



**AEWC** Ltd

Animal Ecology & Wildlife Consultants

## **Ecological Enhancement Plan**

### **Eastleigh Infill – Nightingale Avenue**

**Eastleigh  
Hampshire  
SO50 9JA**

**Annika Binet**

**21-041N  
April 2023**

**AEWC Ltd Birch Walk, Lower Street, Fittleworth, West Sussex, RH20 1JE  
Tel: 08452 505585, [info@aecwc.co.uk](mailto:info@aecwc.co.uk), [www.aecwc.co.uk](http://www.aecwc.co.uk)**

Registered in England and Wales No. 06527840

## Contents

|                                                                          |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Introduction .....                                                    | 3        |
| 2. Ecological Enhancement Plan.....                                      | 5        |
| <b>FIGURE 1: SHOWING THE SITE LOCATION .....</b>                         | <b>3</b> |
| <b>FIGURE 2: AERIAL VIEW OF THE SITE SHOWING THE SITE BOUNDARY .....</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>FIGURE 3: PROPOSED OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT.....</b>                       | <b>5</b> |
| <b>FIGURE 4: PROPOSED ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS.....</b>                   | <b>8</b> |



|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Author                    | Emily Partridge |
| Authorised by             | Annika Binet    |
| Report and version number | 21-041N-EEP-v2  |

This report has been prepared by AEWC Limited, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with the client. We disclaim any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of the above. This report is confidential to the client and we accept no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

The information and data which has been prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal' and 'Code of Professional Conduct' issued by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

## 1. Introduction

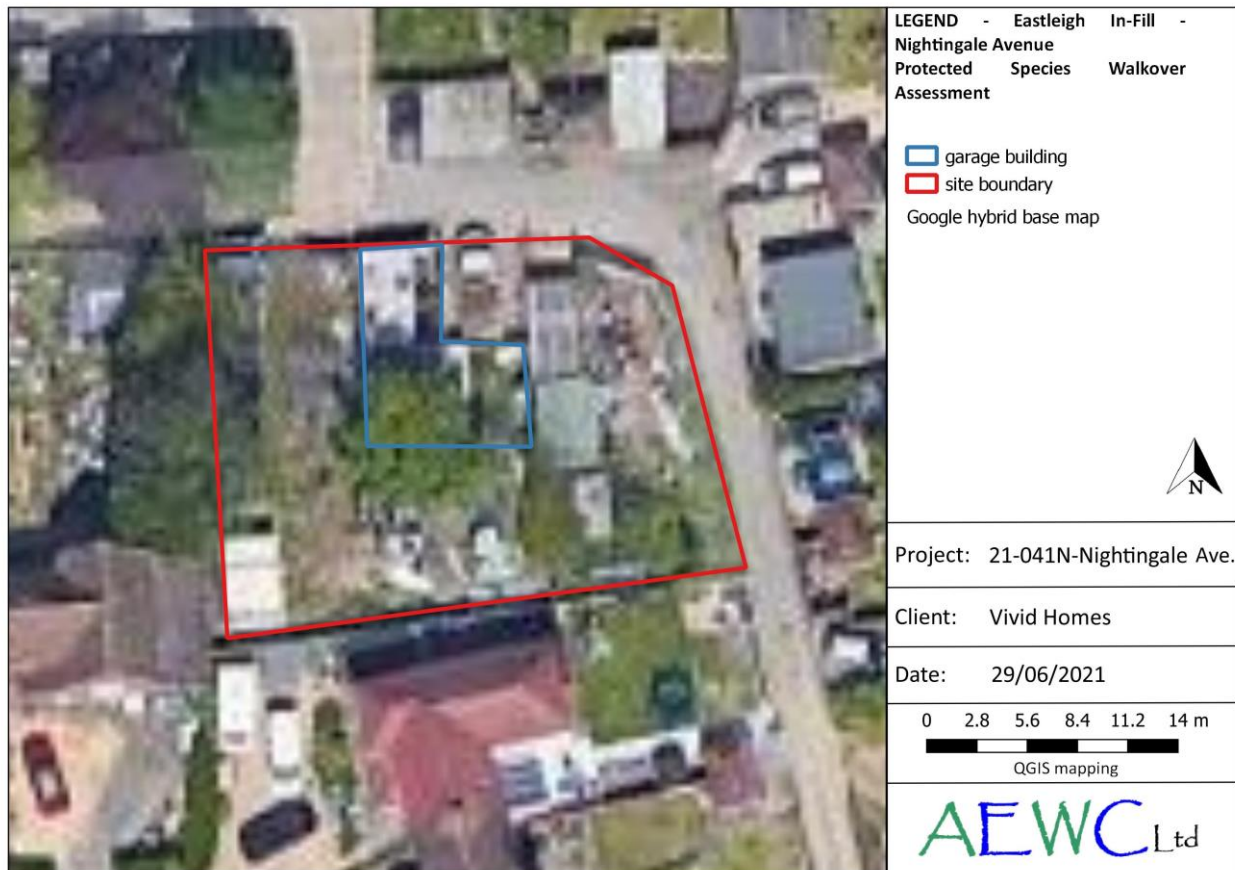
- 1.1 AEWCLtd were commissioned by Doswell Projects on behalf of their client to produce an Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP) for a site at Nightingale Avenue, Eastleigh SO50 9JA at grid reference SU 44139 18382 to help inform the proposed development of the site.
- 1.2 A Protected Species Walkover Assessment (PSWA) was conducted on the site on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by qualified ecologist Annika Binet. No further surveys were recommended, however precautionary methods and ecological enhancements were set out.

