



Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Preliminary Roost Assessment

12 Tivy Dale Drive, Cawthorne, Barnsley, S75 4EN

Eight One Two

Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	1	Gareth Hey BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM	28/09/2023
Reviewed	1.1	Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB, Senior Consultant	19/10/2023
Final	2	Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB, Senior Consultant	19/10/2023

Arbtech Consultant's Contact Details:

Tel: 0808 169 5812
Email: ecology@arbtech.co.uk
<https://arbtech.co.uk>

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Industry Guidelines and Standards

This report has been written with due consideration to:

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2020). Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- British Standard 42020 (2013). Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.

Proportionality

The work involved in preparing and implementing all ecological surveys, impact assessments and measures for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Consequently, the decision-maker should only request supporting information and conservation measures that are relevant, necessary and material to the application in question. Similarly, the decision-maker and their consultees should ensure that any comments and advice made over an application are also proportionate.

The desk studies and field surveys undertaken to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) might in some cases be all that is necessary.

(BS 42020, 2013)

Executive Summary

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Eight One Two to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) at 12 Tivy Dale Drive, Cawthorne, Barnsley, S75 4EN (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application for the demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement dwelling, including the removal of 2 trees (Planning Ref: 2023/0648) (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

The habitats at the site are of minimal ecological value, comprising ornamental non-native gardens and built form, including buildings and associated hardstanding. Overall, the site provides negligible opportunities for protected and notable species.

The building has negligible habitat value for roosting bats. No further surveys are required. In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licenced ecologist contacted for further advice.

Recommendations have been made in order for the development to achieve an enhancement over the current situation.

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1.0 Introduction and Context

1.1 Background

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Eight One Two to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) at 12 Tivy Dale Drive, Cawthorne, Barnsley (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application for the demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement dwelling, including the removal of 2 trees (Planning Ref: 2023/0648) (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”). A plan showing the proposed development is provided in Appendix 1.

The aim of the PEA was to obtain data on existing ecological conditions, and to conduct a preliminary assessment of the likely significance of ecological impacts on the proposed development. The aim of the PRA was to determine the presence or evaluate the likelihood of the presence of roosting bats, and to gain an understanding of how bats could use the site for roosting, foraging or commuting.

No previous ecology reports have been produced for this site by Arbtech Consulting Ltd or, to the author's knowledge, by any other consultancy.

1.2 Site Location and Landscape Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SE 28058 07741 and has an area of approximately 0.06ha comprising a building and residential garden. It is surrounded by agricultural land to the north and residential areas to the south. The wider area primarily comprises arable fields, with small pockets of woodland, particularly to the north. The market town of Barnsley lies 6km east of the site. A site location plan is provided in Appendix 2.

1.3 Scope of the Report

The PEA element of this report describes the baseline ecological conditions at the site, evaluates habitats within the survey area in the context of the wider environment and describes the suitability of those habitats for notable or protected species. It identifies possible ecological constraints as a result of the proposed development and summarises the requirements for further surveys and mitigation measures to inform subsequent mitigation proposals, achieve planning or other statutory consent and to comply with wildlife legislation.

The PRA element of this report provides a description of all features suitable for roosting, foraging and commuting bats and evaluates those features in the context of the site and wider environment. It further documents any physical evidence collected or recorded during the site survey that establishes the presence of roosting bats. It provides information on possible constraints to the proposed development as a result of bats and summarises the requirements for any further surveys to inform subsequent mitigation proposals, achieve planning or other statutory consent and to comply with wildlife legislation.

To achieve this, the following steps have been taken:

- A desk study has been carried out.

- A field survey has been undertaken to record baseline information on the site and surrounding area including habitat types and their suitability for notable or protected species, including roosting bats.
- Invasive plant and animal species (such as those listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act) have been identified.
- Potential impacts on features of value, as a result of the proposed development, have been identified.
- Recommendations for further surveys and mitigation have been made.
- Opportunities for the enhancement of the site for biodiversity have been set out.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

The desk study included a review of the magic.gov.uk database for statutory designated sites within a 1km radius of the site. Landscape value and the presence of notable habitats as well as granted European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) and notable species records held on magic.gov.uk database has also been considered where these are within influencing distance of the site.

Existing biological records including notable species and non-statutory designated sites within a 2km radius were obtained from Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC).

2.2 Field Survey

The survey was undertaken by Gareth Hey BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM, an Ecologist with over 10 years of experience with a Natural England Class 2 Bat Survey Licence, on 28/07/2023.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

An extended habitat survey was undertaken, following the methodology set out in *UK Habitat Classification User Manual* (UK Habitat Classification Working Group, 2018). All land parcels are described and mapped and, where appropriate, target notes provide supplementary information on habitat conditions, features too small to map to scale, species composition, structure and management. Botanical species lists were compiled with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).

For ease of reading, scientific names are omitted from this report for widespread, ubiquitous and well-known species. Scientific names are only included where deemed necessary in conveying correct information to the reader, for example where common names differ regionally or in specialised, notable, unusual or challenging taxa, or if there is any ambiguity in identification (e.g where a species can only be identified to genus level).

During the survey, habitats were assessed for their suitability to support protected species, and field signs indicating their presence recorded. The assessment takes into consideration the findings of the desk study, the habitat conditions on site and in the context of the surrounding landscape, and the ecology of the protected species.

