

Protected Species Walkover Survey

Windlesham Plant Centre

Church Road Windlesham Nr Bagshot Surrey GU20 6BL

Nicky Williamson

19-027-WA 29th July 2019

AEWC Ltd Birch Walk, Lower Street, Fittleworth, West Sussex, RH20 1JE Tel:08452 505585, info@aewc.co.uk , www.aewc.co.uk

Contents

Su	mmary	2
1.	Introduction	3
2.	Background	3
3.	Methods	5
4.	Constraints/Limitations	6
5	Results	7
5.	Conclusions & Recommendations	13
Ap	pendix 1 – Survey timetable	16
Ap	pendix 2 – Legal protection	17
Re	ferences	20
Fig	gure 1: Showing the site location	4
_	gure 2: Aerial view of the site showing the site boundary	
Fig	gure 3: Ponds within 500m	10

Author	Nicky Williamson
Authorised by	Daniel Whitby
Report and version number	19-027-WA-v1
Survey Date	18 th July 2019

Summary

- AEWC Ltd were commissioned by Bell Cornwell on behalf of their client to undertake a Protected Species Walkover Survey at Windlesham Plant Centre, Church Road, Windlesham, nr Bagshot, Surrey, GU20 6BL (at central grid reference SU 932 636) to help inform the proposed development of the site.
- This report details the results of the survey, which was carried out on the 18th July 2019 by Nicky Williamson MCIEEM, to assess the site for the potential presence of any protected species or species of conservation concern and identify habitats of conservation importance.
- The site is approximately 0.3ha and comprises of buildings, polytunnels and stalls associated with the use of the site as a plant centre. There is also a tarmac drive, gravelled parking area, area of grass and fruit trees. The boundaries of the site are generally defined by hedgerows (both native and introduced species). The proposed development plan is for the redevelopment of the site to residential dwelling.
- The survey did not identify any evidence of badgers on the site; however, mammal foraging signs were found, and the wider area was not surveyed. Therefore, a site check for badgers immediately prior to works is recommended.
- Lighting on boundary hedgerows should be avoided or kept to the minimum necessary, and preferably on a motion sensor to reduce lighting time.
- Vegetation or tree removal must be undertaken outside the breeding bird period from March to August. No vegetation can be cleared whilst a nest is occupied, regardless of species.
- There is potential for the native mixed species hedgerows along the northern and southern boundaries of the site to support hazel dormouse. It is likely that these would be retained and, as such, no further survey is required.
- If any hedgerows are to be removed or the current access widened, this should be discussed with an ecologist as further survey for hazel dormouse may be necessary.
- To prevent reptiles colonising the site any areas of suitable vegetation should be gradually cut down
 and maintained as a short sward to discourage movement of reptiles into the site. A lack of site
 management this may result in a reptile survey being required in future.
- To retain habitat for SPI species such as the west European hedgehog, it is recommended that any
 vegetation be cleared sensitively, any close board fencing be fitted to allow hedgehogs to pass
 underneath and some habitat areas be left un-landscaped.
- The hedgerows along the northern and southern boundaries are Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) and therefore must be retained.
- The 'orchard' area may also be an HPI so any plans would ideally retain this area within the design.

This report has been prepared by AEWC Limited, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with the client. We disclaim any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of the above. This report is confidential to the client and we accept no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

The information and data which has been prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal' and 'Code of Professional Conduct' issued by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 AEWC Ltd were commissioned by Bell Cornwell on behalf of their client to undertake a Protected Species Walkover Survey at Windlesham Plant Centre, Church Road, Windlesham, nr Bagshot, Surrey, GU20 6BL to help inform the proposed development of the site.
- 1.2 This survey comprised an ecological walkover survey for all protected wildlife and species of conservation importance, including habitats, and was carried out by a qualified ecologist Nicky Williamson MCIEEM on the 18th July 2019.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to give an assessment as to the presence or potential presence of any protected species, ecological issues and impacts that would be generated by the proposed development and identifies recommendations or further surveys that may be necessary.

