



CARLTON PAVILLION, CARLTON.

MAP REF: SE 36856 10123.

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page Number
1. INTRODUCTION.	3
2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.	4
3. SURVEY RESULTS.	7
4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN.	18
5. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.	19
6. RECOMMENDATIONS.	21
7. REFERENCES.	22
Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.	24
Appendix II. BAT INFORMATION.	25
Appendix III. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA – PRE-DEVELOPMENT.	27

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to refurbish Carlton Pavillion.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. That survey was carried out on 21st May 2026. This report outlines the findings of that survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendices I and II of this report provide additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the broad habitat types throughout the survey area.

2.3. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society: -

- * Badger setts.
- * Badger latrines or dung pits.
- * Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
- * Badger paths.
- * Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.4. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Rob Strachan, Tom Moorhouse and Merryll Gelling (2011). *Water Vole Handbook: Third Edition*: -

- * Water vole burrows.
- * Water vole faeces and latrines.
- * Water vole feeding stations.
- * Water vole runs.
- * Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
- * Water vole lawns.
- * Predator field signs.

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs

in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter and Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines*: -

- * Otter prints in soft mud.
- * Otter spraints.
- * Otter Holts.

2.6. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies. Where found, and where safe to enter the water, all were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish, for approximately 50m in each direction of the site, by searching under rocks and logs. Where stated, crayfish traps were also deployed into the watercourse. All survey work was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.7. The survey area was searched for mature trees and derelict buildings and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)* by looking for the following signs: -

- * Holes, cracks or crevices.
- * Bat Droppings.

2.8. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.9. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.10. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.11. Where appropriate, the habitat within and surrounding the survey area was searched for species such as hazel, oak, honeysuckle, bramble and other species which may provide potential habitat for hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Field signs such as feeding remains and nests were also searched for where possible, in line with P Bright, P Morris and T Mitchell-Jones *the Dormouse Conservation Handbook 2nd Edition*.

2.12. Where appropriate, the area within and surrounding the survey area was assessed for its potential to house habitat for red squirrels. Field signs of red squirrels were searched for at least every 50m, looking for any dreys, feeding signs or sightings of red squirrels.

2.13. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.14. This document is prepared in line with The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This sets out the government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation and places a duty on Planning Authorities to give material consideration to the effect of a development on legally protected species when considering planning applications. The NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance on “Natural Environment” also promote sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity and that it is conserved and enhanced within the development.

2.15. This report is prepared in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act that came into force on 1st Oct 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

2.16. This survey was carried out by Derek Whitcher who has over twenty years’ experience of surveying for wildlife and has run his own wildlife consultancy since 1998. He has extensive experience of a wide variety of survey techniques for a variety of species of protected wildlife supplemented by attendance on a wide range of training courses through CIEEM, FSC and BCT. As a member of CIEEM he is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership. He holds current Natural England survey licences for barn owl, bat, great crested newt and white clawed crayfish.

