Rob Frith & Associates Ltd
Consultant Ecologists

Croft Avenue, Barnsley

Code for Sustainable Homes Ecological Assessment Report

7 June 2010

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Notes	**This report contains sensitive information concerning protected species and caution should be exercised when copying and distributing to third parties.**	

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Rob Frith & Associates Ltd was commissioned in January 2010 by South Yorkshire Housing Association to carry out an Extended Phase 1 survey and to complete the ecological element of a Code for Sustainable Homes Assessment (CfSH) for a proposed housing development at Croft Avenue, Royston, South Yorkshire.

1.2. This report describes the findings of the field survey and considers the current ecological value of the site, the potential impacts arising from the proposed development and proposes appropriate mitigation measures.

1.3. This survey and report was completed by Rob Frith B.Sc, (Hons) CBiol MIBiol MIEEM, Managing Director of Rob Frith & Associates Limited. Rob Frith is a suitably qualified ecologist for the purposes of CfSH assessments having a Joint Honours Degree in Botany and Zoology and having worked as an ecological consultant for the last 16 years. Rob is also a Chartered Biologist and Member of the Society of Biology and full member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

2. SURVEY METHDOLOGIES

2.1. Desktop Study

2.1.1. A range of data sources were consulted to obtain ecological information about the study area and its immediate surroundings and included the following:

- Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website
- Natural England web site and online SSSI data
- The National Biodiversity Network on-line Biological Records Database.

2.2. Field Survey Methodologies

2.2.1. Extended Phase I Habitat Survey Methodology

2.2.1.1. During the site visit the whole of the development site was examined in detail and lists of all the plant species identified were compiled. Separate lists were produced for each habitat area identified. Detailed species lists are provided in the site descriptions.

2.2.1.2. The habitats within the study area were mapped according to the techniques described in the publication—Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey—published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee 2007.

2.2.1.3. Sufficient detail on the composition of the vegetation can be obtained from a Phase 1 Habitat Survey, which enables it to be characterised and assessed.

2.2.1.4. During the site visit notes were made of features of potential value to other groups such as birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates paying particular attention to protected species.

2.2.1.5. The locations of any populations of noxious or notifiable weeds were also noted during the field surveys.

2.2.2. Bat Survey

2.2.2.1. During the extended phase I habitat survey all trees present within the study area were examined from the ground (using binoculars where necessary)to look for features of potential value to roosting bats including woodpecker holes, ivy cover, lifted or flaking bark, rot holes and split limbs. Trees were also examined for any other evidence of occupation by bats such as staining, droppings and scratch marks.

2.2.2.2. The risk of trees or groups of trees to support roosting bats was assessed according to the criteria in table 1 below:

Table 1—Risk Assessment for Trees

Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
No cracks or crevices	Few small cracks and crevices	Woodpecker holes
No flaking bark	Deadwood in canopy or stem	Cracks/crevices
Low/no ivy cover	low ivy cover	Loose or flaking bark
Coniferous species	Small clusters of trees	Medium-dense ivy cover
Single isolated trees	Hedgerow Trees	Deadwood in canopy or stem
		Snagged branches
		Hollow core, stem or limb
		Hole between buttresses
		Woodland or woodland edge location

3. SURVEY RESULTS

3.1. Desk Top Survey Results

3.1.1. The development site is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations and the desktop study did not identify any protected species activity at the site.

3.2. Field Survey Results

3.2.1. The site was surveyed on 6 May 2010.

3.2.2. The site comprises a small area of coarse neutral grassland containing a single Wild cherry *(Prunus avium)* tree and is surrounded by residential development.

Photograph 1—Development site with single tree

3.2.3. A public footpath runs along the eastern boundary of the site and beyond this is an area of grassland containing a small number of young Ash *(Fraxinus excelsior)* trees along with some Hawthorn *(Crataegus monogyna)* and Blackthorn *(Prunus spinosa)* scrub. However these areas lie outside of the development site boundary.