Preliminary Roost Assessment

The PRA focussed on one built structure which will be affected by the proposed development as well as providing an overview of the wider site and the surrounding landscape for bat roosting, foraging and commuting habitat.

A non-intrusive visual appraisal was undertaken from the ground, using binoculars to inspect the external features of the building for features which bats could use for roosting, including access or egress points and for signs of bat use including droppings, scratch marks, insect remains and urine smear marks. An internal inspection of the building was also made, including the living areas and any accessible roof spaces, using a torch and ladders. The surveyor paid particular attention to the floor and flat surfaces, window shutters and frames, lintels above doors and windows, and carried out a detailed search of numerous features within the roof space.

Suitability Assessment

The built structure was categorised according to the likelihood of bats being present and the types of roost that the identified features could support. This is summarised in Table 1 below. Roost suitability is classified as high, moderate, low and negligible and dictates any further surveys required before works can proceed.

Table 1: Features of a building that are correlated with use by bats.

Classification	Feature of building and its context
High	Buildings or structures with features of particular significance for larger numbers of roosting bats e.g. mines, caves, tunnels, icehouses and cellars. Habitat on site and surrounding landscape of high quality for foraging bats e.g. broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is connected with the wider landscape by strong linear features that would be used by commuting bats e.g. river and or stream valleys and hedgerows. Site is proximate to known or likely roosts (based on historical data). Buildings with high suitability could support roosts of high conservation value such as maternity or hibernation roosts.
Moderate	Buildings or structures with one or more features suitable for more regular roosting due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation value such as maternity or hibernation roosts. Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape which could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees, linked gardens. Foraging habitat in the surrounding area such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
Low	Buildings or structures with one or more features suitable for use sporadically by individual or small numbers of bats. Potential roost features may be suboptimal for reasons such as shallow depth, poor thermal qualities or upwards orientation with exposure to inclement weather or predators. Habitat suitable for foraging in close proximity, but largely isolated in the landscape. Or an isolated site not connected by prominent linear features.
Negligible	Unsuitable for use by bats.

2.3 Limitations

It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to describe the baseline conditions within the survey area, and evaluate these features, this report does not provide a complete characterisation of the site. This assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species being present. This is based on suitability of the habitats on the site and in the wider landscape, the ecology and biology of species as currently understood.

3.0 Results and Evaluation

3.1 Designated Sites

No statutory designated sites were identified within 2km of the site. Details of non-statutory designated sites within a 2km radius of the site, including their reasons for notification, are provided in Table 2 below. The site lies within the impact risk zone for Pye Flatts Meadows SSSI. However, the proposed development type is not listed as a possible high risk with regard to this designation.

Table 2: Non-statutory designated sites within 2km radius of the site

Designated site name	Distance from site	Reasons for notification from Natural England and BBRC
Daking Brook Local Wildlife Site	0.4km north	The source of Daking Brook is found between Upper Denby and Ingbirchworth to the west of the Borough of Barnsley. The brook flows west to east and on its way east the Brook passes through a landscape of arable and pastoral farmland. The brook is often tree lined or surrounded by a thin belt of semi-natural broadleaved woodland. It is largely unmodified and unpolluted and is a good example of an upland stream. The brook joins the River Dearne near Lower Barugh, approximately 1km east of the M1 motorway between junctions 37 and 38.
Margery Wood Local Wildlife Site	1.4km north	Margery Wood is located in a gently south-facing landscape which is mainly agricultural although there are linking and adjacent large blocks of woodland. The site lies just north of the historic parkland of Cannon Hall Country Park and south of High Hoyland village. The majority of the site comprises broadleaved seminatural woodland dominated by sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) with abundant sessile oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>).

3.2 Field Survey Results

The results of the field survey are illustrated in Appendix 3. The weather conditions recorded at the time of the survey are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Weather conditions during the survey

Date:	28/07/2023
Temperature	19°C
Humidity	68%
Cloud Cover	15%
Wind	4mph
Rain	None

Habitats and Flora

The following habitats are present within and adjacent to the site:

- Vegetated Garden u1-828; and
- Buildings u1b5.

A description and photographs of each habitat are provided in Table 4.

A number of non-native invasive plant species were recorded at the site, as anticipated within the curtilage of a residential garden. These species are captured below in the habitat descriptions.

Table 4: Description and photographs of habitats within and adjacent to the site

Habitat type	Habitat description	Photograph
Vegetated Garden	To the front and rear of the property is a vegetated garden. The garden contains a range of non-native ornamental shrubs commonly associated with residential properties. Species primarily comprise Japanese Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera japonica</i>, Butterfly Bush <i>Buddleja davidii</i>, Camellia <i>Camellia japonica</i>, Hydrangea sp., Juneberry <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> (L.) Medik, Magnolia <i>Magnolia Kobus</i> DC, Fuchsia <i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>, Purple loosestrife <i>Lythrum virgatum</i>, Gayfeather <i>Liatris spicata</i>, Garden Phlox <i>Phlox paniculata</i>, Thin-leaf Sunflower <i>Helianthus decapetalus</i>, Asian Meadowsweet <i>Spiraea trilobata</i>, Fragrant Viburnum <i>Viburnum farreri</i>, Hairy Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus x virginalis</i>, Indian Clusterberry <i>Lonicera ligustrina</i>, Greenstem Forsythia <i>Forsythia viridissima</i>, Southern Globethistle <i>Echinops ritro</i> and Purple Clematis <i>Clematis viticella</i>. Some native species are present, including Tutsan St.Johns wort <i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>, Oxlip <i>Primula elatior</i>, Self-heal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> and Nettle-leaved Bellflower <i>Campanula trachelium</i>. On the western boundary of the site are two immature Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> trees. The trees are approximately 9 feet tall, with signs of excessive pruning, as they have been well maintained to secure their ornamental value. The 'grass' areas of the garden are not vegetated, with an artificial lawn present, as shown in the photograph opposite. On the north-western boundary of the site is a wooden fence that is approximately 5 foot tall and in a good state of repair. The other boundaries of the site all contain walls, or gates.	