2. Background

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located at Windlesham Plant Centre, Church Road, Windlesham, nr Bagshot, Surrey, GU20 6BL at central grid reference SU 932 636. See Figure 1.
- 2.2 The site is located on the outskirts of Windlesham village, approximately 1.5km east of Bagshot and 0.6km north of the M3. The surrounding landscape comprises of a semi-rural location with fields and low-density housing immediately within the vicinity of the site, there are more residential dwellings approximately 15m to the east towards the centre of the village. See Figure 2.
- 2.3 The site is approximately 0.3ha and comprises of buildings, polytunnels and stalls associated with the use of the site as a plant centre. There is also a tarmac drive, gravelled parking area, area of grass and fruit trees. The boundaries of the site are generally defined by hedgerows (both native and introduced species).
- 2.4 The proposed development plan is for the redevelopment of the site to residential dwelling. At this stage the exact plans for the design of the any development are not known.



FIGURE 1: SHOWING THE SITE LOCATION



FIGURE 2: AERIAL VIEW OF THE SITE SHOWING THE SITE BOUNDARY

Methods

- 3.1 A daytime ecological walkover assessment was carried out on the 18th July 2019 to evaluate the site for its potential to support protected species in addition to other species of conservation importance that could be relevant in respect of planning policies.
- 3.2 An assessment was made of habitat suitability in and around the site for those protected species that occur in the region. Obvious signs and incidental sightings of protected species are noted when encountered, but walkover surveys do not usually confirm species presence or absence.
- 3.3 Taking into consideration the geographical region and habitat type, species that could be encountered are:
 - badger;
 - bats;
 - breeding birds;
 - · great crested newt;
 - · hazel dormice:
 - reptiles;
 - · other mammals; and
 - other Species of Principal Importance (SPI)
- 3.4 In addition, observations of any invasive species, important plant communities, plant species of note, Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) or other valuable ecological features will be recorded and detailed.
- 3.5 Details of the initial survey method for each species are given below.
- 3.6 **Badger** an initial assessment was carried out to identify areas that might be used by badgers (*Meles meles*). Signs of badgers including setts, incidental foraging signs, runs, hairs and latrines are recorded if encountered during the survey. Where possible the area within 30m of the site is also searched for badger setts.
- 3.7 Bats The site was assessed for bat roosting potential and the surrounding area was assessed for the suitability of the habitat to support bats. Any buildings were examined and assessed for evidence of bats, such as rub marks, staining or droppings or for features that have good potential to be used by bats, such as loft voids, raised tiles, hanging tiles, gaps in soffits and lead flashing cracks, crevices and mortise joints.
- 3.8 Trees were assessed for their potential to be used by bats such as woodpecker holes, splits, cracks and crevices or loose bark plates which can be used as roost features by bats. Such features are noted and examined by using equipment such as a high-powered torch and binoculars, in order to determine their suitability for bats.
- 3.9 **Breeding Birds** habitats were assessed for their suitability for nesting birds. This would centre on birds that favour hedgerows, areas of longer grassland, scrub, trees as well as buildings.

- 3.10 **Great Crested Newt** initial surveys centre on identifying suitable habitat within the site. If breeding ponds are present within the locality then great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) could potentially be using the terrestrial habitat on the site. Maps are used to identify any ponds (that are not isolated by unsuitable habitat or physical barriers) within 500 metres of the site. A Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) is used to quantifiably assess whether a pond is suitable, this is undertaken for any onsite ponds during the walkover survey.
- 3.11 Hazel Dormice scrub and areas of dense vegetation are assessed for their suitability for foraging and nesting hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Favoured berry and nut bearing species such as hawthorn, hazel and bramble were looked for in particular. Additionally, the connectivity of this habitat and to suitable habitat beyond the site is also assessed. If hazel nuts are present a brief search for nuts that have been chewed by hazel dormouse (i.e. displaying the characteristic smooth round hole) was conducted.
- 3.12 **Reptiles** the site was assessed for habitat suitable for reptiles, such as long grassland and areas of scrub, with particular attention paid to those features that provide suitable basking areas (e.g. south-facing slopes and walls), hibernation sites (e.g. banks, log piles and piles of rotting vegetation) and opportunities for foraging (e.g. rough grassland and scrub).
- 3.13 **Other mammals** any signs of occupancy by other mammals (e.g. Rabbit warrens) are recorded.
- 3.14 Other Species of Principal Importance (SPI) the habitats present on site were assessed for the likelihood of presence for species of regional and national importance.
- 3.15 **Invasive species** Any invasive plant or animal species identified during the site walkover are recorded.
- 3.16 **Plant species of note** Any plant species of conservation concern found on the site are recorded.
- **3.17 Habitats of Principal Importance** Habitats of Principal Importance within or adjacent to the site (such as arable field margins, traditional orchards, ponds, rivers, wet woodlands) are recorded.
- 3.18 Other valuable ecological features Other ecological features e.g. ancient woodland, veteran trees, bird feeding stations, habitat enhancements etc. within or adjacent to the site are recorded.

