

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report

Land South of Halifax, Penistone

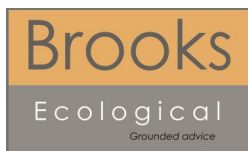
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Report Reference:	R-3706-01
Written by:	Daniel Ross BSc (Hons) Grad CIEEM Ecologist
Technical review:	Christopher Shaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM Senior Ecologist
QA review:	Peter Brooks BSc (Hons), MA, MCIEEM, CEnv Managing Director
Approved for issue:	Christopher Shaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM Senior Ecologist
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Unit A, 1 Station Road, Guiseley, Leeds, LS20 8BX

Phone: **01943 884451**

01943 879129

Email: admin@brooks-ecological.co.uk

www.brooks-ecological.co.uk

Registered in England Number 5351418



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Non-technical Summary

This report was produced for Avant Homes & Yorkshire Land LTD (but is now being used by Barratt Homes & David Wilson) to inform them of potential ecological constraints associated with the Proposed Development Site.

Methodology

The report is based on a Desk Study of designated wildlife sites and records of protected or notable species, and an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey carried out in October 2018.

Findings Key-Points

The Site comprises primarily of habitat of low ecological value.

A single on-site ash tree meets the criteria to qualify as a 'veteran tree' and will require protection through development. This tree is to be retained – should remedial work be necessary, survey will be required to assess the status of roosting bats.

A Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) should be produced to set out how available green space will be managed to provide maximum benefit for wildlife.

Introduction

1. Brooks Ecological Ltd was commissioned by Avant Homes and Yorkshire Land LTD (but subsequent to this, the report is now being used by Barratt Homes & David Wilson Homes and their layout as of 2020 has now been included) to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of Land to the South of Halifax Road, Penistone (SE 245 043).
2. This report is produced with reference to British Standard BS:42020 'Biodiversity Code of Practice for Planning and Development' and the CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

Scope

3. The proposed development site 'the Site' comprises of pasture fields to the north of the town of Penistone. It is defined in figure 1 below.
4. The assessment uses a 2km area of search around the Site for records of protected and notable species and locally or nationally designated wildlife sites.

Figure 1 The Site



Purpose of a PEA

5. A PEA is an *initial assessment* of the baseline for a proposed development site and establishes whether the Site is likely to be constrained by ecology, and whether more information is needed to identify the ecological baseline.
6. The subsequent Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) is intended to give early guidance to a developer and assist with the early stages of project planning and design. Where a site is not complex or constrained, and no additional ecological input is necessary the PEAR may be sufficient and suitable to support a planning application.

Site Context

7. The Site is located at the northern fringe of the town of Penistone, surrounded in the immediate vicinity by Halifax Road to the north, residential development and a railway line to the east, pasture and residential to the south, and a mixture of pasture, woodland, and commercial development to the west.
8. In the wider area the landscape is largely pastoral, with scattered areas of arable, woodland, and reservoirs. Penistone is found to the south along the River Don which runs roughly west to east from Moorland to the west, to Sheffield to the south-east.

Wildlife Corridors

9. Features likely to support the movement of wildlife through the local area include a railway line adjacent to the part of the eastern boundary, and a network of streams and reservoirs which run from the north-west to the south of the Site, eventually joining the River Don.

Water Bodies

10. Three ponds are found within 500m as shown on the figure below.

Figure 2 Analysis of wildlife corridors and higher value habitat in relation to the Site.



Figure 3 Analysis of wildlife corridors and higher value habitat in relation to the Site.



Designated Sites

Statutory Designations

11. A search has been made to identify any nationally designated sites within a 2km radius of the Site, and for internationally designated sites within a 5km radius.
12. No statutory designations are found within these search parameters.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZs)

13. The Site lies within the IRZ for Pye Flatts Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but does not fall into one of the highlighted categories which requires consultation between the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Natural England (NE). The development is of a scale and nature which is unlikely to impact on this SSSI.