Buildings	The building at the site is a brick-built bungalow. The structure has a pitched wooden roof, with concrete roof tiles. The buildings suitability for roosting bats is discussed further, below.	
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Fauna

Bats

The results of the PRA are provided in Table 5. No evidence of roosting bats was identified during the survey.

Table 5: Assessment of the suitability of the site for bats

Feature	Description	Photographs
Historical records	No European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses exist within a 1km radius of the site.	N/A

Bat foraging and commuting habitat	The habitats on site provide negligible suitability for foraging and commuting bats as they comprise of buildings and ornamental gardens, with a limited abundance of invertebrate presence and high levels of disturbance, from neighbouring dwellings. The area to the immediate north of the site comprises an extensive area of modified grassland fields, with signs of routine agricultural management.	
B1 - overview	The building is a brick built single storey bungalow, with a pitched wooden framed roof with concrete roof tiles and wooden fascias and soffit boxes. Two chimneys are present on the building, on opposing sites of the structure, with recently repurposed lead flashing, a consistent finding throughout the structure. The windows throughout the structure are all uPVC. In addition to this, the external front door is a recently fitted wood composite door. On the eastern section of the building is a conservatory and adjoining garage, both of which have a flat roof. The eaves on the western aspect of the building have recently being re-pointed, with no signs of disrepair. Overall, the building is in structurally sound condition, with no signs of deterioration throughout. All external features are in excellent condition. On the north-west corner of the building at the end of the fascia and soffit box, there is a small (approx. 3x3cm) hole. A significant number of wasps were observed entering this small hole, indicating a large nest within the roof space.	

B1 – southern elevation	The southern side of the structure contains the front door, side door to the conservatory, garage entrance and driveway to the property. The windows and conservatory door are uPVC, with no features associated with roosting bats. The wooden soffit boxes and fascias are all in excellent condition on this aspect. The roofing tiles are also in excellent condition on this aspect, with no signs of deterioration. This aspect of the building contains no features suitable for roosting bats.	
B1 – eastern elevation	On the eastern elevation of the site exists the conservatory, which is entirely made of uPVC with a flat felt roof. As above, the uPVC and soffit and fascias are in excellent condition with no signs of deterioration and no gaps or entrances that provide suitability for roosting bats.	

B1 – northern elevation	The northern elevation is identical to the other aspects of the building, in that there are uPVC windows and wooden fascias and soffit boxes, that are all in a good state of repair, with no signs of damage. Once again, this aspect of the building contained no features suitable for roosting bats.	
B1 – western elevation	The western elevation contains one window and the apex of the house, with the eaves in structurally sound condition, having recently been pointed with concrete. Given the above, the western elevation contained no suitable entrances for entry or emergence by roosting bats. In the corner of this aspect exists a small gap in between the wooden fascia and soffit boxes where a large number of wasps were seen entering. To back this up, a significant number of deceased wasps were found within the rooms on the ground floor.	

B1 – interior	The loft void of the property spanned the entirety of the building, where the apexed roof is present. The loft void contains wooden beams, fibre glass insulation, with the roof lining also visible and in excellent condition. As found during the external assessment of the site on the western aspect of the building, a number of wasps were observed in the north-western aspect of the building. During the interior inspection, no evidence of roosting bats was found and like with the external features, the interior of the property was in excellent condition.	
B1 – suitability assessment	Negligible – The external assessment of the building found no potential roosting features. Alongside this, during the internal assessment of the building, no evidence of bats was found.	

Shed and Greenhouse	A wooden shed and glass greenhouse are present in the eastern section of the site. These provide negligible suitability for roosting bats, due to their nature and lack of potential roosting features.	
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Other Species

An assessment of the suitability of the site for protected or notable species is provided in Table 6.

Table 6: Assessment of the suitability of the site for protected or notable species