4. Constraints/Limitations

4.1 An initial site assessment such as this is only able to act as a snapshot to record any flora or fauna that is present at the time of the survey. It is therefore possible that some species may not have been present during the survey but may be evident at other times of the year. For this reason, habitats are assessed for their potential to support some species, even where no direct evidence (such as droppings) has been found.

5 Results

Badger

- 4.2 No badger setts were identified present on site. No evidence of badger activity such as latrines, tracks or guard hairs were observed on the site. The wider area within 30m could not be accessed.
- 4.3 Some digging, indicative of mammal foraging was found in the north western corner of the site (see photo 1), but this is not necessarily badger.



Photo 1: Mammal foraging signs

Bats

- 4.4 There were several buildings on the site, these are described below.
- 4.5 The vine house (see photo 2) is a glass house built up against a wall to the north, it is in some use for plant storage. However, it is in a state of disrepair; some of the glass windows are broken and the wall has some missing bricks and gaps in the mortar (see photo 3).
- 4.6 The shed is built up against a wall on one side, the other side is corrugated and lined with wood with no obvious gaps. It is currently used for equipment storage. The roof is pitched corrugated material, some of the panels are transparent meaning the inside is well lit. Gaps in design of structure at the gable end but there is a lack of potential bat roosting features internally (see photo 4)
- 4.7 The shop is a wooden cabin type structure. The wooden panels are tightly fitted, and the roof is felted and pitched but also tightly fitted (see photo 5) and it is considered to have no bat potential.
- 4.8 There is also a polytunnel in use for plant sales, this has no bat potential.



Photo 2: Vine house



Photo 3: Lost bricks and gaps in wall of vine house.



Photo 4: Shed



Photo 5: Shop



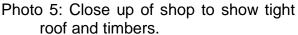




Photo 6: Poly tunnel.

- 4.9 The trees in the orchard did not have any potential roosting features.
- 4.10 The hedgerows along the site boundaries provide good commuting habitat for bats because they are connected to suitable habitat in the wider area.

Breeding birds

4.11 There is habitat suitable for breeding birds on the site; the hedgerows along the site boundaries, fruit trees within the orchard area and ivy clad walls close to the vine house (see photo 7) are all suitable.



Photo 7: Ivy on wall in north west of the site.

Great Crested Newt (GCN)

4.12 The Ordnance Survey map available via MAGIC was reviewed for ponds within the accepted dispersal distance of 500m that are not separated from the site by significant barriers to dispersal such as main roads. There are no ponds within 500m of the site (see Figure 3) which are unobstructed by a major barrier to dispersal and therefore the likelihood of GCN using the site is considered to be negligible.