### Site Location

- 1.3 The site is located in Eastleigh, Hampshire and is surrounded by residential development and associated amenity areas and facilities. The surrounding landscape comprises commercial properties and residential development and amenity gardens. See Figure 1.



**FIGURE 1: SHOWING THE SITE LOCATION**



**FIGURE 2: AERIAL VIEW OF THE SITE SHOWING THE SITE BOUNDARY**

- 1.4 The site is approximately 0.05ha and largely comprises hardstanding, small buildings, tall ruderal and scrub vegetation.

### **Proposed development**

- 1.5 The proposed development plan involves the clearance of the site and construction of a two-storey building containing four flats with associated parking and landscaping. See Figure 3.

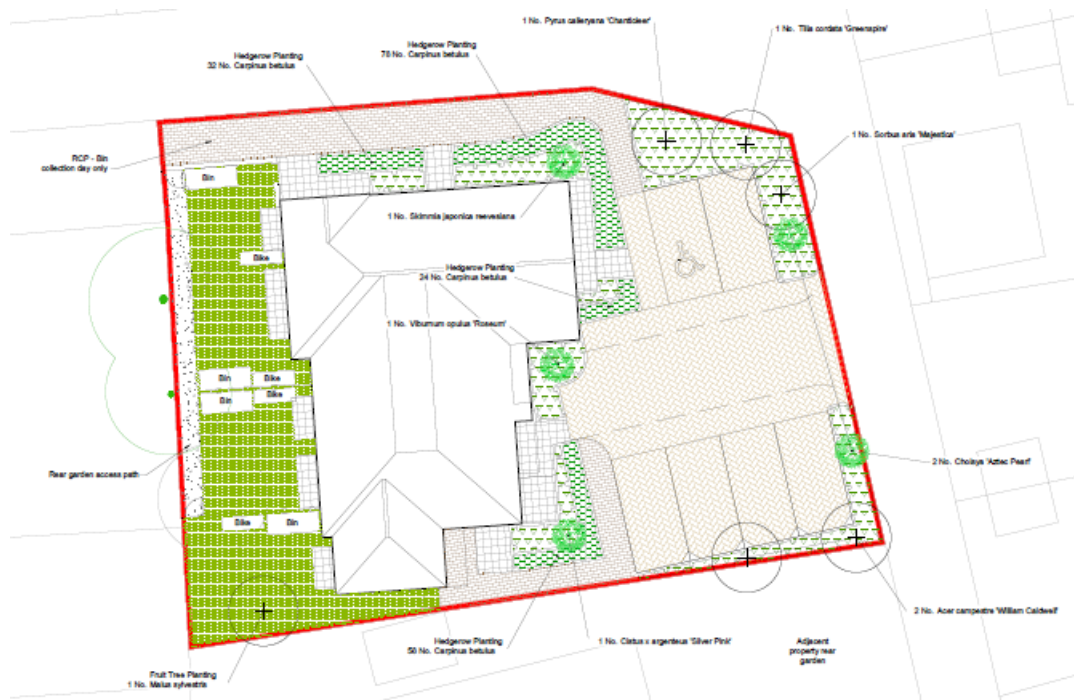


FIGURE 3: PROPOSED LANDSCAPE PLAN

## 2 Ecological Enhancement Plan

- 2.1 In order to provide the background for providing advice on appropriate ecological enhancements given in this EEP the findings of the PSWA and method statements are taken into account.
- 2.2 Habitat or species-specific recommendations are given in **bold** below. Ecological enhancements and proposed locations of features are illustrated in Figure 4.