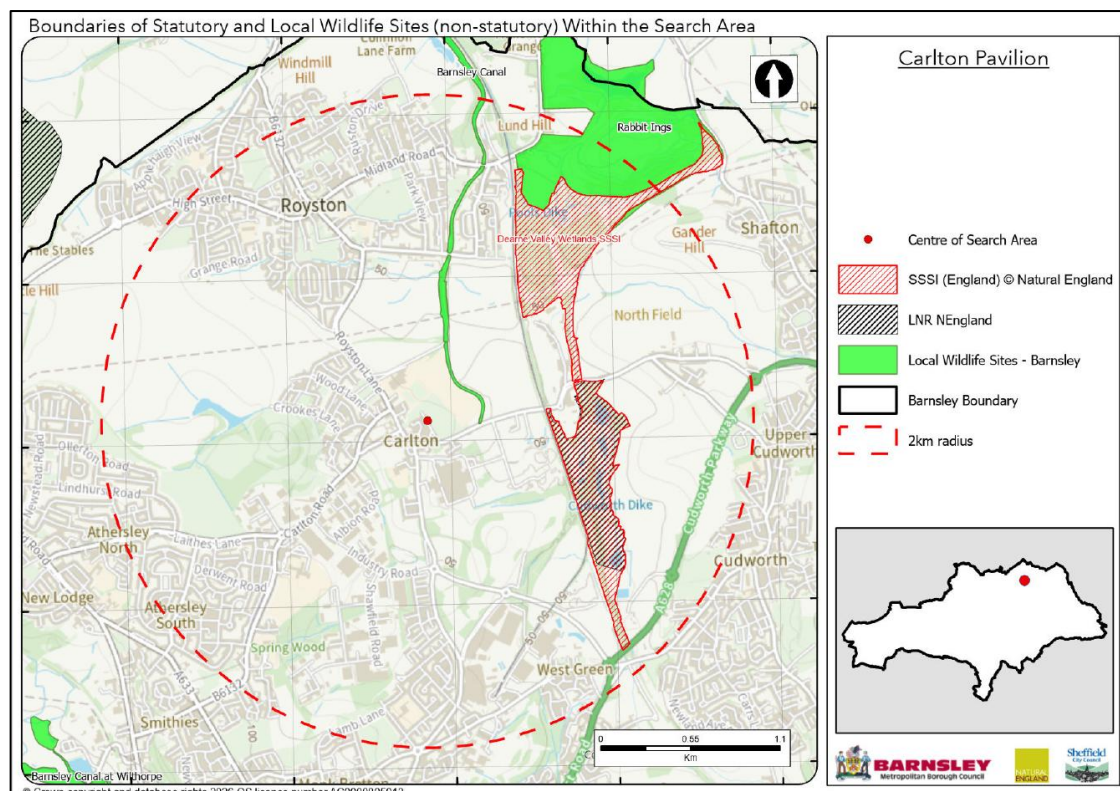
3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search request was submitted to Barnsley Biological Records Centre for existing records of designated sites and protected species within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2. There is one statutory designated site in the survey area, part of the Dearne Valley SSSI. This lies 700m to the east of the survey area.

3.1.3. The map below shows the Local Wildlife sites within the search area. These are in excess of 700m east of the survey area except a length of the Barnsley canal that is 290m east of the survey area.



3.1.4. The survey area falls within an SSSI Impact Risk Zone but does not qualify for notification to Natural England.

3.1.5. There are abundant amphibian and reptile records but all are either at Rabbit Ings or Carlton Marsh LNR on the opposite side of the River Dearne.

3.1.6. There are badger, brown hair, rat, grey squirrel, fox, rabbit, hedgehog, shrew and bat species records in the data search results but all are from either Carlton Marsh or Rabbit Ings.

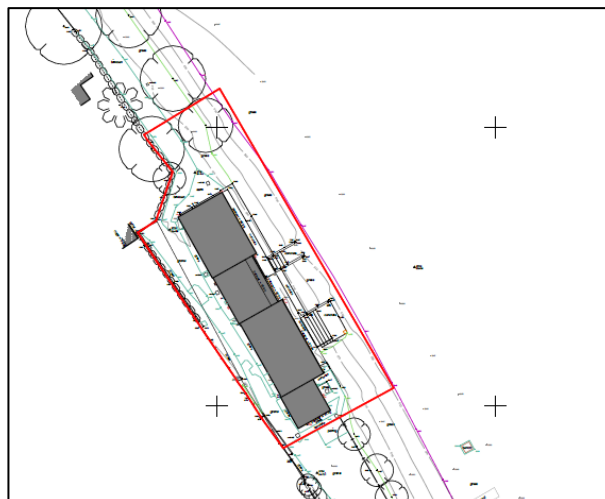
3.1.7. The data search results are available to the client on request but must not be placed in the public domain.

3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the survey area, marked with a red arrow and the surrounding area. The site is located at the eastern edge of the village of Carlton with open farmland stretching to the east.



3.2.2. The survey area is shown outlined in red below. This is at the western side of Carlton Park.



3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix III of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying habitats that are on the site. The primary habitats on and adjacent to the site are: -

- u1b5 – Building.
- u1b – Developed land, sealed surface.
- u1 – Vegetated garden
- g4 – Modified grassland.

3.3.2. Biodiversity calculations have been calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, the current version at this time.

3.3.3. u1b5 – Building.

3.3.3.1. There is the existing pavilion building on site. This is dealt with in more detail later in this report.



3.3.3.2. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.4. u1b – Developed land, sealed surface.

3.3.4.1. There is an existing driveway from the road to the pavilion and along the back of the pavilion, plus paths and steps along the front of the pavilion.