Species	Assessment of suitability	Biological records data
Amphibians	There are no ponds present within 500m of the site from a review of aerial imagery. In addition to the above, the presence of boundary fences and walls ensure that connectivity to the site is limited, along with the presence of residential and urban development to the south and areas of agricultural management to the north. Given the above, the site is considered to of negligible suitability for amphibians.	No EPSLs, class licence returns and pond survey data or BRD exist for GCN within 500m of the site. The desk study returned 54 records of amphibians within a 2km radius of the site, including smooth newt, common toad and common frog. The majority of these records exist over 500m away from the site and are separated from the site through significant agricultural fields, Daking Brook and areas of residential development.
Reptiles	The site largely contains unsuitable habitat for reptile. Due to the residential nature of the site and presence of dispersal barriers on all boundaries of the site, along with the presence of agricultural fields to the north and significant residential development and infrastructure to the east, south and west.	No EPSLs or records were returned within BRD.
Badgers	No evidence of badgers was recorded as part of the survey. There are significant dispersal barriers present on the boundaries of the site including well maintained fences and walls indicating that badgers are likely absent from the site.	13 records of badger were returned as part of the BRD. All of these records exist over 1km away from the site and are separated by significant dispersal barriers, including residential development, watercourses and main roads.
Hazel Dormouse	Site is outside of known geographic range (either natural or reintroduced) of any dormice population. In addition to the above, no suitable habitat for dormouse was identified on the site. There is considered to be a lack of complexity with the bramble scrub and limited presence of nut/fruit/flowering species which are required for the complex lifecycle of the dormouse.	No EPSL licence pertinent to reptiles was returned within 2km of the site.
Hedgehog	In residential areas, hedgehog are known to utilise gardens and amenity areas for shelter and foraging. Given the above, the vegetated garden on site is of suitability for shelter, foraging and hibernating hedgehogs. Albeit, given the presence of boundary fences and walls, their opportunities are extremely limited.	The BRD returned 23 records of hedgehog. The closest of these records exist approximately 300m south-east of the site. The majority of the records were related to individuals found dead, along Lane Head Road, 300m south of the site.
Riparian Mammals	No watercourses or riparian habitats were noted on or directly adjacent to the site.	No EPSLs or records from the BRD were returned within a 2km radius of the site.
Birds	No evidence of nesting bird was noted during the site visit however the habitats on site are likely to provide suitable nesting habitat. The site is considered to be unsuitable for Schedule 1 species.	The desk study returned 1659 records of birds within a 2km radius of the site. None of the records related to the site or the areas immediately surrounding the site. The closest record relates to a Canada goose, 130m

		north of the site. There were a significant number of records related to the watercourse, 400m north of the site.
Invertebrates	The habitats on site are common and widespread and unlikely to support rarer invertebrate species. Overall, the site is considered unlikely to support large communities or notable species of invertebrates due to its poor habitat diversity.	The BRD returned 1079 invertebrate records within a 2km radius of the site. None of the records related to the site or the areas immediately surrounding the site. The closest record relates to an <i>Atheta anicula</i> , located approximately 220m south of the site. The majority of the records related to the water course and associated woodland, 400m north of the site.

4.0 Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations

4.1 Informative Guidelines

A summary of the relevant legislation and planning policies is provided in Appendix 4.

Likelihood of the Presence of Protected Species

Where physical evidence of the presence of protected species is indeterminate during the survey, the habitats on site are evaluated as to their likelihood to provide sheltering, roosting, foraging, basking or nesting habitat.

Where this report supports a planning application, the ecological interest of the study area (i.e. the area covered by the desk study and field survey) and the proposed development has also been evaluated in terms of the planning policies relating to biodiversity.

4.2 Evaluation

Taking the desk study and field survey results into account, Table 7 presents an evaluation of the ecological value of the site and also details any ecological constraints identified in relation to the proposed development which will comprise the demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement dwelling, including the removal of 2 trees.

Table 7: Evaluation of the site and any ecological constraints

Feature	Survey Results Summary	Impact Assessment	Recommendations	Biodiversity Enhancement Opportunities ¹
Designated sites	There are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the site. The site lies within the impact risk zone for Pye Flatts Meadows SSSI. However, the proposed development type is not listed as a possible high risk with regard to this designation.	No impacts to designated sites are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such sites.	None.	None.

¹ The Local Planning Authority has a duty to ask for enhancements under the NPPF (2021).

	Two non-statutory designated sites were identified within a 2km radius of the site, the closest being Daking Brook Local Wildlife Site located 400m from site.			
Habitats and flora	Habitats within the site are common and widespread and have low ecological value. A number of non-native ornamental shrubs were identified on the site, some of which are listed as an invasive, non-native species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.	No impacts to any notable habitats are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such habitats as well as the urban location of the site with surrounding physical barriers. Construction could result in the spread of non-native invasive species.	Invasive Non-native species should be dug up, including roots, and disposed of in line with appropriate controlled waste measures.	None.
Amphibians	The site largely contains unsuitable habitat for amphibians due to the presence of high levels of areas of hardstanding. In addition, the presence of the main roads and residential development directly adjacent to the site on the east, south and west boundaries is likely to reduce the likelihood of amphibians being present on the site. The agriculturally managed grassland field to the north of the site is subject to routine management and will further	No impacts are anticipated on amphibians as a result of the proposed development as this species is considered to be absent from the site.	None.	None.

	reduce the likelihood of amphibians utilising the site.			
Reptiles	The site largely contains unsuitable habitat for reptiles due to the presence of high levels of areas of hardstanding. Due to the sites location and presence of significant barriers around the site, reptiles are considered to be absent from the site.	No impacts are anticipated on reptiles as a result of the proposed development.	None.	None.
Roosting bats (building B1)	Building B1 has negligible value for roosting bats due to a lack of potential roost features.	Bats are very unlikely to be roosting within this building and as such, there are not anticipated to be any impacts on roosting bats as a result of the demolition of this building.	In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.	The installation of one bat box at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats. Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light. The bat boxes will be a specification suitable for building dwelling bats, such as Schwegler 3FE, or a similar alternative brand. This can be secured through an appropriately worded planning condition.