### General

- 2.3 A toolbox talk will be prepared and given by the ecologist to the site contractors to ensure they are aware of the potential ecological constraints on the site.

### Role of ECoW

- 2.4 An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed to provide a toolbox talk, be present for any activity identified below where ecological supervision is required.

### Habitat Protection and enhancement

#### General

- 2.5 In order to enhance the habitat for wildlife, the **planting schemes for the proposed development will use native species or species with known benefit to wildlife** wherever possible.
- 2.6 In line with best practice, **the use of peat in composts or topsoil will be avoided.**

#### Vegetation

- 2.7 All existing vegetation on site will be removed. Removal of the vegetation will be undertaken in accordance with the method statement outlined in the protected species walkover survey report. Should clearance of vegetation be undertaken during

bird nesting season a bird survey by a suitably qualified ecologist will be undertaken immediately prior to clearance in order to ensure that no nesting birds are disturbed by the works.

### ***Hedgerows and Trees***

- 2.8 The proposed outline development includes hedgerow planting (corresponding to a biodiversity net gain for this linear habitat feature) along the northern and eastern aspects of the proposed building and in addition to areas of the eastern and southern site boundary; this **planted hedging will comprise a native hedgerow comprising of a minimum of five hedging species.**
- 2.9 ‘Species Rich Mixed Native Instant Hedging’ is commercially available in 1m lengths where the plants are established and ‘knitted together’ and include at least 8 species (hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, wayfaring tree, spindle, crab apple, holly, hazel, field maple and buckthorn) per 6m of hedging.
- 2.10 Three newly planted trees are proposed within the site. These should also comprise of native and wildlife beneficial species.

### ***Grassland and planting***

- 2.11 It is recommended that areas of communal gardens could be sown with meadow mix rather than turfed and that planting beds should comprise of native and naturalised pollinator friendly shrubs.

### **Species Enhancement**

#### ***Birds***

- 2.12 **Appropriate bird boxes will be installed on site. A minimum of 2 integrated nest boxes) will be installed on the proposed building to enhance the suitability of the site for nesting birds.**
- 2.13 Bird boxes should comprise of swift boxes, which are suitable for a range of species including swift and starling (below left) and sparrow terraces (below right). Boxes should ideally be woodcrete or similar hard-wearing material (rather than the less durable traditional wooden boxes) and be integrated into the fabric of the new building rather than affixed externally. Boxes should be installed between 2m and 4m above ground for round holed and low down, below 2m, well hidden in vegetation for open fronted boxes and (unless shaded by buildings or trees) be facing north or east. Sparrow terraces should be installed in a sheltered location on the new building at a height of 3-5m from the ground.



### **Bats**

- 2.14 **A minimum of 1 appropriate bat box will be integrated into the new residential block on the site.**
- 2.15 Examples of suitable integrated boxes include 2FR Schwegler Bat Tube (below left), Vivara Pro Build-in Woodstone Bat Tube (below middle) and Habibat Bat Box (below right). These boxes are discreet and can be built directly into the walls of the new building.
- 2.16 They should be at least 4m above the ground (where safe installation is possible) and sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day (usually south or south-west).



- 2.17 Lighting can have notable negative impacts on commuting bats, that are known to be present locally. There is potential for lighting during and post-development to cause indirect disturbance in these areas. All external lighting should consist of downlighters and low-level lighting with the number of lights kept to the minimum necessary, and preferably on motion sensors to reduce lighting time.

### **Hedgehogs**

- 2.18 Hedging will be installed on the site boundaries instead of fencing which will allow movement of small mammals such as hedgehogs into and out of the site. Where close board fencing is installed hedgehog holes should be created of a minimum of 13\*13cm to allow hedgehogs to move between the sites.

AEWC Ltd