

kite ecology

Ecology Survey

**Fields at Dawn til Dusk Golf Course,
Rosemarket, Pembrokeshire**

Mr & Mrs Young

Final Report

July 2025

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This report, and the information contained in it, is intended to be valid for a maximum of 12 months from the date of the survey, providing no significant baseline changes have occurred.

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Ecological surveys of fields to the west of the existing golf course known as Dawn til Dusk, Rosemarket, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by the owners, Mr & Mrs Young, in relation to a planning application. Under the proposals, the existing golf course would be extended.
- 1.2 A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 19th June 2025 when the area was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats, dormice, birds and reptiles as these were considered the species most likely to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. All surveys were completed by a suitably licensed and experienced ecologist.
- 1.3 There was no evidence of use by protected species in the areas affected by the proposals. There are four semi improved grassland fields with scrubby vegetation and broadleaved semi natural woodland to the north and species rich hedgerows surrounding and dividing the fields. While areas of semi improved grassland would be lost to create the new holes, this will be mitigated for by including new habitat around the proposed new golf course. A small section of roadside hedgerow (eastern boundary and marked as H1) will be removed to allow access from the existing golf course to the east. This loss is more than adequately being mitigated for with additional buffer and screening planting between the new greens.
- 1.4 There are pockets of Japanese knotweed in the south western corner of the site. While not directly affected by the proposals, it is recommended that advice be sought from a suitable contractor and a management plan designed to eradicate this invasive species.
- 1.5 It is considered unlikely that the development would impact on the biodiversity of the area, particularly if the recommendations of this report are included in the scheme.

2 Introduction and site description

- 2.1 Ecological surveys of fields to the west of the existing golf course known as Dawn til Dusk, Rosemarket, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by the owners, Mr & Mrs Young, in relation to a planning application. Under the proposals, the existing golf course would be extended. The centre of the site is located at OSGR SM94920932.
- 2.2 The survey relates to three fields located to the west of the existing 9 hole golf course, as shown on Figure 1.
- 2.3 Unless the client indicates otherwise, all species records will be submitted to the relevant biological records centre.