3.3.4.2. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.5. u1 – Vegetated garden.

3.3.5.1. There are two strips of land at the rear of the pavilion, one on either side of the access road. These are classed as vegetated garden.

3.3.5.2. The border at the rear of the pavilion is overgrown with weeds and remnants from previous planting of garden flowers.



3.3.5.3. On the other side of the road the border is looked after by each of the adjoining houses and varies between gravel with weeds, mown grassland and overgrown shrubs.



3.3.5.4. Species include perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), nettles (*Urtica dioica*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), buddleia (*Buddleia davidii*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

3.3.5.5. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.6. g4 - modified grassland.

3.3.6.1. To the east of the pavilion there are the playing field and these are all well mown grassland. This is closely mown and it is therefore difficult to identify the individual grass species present.



3.3.6.2. Species identified include Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and daisy (*Bellis perennis*)

3.3.6.3. The condition assessment for the tree is within the Statutory BNG condition assessment document that accompanies this report. The condition assessment of the grassland is poor, passing five criteria but failing the essential criteria.

3.3.7. Secondary code 200 - Scattered trees

3.3.7.1. There is one tree within the grassland at the northern end of the survey area. The species is silver birch (*Betula pendula*).



3.3.7.2. The condition assessment for the tree is within the Statutory BNG condition assessment document that accompanies this report. The condition assessment the tree is moderate passing four criteria.

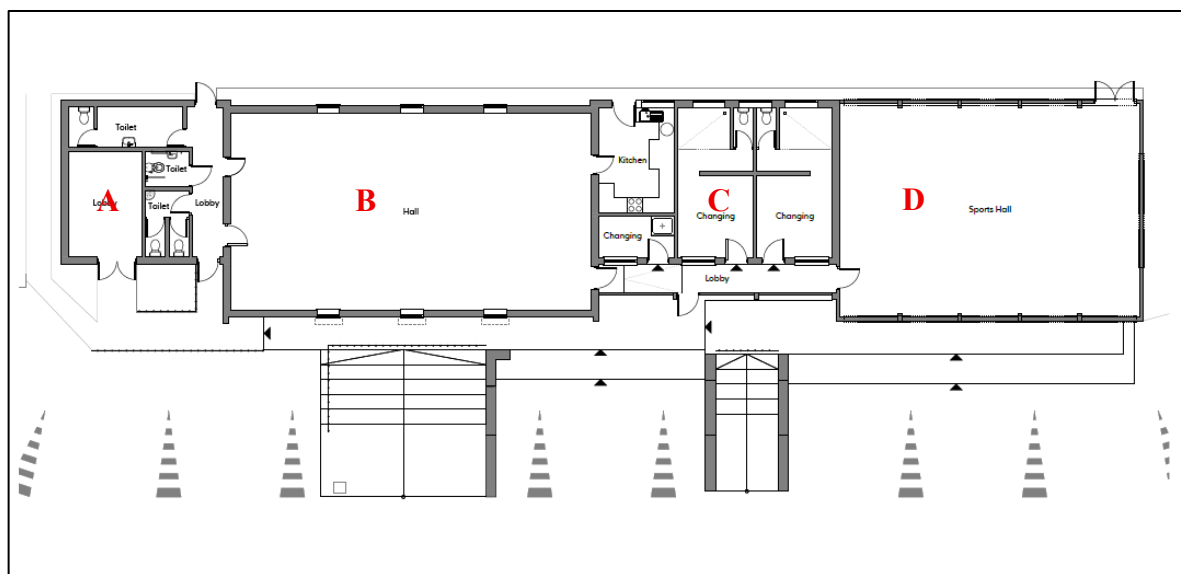
3.4. Description of Fauna.

3.4.1. There were no badger setts or badger field signs present anywhere within the survey area.

3.4.2. There is no watercourse on or close to the site and therefore no habitat for water voles, otters or white clawed crayfish.

3.4.3. The nearest pond is 1km east of the survey area in the Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve. There are amphibian records for this pond including great crested newt records in the data search results.

3.4.4. There is the one building on the site, the pavilion. The plan below shows the layout of the building and has been split into four sections, A, B, C and D. Each is dealt with separately below.



3.4.4.1. Block A.

3.4.4.1.1. Block A is at the southern end of the building and is the entrance, lobby and toilets.

3.4.4.1.2. The building is constructed with cavity brick walls and the windows are bricked up and there are steel doors on the entrances.