Foraging and commuting bats	There are no habitats on the site which could be used by bats for foraging or commuting.	The proposed development will not result in the removal of any habitats which could be used by foraging or commuting bats.	None.	None.
Badger	No suitable habitat for badgers identified on or adjacent to the site.	No impacts are anticipated on badgers as a result of the proposed development.	None.	None.
Hazel dormouse	No suitable habitat for dormouse was identified on the site.	No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.	None.	None.
Hedgehog	The habitats on site are of suitability for shelter, foraging and hibernating hedgehog.	It is anticipated that the vegetated gardens will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.	A precautionary working method should be implemented during the works, including the following measures: - Any site clearance will be undertaken outside of the hedgehog hibernation season (November to March) insofar as is possible. - A toolbox talk will be given to contractors regarding the possible presence of hedgehogs at the site. - A pre-commencement inspection of the site will be undertaken for hedgehogs. - A staged approach will be adopted for vegetation clearance, whereby the vegetation will be strimmed to 30cm and left overnight to allow any hedgehogs to disperse. The vegetation can then be cleared to ground level and must be maintained at this level for the duration of construction to deter hedgehogs from the working area. - Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. - The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use.	None.

			Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. If any hedgehogs are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.	
Riparian Mammals	No watercourses or riparian habitats were noted on or directly adjacent to the site. Riparian mammals are considered likely absent from site.	No impacts are anticipated on riparian mammals as a result of the proposed development.	None.	None.
Birds	No evidence of nesting bird was noted during the site visit however the boundary trees and scrub on site are likely to provide suitable nesting habitat. The site is considered to be unsuitable for Schedule 1 species.	The trees and scrub will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local bird populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, the proposed development could result in the destruction or the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests.	Works should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August. If this timeframe cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the woodland should be undertaken immediately, by qualified ecologist, prior to the commencement of work. All active nests will need to be retained until the young have fledged.	The installation of two bird boxes at the site will provide additional nesting habitat for birds. The bird boxes will be installed on the new building. WoodStone Build-in Open Nest Box or suitable alternative should be positioned 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight.
Invertebrates	The habitats on site are common and widespread and unlikely to support rarer invertebrate species. Overall, the site is considered unlikely to support large communities or notable species of	No impacts are anticipated on notable species or populations of invertebrates as a result of the proposed development.	None.	None.

	invertebrates due to its poor habitat diversity.			
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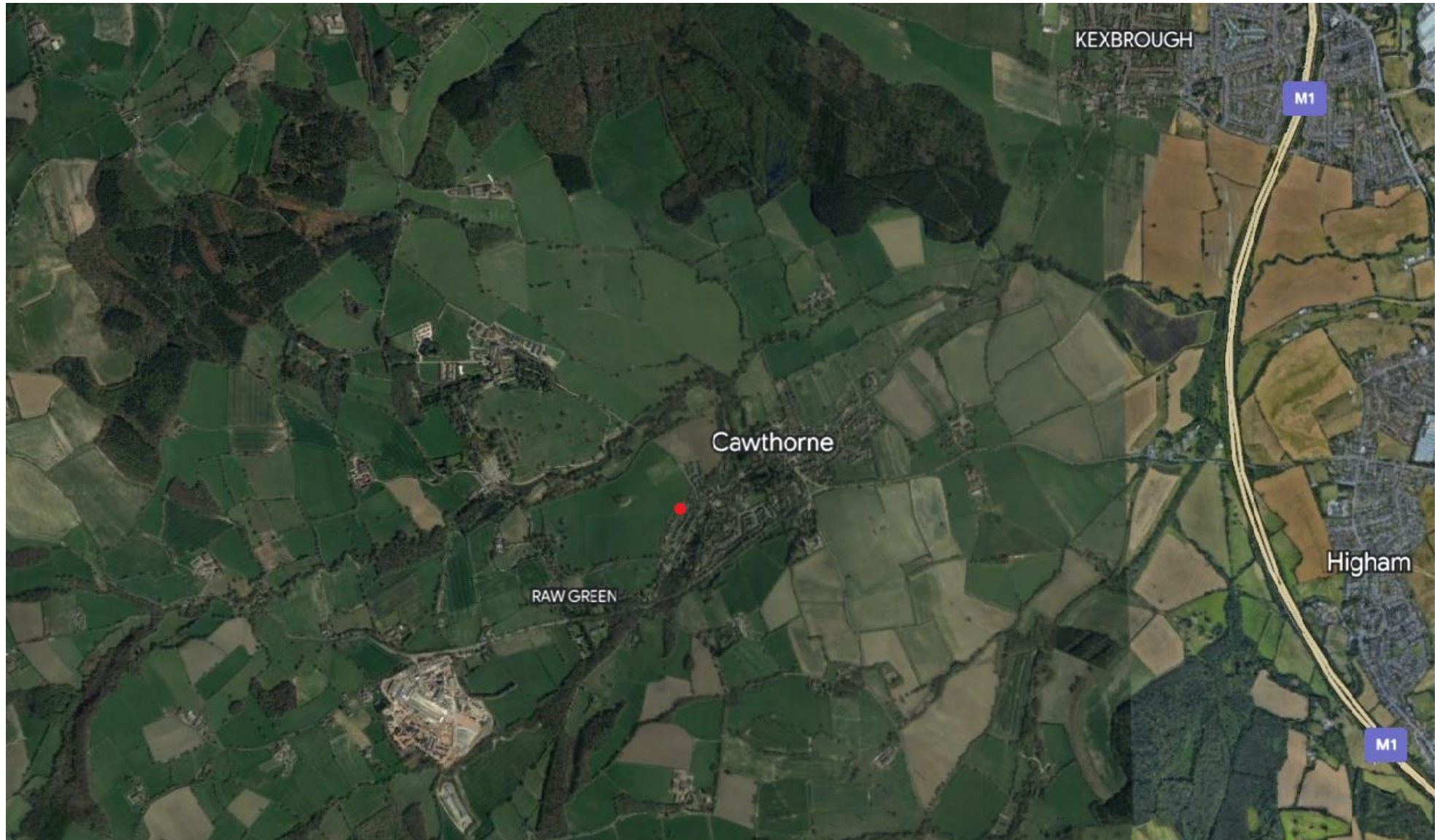
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Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan