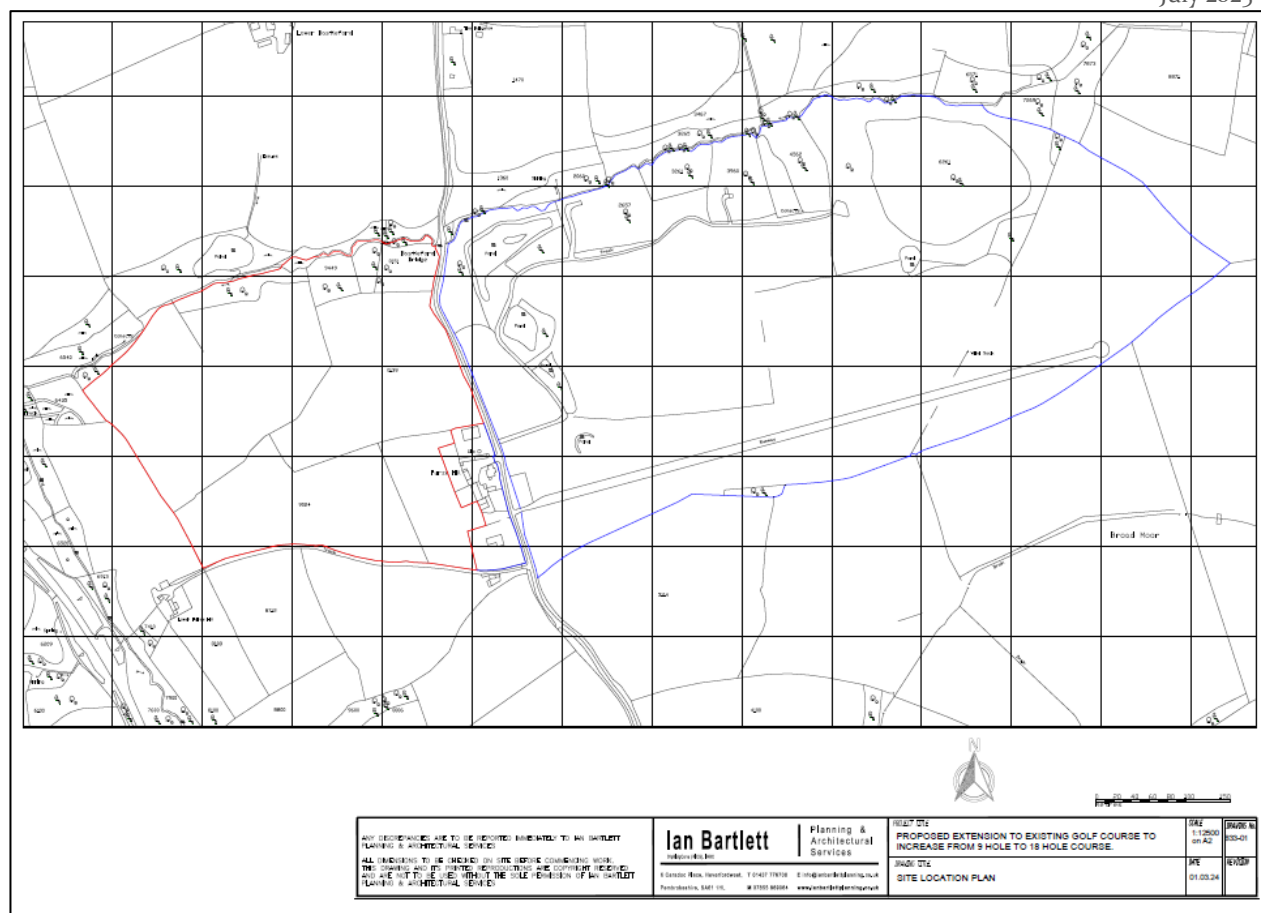


Figure 1. Plan of the survey area (highlighted in red).

3 Desk study and survey methodology

3.1 General

A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 19th June 2025 when the area was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats, dormice, birds and reptiles as these were considered the species most likely to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. The weather on the day of the survey was clear with south easterly winds of Force 1-2 and an average temperature of 22°C. All surveys were undertaken by a suitably licensed ecologist who is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and a Chartered Environmentalist. Surveys and reports have been completed following accepted guidelines and in accordance with CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (2015) and BS 42020:2013 *Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development*. (2013).

3.2 Desk study

3.2.1 Local Records Centre Data Search

A data search from the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre for all known records within a 2km radius was commissioned.

3.2.2 Aerial photographs

Google Earth was used to identify any important landscape features surrounding the site.

3.2.3 Designated sites

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information website (www.magic.gov.uk) was used to identify the presence of any protected sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.3 On site surveys

3.3.1 Phase 1

A Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out following the standard field methodology set out in the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee 1990 (2016 edition).

3.3.2 Badgers

The site, and where possible, a radius of 30 metres from the site boundary was searched for badger setts. Sett entrances are recognised by entrances c.300mm wide and c.200mm high and tend to have large accumulations of earth outside. Other signs searched for included 'snuffle holes' (holes dug by badgers when searching for invertebrates), 'dung pits' (small pits in which badgers deposit their faeces) and 'day nests' (nests of bedding material made by badgers for sleeping above ground).

3.3.3 Bats

3.3.3.1 Trees

All trees were assessed for their potential use by roosting bats depending on the presence of features such as peeling bark, dense coverings of ivy, and cracks or splits. Trees were classed as being of negligible, low, medium or high bat potential depending on the presence of such features.

3.3.4 Dormice

The habitat was assessed for its potential use by dormice.

3.3.5 Birds

Any birds seen or heard on site during the survey were recorded.

3.3.6 Reptiles

The habitat was assessed for its potential use by reptiles.

3.3.7 Other species

Incidental records of any other species seen or heard on site during the survey were also recorded.