Non-Statutory Designations

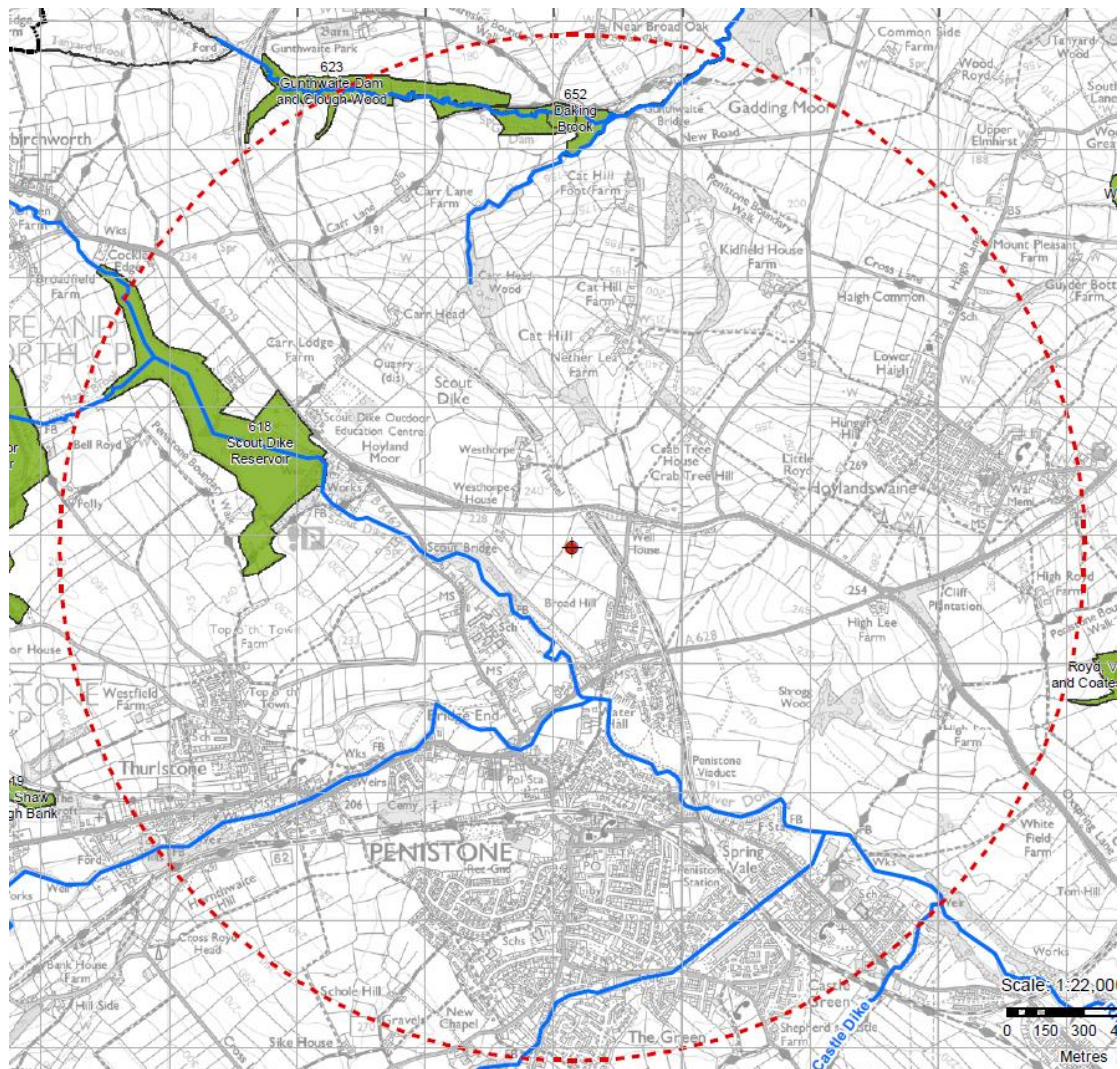
14. There are 3 locally designated sites within 2km of the Site.

Table 2 Statutory Designated Sites.

Site name	Distance from Site	Designation
Scout Dike Reservoir	c.760m west	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
Daking Brook	c.1.45km north	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
Gunthwaite Dam & Clough Wood	c.1.5km north	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

15. The above local designations are sufficiently separated from the Site for potential impacts to be considered very unlikely.

Figure 4 Designations within 2km



Habitats

Method

16. The survey was carried out during October 2018¹ and followed Phase 1 habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2010).

Limitations

17. The survey was carried out when many plant species have died back however the habitat type and likelihood of supporting notable species or communities could still be assessed at this time by the experienced surveyor.
18. Sufficient time was afforded the surveyor to carry out the survey. The survey was not constrained by poor weather.

