

ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT

Redgate Mill, Twineham Lane
Full Planning Application

1. Introduction

This Ecology and Biodiversity Statement accompanies a Full Planning Application for development on land associated with Redgate Mill.

The proposal includes:

- Retention and completion of a wildlife pond;
- Native marginal planting;
- Managed meadow areas;
- Construction of a modest ancillary rural pavilion;
- Installation of a low-level timber maintenance boardwalk.

The development has been designed to enhance ecological value while preserving countryside character.

2. Existing Site Context

The application site comprises open grassed land enclosed by established boundary hedging. The site currently provides limited ecological diversity, primarily consisting of mown or semi-managed grassland.

Boundary hedgerows provide existing habitat corridors and ecological connectivity.

The site is not subject to any statutory ecological designation.

3. Wildlife Pond Creation

The wildlife pond forms the principal ecological enhancement element of the proposal.

The pond has been designed to:

- Provide aquatic habitat for invertebrates, amphibians and bird species;
- Incorporate gently sloping margins to encourage colonisation;
- Support native marginal and aquatic planting;

- Increase habitat diversity across the site.

The introduction of open water significantly increases biodiversity value when compared to the existing baseline grassland condition.

4. Native Planting & Meadow Management

The proposal includes:

- Native marginal planting around the pond;
- Managed meadow areas to support pollinators;
- Reduced mowing regime in selected areas;
- Habitat diversification across the site.

These measures enhance pollinator resources and improve ecological resilience.

5. Timber Maintenance Boardwalk

The low-level timber boardwalk provides controlled access to the pond edge for maintenance purposes.

By concentrating foot traffic, the boardwalk:

- Protects marginal planting from trampling;
- Reduces soil compaction;
- Supports long-term habitat establishment;
- Minimises disturbance to ecological areas.

The structure is lightweight, low-level (maximum 300mm height) and introduces minimal ground impact.

6. Protected Species

The proposal does not involve removal of hedgerows or mature trees and does not impact known ecological corridors.

Based on site characteristics and the nature of the works, no protected species are anticipated to be adversely affected.

Should protected species be encountered during works, all operations would cease and appropriate ecological advice sought.

7. Biodiversity Enhancement & Planning Balance

The development delivers a measurable improvement in habitat diversity through:

- Creation of aquatic habitat;
- Native planting;
- Meadow management;
- Long-term ecological stewardship.

The ecological enhancements outweigh the limited and visually contained built form associated with the pavilion and boardwalk.

8. Conclusion

The proposal represents a net ecological enhancement of the site.

The wildlife pond, native planting and managed meadow areas significantly increase biodiversity value compared to the existing baseline condition.

The development has been carefully designed to support ecological resilience while preserving countryside character.