3.2.4. The neutral grassland within the study area had been cut at the time of the survey and was heavily grass dominated with the main species being Perennial Rye-grass *(Lolium perenne)*, Red Fescue *(Festuca rubra)* and Yorkshire Fog *(Holcus lanatus)* along with less frequent Cock's-foot *(Dactylis glomerata)* and False Oat-grass *(Arrhenatherum elatius)*.

3.2.5. The most common broad-leaved species were White Clover *(Trifolium repens)*, Dandelion *(Taraxacum officinale agg.)* and Ribwort Plantain *(Plantago lanceolata)* along with less frequent Broad-leaved Dock *(Rumex obtusifolius)*, Common Ragwort *(Senecio jacobaea)* and Creeping Thistle *(Cirsium arvense)* all of which were associated with areas of disturbed sward.

3.2.6. The single tree within the study area was examined and contained no features such as cracks, fissures or rot-holes that could be of potential value to roosting bats.

3.2.7. Similarly the Ash trees adjacent to the site on the eastern boundary contained no features of potential value to roosting bats

3.2.8. No stands of Japanese Knotweed *(Fallopia japonica)* were recorded during the field survey within or immediately adjacent to the development site area.

4. EVALUATION OF SURVEY RESULTS

4.1. Evaluation Methodology

4.1.1. The thorough evaluation of the ecological importance of the features of a site is essential in order to assess the significance of the ecological effects of the development proposals.

4.1.2. The evaluation criteria are given in detail in Appendix 2. Their aim is to consider the habitats, communities and species present on site in relation to the following:

1. The legislative framework (e.g. the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the EC Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) for the presence of protected species and habitats).
2. Nature conservation designations, including national site designations (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves etc), local designations (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Local Nature Reserves, County Wildlife Sites etc).
3. Accepted criteria for species rarity and declining populations, and rarity of habitat types or communities, including species and habitats identified in the British Red Data Books, national biodiversity action plan, and species and habitats identified in regional or local biodiversity action plans where available.
4. Accepted criteria for overall site evaluation (including rarity, diversity, naturalness, historical factors and issues relating to landscape ecology).

4.2. Evaluation

4.2.1. The field survey work did not identify the presence of any plant species or habitats protected by law, or considered rare in the UK[1] or locally rare.

4.2.2. The site contains a small area of species poor unimproved neutral grassland which supports a limited range of common and widespread species typical of areas of neglected urban grasslands.

4.2.3. The single tree within the site was examined to assess its potential for supporting roosting bats and was considered to be low risk because it

[1] Rarity is defined in this report as:
Rare—species not recorded in more than 100 10 x 10km grid-squares in the British Isles.
Very Rare—species not found in more than 15 different 10 x 10 km grid-squares in the British Isles.
Very Rare and Endangered—These species are listed in the Schedule of Protected Wild Plants of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

does not contain any dead limbs, rot holes, cracks, fissures or dense Ivy *(Hedera helix)* growth.

4.2.4. For the purposes of the CfSH assessment the site is considered to be of low ecological value and no features of ecological value have been identified during the site visit.

4.3. Recommendations Regarding Development

4.3.1. The following recommendations are made with respect to the existing biodiversity interest of the site.

Table 2—Key Recommendations with Respect to Existing Biodiversity Interest

Key Recommendation	Rationale
All vegetation and site clearance should be carried out outside the bird nesting season (March – July inclusive).	To ensure that no wildlife offences are committed

4.3.1. Additional Recommendations

- There are no other areas of sufficient biodiversity interest to require protection in the development so there are no additional recommendations.