4 Results

4.1 Desk study

4.1.1 Data search

There are over 676 individual species records within a 2km radius of the site (Figure 2). Of particular relevance are records of grass snake *Natrix natrix* and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* which have been recorded within 400m of the survey area (on the existing golf course to the east). Also of relevance is a record of Japanese knotweed, 400m to the south of the south western most corner of the site. The woodland to the north west of the site which has direct links to the habitat along the northern boundary has been classed as restored ancient woodland (Figure 3).

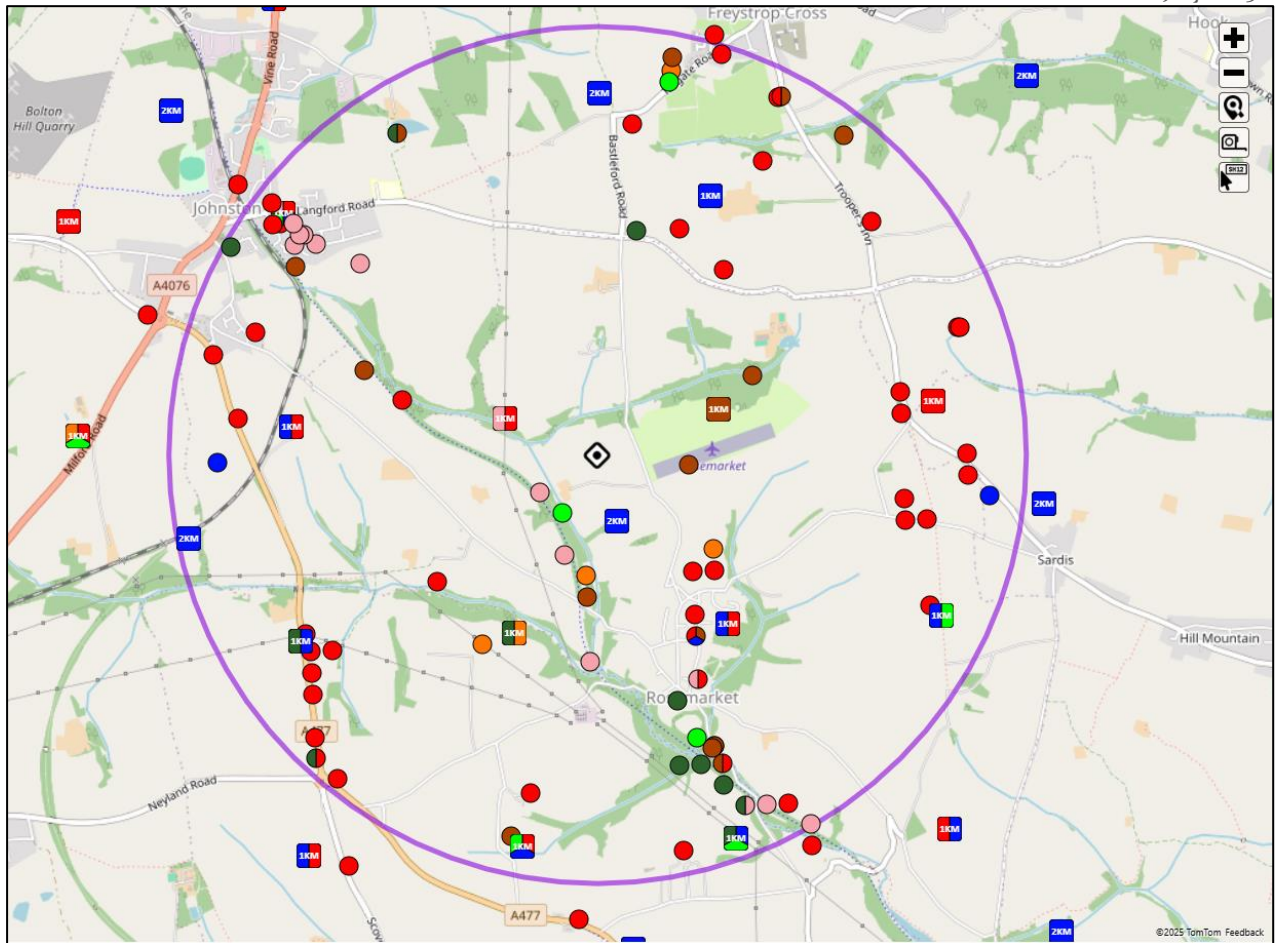


Figure 2. Summary of known records within a 2km radius of the survey area.