Results

19. The following habitats were identified within the Site and on its immediate boundaries:
 - Semi-improved neutral grassland
 - Hedgerow
 - Trees

Semi-improved neutral grassland

20. The majority the Site comprises of species poor semi-improved neutral grassland fields, currently tightly grazed by sheep.
21. Common grasses dominate with abundant perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), frequent bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), cocksfoot (*Dactylus glomerata*), and occasional fescues (*Festuca rubra* agg.). Forbs are limited in abundance and diversity, with only common species noted, including white clover (*Trifolium repens*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and nettle (*Urtica dioica*), particularly along boundaries.

¹ This Report has been prepared during November 2018 following a visit to the site in October 2018 and our findings are based on the conditions of the site that were reasonably visible and accessible at that date. We accept no liability for any areas that were not reasonably visible or accessible, nor for any subsequent alteration, variation or deviation from the site conditions which affect the conclusions set out in this report.



Figure 5

Showing semi-improved pasture which dominates the Site.

Hedgerow

22. Species poor hedgerows are found along areas of the southern boundary. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) dominates, with occasional elder (*Sambucus nigra*), and rose (*Rosa* sp.).



Figure 6

Typical view of hedgerow on Site.

Trees

23. Save for occasional scattered elder, only a single mature tree is found on Site, this being an Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) towards the south-west. This tree has features which indicate that it qualifies as an early ancient tree or fully mature transition veteran which should be retained within development under National Planning Policy Framework 2018.
24. A small section of the Site's boundary lies adjacent to off-site woodland. Overhanging species include oak (*Quercus* sp.), ash, and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).



Figure 7

Mature ash at south-west of Site – location marked on D-3706-01.1

Fauna

Bats

Foraging

25. The Site represents low value habitat for foraging bats. Hedgerow provides some small areas of higher value habitat, however given that hedgerow is to be retained, this value will be preserved post development.
26. Given the sites current low baseline, development has the potential to increase the value of the Site to bats, through enhancement of available green space and boundary habitats.

Roosting

27. A single mature ash tree is found on Site with potential to support roosting bats, including longitudinal cracks in decaying branches, and rot holes.



Figure 8

Showing example of potential roost feature in mature ash tree.

Amphibians

28. Only two amphibian records have been returned from within 2km, both relating to smooth newt c.800m to the west, in an area associated with Scout Dike Reservoir.
29. The Site itself represents low value habitat for this group.
30. Three ponds are found within a 500m radius - as shown previously in figure 2. Pond 1 is found c.400m to the north, separated from the Site by Halifax Road and grassland. Given the separation of this pond, both in terms of distance and by a busy main road any amphibian populations which it supports are unlikely to be found on Site.
31. Pond 2 and 3 are large ponds associated with South Dike which runs from Scout Dike Reservoir to the west. These are used for fishing, and as such are likely stocked with coarse fish, significantly reducing their value to breeding amphibians.
32. Given the lack of records, or high value habitat, the likely absence of great crested newts from Ponds 2 & 3, and therefore the Site, can be reasonably concluded.

Birds

33. The on-Site habitat is of low value to birds. Hedgerows have the potential to support nesting of a range of common and widespread species.
34. The South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area is located c.5.5km to the south of the Site, the qualifying interests of which include breeding populations of Golden Plover, Merlin, peregrine, short-eared owl, and dunlin. The Site is sufficiently remote from the SPA for potential impacts on the qualifying interests to be considered very unlikely.
35. In preliminary discussions with the local authority, the issue of potential use of the Site by golden plover was raised. Golden plover breed on the South Pennine Moors, and

during the breeding season are known to forage in areas of farmland in proximity to the moors. The Site is sufficiently disconnected from the South Pennine Moors SPA, which lies c.5km to the south, for it to be very unlikely that populations associated with the SPA will be found on Site during the breeding season.

36. During winter golden plover form large flocks, and associate with areas which provide a suitable food source, such as mud flats, estuaries, coastal marshes, and farmland, generally with some association to large bodies of open water. The short semi-improved grassland which the site supports generally represents lower value habitat for this species, with ploughed arable general favoured where invertebrate prey is more readily available.
37. No records have been returned of golden plover relating to the Site or similar habitats within 2km. Of the 4 records returned, 2 are from over 30 years ago and provided at low resolution, and as such are of little relevance to this assessment. Other records originate from Scout Dike Reservoir to the north west. The Site is therefore not likely to be of significant value to golden plover.
38. Standard precautions apply: to prevent the proposed works impacting on nesting birds, any clearance of vegetation will need to be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season which is 1st March – 31st August inclusive. Any clearance that is required during the breeding bird season should be preceded by a nesting bird survey to ensure that the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) is not contravened through the destruction of nests and that any active nests are identified and adequately protected during the construction phase of the development.