4.3.1.1. The following recommendations are made for any landscaping to be included in the proposals.

Table 3—Key Recommendations with Respect to the Proposed Landscaping

Key Recommendation	Rationale
Use native trees and shrubs typical of neutral lowland habitats in planting proposals	To promote biodiversity interest
Where exotic shrubs are proposed choose berry bearing species of known value for feeding birds and flowering species with good value to invertebrates as nectar sources	To increase wildlife value of ornamental planting areas

4.3.2. Additional Recommendations

- Consider the inclusion of a native hedgerow along the eastern boundary between the new development and the adjacent footpath existing to include Hawthorn *(Crataegus monogyna)*, Blackthorn *(Prunus spinosa)*, Hazel *(Corylus avellana)*, Holly *(Ilex aquifolium)* and Field Maple *(Acer campestre)*.
- Consider the inclusion of bird boxes on suitable structures.

5. ASSESSMENT TOWARDS CFSH ECOLOGY CRITERIA

5.1. Eco 1 Ecological Value of the Site

5.1.1. The aim is to encourage development on land that already has a limited value to wildlife, and discourage the development of ecologically valuable sites. One credit is available.

- The development site must be confirmed as land of inherently low ecological value by using either Checklist Eco 1 or is confirmed as such by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE); and
- any land of ecological value outside the construction zone but within the development site will remain undisturbed by the construction works.

5.1.2. This report confirms that the site is of low ecological value and that there is no land of ecological value outside the construction zone that requires protection. The surveyor is an SQE as explained in section 1.

Table 4—Eco 1—Ecological Value of the Site Credits

Eco 1—Ecological Value of the Site	
Credits Available	1
Potential Credits Gained	1

5.2. Eco2 Ecological Enhancement

5.2.1. The aim is to enhance the ecological value of the site. One credit is available:

- Where an SQE has been appointed to recommend appropriate ecological features that will positively enhance the ecology of the site; and
- Where the developer adopts all key recommendations and 30% of additional ones. No credits can be awarded where no ecological enhancement is proposed.
- In addition all UK and EU legislation regarding protected species and habitats must have been complied with.

5.2.2. Rob Frith & Associates Ltd has been appointed as ecological advisors for the proposed development.

5.2.3. The proposed layout is shown on drawing SK4 dated October 2009 and involves the removal of all surface material from the site and the construction of 6 residential properties with gardens and driveways.

5.2.4. The proposed landscaping will seek to utilise native species or species with an acknowledged value for wildlife (e.g., berries or nectar) wherever possible and therefore the key recommendations for landscaping are therefore considered at this stage to have been met.

5.2.5. No issues regarding UK and EU legislation regarding protected species and habitats will arise provided any removal of trees and shrubs takes place outside of the bird nesting season.

Table 5—Ecological Enhancement Credits

Eco 2—Ecological Enhancement	
Credits Available	1
Potential Credits Gained	1

5.3. Eco 3 Protection of Ecological Features

5.3.1. The aim is to protect existing ecological features from substantial damage during site clearance and construction works. One credit is available.

- Where all existing features of ecological value on the development site potentially affected by the works, are maintained and adequately protected during site clearance, preparation and construction works.
- The credit can be awarded by default where the site has been classified as *having low ecological value in accordance with Eco 1 – Ecological Value of the Site* AND *no features of ecological value have been identified.*

5.3.2. Overall, the site has been classified as having low ecological value supporting a limited range of common and widespread species.

5.3.3. No features of ecological value considered worthy of protection have been identified.

5.3.4. One credit is achievable.

Table 6—Protection of Ecological Features Credits

Eco 3—Protection of Ecological Features	
Credits Available	1
Potential Credits Gained	1

5.4. Eco 4 Change in Ecological Value of the Site

5.4.1. The aim is to reward steps taken to minimise reductions and to encourage an improvement in ecological value. Four credits are available.

