The Ecology Co-op
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
Unit 4, Langham Stables, Langham Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex, GU28 9BU

Lighting and Reptile strategy addendum

Land adjacent to Woodgate Nurseries

Author: Lynn Spencer, BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM
Reviewed by: Dan Bennett BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

31st January 2022

Project No: P6811

The Ecology Co-operation Ltd
Registered Office: Greens Court, West Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NQ
Company number: 8905527

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Issue No	Author	Reviewer	Issue Date	Additions/alterations	Notes
Original	LS	DB	31.01.22		
V2	LS	N/A	08.02.22	Amended dark skies plan	
V3	LS	N/A	30.10.24	Updated landscape plan	
V4	LS	N/A	18.12.24	Updated landscape plan	

DISCLAIMER

This report has been prepared by The Ecology Co-operation Ltd, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with the client. Our terms and conditions can be provided in full upon request.

We disclaim 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.

This report only becomes the property of the client once payment has been received in full.

Report Summary

1. This addendum has been prepared to accompany the Ecological Impact Assessment prepared for the proposed development on land adjacent to Woodgate Nurseries, Woodgate.

2. The EclA identified a likely negative impact on bats and reptiles significant at a local level. Recommended mitigation measures included a sensitive lighting plan to include dark corridors and a greenspace buffer providing additional habitat for reptiles within the site.

3. The proposed scheme will retain the field margins supporting a small number of slow worms.

4. This addendum has been prepared in response to a request from the Environment Officer at Chichester District Council (letter to Arun District Council dated 21 January 2022) to provide further detail on the proposed mitigation, compensation and habitat enhancement measures.

CONTENTS PAGE

1 INTRODUCTION 1
1.1 Background 1
2 MITIGATION PROPOSALS 1
2.1 Bats 1
2.2 Reptiles 3
3 CONCLUSIONS 5

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This addendum has been prepared in response to a request from the Environment Officer at Chichester District Council (letter to Arun District Council dated 21 January 2022) to provide further detail on the proposed mitigation, compensation and habitat enhancement measures.

The proposed development site is located to the west of Lidsey Road, Woodgate, West Sussex PO20 3ST (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The central grid reference for the site is SU 93696 03865.

The findings of baseline ecological surveys undertaken to inform the EcIA are summarised below. Details on the type of survey, methodology and results, together with the impact assessment and outline mitigation measures, are presented in the EcIA, which should be referred to in conjunction with this document.

2 MITIGATION PROPOSALS

2.1 Bats

2.1.1 Baseline

A total of four species were recorded across the site: common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* and barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*. Activity was low during each survey and was concentrated along linear features such as trees and hedgerows around the field boundaries. Recordings were predominantly of common and soprano pipistrelle, with three recordings of brown long-eared bat and one of barbastelle.

2.1.2 Potential effects

The proposed development has potential to result in disturbance to commuting and foraging bats, both during construction and in the long term after completion, particularly through increased artificial lighting, which can disrupt commuting corridors. However, habitat loss of importance to bats is likely to be minimal as the majority of tree and hedgerow habitats are retained within the site. The EcIA concluded that as the activity surveys did not reveal use of the site by large numbers of foraging bats, these impacts before mitigation are considered to be significant at no more than local level.

2.1.3 Mitigation measures

The EcIA recommended the proposed scheme incorporates a 'sensitive lighting plan', to be developed as part of the detailed design, in accordance with guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust and secured through reserved matters.

As part of the sensitive lighting plan, 'dark corridors' through the development site and around its boundaries will be incorporated into the detailed design. Figure 1 of this addendum presents a 'dark skies corridor plan showing where these corridors should be provided and how they interlink with the

wider landscape. No lampposts or other artificial lighting (e.g., security floodlighting on domestic properties) will be positioned in or facing towards the corridor. Where practical, any properties adjacent to the corridor can be designed with electronically timed blinds/shutters on windows which look out directly on to the corridor.