Appendix 2: Site Location Plan



● Site Location

1:25,000

Appendix 3: Habitat Survey Plan



Appendix 4: Legislation and Planning Policy

LEGAL PROTECTION

National and European Legislation Afforded to Habitats

International Statutory Designations

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are sites of European importance and are designated under the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) and the EC Birds Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Wild Birds Directive) respectively. Both form part of the wider Natura 2000 network across Europe.

Under the Habitats Directive Article 3 requires the establishment of a network of important conservation sites (SACs) across Europe. Over 1000 animal and plant species, as well as 200 habitat types, listed in the directive's annexes are protected in various ways:

Annex II species (about 900): core areas of their habitat are designated as Sites of Community importance (SCIs) and included in the Natura 2000 network. These sites must be managed in accordance with the ecological needs of the species.

Annex IV species (over 400, including many Annex II species): a strict protection regime must be applied across their entire natural range, both within and outside Natura 2000 sites.

Annex V species (over 90): their exploitation and taking in the wild is compatible with maintaining them in a favourable conservation status.

SPAs are classified under Article 2 of the Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds both for rare bird species (as listed on Annex I) and for important migratory species.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) form the legal basis for the implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives in terrestrial areas and territorial waters out to 12 nautical miles in England and Wales (including the inshore marine area) and to a limited extent in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and recognises the importance of wetland ecosystems in relation to global biodiversity conservation. The Convention refers to wetlands as “*areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres*”. However, they may also include riparian and coastal zones. Ramsar sites are statutorily protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended 01.04.1996) with further protection provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Policy statements have been issued by the Government in England and Wales highlighting the special status of Ramsar sites. The Government in England and Wales has issued policy statements which ensure that Ramsar sites are afforded the same protection as areas designated under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives as part of the Natura 2000 network (e.g. SACs & SPAs). Further provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs have been introduced by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

National Statutory Designations

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are designated by nature conservation agencies in order to conserve key flora, fauna, geological or physio-geographical features within the UK. The original designations were under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 but SSSIs were then re-designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As well as reinforcing other national designations (including National Nature Reserves), the system also provides statutory protection for terrestrial and coastal sites which are important within the European Natura 2000 network and globally.

Local Statutory Designations

Local authorities in consultation with the relevant nature conservation agency can declare Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. LNRs are designated for flora, fauna or geological interest and are managed locally to retain these features and provide research, education and recreational opportunities.

Non- Statutory Designations

All non-statutorily designated sites are referred to as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and can be designated by the local authority for supporting local conservation interest. Combined with statutory designation, these sites are considered within Local Development Frameworks under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration during the determination of planning applications. The protection afforded to these sites varies depending on the local authority involved.

Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGs) are the most important geological and geomorphological areas outside of statutory designations. These sites are also a material consideration during the determination of planning applications.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 are designed to protect 'important' countryside hedgerows. Importance is defined by whether the hedgerow (a) has existed for 30 years or more; or (b) satisfies at least one of the criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

Under the Regulations, it is against the law to remove or destroy hedgerows on or adjacent to common land, village greens, SSSIs (including all terrestrial SACs, NNRs and SPAs), LNRs, land used for agriculture or forestry and land used for the keeping or breeding of horses, ponies or donkeys without the permission of the local authority. Hedgerows 'within or marking the boundary of the curtilage of a dwelling-house' are excluded.

National and European Legislation Afforded to Species***The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)***

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) aims to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring the Secretary of State to take measures to maintain or restore wild species listed within the Regulations at a favourable conservation status.

The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities. Licenses may be granted for a number of purposes (such as science and education, conservation, preserving public health and safety), but only after the appropriate authority is satisfied that there are no satisfactory alternatives and that such actions will have no detrimental effect on wild population of the species concerned.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention 1979, implemented 1982) and implements the species protection requirements of EC Birds Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds in Great Britain (the birds Directive). The WCA 1981 has been subject to a number of amendments, the most important of which are through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000).

Other legislative Acts affording protection to wildlife and their habitats include:

- Deer Act 1991
- Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

Badgers

Badgers *Meles meles* are protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 which makes it an offence to:

- Wilfully kill, injure, take, or attempt to kill, injure or take a badger
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger, including use of tongs and digging
- Possess or control a dead badger or any part thereof
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett or any part thereof

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a badger when it is occupying a badger sett
- Intentionally or recklessly cause a dog to enter a badger sett
- Sell or offers for sale, possesses or has under his control, a live badger

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

A development licence will be required from the relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England) for any development works likely to affect an active badger sett, or to disturb badgers whilst they occupy a sett. Guidance has been issued by the countryside agencies to define what would constitute a licensable activity. It is no possible to obtain a licence to translocate badgers.