5.4.2. The ecological value before and after development is measured, and the credits available are assessed with regard to the overall change in species per hectare as described in table 6 below:

Table 7—Credits Available for Ecological Change

Ecological Change	Criteria for change (species/area(m^2))	Credits
Minor negative change	between –9 and –3	1
Neutral	between –3 and +3	2
Minor enhancement	between +3 and +9	3
Major enhancement	greater than +9	4

5.4.3. The site currently consists of approximately 969m^2 of neutral grassland supporting 21 native species. Using species values obtained from table Cat 9.3 for fertile urban grassland the ecological value of the current site is:

Table 8—Ecological Value of Site before Development

Plot Type	Area of Plot (m^2)		Number of Species		Species x Area for plot type
Neutral Grassland	969	X	11.6	=	11240.4
(1) Total Site Area	969		11.6	(2) Total	11240.4
Species before Development					*11.6*
Total species x area of plot type/total site area = (2)/(1) =					11.6

5.4.4. After development the site will consist of 6 new residential properties with gardens and driveways with approximately 60% (581.4m^2) of the site area comprising buildings and hard surfaces and the gardens accounting for the other 60% (387.6m^2). The ecological value will be:

Table 9—Ecological Value of Site after Development

Plot Type	Area of Plot (m^2)		Number of Species		Species x Area for plot type
Landscaping and gardens	387.6	X	7	=	2713.2
Buildings and hard surfaces	581.4	x	0	=	0
(1) Total Site Area	969		7	(2) Total	2713.2
Species after Development					7
Total species x area of plot type/total site area = (2)/(1) =					2.80

5.4.5. The ecological change on development is therefore:

Species Before Development	Species After development	Change in species
11.60	2.80	-8.80

Table 10—Protection of Ecological Features Credits

Eco 4— Change in Ecological Value of the Site	
Credits Available	4
Potential Credits Gained	1

5.5. Summary of Ecological Credits

Table 11—Ecological Credits Summary Table

Criteria	Available Credits	Potentially Achievable Credits
ECO 1	1	1
ECO 2	1	1
ECO 3	1	1
ECO 4	4	1
Total potential credits	**7**	**4**

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Code for Sustainable Homes Technical Guidance Manual **BREEAM**

Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995) Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment **First Edition, E & FN Spon, London.**

Joint Nature Conservation Committee Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (1993)

Stace, C.A., (1995) New flora of the British Isles. **First Edition Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.**

7. Appendix 1—Species lists

Scientific Name	Common Name
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot
Festuca rubra	Red Fescue
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog
Lamium purpureum	Red Dead-nettle
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
Prunus avium	Wild Cherry
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup
Reseda luteola	Weld
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort
Taraxacum officinale agg.	Dandelion
Trifolium repens	White Clover
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch
Number of Native Species	**21**

*** Denotes species not native**

8. Appendix 2—Evaluation Criteria

8.1. Guidelines for ecological evaluation and the assessment of impacts have been published by Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995) and the Institute of Ecology and environmental Management (Regini 2000 and IEEM 2002).

8.1. Legislative Framework

8.1.1. Species, communities or habitats receiving legal protection under UK or EC law have high importance on national (and international) scales.

8.1.2. Species with special protection under UK law are listed on the schedules of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and amendments. The act also gives rise to statutory site designations i.e. National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Areas of Special Protection for Birds, and orders e.g. Limestone Pavement Orders.

8.1.3. Species, communities or habitats requiring protection under EC law are listed on schedules I and II (whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation), IV (species in need of strict protection) and V (species whose exploitation may be subject to management measures) of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC). The enabling legislation for the UK is the Conservation (Natural Habitat, &c) Regulations 1994. Species may also be scheduled under Appendix 1 of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Heritage 1979 (Bern Convention).

8.1.4. Other sites of international importance designated under international obligations include Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme), Ramsar Sites (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Wildfowl Habitat 1971) and Special Protection Areas (EC Wild Birds Directive 79/409).

8.2. UK Site Designations

8.2.1. Sites of national importance include the statutorily designated Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs).

8.2.2. Lower levels of importance attach to locally designated sites such as those non-statutory site designations applied by Local Authorities or Wildlife Trusts e.g. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's or equivalent) or Local Nature Reserves designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Such sites may be considered to be of High Local Importance i.e. important at the county or metropolitan level (Regini 2000).