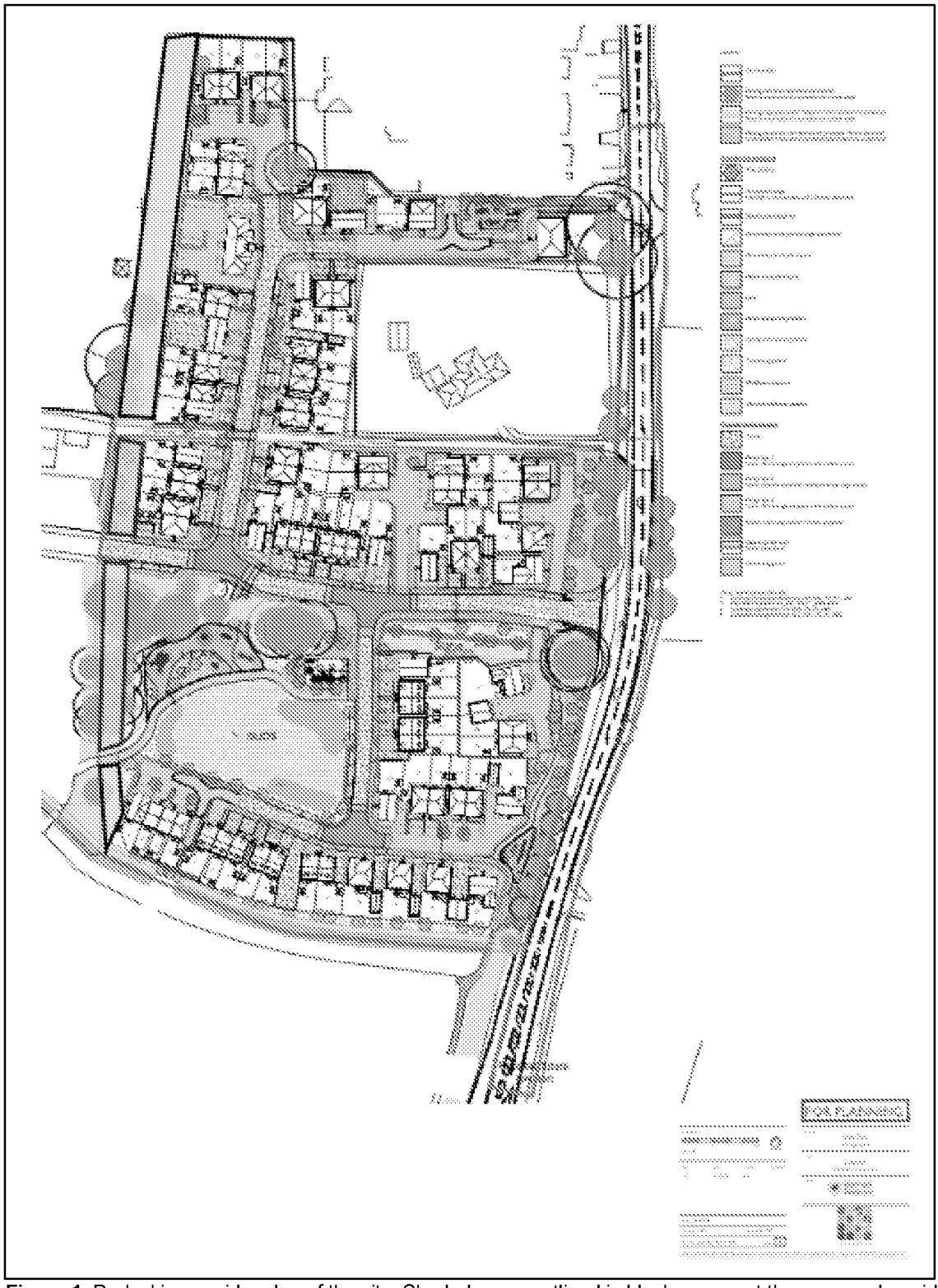

Figure 1. Dark skies corridor plan of the site. Shaded areas outlined in black represent the proposed corridor.

2.2 Reptiles

2.2.1 Baseline

One species of reptile, slow-worm, was recorded at the site with a maximum count of two adults over seven survey visits. These were found under a refuge along the field boundary in the north-west of the site.

2.2.2 Potential effects

The proposed development retains the field edge habitat where slow worms were found during surveys. However, the scheme will result in the loss of a small area of grassland habitat. This area is largely shaded by tall trees and sub-optimal habitat, but presence of slow worms cannot be completely discounted. There is therefore a small risk of killing, injury and disturbance during the construction phase.

Since the surveys did not reveal use of the site by large numbers of reptiles or the presence of rare species, these effects before mitigation are considered to be significant at no more than local level.

2.2.3 Mitigation measures

A precautionary approach to mitigation is recommended by the EcIA. This includes using habitat manipulation in advance of construction to discourage animals from using the impact zone, and providing an area of alternative, suitable habitat for them to move to before construction commences.

The existing grassland vegetation will be cut twice, during warm weather conditions, using hand-held strimmers, starting at a height of no less than 150mm and removing all cut material off-site, followed by a second cut at ground level and again removing all cut material to take away suitable cover for reptiles.