Reptiles

39. No records of reptile have been returned from within a 2km search area and the Site represents very low habitat for this group, which is very unlikely to support significant numbers of reptiles.

Badger

40. Records have been returned suggesting badger populations are active the wider area. No evidence of badger activity was noted on Site, however there is habitat close to the Site, including a railway embankment, and woodland which could support badger activity, and be suitable for the establishment of setts.
41. A pre-commencement survey is therefore recommended, encompassing the Site, and adjacent habitat (where accessible) to confirm the continued absence of this species.

Invasive Non-Native Species

42. No species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) were noted at the Site during the survey².

Key Findings

43. The majority of the Site represents habitat of low ecological value.
44. The species-poor hedgerows are considered to represent poor example of their type, but will be of value to certain faunal groups.
45. A single mature ash located in the Site boundary meet the criteria for classification as an Ancient / Veteran tree. As such this tree must be retained and protected through development. This tree also has the potential to support roosting bats, and precaution will be required should any remedial work be required.
46. By way of risk management, a precautionary badger survey is recommended prior to commencement to ensure the continued absence of badger.

Early Design Considerations

47. The NPPF makes it imperative that sites are designed according to the 'mitigation hierarchy'; Avoid - Mitigate - Compensate. Avoidance is the key first stage and designs must show that they have avoided important receptors if possible. Mitigation, and as a last resort, Compensation will only be appropriate where there are clearly no alternatives and a strong planning argument will be needed in these cases. The initial indicative layout provided by the client is shown overleaf.
48. A sympathetic layout has been designed which retains the hedgerows and mature ash tree (identified as a constraint).
49. Based on this, the layout does not require any amendments and no further surveys are deemed necessary based on this layout.
50. The scheme could consider the scope within available greenspace for ecological enhancement, as discussed below.

² Note while our ecologists are trained in the identification of invasive species this report is not a dedicated invasive species survey. Detectability of invasive plant species is seasonally variable so, whilst every effort is made, conclusive determination of presence or absence is not always possible through preliminary survey. As the presence of invasive species can generate significant costs to development the client may wish to instruct a dedicated invasive species survey prior to entering into contracts.

Figure 9 Planning Layout. STEN Architecture dwg. 2001.01 Rev. B (11.02.2020)



BS:42020 Further Ecological Output

51. The Site is of very low value with no design constraints. We have made no substantive recommendations and as such no other reports are considered necessary pre-planning.

Ecological Enhancement (LEMP)

52. The requirement for development to make a positive contribution to biodiversity is clearly set out guidance such as the NPPF and BS:42020 - beyond mitigating or compensating any potential impacts.
53. A BS:42020 Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) should be produced which in this case could include the following themes:
- the creation of wildflower habitats in areas of open space
 - the enhancement of retained hedgerow,
 - the provision of hedgehog access routes
 - the provision of bird and bat boxes to provides new nest/roost opportunities.
54. A LEMP should be produced *before* the Landscape Masterplan to prevent conflicts.

Appendices

1. Extended Phase 1 Habitat Plan
2. Explanatory Notes and Resources
3. Information on legislation / protection

References

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Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Plan



Appendix 2 Explanatory Notes and Resources Used

Site Context

Aerial photographs published on commonly used websites were studied to place the site in its wider context and to look for ecological features that would not be evident on the ground during the walkover survey. This approach can be very useful in determining if a site is potentially a key part of a wider wildlife corridor or an important node of habitat in an otherwise ecologically poor landscape. It can also identify potentially important faunal habitat (in particular ponds) which could have a bearing on the ecology of the application site. Ponds may sometimes not be apparent on aerial photographs so we also refer to close detailed maps that identify all ponds issues and drains. We use Promap Street + scale maps for this purpose.

Designated Sites

A search of the MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside) website was undertaken. The MAGIC site is a Geographical Information System that contains all statutory (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI's]) as well as many non-statutory listed habitats (e.g. ancient woodlands and grassland inventory sites). It is a valuable tool when considering the relationship of a potential development site with nearby important habitats. In addition, information from the local record holders was referred to on locally designated sites.