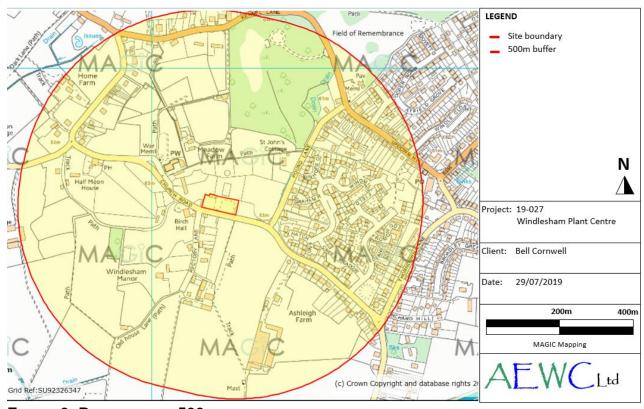


FIGURE 3: PONDS WITHIN 500M

Hazel dormice

- 4.13 The site is considered to have some potential to support hazel dormice due to the presence of some suitable habitat, connectivity and edible plant species.
- 4.14 There are mixed native species hedgerows on the southern and northern boundary. Along Church Road the hedgerow includes holly, hazel, bramble, honeysuckle and hawthorn with some planted non-natives such as privet and leylandii in places. Although this is a relatively busy road the hedgerow is well connected to habitat in the wider area. It is managed but is at least 1m wide for much of its length (see photo 8). Along the northern boundary, the hedge is similar but much taller (over 3m in places) with oak trees and bracken at the edges and is again connected to habitat in the wider area (see photo 9).
- 4.15 Along western and eastern boundary there is a tall managed leylandii hedge and there is also a non-native hedge in plant sales area, all of which have low potential.
- 4.16 A coppiced hazel was recorded in the north western corner of the site, this had abundant hazel nuts and a brief nut search revealed all those opened were done so by squirrel (see photo 10).

4.17 It is worth noting that, whilst the hedgerow along the southern boundary has potential to support hazel dormouse, there is a wide gap for the current access (see photo 11).



Photo 8: Native mixed hedge along Church road (southern boundary)



Photo 9: Mixed species hedge along northern site boundary.



Photo 10: Hazel nuts opened by squirrel.



Photo 11: Current site access.

Reptiles

- 4.18 There is some limited potential habitat for reptiles on the site.
- 4.19 The semi-improved grassland over the centre of the site looks regularly mown; it is short with no structure such as tussocks and is therefore unsuitable for reptiles (see photo 12). Large areas of the site compromise buildings, tarmac or bare gravel which offer no suitability (see photo 13 and 14).

4.20 However, there are some longer patches of grassland such as under the orchard trees (see photo 16) and associated with the bracken patches adjacent to the northern boundary hedge. Additionally, in some areas (mostly in the east of the site) the gravel and anti-weed membrane is being colonised by ruderal vegetation is starting to colonise. Suitable reptile habitat was noted immediately adjacent to the site so they could potentially colonise the site if vegetation was allowed to develop.



Photo 12: Short semi-improved grassland.



Photo 13: Gravel and paving in plant sales area.



Photo 14: Tarmac driveway.



Photo 15: Vegetation beginning to encroach around weed matting in the west of the site.

Other Mammals

4.21 No evidence of other mammals was recorded within the site.

Other Species of Principal Importance

4.22 There is some potential for the site to support SPI such as hedgehog, stag beetle and house sparrow.

Invasive species

4.23 No invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the wildlife and countryside act were recorded planted on the site.

Plant species of note

4.24 No plant species of note were recorded on the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI)

- 4.25 The hedgerows along the northern and southern boundaries are HPI as they both comprise predominantly (at least 80%) of at least one native woody species of tree or shrub.
- 4.26 The area of planted fruit trees may meet the criteria for traditional orchard HPI (see photo 16); these are defined, for priority habitat purposes, as groups of fruit and nut trees planted on vigorous rootstocks at low densities in permanent grassland; and managed in a low intensity way. However, the trees are relatively small and the area they cover is fairly small.



Photo 16: Orchard area with planted fruit trees and longer grassland.

Other valuable ecological features

4.27 No other valuable ecological features of note were identified during the site visit.

Conclusions & Recommendations

5.1 In line with Natural England's Standing Advice, where further survey for protected species is recommended these should be conducted prior to submitting a planning application and appropriate mitigation measures be incorporated into the development design.

Badger

5.2 The survey did not identify any evidence of badgers on the site; however, mammal foraging signs were found, and the wider area was not surveyed. Therefore, a site check for badgers immediately prior to works is recommended.