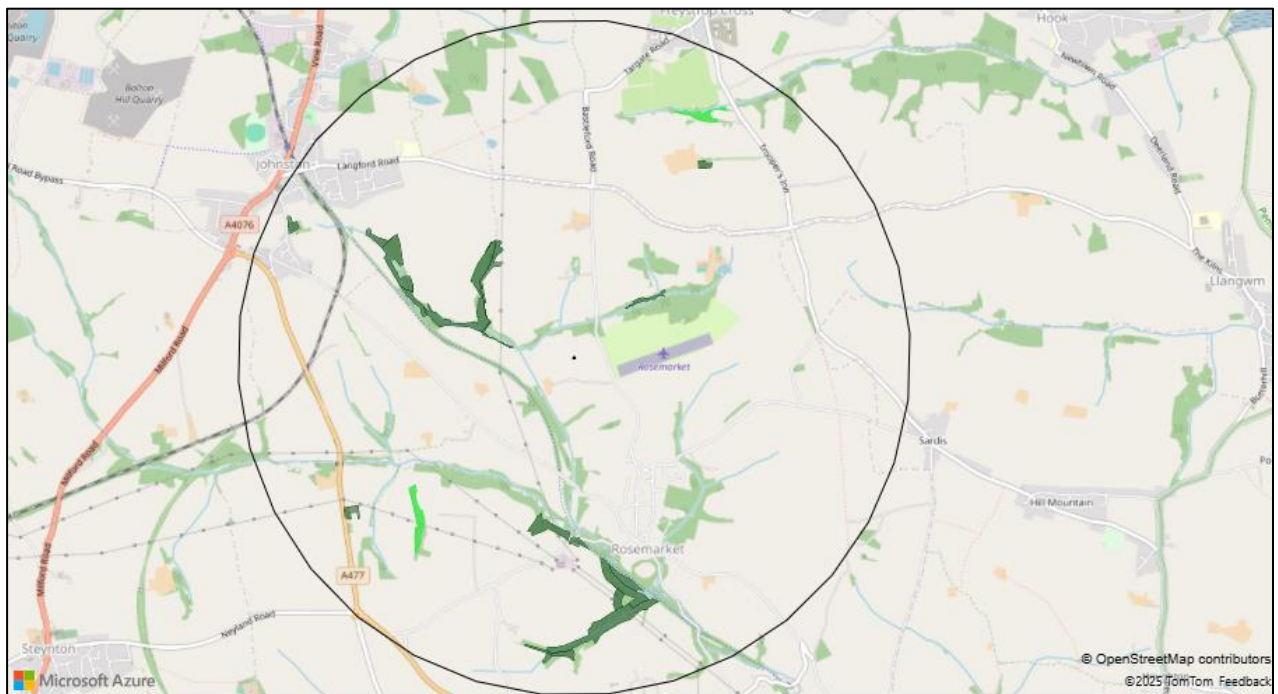


Figure 3. Restored ancient woodland to the north west of the survey area.

4.1.2 Aerial photographs

The site is situated to the north of the village of Rosemarket. There is an existing 9 hole golf course to the east, with a minor road separating the existing from the proposed. The surrounding habitats are visible in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Aerial photograph of the site in relation to the surrounding landscape and habitats.

4.1.2 Designated sites

There are no designated sites within a 2km radius of the survey area.

4.2 On site surveys

4.2.1 Phase 1

4.2.1.1 Fields

A total of four semi improved grassland fields that include Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, white clover *Trifolium repens*. There are patches of *Juncus* along the northern boundary. Until recently, the fields had been used to graze sheep. The northern boundary vegetation (beyond H1), develops into woodland and includes willow goat willow *Salix caprea*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, gorse *Ulex* sp., sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, oak *Quercus* sp. and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.

4.2.1.2 Hedgerows

The majority of the hedgerows are dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn. H1 also include elm, while H2 and H3 develop into woodland beyond the hedgerow itself. There are pockets of Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* growing within H4 and H6. The species included in the hedgerows is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of species within each hedgerow.