8.3. Rarity of Species and Habitats

8.3.1. The British Red Data Book for vascular plants (Perring and Farrell 1983) lists 317 species or subspecies as extinct, endangered, vulnerable and rare. Nationally rare species are defined as occurring in 1-15 10km squares of the national grid in Britain, nationally scarce species occurring in 16 - 100 10km squares. The presence of a breeding population of any nationally rare species is of national importance whereas a breeding population of a nationally scarce species is of regional importance. Assemblages of 2 or more species may increase the importance of a site further.

8.3.2. Regional rarities are defined as occurring in 15 or fewer localities or 1km squares in a former Nature Conservancy Council region (NCC 1989).

8.3.3. Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report contains a "Long List" of key species in the UK that fall into 1 or more of the following categories: threatened endemics or globally threatened; where the UK holds greater than 25% of the world population; where numbers or range have declined by more than 25% in the last 25 years; nationally rare species; and statutorily protected species. Presence of viable populations of such species may be of high importance.

8.3.4. County floras and biodiversity action plans, or district action plans may identify species that are rare at the county or district level. Viable populations will therefore have conservation importance in these contexts.

8.3.5. Further information on species rarity may be found in Scarce Plants in Britain (Stewart et al 1994), the Atlas of the British Flora (Perring and Walters 1962) and subsequent revisions and the New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (Preston et al 2002).

8.3.6. Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report has identified a number of key habitats under the following criteria: those for which the UK has international obligations; rare habitats or those with high rates of decline; functionally critical habitats (marine areas); and habitats that are important for key species. Sites containing good examples of viable areas of any key habitat may be considered nationally important.

8.3.7. Importance may be attached to plant community types defined in the National Vegetation Classification (Rodwell 1991 etc) that are also described as rare, declining or with restricted distributions or are identified as being of particular botanical importance (NCC 1989).

8.4. Criteria for Overall Site Evaluation

8.4.1. The accepted criteria for site evaluation are set out by Ratcliffe (1977) in a Nature Conservation Review and are also explained in Guidelines for the Selection of Biological SSSI's (NCC 1989). The principal criteria are briefly outlined below:

8.4.2. **Naturalness.** Truly natural habitats are valued highly but are rare in Britain and most sites are modified and semi-natural at best. Physical habitat modifications vary greatly in their impact, some being beneficial whilst others are harmful. A greater degree of conformity of a particular community or site with semi-natural rather than highly modified vegetation types in the National Vegetation Classification and the absence of species indicating disturbance are likely to lead to attachment of higher importance. However, note that communities that appear to be intermediate between semi-natural NVC types are not necessarily of lesser quality.

Size. The area of a site or habitat judged to be viable varies greatly between different habitat types and with factors such as the condition of the habitat, the shape of the habitat area and surrounding land use. In addition, the territorial requirements of particular species within the site/habitat and habitat management factors may need consideration.

In general, larger sites or areas of habitat tend to be valued more highly because of the greater population sizes and hence more robust populations of the species within them; the potential for increased site or habitat diversity and hence greater species-richness over a larger area; and a reduced importance of edge effects (pollution drift, habitat degradation/change for other reasons at the site edge) if the site is block rather than ribbon shaped. Small sites become increasingly important in areas of little semi-natural habitat.

Rarity. Criteria for rarity of species and habitats are outlined above. The scarcer the habitat or species then the higher the level of importance attached.

Diversity. Diversity tends to be valued positively as it increases. At the phytosociological level, some habitats are more species-rich than others and so have a higher value, provided that the richness does not involve non-native species. Some plant communities are intrinsically more species-rich than others so comparisons should only be made between the same community type.

The standard of floristic diversity is guided by the floristic tables within the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) (Rodwell 1991 etc). A community having more than 75% of the total plant species list for its type in the NVC would be rated very highly. Diversity of different communities within a vegetation formation (e.g. woodland) may also be rated highly as may structural diversity (e.g. rides, glades and differing age structures or canopy layering in woodland). Habitat diversity across a site may also increase its importance.