3.4.4.1.3. The roof is flat and there are spikes on the copings around the outside of the roof.

3.4.4.1.4. The walls and roof are sound and when assessed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines, Edition 4, this section of the pavilion has a negligible potential for roosting bats.

3.4.4.2. Block B.

3.4.4.2.1. Block B is the central hall, constructed with cavity brick walls and a flat roof. There are doors on the east side that are fitted with roller shutters and with windows and doors on the west side that are heavily grilled and meshed for security.



3.4.4.2.2. The roof is flat and there are spikes on the copings around the outside of the roof.

3.4.4.2.3. The walls and roof are sound and when assessed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines, Edition 4, this section of the pavilion has a negligible potential for roosting bats.

3.4.4.3. Block C.

3.4.4.3.1. Block C contains a kitchen and changing rooms and is constructed with cavity brick walls at the back (west) and with corrugated metal panels to the east.

3.4.4.3.2. The roof is flat and there are spikes on the copings around the outside of the roof.

3.4.4.3.3. The walls and roof are sound and when assessed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines, Edition 4, this section of the pavilion has a negligible potential for roosting bats.



3.4.4.4. Block D.

3.4.4.4.1. Block D at the northern end comprises a sports hall with corrugated metal walls and roof.



3.4.4.4.2. When assessed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines, Edition 4, this section of the pavilion has a negligible potential for roosting bats.

3.4.5. The tree on the site was inspected from ground level for potential roost features. None were identified in the one tree in the survey area.

3.4.6. The area around the site is residential to the west with a large open sports field to the east and is assessed to be low to moderate value habitat for foraging and commuting bats.

3.4.7. There are few opportunities for nesting birds in the building although no active nests were identified during the site survey.

3.4.8. The site is assessed to have no potential for reptiles as it is an open space with no opportunities for shelter. There are reptile records for Carlton Marsh in the data search results, approximately 1km from the survey area.

3.4.9. The site is assessed as an unsuitable habitat for hazel dormouse as it lies well outside of their natural range and the habitat is totally unsuitable.

3.4.10. The site is assessed to be totally unsuitable habitat for red squirrels, located outside the natural range for the species.

3.4.11. There were no alien, invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act present on the site.

3.4.12. The site has low suitability for hedgehogs as the site is open and provides no opportunities for shelter. There is a small number of records of hedgehogs in the data search results, but these are for Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve.

4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN.

4.1. Baseline biodiversity calculations have been carried out using the Statutory Metric tool, the current metric at the time of writing this report. The calculations have been completed for baseline area habitats. The condition assessments for each habitat are shown in the attached condition assessment document and the baseline biodiversity values are shown in the attached metric calculation tool as well as being listed below.

4.2. Area Habitats – Pre Development.

Habitat Type	Area in Ha	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units (BU).
Modified grassland	0.046	Low	N/A	0.09
Vegetated garden	0.01	Low	N/A	0.02
Developed land, sealed surface - Drive	0.043	V.Low	N/A	0
Developed land sealed surface - Building	0.036	V.Low	N/A	0
1 tree	0.0163	Medium	Moderate	0.13
Total (Excl trees)	0.126			0.24

4.3. There are 0.24BU of area habitat on the site pre-development.

4.4. There is no linear habitat present on the site pre-development.

5. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

5.1. There is one statutory designated site in the survey area, part of the Dearne Valley SSSI. This lies 700m to the east of the survey area and therefore there will be no impact on such sites.

5.2. There are Local Wildlife Sites within the data search area but not close enough for there to be any impact on those sites. The closest is a section of Barnsley Canal, 290m east of the survey area.

5.3. The survey area lies within an SSSI Impact Risk Zone but does not require notification to Natural England.

5.4. There is no post development plan for the site available at present to determine the impact on the existing habitat. There are currently 0.24BU of area habitat present in the survey area.

5.5. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified in the survey area and there are no records close to the survey area in the data search results. Therefore, the development will have no impact on badgers.

5.6. There is no watercourse close to the site and therefore no habitat for water voles, otters or white clawed crayfish. There will therefore be no negative impact on these species.