Functional linkage with off-Site habitats

When assessing these we consider whether the Site could be functionally linked to them, considering links such as;

- Hydrological links - is the Site upstream downstream, or could ground water issues affect it?
- Physical links - is the site in close proximity and could it be directly or indirectly affected by construction and operational effects? Conversely it may be that despite proximity major barriers separate the two.
- Recreational links - Do footpaths and roads make it likely that increased recreational pressure could be felt?
- Habitat links - Is the site part of a network of similar habitat types in the wider area? These could be joined by linear corridors or could simply be 'stepping stones of habitat of similar form or function.

Method

Phase 1 habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2010). This involves walking the site, mapping and describing different habitats (for example: woodland, grassland, scrub). The survey method was "Extended" in that evidence of fauna and faunal habitat was also recorded (for example droppings, tracks or specialist habitat such as ponds for breeding amphibians). This modified approach to the Phase 1 survey is in accordance with the approach recommended by the Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment (IEA, 1995) and Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM 2012).

Faunal appraisal

This section first looks at the types of habitat found on Site or within the sphere of influence of potential development, then considers whether these could support protected, scarce or NERC Act 2006 Section 41 species (referred to collectively as 'notable species').

Records of notable species supplied from a 2km area of search by West Yorkshire Ecology(WYE) are used to inform this appraisal.

We discuss further only notable species or groups which could be a potential constraint due to the presence of suitable habitat and their presence (or potential presence) in the wider area. We screen

out and do not present accounts of notable species or groups which do not meet these criteria – in some cases it may be necessary to explain this reasoning.

Bat roosting potential is classified according to the following criteria set out below, taken from the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines (2016).

Bat Roosting Suitability of Buildings and Trees

Suitability	Criteria
<i>Negligible</i>	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.
<i>Low</i>	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions, and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by a larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.
<i>Moderate</i>	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only - the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).
<i>High</i>	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protections, conditions and surrounding habitats.

Evaluation

In evaluating the Site, the ecologist will take into account a number of factors in combination, such as;

- the baseline presented above,
- the site's position in the local landscape,
- its current management and
- its size, rarity or threats to its integrity.

There are a number of tools available to aid this consideration, including established frameworks such as Ratcliffe Criteria or concepts such as Favourable Conservation Status. Also of help is reference to Biodiversity Action Plans in the form of the Local BAP and Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) to determine if the site supports any Priority habitats or presents any opportunities in this respect.

The assessment of impacts considers the generic development proposals from which potential effects include:

- Vegetation and habitat removal
- Direct effects on significant faunal groups or protected species
- Effects on adjacent habitats or species such as disturbance, pollution and severance
- Operation effects on wildlife such as noise and light disturbance

Consideration is given to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), which for this site is the '**Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan**'.

Species/group	Habitat
Hedgehog	Upland Oakwood
Bats	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Water Vole	Wet Woodland
Otter	Wood Pasture and Parkland
Grey Partridge	Hedgerows
Bittern	Arable Field Margins
Kestrel	Floodplain Grazing Marsh
Little Ringed Plover	Lowland Meadows
Lapwing	Lowland Dry Acidic Grassland
Barn Owl	Lowland Heathland
Skylark	Upland Heathland
Tree Sparrow	Blanket Bog
Twite	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture
Great Crested Newt	Reedbeds
Salmon	Ponds
Bullhead	Rivers
White-clawed Crayfish	Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land
Glow Worm	
Dingy Skipper	
Bluebell	

Appendix 3 Wildlife Legislation, Policy and Guidance

This is not an exhaustive list but sets out briefly the relevance of Legislation, Policy and Guidance in terms of planning applications and this assessment.

Legislation

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive).

Provides framework at an international (EU) level for the consideration / protection of European Protected Species (EPS), and habitats through the designation of sites.

Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of wild birds (EC Birds Directive) and The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)

Provides framework at an international (EU) level for the consideration / protection of important bird populations and the sites on which they are dependant.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)

This transposes 1) into UK law and provides the basis on which all EPS are protected and impacts on them can be licensed in the UK.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended

This provides the basis on which UK species are legally protected or restricted and confers protection on Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSIs. It contains annexes of plants and animals which are legally protected as well as those which are considered to be invasive or harmful. It provides the basis on which impacts on such species can be licensed in the UK and provides controls on work on or near SSSIs.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)

Provides a statutory basis for nature conservation, strengthens the protection of SSSIs and UK protected species and requires the consideration of habitats and species listed on the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (UKBAP / LBAP).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC)

Sets out the responsibilities of Local Authorities in conserving biodiversity. Section 41 of the Act requires the publishing of lists of habitats and species which are "of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity". At present these largely reflect those making up the UKBAP lists.

Hedgerows Regulations (1997)

Define and provide protection for Important Hedgerows.

Protection of Badgers Act (1992)

Protects badgers from persecution, this includes excavation / development in the proximity of setts.

Protected Sites

Statutory EU / International Protected Sites

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar Sites contain examples of some of the most important natural ecosystems in Europe. Work on or near these sites is strictly protected and Local Authorities will be expected to carry out 'Appropriate Assessment' of development in proximity of them. In this case there is often an increased burden on the developer in relation to provision of information and assessment.

Statutory UK Protected Sites

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); National Nature Reserves (NNRs); Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) all receive strict protection under UK legislation. Work in or in proximity to these sites would be restricted with any needing to be agreed with Natural England. Natural England now provide guidance on the nature of development which could impact on SSSIs through Impact Risk Zones.

Locally Protected Sites

Local Authorities have a variety of protected wildlife sites designated at a local or regional level. These are gradually being brought under the banner of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) but at present a plethora of different designations exist - all subject to local policy.

Protected Species

European Protected Species

A number of species (most relevantly bats, great crested newts [GCN], and otters) receive strict protection from killing, injury and disturbance under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010). Protection is also conferred on the habitats on which they rely such as roost space in the case of bats and ponds and fields etc. in the case of GCN.

UK Protected Species

A number of species (including bats, GCN, water vole and white clawed crayfish) are strictly protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, from killing, injury, disturbance and damage or destruction of their resting places etc. Certain species (such as reptiles) and some birds (such as barn owl) receive partial protection e.g. at certain times of the year or from certain activities only. All nesting bird species are protected from damage or destruction of their nests - whilst active.

Invasive species

Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, lists these species and makes it an offence to cause or allow their spread in the wild. This often has impacts on development and planning in relation to the presence of invasive plant species such as: himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

Planning Policy / Guidance

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework was updated in July 2018. The most relevant paragraphs from the NPPF are set out below.

The approach to assessing the natural environment is now embedded within the definition of what 'sustainable development' is and this falls under one of three objectives of the planning system – the 'environmental objective' applying in this case. Paragraph 8c (P8c) of the NPPF states that sustainable development should “contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural environment” and “help to improve biodiversity”. P10 sets out the Framework's presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Section 11 of the NPPF details making effective use of land. The Framework states that planning policies and decisions should “take opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation” and should “recognise that some undeveloped land can perform functions for wildlife” (P118).

Section 15 details conserving and enhancing the natural environment; policies and decisions should be “protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity value”, “recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside” and contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution (P170). Allocations of land for development should, “prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework and take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats” (P171).

The Framework sets out ways to minimise the impacts on biodiversity through “identifying, mapping and safeguarding components of local wildlife rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity” and the “conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and (the need to) identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity” (P174).

It is made clear in P175 that local planning authorities should apply principles when determining planning applications. Planning permission should be refused “if significant harm to biodiversity resulting in development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for”. Development should not normally be permitted where an adverse effect on a SSSI is likely and “opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity”.

Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services.

This strategy builds on the Natural Environment White Paper (June 2011) - Setting out the current UK Government's approach to nature conservation. It promotes a more coherent and inclusive approach to conservation and the valuing in economic and social terms of economic resources.

The strategy promotes initiatives such as Biodiversity Offsetting, Nature Improvement Areas and a focus on well-connected natural networks and introduces the concept of securing a 'no net loss' situation with regard to UKBAP / Section 41 habitats and species.

ODPM circular 06/05 (2005) Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System

Provides guidance to Local Authorities on their obligations to biodiversity – particularly in relation to assessing planning applications and ensuring the adequacy of information.

BSI (2013) British Standards Institute BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity — Code of Practice for Planning and Development.

Provides a standard for the biodiversity assessment and development industries and decision makers such as Local Planning Authorities to work to.