Birds

With certain exceptions, all birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Sections 1-8 of the WCA. Among other things, this makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built
- Intentionally take or destroy an egg of any wild bird
- Sell, offer or expose for sale, have in his possession or transport for the purpose of sale any wild bird (dead or alive) or bird egg or part thereof.

Certain species of bird, for example the barn owl, bittern and kingfisher receive additional protection under Schedule 1 of the WCA and are commonly referred to as “Schedule 1” birds.

This affords them protection against:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young
- Intentional or reckless disturbance of dependent young of such a bird

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Works should be planned to avoid the possibility of killing or injuring any wild bird or damaging or destroying their nests. The most effective way to reduce the likelihood of nest destruction in particular is to undertake work outside the main bird nesting season which typically runs from March to August. Where this is not feasible, it will be necessary to have any areas of suitable habitat thoroughly checked for nests prior to vegetation clearance.

Schedule 1 birds are additionally protected against disturbance during the nesting season. Thus, it will be necessary to ensure that no potentially disturbing works are undertaken in the vicinity of the nest. The most effective way to avoid disturbance is to postpone works until the young have fledged. If this is not feasible, it may be possible to maintain an appropriate buffer zone or standoff around the nest.

Amphibians and Reptiles

The sand lizard *Lacerta agilis*, smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*, natterjack toad *Epidalea calamita*, pool frog *Pelophylax lessonae* and great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* receive full protection under Habitats Regulations through their inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species
- Deliberate disturbance of species in such a way as:
 - To impair their ability to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;
 - To impair their ability to hibernate or migrate
 - To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

With the exception of the pool frog, these species are also listed on Schedule 5 of the WCA and they are additionally protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.

Other native species of reptiles are protected solely under Schedule 5, Section 9(1) & (5) of the WCA, i.e. the adder *Vipera berus*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*. It is prohibited to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill or injure these species.

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) issued by the relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England) will be required for works likely to affect the breeding sites or resting places amphibian and reptile species protected under Habitats Regulations. A licence will also be required for operations liable to result in a level of disturbance

which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, rear young and hibernate). The licences are to allow derogation from the relevant legislation, but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficacy to be monitored.

Although not licensable, appropriate mitigation measures may also be required to prevent the intentional killing or injury of adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm, thus avoiding contravention of the WCA.

Water Voles

The water vole *Arvicola terrestris* is fully protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA. This makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take (capture) water voles
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb water voles while they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

If development works are likely to affect habitats known to support water voles, the relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England) must be consulted. It must be shown that means by which the proposal can be re-designed to avoid contravening the legislation have been fully explored e.g. the use of alternative sites, appropriate timing of works to avoid times of the year in which water voles are most vulnerable, and measures to ensure minimal habitat loss. Conservation licences for the capture and translocation of water voles may be issued by the relevant countryside agency for the purpose of development activities if it can be shown that the activity has been properly planned and executed and thereby contributes to the conservation of the population. The licence will then only be granted to a suitably experienced person if it can be shown that adequate surveys have been undertaken to inform appropriate mitigation measures. Identification and preparation of a suitable receptor site will be necessary prior to the commencement of works.

Otters

Otters *Lutra lutra* are fully protected under the Conservation Regulations through their inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species
- Deliberate disturbance of species in such a way as:
 - To impair their ability to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;
 - To impair their ability to hibernate or migrate
 - To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species

- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

Otters are also currently protected under the WCA through their inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) issued by the relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England) will be required for works likely to affect otter breeding or resting places (often referred to as holts, couches or dens) or for operations likely to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, and rear young). The licence is to allow derogation from the relevant legislation but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficacy to be monitored

Bats

All species are fully protected by Habitats Regulations 2010 as they are listed on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species (e.g. All bats)
- Deliberate disturbance of bat species in such a way as:
 - To impair their ability to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;
 - To impair their ability to hibernate or migrate
 - To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

Bats are afforded the following additional protection through the WCA as they are included on Schedule 5:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) issued by the relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England) will be required for works are likely to affect a bat roost or an operation which are likely to result in an illegal level of disturbance to the species will require an EPSL. The licence is to allow derogation from the legislation through the application of appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring.

Hazel Dormice

Hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* are fully protected under Habitats Regulations through their inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species
- Deliberate disturbance of species in such a way as:
 - To impair their ability to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;
 - To impair their ability to hibernate or migrate
 - To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

Dormice are also protected under the WCA through their inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Works which are liable to affect a dormice habitat or an operation which are likely to result in an illegal level of disturbance to the species will require a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) issued by the relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England). The licence is to allow derogation from the legislation through the application of appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring.

White Clawed Crayfish

There is a considerable amount of legislation in place in an attempt to protect the White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. This species is listed under the European Union's (EU) Habitat and Species Directive and is listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). This makes it an offence to:

- Protected against intentional or reckless taking
- Protected against selling, offering or advertising for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

The relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England) will need to be consulted about development which could impact on a watercourse or wetland known to support white clawed crayfish. Conservation licences for the capture and translocation of crayfish can be issued if it can be shown that the activity has been properly planned and executed and thereby contributes to the conservation of the population. The licence will only be granted to a suitably experienced person if it can be shown that adequate surveys have been undertaken to inform appropriate mitigation measures. Identification and preparation of a suitable receptor site will be necessary prior to the commencement of the works.