5.7. The nearest pond is 1km east of the survey area in the Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve. There are amphibian records for this pond, including great crested newt records, in the data search results. However, there is the River Dearne between that will act as a barrier to movement so the development will have no negative impact on amphibians.

5.8. The existing pavilion is assessed to have negligible potential for roosting bats. Therefore, the proposed development will have no negative impact on roosting bats in buildings.

5.9. There is one tree present in the survey area this was inspected from ground level. No potential roost features were identified and therefore there will be no negative impact on bats roosting in trees.

5.10. The area around the site is residential to the west with a large open sports field to the east and is assessed to be low to moderate value habitat for foraging and commuting bats. The proposed development is unlikely to have any negative impact on foraging bats.

5.11. There are opportunities for nesting birds in the shrubs and trees within the survey area and therefore, the proposed development will potentially have a negative impact on nesting birds if vegetation is removed between March and August, during the nesting bird season.

5.12. The site is assessed to have no potential for reptiles and the records in the data search results are at Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve with the River Dearne between. The proposed development will have no negative impact on reptiles.

5.13. The site is assessed to be an unsuitable habitat for hazel dormouse, located outside the natural range for the species. The proposed development will have no negative impact on the species.

5.14. The site is assessed to be totally unsuitable habitat for red squirrels, located outside the natural range for the species. The proposed development will have no negative impact on the species.

5.15. There are no alien, invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act present in the survey area. Therefore, there is no potential to spread such plants in the wild.

5.16. The site has low suitability for hedgehogs as the site is open and provides no opportunities for shelter. There is a small number of records of hedgehogs in the data search results, but these are for Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve. The proposed development is unlikely to impact on hedgehogs.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS.

6.1. On the site at present there are 0.24Bu of area biodiversity units. It is recommended that as much as possible of the existing habitat on site be retained, in particular the tree.

6.2. This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report is designed to advise the client of the initial survey results so that they may be considered within the site development plan.

6.3. Once the development plans have been finalised, the report must be converted into an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) where details of further survey results, mitigation and ecological enhancements are included, to arrive at an assessment of the residual impact of the proposed development. This format will be suitable to submit to the Local Authority.

6.4. Because the pavilion has been assessed to have a negligible potential for roosting bats, no further surveys are recommended.

6.5. It is recommended that any vegetation clearance is undertaken outside the nesting bird season, which extends from March to the end of August each year. In the event that it becomes necessary to remove any vegetation during the nesting season, it is recommended that a nesting bird survey be carried out by a suitably experienced person no more than two days before the works commence and in the event of an active nest being found, the nest and a suitable exclusion zone around the nest must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

6.6. To comply with the requirements of the NPPF, consideration should be given for the provision of a bat box and a bird nest box on the new building or on nearby trees.

Prepared by:	
Derek Whitcher, BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI	Date: 3 rd June 2026.

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou, BSc, MCIEEM	Date: 7 th June 2026.

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JNCC, Peterborough.

Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

Ecology

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September. It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub, but others are ground nesting or prefer man-made structures or buildings.

Surveys

Nesting bird surveys search for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc. Potential nesting sites are observed over a suitable period of time for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest. The presence of a nest can be identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests. The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Legislation

Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Part 1. -(1) Of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

Appendix II. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are currently 18 species of bat residing in Britain, 17 of which are known to breed here. They are extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

Many species appear to be diminishing in numbers, probably due to habitat change and shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly the pipistrelle (the commonest and most widespread British bat) can quickly adapt to man-made structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Surveys

During walkover surveys, bat roosts can be identified by looking for:

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices within any building, tree or other structure.
- Bat droppings along walls, window cills, or on the ground.
- Prey remains, such as insect wings.

Further investigations can be made using endoscopes, by carrying out aerial inspections of trees or by conducting bat activity surveys during dusk and dawn over summer months.

Legislation

Bats are protected under Appendix II and III of the Bern Convention (1982), Schedule 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (some species under Annex II), Annex II of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and EUROBATS agreement. Numerous species are also listed

under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) making them species of principal importance.

All bats and their roosts are therefore protected in the UK. This makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any bat, to interfere with any place used for shelter or protection, or to intentionally disturb any animal occupying such a place.

The UK has designated maternity and hibernacula areas as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) under the Habitats Directive. Implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan also includes action for a number of bat species and the habitats which support them.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

Appendix IV. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA PRE DEVELOPMENT.