Hedgerow number	Species
H1	Hawthorn Blackthorn Ash Elm
H2	Hawthorn Blackthorn Sycamore Ash

	Hazel Gorse Willow Elder Oak
H3	Hawthorn Blackthorn Willow Hazel Gorse Elder
H4	Willow Oak Ash Japanese knotweed
H5	Hawthorn Blackthorn willow Ash
H6	Hawthorn Blackthorn Bracken Japanese knotweed
H7	Hawthorn Blackthorn Bracken Gorse
H8	Hawthorn Blackthorn Ash

4.2.1.3 The habitats are summarised in Figure 5, with site photographs included in Figures 6-10.



Figure 5. Habitat map of the survey area.



Figure 6. panoramic view of F1 taken from the south eastern corner facing westwards.



Figure 7. Panoramic view of F1 facing northwards with H2 and H3 visible.



Figure 8. Japanese knotweed in H4 (south western corner).



Figure 9. Japanese knotweed in H6.



Figure 10. Eastern elevation of H1 at approximate location of cut through to link the proposed new golf course with the existing.

4.2.2 **Badgers**

No evidence of badgers was found on site or within a 30m radius of the survey area.

4.2.3 **Bats**

4.2.3.1 **Trees**

None of the trees affected by the proposals had any features suitable for use by bats. All can be classed as being of negligible bat potential so do not require any further surveys. It is very likely that the site will be used by foraging and commuting bats.

4.2.4 **Dormice**

There are no known dormouse records within a 2km radius of the site.

4.2.5 **Birds**

Blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, great tit *Parus major*, chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, magpie *Pica pica*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, swallow *Hirundo rustica* and house martin *Delichon urbica* were recorded on site during the survey. The hedgerows are likely to be used by nesting birds at appropriate times of year.

4.2.6 **Reptiles**

There are known records for grass snake and common lizard on the existing golf course to the east, so it is very likely that this habitat will also be utilised by these species.

4.2.7 **Other species**

Meadow brown butterfly *Maniola jurtina*, cabbage white *Pieris rapae* and five spot burnet moth *Zygaena trifolii* were all seen on site during the survey.

5 **Limitations to surveys**

5.1 The results and recommendations of the report are based on findings as they were at the time of the survey. Kite Ecology cannot be held responsible for any base line changes to the site that have occurred since the survey was carried out that may have any effect on the results and recommendations.

6 **Legislation and planning policy**

6.1 **Designated sites**

Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest are strictly protected through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

6.2 **Bats**

All species of bat and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which transcribes the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna) into UK law. Bats are also protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence for anyone intentionally to kill, injure or handle a bat, to possess a bat (whether live or dead), disturb a roosting bat, or sell or offer a bat for sale without a licence. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter, whether they are present or not. Licences are available from Natural Resources Wales to allow actions that would otherwise be unlawful. Further information on licences is included in Appendix 1.

6.3 **Dormice**

Dormice are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which transcribes the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna) into UK law. Dormice are also protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The deliberate and reckless capturing, disturbing,

injuring and killing of dormice is prohibited, as is damaging or destroying their breeding site or resting places. Licences are available from Natural Resources Wales to allow actions that would otherwise be unlawful.

6.4 **Birds**

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

6.5 **Reptiles**

Common lizard, slow-worm, adder and grass snake are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it illegal to intentionally kill or injure these animals.

6.6 **Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a duty on public bodies listed in the Act to carry out sustainable development.

6.7 **Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

The Environment (Wales) Act has been designed to complement the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act by applying the principles of sustainable development to the management of Wales' natural resources. The Act puts the ecosystem approach into statute through a set of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) principles, which are based on the 12 principles (Ecosystem Approach principles) contained in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

6.8 **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**

Section 40 of the NERC Act places a 'Biodiversity Duty' on local planning authorities as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.

6.9 **Technical Advice Notes 5**

TAN 5 gives advice to local authorities on development control issues for Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It also covers the selection and designation of non-statutory nature conservation sites, such as local nature reserves, and the protection of species, commons and greens.