Wild Mammals (Protection Act) 1996

All wild mammals are protected against intentional acts of cruelty under the above legislation. This makes it an offence to mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

To avoid possible contravention, due care and attention should be taken when carrying out works (for example operations near burrows or nests) with the potential to affect any wild mammal in this way, regardless of whether they are legally protected through other conservation legislation or not.

Legislation Afforded to Plants

With certain exceptions, all wild plants are protected under the WCA. This makes it an offence for an 'unauthorised' person to intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) uproot wild plants. An authorised person can be the owner of the land on which the action is taken, or anybody authorised by them.

Certain rare species of plant, for example some species of orchid, are also fully protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This prohibits any person from:

- Intentionally picking, uprooting or destruction of any wild Schedule 8 species
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, or possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale, any wild live or dead Schedule 8 plant species or part thereof
- In addition to the UK legislation outlined above, several plant species are fully protected under Schedule 5 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. These are species of European importance. Regulation 45 makes it an offence to:
 - Deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy a wild Schedule 5 species
 - Be in possession of, or control, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any wild live or dead Schedule 5 species or anything derived from such a plant.

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) will be required from the relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England) for works which are likely to affect species of plants listed on Schedule 5 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The licence is to allow derogation from the legislation through the application of appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring.

Invasive Species

Part II of Schedule 9 of the WCA lists non-native invasive plant species for which it is a criminal offence in England to plant or cause to grow in the wild due to their impact on native wildlife. Species included (but not limited to):

- Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
- Giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*
- Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

It is not an offence for plants listed in Part II of Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 to be present on the development site, however, it is an offence to cause them to spread. Therefore, if any of the species are present on site and construction activities may result in further spread (e.g. earthworks, vehicle movements) then it will be necessary to design and implement appropriate mitigation prior to construction commencing.

Injurious weeds

Under the Weeds Act 1959 any landowner or occupier may be required prevent the spread of certain 'injurious weeds' including (but not limited to):

- Spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*
- Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*
- Curled dock *Rumex crispus*
- Broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*
- Common ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

It is a criminal offence to fail to comply with a notice requiring such action to be taken. The Ragwort Control Act 2003 establishes a ragwort control code of practice as common ragwort is poisonous to horses and other livestock. This code provides best practice guidelines and is not legally binding.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY***Environment Act 2021***

The Environment Act 2021 (EA 2021) received Royal Assent on 9 November 2021 and is expected to become fully mandated within the next couple of years. The Act principally creates a post Brexit framework to protect and enhance the natural environment. Through amendments to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Act will require all planning permissions in England (subject to exemptions which is likely to include householder applications) to be granted subject to a new general pre-commencement condition that requires approval of a biodiversity net gain plan. This will ensure the delivery of a minimum of 10% measurable biodiversity net gain. The principal tool to calculate this will be the Defra Biodiversity 3.0 Metric. Works to enhance habitats can be carried out either onsite or offsite or through the purchase of 'biodiversity credits' from the Secretary of State. However, this flexibility may be removed (subject to regulations) if the onsite habitat is 'irreplaceable'. Both onsite and offsite enhancements must be maintained for at least 30 years after completion of a development (which period may be amended).

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

The National Planning Policy Framework promotes sustainable development. The Framework specifies the need for protection of designated sites and priority habitats and species. An emphasis is also made on the need for ecological infrastructure through protection, restoration and re-creation. The protection and recovery of priority species (considered likely to be those listed as species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006) is also listed as a requirement of planning policy.

In determining a planning application, planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by ensuring that: designated sites are protected from harm; there is appropriate mitigation or compensation where significant harm cannot be avoided; measurable gains in biodiversity in and around developments are incorporated; and planning permission is refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including aged or veteran trees and also ancient woodland.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the Biodiversity Duty

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'.

Section 41 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'. This list is intended to assist decision makers such as public bodies in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Act. Under the Act these habitats and species are regarded as a material consideration in determining planning applications. A developer must show that their protection has been adequately addressed within a development proposal.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY***Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019)***

The [local plan name] can be viewed here: [Local Plan \(barnsley.gov.uk\)](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/local-plan)

The following planning policies have implications in relation to biodiversity and the proposed development:

- Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity – Development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by protecting and improving habitats, species, sites of ecological value

Local BAP Name

The Barnsley BAP can be viewed here: [Barnsley LBAP Edition 2008 \(barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk\)](https://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/barnsley-lbap-edition-2008)

The following species could be present on the site or in the surrounding area (based on the site survey and a review of the magic.gov.uk database) and are included in the plan:

- Bats

EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES POLICIES

In December 2016 Natural England officially introduced the four licensing policies throughout England. The four policies seek to achieve better outcomes for European Protected Species (EPS) and reduce unnecessary costs, delays and uncertainty that can be inherent in the current standard EPS licensing system. The policies are summarised as follows:

- Policy 1; provides greater flexibility in exclusion and relocation activities, where there is investment in habitat provision;
- Policy 2; provides greater flexibility in the location of compensatory habitat;
- Policy 3; provides greater flexibility on exclusion measures where this will allow EPS to use temporary habitat; and,
- Policy 4; provides a reduced survey effort in circumstances where the impacts of development can be confidently predicted.

The four policies have been designed to have a net benefit for EPS by improving populations overall and not just protecting individuals within development sites. Most notably Natural England now recognises that the Habitats Regulations legal framework now applies to 'local populations' of EPS and not individuals/site populations.