Bats

5.3 Lighting can have notable negative impacts on commuting bats, that are known to be present locally. There is potential for lighting during and post-development to cause

- indirect disturbance, therefore lighting on hedgerows should be avoided or kept to the minimum necessary, and preferably on a motion sensor to reduce lighting time.
- 5.4 As the buildings and trees on site have negligible potential for bats no further surveys for bats are required.

Breeding birds

5.5 Vegetation or tree removal must be undertaken outside the breeding bird period from March to August. Should any vegetation clearance be scheduled to take place between the beginning of March and the end of August, this must be immediately preceded by a survey to check for nesting birds. No vegetation can be cleared whilst a nest is occupied, regardless of species.

Great Crested Newt (GCN)

5.6 The site is considered unlikely to be used by GCN and therefore no further surveys for this species are required.

Hazel dormice

- 5.7 There is potential for the native mixed species hedgerows along the northern and southern boundaries of the site to support hazel dormouse. It is likely that these would be retained and, as such, no further survey is required.
- 5.8 If any hedgerows are to be removed or the current access widened, this should be discussed with an ecologist as further survey for hazel dormouse may be necessary.

Reptiles

- 5.9 The site provides a small amount of habitat for reptiles such as the longer grassland beneath fruit trees, longer vegetation at site boundaries and the ruderal vegetation starting to encroach on the gravel and particularly in the west of the site.
- 5.10 To prevent reptiles colonising the site any areas of suitable vegetation should be gradually cut down and maintained as a short sward to discourage movement of reptiles into the site. If there was a lack of site management this may result in a reptile survey being required in future.

Other Mammals

5.11 No signs of other mammals were noted and, as such, no further action is required.

Other Species of Principal Importance

5.12 To retain habitat for SPI species such as the west European hedgehog, it is recommended that any vegetation be cleared sensitively, any close board fencing be fitted to allow hedgehogs to pass underneath and some habitat areas be left unlandscaped.

Invasive species

5.13 No invasive species were recorded and therefore no further action is required.

Plant species of note

5.14 No plant species of note were recorded and therefore no further action is required.

Habitats of Principal Importance

- 5.15 The hedgerow along the northern and southern boundaries are HPI and therefore must be retained.
- 5.16 The 'orchard' area may also be an HPI so any plans would ideally retain this area within the design.

Other valuable ecological features

5.17 No other valuable ecological features were noted on the site and, as such, no further action is required.

Appendix 1 – Survey timetable

Species	Survey	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Badger	Bait marking & sett search												
	Roost assessments												
	Ground level tree assess												
Bats	Emergence and activity												
	Hibernation												
	Trapping												
Hazel dormouse	Tube												
j jazer dormouse	Nut search												
Reptiles	Refugía & search												
	Optimal												
	Sub-optimal												
	Outside survey season												

AEWC Ltd 16 29/07/2019

Appendix 2 – Legal protection

General

This section briefly describes the legal protection afforded to protected species. It is for information only and is not intended to be comprehensive or to replace specialised legal advice. It is not intended to replace the text of the legislation but summarises the salient points.

Badger

Badgers are protected under the *Protection of Badgers Act 1992*. Under this legislation it is an offence to kill or injure a badger, to damage, destroy or block access to a badger sett, or to disturb badger in its sett. The Act also states the conditions for the protection of badger's licence requirements.

Bats

All species of bats are listed on *Schedule 5* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)* which affords them protection under *Section 9*, as amended. They are also protected under the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*. In combination, this makes it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take (capture etc.);
- possess:
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, obstruct access to any structure or place used by a scheduled animal for shelter or protection, or disturb any animal occupying such a structure or place; and
- sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purpose of sale (live or dead animal, part or derivative) or advertise for buying or selling such things.

A roost is defined as 'any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection'. As bats tend to reuse the same roosts, legal opinion is that a roost is protected whether or not bats are present.