6.10 **Local Development Plan**

Policy GN.37 (Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity) from the Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan states:

'All development should demonstrate a positive approach to maintaining and, where ever possible, enhancing biodiversity. Development that would disturb or otherwise harm protected species or their habitats, or the integrity of other habitats, sites or features of importance to wildlife and individual species, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where the effects are minimised or mitigated through careful design, work scheduling or other appropriate measures.'

6.10 **Planning Policy Wales**

Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales was updated to include a stronger emphasis on taking a proactive approach to Green Infrastructure, including the submission of proportionate green infrastructure statements with planning applications.

6.11 **Additional Regulations**

Local Authorities also have a duty under Regulation 9 (Parts 1 and 5) of the Habitat Regulations to have regard for the requirements of the Habitat Directive which includes a requirement to maintain the populations of Protected Species in a 'favourable Conservation Status'.

7 Discussion and key recommendations

7.1 Habitats

7.1.1 Grassland

- No fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides will be used in the areas retained for biodiversity.
- Tussocky grassland in the roughs will be cut on a long rotation (two to three years), to allow some small tussocks to form. These areas will avoid being cut between early March and the end of August to prevent the loss of nests and flowering plants. Areas of rough will be divided into three areas with one area cut once every three years.
- Where coarser grasses dominate, the clippings should be collected and removed to avoid increasing nutrients in the habitat.
- Naturally damper areas will be retained as these provide a food source and nesting opportunities for many pollinator species.
- Scrub will require management to ensure it does not encroach on areas of grassland. This will be done by hand and will not involve the use of chemicals.

7.1.2 Trees

The only trees requiring removal to facilitate the development are within H1 to provide a new access point linking the existing golf course with the proposed new extension. The removal of these trees will be mitigated for by planting new trees on and around the proposed golf course extension. Locally sourced, native species will be planted as these will be of most benefit.

7.1.3 Management

- only cut each hedge every 2 years; this reduces maintenance and labour costs, creates a bushier hedge for wildlife and allows flower and berry production in the intervening years.
- hedges with slow growing species, such as hawthorn, can be cut on a 3 year cycle.
- do not cut back to the same height repeatedly, raising the cutting height each time will avoid placing the hedge under stress and allow it to regenerate more vigorously.
- cut hedges to a variety of shapes and sizes; “A” shaped hedges provide good stock proofing and shelter, create song posts for birds and enable hedgerow trees to develop if left untopped.
- leaving 1-2 metre (or wider) verges of tall grass by hedges provides nesting habitat for birds and protects hedgerows from pesticide or fertiliser spray drift.
hedges can be trimmed, laid and coppiced from September to February but try and cut as late in the winter as possible so wildlife can take advantage of the nuts and berries produced in the autumn.

7.2 Bats

7.2.1 While the trees on site have been classed as being of negligible bat potential, requiring no further surveys, as bats are known to be in the area (pers comm), any new lighting on site should downward facing and positioned to avoid shining directly onto any features such as hedgerows and woodland edges.

7.3 Birds

7.3.1 Clearance

Any required vegetation clearance takes place outside of the breeding bird season (considered March to August inclusive) to avoid disturbance/destruction of any active nests. Where it is not possible to clear vegetation outside of the breeding bird season, vegetation suitable to support nesting birds that will be affected by the works will be checked by an ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to commencement of the works. Any nesting birds identified must be left to fledge before works can commence.

7.4 **Reptiles**

7.4.1 *Management*

The grassland on site is maintained at varying heights to provide a range of habitats. When cutting grassy areas, work should commence in the centre of the site and work outwards, allowing any species present to move anyway into the remaining habitat surrounding the site.

7.6 **Invertebrates**

The grassland on site will be maintained at varying heights to provide a range of habitats. When cutting grassy areas, work should commence in the centre of the site and work outwards, allowing any species present to move anyway into the remaining habitat surrounding the site.

8 **Conclusions**

It is considered unlikely that the development would impact on the biodiversity of the area, particularly if the recommendations of this report are included in the scheme.

9 **References**

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