Areas of tussocky grassland and species rich neutral grassland will be established in areas in the southern section of the site (see Figure 2). These shall be managed as grassland suitable for slow worms throughout the life of the development.

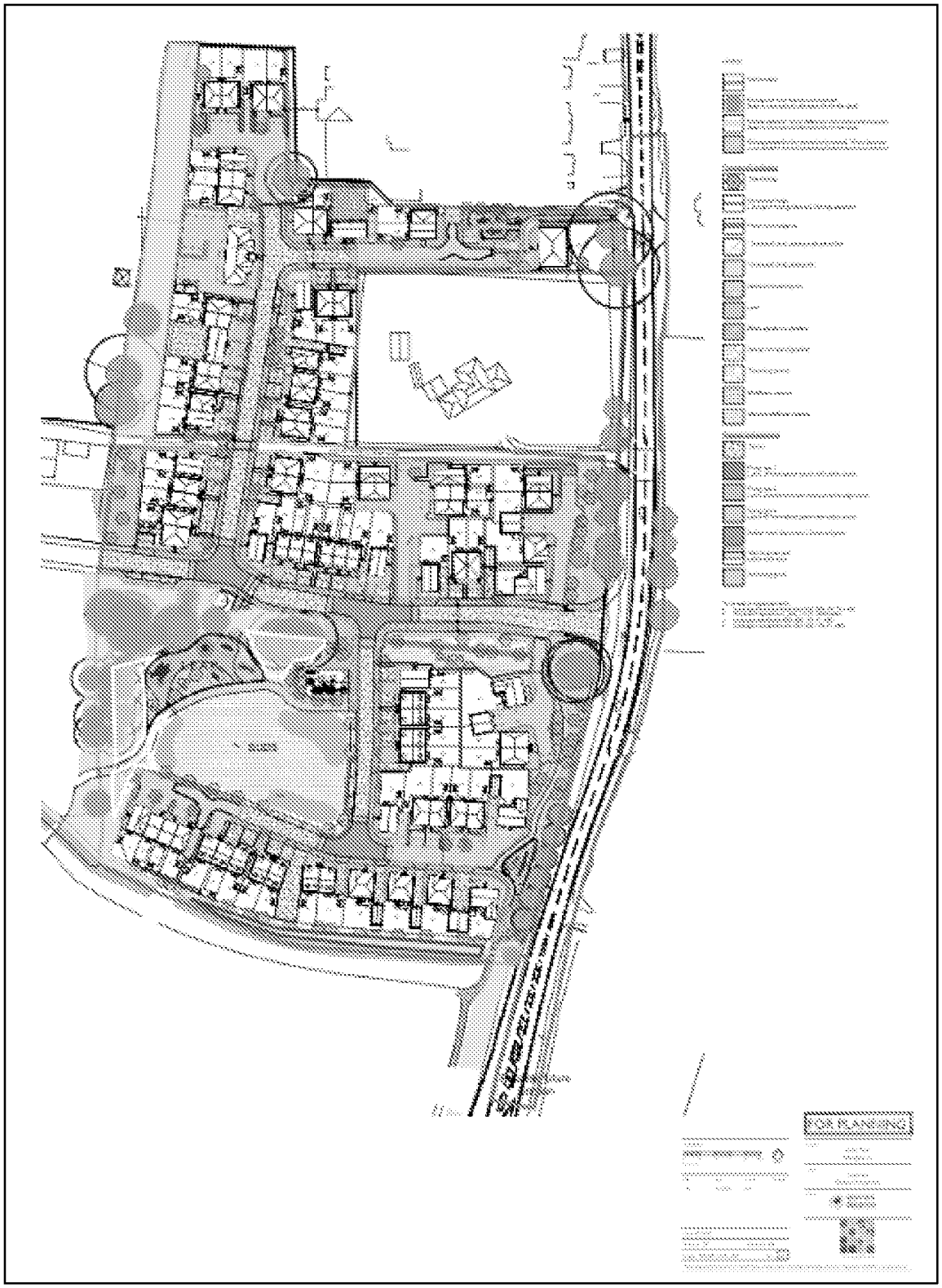

Figure 2. Reptile receptor areas, boundaries outlined in purple (tussocky grassland) and yellow (species rich neutral grassland).

3 CONCLUSIONS

The habitats of greatest value for bats are retained within the site layout, with existing site boundaries retained. The incorporation of a dark skies boundary will ensure light spill will not impact commuting and foraging of bats along these boundaries.

The existing site boundaries, where reptiles have been identified, will be retained. The addition of grassland habitat will increase and enhance the amount of suitable habitat available for reptiles within the site.