Fragility. Fragility is a measure of the intrinsic sensitivity of nearly all natural and semi-natural habitats and species to human impact. It is the fragility of such habitats and species which causes them to be more highly valued than any of the artificial substitutes which replace them through human activity; and the greater their fragility the greater their value. *Fragility is therefore* clearly related irreplaceability or non-recreatability. Re-creation of habitats that have taken centuries to develop, sometimes with centuries of traditional management, is impossible to the full extent of their former complexity.

Typicalness. Typicalness is an indication of how characteristic the features of a site are compared to its particular ecosystem. It is intended as a guard against designation of those sites with unusual features as being always the most important.

Position in an Ecological/Geographical Unit. This is a landscape ecological criteria designed to identify sites or habitats which may be important to maintaining the viability of a larger group thereof; or which is essential in maintaining the population of a species with a large territory spanning several sites; or is one of a number of sites important to a metapopulation of a species in fragmented landscapes; or may be important in a wildlife corridor or network of habitat patches.

8.5. Amenity Value

8.5.1. The amenity value of a site in ecological terms is generally seen as its value for the study or quiet enjoyment of wildlife. Sites with high intrinsic appeal and good access are therefore regarded as important in this context. Also important are issues such as site safety, proximity to schools and population centres and site management difficulties. Less emphasis is placed on the criteria outlined in section 9.1.4 in such situations.

8.6. Ecological Importance Summary Table

8.6.1. The following table has slightly modified from Regini (2000). Its definitions are adopted in this report. Where species, habitats or sites occur in more than one category, the highest level of importance is applicable. Sites that meet the criteria for a particular designation are afforded the level of importance corresponding to that designation whether or not they are actually designated.

Table 12—Ecological Importance Summary Table

Level of Value	Examples
International	An internationally designated site or candidate site (SPA, pSPA, SAC, cSAC, pSAC , Ramsar site, Biogenetic Reserve). A viable area of a habitat type listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK. i.e. it is a UK Red Data Book species or listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (categories 1 and 2 in the UK BAP) or of uncertain conservation status or of global conservation concern in the UK BAP. A regularly occurring, nationally significant population of any internationally important species. *Also a regularly occurring and nationally significant number of an internationally important species during a* critical phase of its life cycle.
National	A nationally designated site (SSSI, ASSI, NNR, Marine Nature Reserve) or a discrete area, which meets the published selection criteria for national designation (e.g. SSSI selection guidelines). A viable area of a priority habitat identified in the UK BAP, or of smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species which is threatened or rare in the region or county (see local BAP). A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant population of any nationally important species. Also a regularly occurring and regionally or county significant number of a nationally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.
Regional	Viable areas of key habitat identified in the Regional BAP or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole; Viable areas of key habitat identified as being of Regional value in the appropriate Natural Area profile; Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species listed as being nationally scarce which occurs in 16-100 10km squares in the UK or in a Regional BAP or relevant Natural Area on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle; Sites which exceed the County-level designations but fall short of SSSI selection guidelines, where these occur.
County / Metropolitan	Semi-natural ancient woodland greater than 0.25 ha; County/Metropolitan sites and other sites which meet the published ecological selection criteria for designation, including Local Nature Reserves selected on County / metropolitan; A viable area of habitat identified in County BAP; Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a County/Metropolitan "red data book" or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a County/Metropolitan important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.

Level of Value	Examples
District / Borough	Semi-natural ancient woodland smaller than 0.25 ha; Areas of habitat identified in a sub-County (District/Borough) BAP or in the relevant Natural Area profile; Local Nature Reserves selected on District/ Borough criteria Sites/features that are scarce within the District/Borough or which appreciably enrich the District/Borough habitat resource; A diverse and/ or ecologically valuable hedgerow network; A population of a species that is listed in a District/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a District / Borough important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.
Parish / Neighbourhood	Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the context of the Parish or neighbourhood, e.g. species-rich hedgerows. Local Nature Reserves selected on Parish criteria.
Negligible	Low grade, widespread and common habitats.