Furthermore, seven bat species (barbastelle, bechstein's, noctule, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, lesser horseshoe and greater horseshoe) are also Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Breeding Birds

All species of wild bird are protected under Section 1 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act* 1981 (as amended). Protection was extended by the *Countryside and Rights of Way* (CRoW) Act 2000. Under the above legislation, it is an offence to intentionally:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Certain species are listed on *Schedule 1* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)* and receive protection under *Sections 1(4)* and *1(5)*. There are special penalties where the offences listed above are committed for any *Schedule 1* species and it is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb any such bird when it is building its nest or while it is in or near a nest containing dependant young; or
- disturb the dependant young of any such bird.

Amphibians

Natterjack toad, northern pool frog and great crested newt are listed on *Schedule 5* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)* which affords them protection under *Section 9*, as amended. They are also protected under the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*. In combination, this makes it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take (capture etc.);
- possess;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, obstruct access to any structure or place used by a scheduled animal for shelter or protection, or disturb any animal occupying such a structure or place; and
- sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purpose of sale (live or dead animal, part or derivative) or advertise for buying or selling such things.

Palmate newts and smooth newts are also afforded protection against sale only under Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*.

Natterjack toad, common toad, great crested newt and northern pool frog are also Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Hazel dormouse

Hazel dormouse is listed on *Schedule 5* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)* which affords them protection under *Section 9*, as amended. They are also protected under the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*. In combination, this makes it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take (capture etc.);
- possess:
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, obstruct access to any structure or place used by a scheduled animal for shelter or protection, or disturb any animal occupying such a structure or place; and
- sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purpose of sale (live or dead animal, part or derivative) or advertise for buying or selling such things.

Hazel dormouse is also a Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Reptiles

Common lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*), grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), and adder (*Vipera berus*) are listed under *Schedule 5* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*, in respect of *Section 9(5)* and part of *Section 9(1)*. This protection was extended by the *Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000*. Under the legislation, it is an offence to:

- intentionally or deliberately kill or injure any individual of these species; or
- sell or attempt to sell any part of these species either alive or dead.

Smooth snake (Coronella austriaca) and sand lizard (Lacerta agilis) are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which affords them protection

under Section 9, as amended. They are also protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In combination, this makes it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take (capture etc.);
- possess;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, obstruct access to any structure or place used by a scheduled animal for shelter or protection, or disturb any animal occupying such a structure or place; and
- sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purpose of sale (live or dead animal, part or derivative) or advertise for buying or selling such things.

All UK reptile species are Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Other Mammals

All mammals receive some protection under the *Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996*, which makes it an offence to crush or asphyxiate an animal (e.g. within its burrow).

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) (2006) requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The S41 list has 56 Habitats of Principal Importance and 943 species of principal importance listed and has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England.

The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under *Section 40* of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006*, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

Invasive species

It is an offence to plant, or otherwise cause to grow in the wild non-native plant species listed under *Schedule 9* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*, for which *Section 14* of the Act applies. These include, but are not limited to:

- Himalayan balsam
- Cotoneaster sp.
- Japanese knotweed
- Giant hogweed.

Ancient woodland

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) states that 'Planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss'. In addition, Natural England's standing advice for ancient woodland states that an appropriate buffer zone of semi-natural habitat [be in place] between the development and the ancient woodland (depending on the scale and impact of development), a minimum buffer should be at least 15 metres to avoid root damage and at least 50m for pollution or trampling".

Ancient woodlands, and ancient and veteran trees, may also be protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

References

British Standard Institution (2013) BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development, London, England

CIEEM (2011) Competencies for Species Survey guidance documents. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

CIEEM (2011) Professional Guidance Series 10: Guidance on metadata Standards: Reporting, sharing and archiving ecological data. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

CIEEM (2015) *Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing.* Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

CIEEM (2013) *Technical Guidance Series. Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.*Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) *Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework.* Department of Communities and Local Government, London.

Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). *National Planning Policy Framework*. Department of Communities and Local Government, London.

JNCC (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit. JNCC, Peterborough

ODPM (2005) Government circular: biodiversity and geological conservation – statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system. The Stationary Office.

Rose F. (2006) The Wild Flower Key. Penguin Books Ltd.

Stace C.A. (2010) New Flora of the British Isles (3rd edition). Cambridge University Press.