is possible if Phase II surveys determine there are roosting bats present.

The mature oak on site was considered to hold potential for roosting bats. Therefore, an **adverse impact at site level** is possible if Phase II surveys determine there are roosting bats present.

The areas of poor semi-improved grassland on site hold potential to support common reptile species. Therefore, an **adverse impact at site level** is possible if reptiles are present.

The removal of the trees, ornamental planting and hedgerows on-site could result in the disturbance of nesting birds and damage to their nests if conducted during the nesting season. Therefore, it is considered an **adverse impact is likely**.

5.3 Site Operation

5.3.1 Impacts to Wildlife

The development will result in an increase in lighting within the general area from external lights on the dwelling. This can affect the behaviour, particularly foraging, of nocturnal wildlife. Therefore, an **adverse impact is likely** on nocturnal species.

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6.0 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO MITIGATE AND ENHANCE

6.1 Introduction

The below sections outline a number of recommendations for further survey work required to fully assess the potential ecological impacts of the development and ensure proposed mitigation and compensation is appropriate and proportionate.

6.2 Bats

As it is considered that the main dwelling is of **moderate** roost potential, two separate survey visits are required with at least one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey (**Table 2**).

As the garages were considered to be of **Low** roost potential, one survey visit is required with a dusk emergence or dawn re-entry survey (**Table 2**) with surveys to be completed between May – September (although must commence before the end of August).

As the mature oak was considered to be of **Moderate** roost potential, two separate survey visits are required with at least one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey (**Table 2**) if this tree is to be removed under the current proposals.

Table 2. Recommended minimum number of survey visits (from Table 7.3 (BCT, 2016).

Low Roost Suitability	Moderate Roost Suitability	High Roost Suitability / Known Roost
One survey visit. One dusk emergence or dawn re-entry survey.	Two separate survey visits. One dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey.	Three separate survey visits. At least one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. The third could be either dusk or dawn.

6.3 Reptiles

Given the low suitability of the habitats on site for reptiles, it is considered adopting a precautionary approach to any clearance works would be prudent. This would entail the grassland areas being strimmed and cleared in two phases under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

If the vegetation is higher than 15cm, the first cut will be down to a height no lower than 15 cm with cut lines from inside the site to the outer edge to encourage any reptiles into the understory of the retained boundary habitats with a second cut (the following day) taking it right down to ground level. If the grassland is shorter than 15cm then it should be cut down to ground level prior to any works taking place.

These works will be done immediately before any ground works to prevent the habitats re-growing and will be done during the active reptile period (April – September) when temperatures are above 12°C with sunshine. It is recommended the grassland is maintained to a low sward height post-clearing to prevent potential reptiles re-establishing on site prior to or during the construction works.

6.4 Avoidance of Impacts to Nesting Birds

In order to avoid disturbance of nesting birds or damage to their nests, any maintenance or tree / hedge removal works, on site should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (typically March – August, dependent on weather). If this is not possible, the area to be cleared should be thoroughly checked by an ecologist immediately prior to clearance. If any active nests are found, they should be left undisturbed with a suitable buffer of undisturbed vegetation (ca. 5m) until nestlings have fledged.

6.5 Enhancements

As the ecological value of the site has not yet been fully determined, it is considered most appropriate to provide measures that will enhance the site's biodiversity once the phase II survey works have been completed.

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