
Land at Leigh Upon Mendip

Preliminary Ecology Appraisal

June 2020

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Report Ref: SEB2307_01
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Non-Technical Summary

Site location	Land at Leigh Upon Mendip, Radstock, BA3 5QG (central grid reference: ST 69380 47346).
Scope of works	Preliminary Ecology Appraisal, comprising a Phase 1 habitat survey, supplemented with a desk study, undertaken in June 2020.
Survey methods	Phase 1 habitat survey undertaken with reference to JNCC (2010).
Lead surveyor	Kate Hayward MCIEEM.
Site description	<p>The site is a former paddock, approximately 0.4ha in size. The southern half of the site comprises a field of improved grassland, wildflower meadows and bounding semi-mature trees. This area is proposed for development. The northern half of the site comprises an orchard set within a field of improved grassland which is to be retained and not subject to development. Several small, wooden chicken coops are located in the southern half of the site.</p> <p>There was no evidence of protected species on site. The habitats offer opportunities for protected species, including commuting and foraging bats, nesting birds, small mammals, and common and widespread species of reptiles and amphibians.</p> <p>The bounding trees offer connectivity to the wider landscape, providing a small area of commuting and foraging opportunities for bats, including horseshoe species.</p> <p>The site lies within Consultation Band C of the Ecological Zones of Influence for Mells Valley Bats SAC. Under Band C, developers should take advice from their consultant ecologist on the requirement for surveys depending on the type and scale of the proposal and potential impacts on greater horseshoe bats.</p>
The proposal	The site is the subject of a planning proposal for the development of three residential houses with associated hard and soft landscaping.
Recommendations	<p>One static monitoring survey is recommended in July or August comprising five nights consecutive recording of bat activity. This is to assess the use of the site by greater horseshoe bat, a primary feature of Mells Valley Bats SAC.</p> <p>It is recommended that a reptile survey is undertaken at the site.</p> <p>Protection measures have been recommended regarding the retention and protection of trees.</p> <p>Recommendations for sensitive lighting and provision of bat roosting and bird nesting habitat (and other habitat enhancements) within the new development have been provided. The sowing of replacement wildflower meadow in the northern half of the site has also been recommended.</p>



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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 In June 2020, Seasons Ecology was instructed by Ms J Cole, the client and landowner, to undertake a Preliminary Ecology Appraisal of land at Leigh Upon Mendip, Radstock, BA3 5QG (central grid reference: ST 69380 47346). The Preliminary Ecology Appraisal consisted of an extended Phase 1 habitat survey, supplemented with a desk study.
- 1.1.2 The site is the subject of a planning proposal for the development of three residential houses with associated hard and soft landscaping.

1.2 Scope and Objectives of Survey

- 1.2.1 The survey was undertaken in order to identify and record the habitats on site and to assess the potential of the site to support protected and/or notable species. The purpose of the survey is to make known any ecological constraints or considerations that may be relevant to the proposal for the site.
- 1.2.2 This report is based on the findings of a survey undertaken on 30th June 2020.
- 1.2.3 The report is supported by the following:
- Annex 1: Summary of Legislation and Planning Policy;
 - Annex 2: Phase 1 Habitat Map; and
 - Annex 3: Site Photographs.

1.3 Personnel

- 1.3.1 The survey was undertaken by Callum Pearson, a surveyor and ecological consultant and qualifying member of CIEEM. Callum has experience as a professional consultant advising on development projects and in surveying protected species.
- 1.3.2 The survey was overseen by Kate Hayward, an experienced surveyor and ecological consultant and full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). Kate has extensive experience as a professional consultant advising on development projects and protected species and habitats, including acting as the named ecologist on European Protected Species licences. Kate is a licensed bat surveyor (Class Licence Registration Number: 2015-12244-CLS-CLS, bat survey level 2).

2. Legislation and Planning Policy

- 2.1.1 This report has been compiled with reference to relevant legislation and national planning policies, which protect wildlife. Annex 1 provides a brief summary of this legislation and policy.

3. Desk Study

3.1 Method

3.1.1 A web-based desk study was undertaken in June 2020 prior to the survey to provide local information that may be relevant to the proposal. The following online resources were consulted:

- The MAGIC website¹, to obtain information on designated sites of nature conservation interest within 2km of the site, 4km in respect to bats, and details of any European Protected Species licences issued within 2km; and
- Google Maps², to view aerial photographs, maps and mapnik data, to assess the ecological context of the site.

3.2 Results

Designated Sites

3.2.1 The site itself is not covered by any designations, but does lie within the impact risk zone of nearby Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). This requires the Local Planning Authority to consult with Natural England on certain types of development. In this instance, consultation is required for all planning applications (except householder) outside or extending outside existing settlements/urban areas affecting greenspace, farmland, semi-natural habitats or landscape features such as trees, hedges, streams, rural buildings/structures. Therefore, consultation is likely to be required.

3.2.2 There are two statutory designations within 2km of the site. Approximately 0.8km to the north-west of the site is the Edford Woods and Meadows SSSI, a site of biological interest due to its wide range of types of semi-natural ancient woodland and for its unimproved meadows and pastures. Approximately 1.2km to the south-east of the site is Asham Wood SSSI, which is the largest and most diverse of the ancient semi-natural woods in the Mendips and forms part of the wider Mendip Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

3.2.3 The site lies 3.5km to the east of Mells Valley Bats SAC and lies within Consultation Band C of the Ecological Zones of Influence for this SAC. A primary feature of this designation is greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*.

European Protected Species Licences

3.2.4 There are four European Protected Species Licences that have been issued for locations within 4km of the site, three of which are for bats and one is for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*.

- One location is for great crested newt, approximately 1.9km to the north of the site.
- One location is for common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, approximately 2km to the south of the site.

¹ <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

² <http://acme.com/planimeter/>

- One location is for lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* approximately 3km to the south-west of the site.
- One location is for lesser horseshoe, approximately 3.7km to the west of the site.

Ecological Context

- 3.2.5 The site is located on the eastern edge of Leigh Upon Mendip, a rural village approximately 8km south of Radstock. Directly to the west and south of the site is the Leigh-on-Mendip First School with associated school grounds and playing field. Surrounding the site to the north and east are fields of arable land and improved grassland, connected via mature hedgerows and occasional trees. Beyond these immediate surroundings to the north and east is the Tarmac Halecombe Quarry. To the west are the residential properties and amenities which make up the Leigh Upon Mendip village and to the north-west and south are further fields of arable and improved grassland. In all directions are a number of woodlands including Leigh Wood to the north-west, Melcombe Wood to the north-east and Asham Wood to the south-east.
- 3.2.6 There is one water body evident on aerial maps and photographs within 500m of the site. This is a small pond approximately 330m to the south of the site, located within the grounds of Great House Farm.

4. Survey

4.1 Method

- 4.1.1 A systematic walkover of the site was undertaken on 30th June 2020. Notes were taken on the habitats present, and their suitability to support protected and notable species. Any incidental evidence of protected and notable species was noted. The survey was carried out with reference to JNCC (2010)³.
- 4.1.2 It should be noted that the survey is not able to record flora or fauna that may appear on the site at other times of the year and were therefore not evident at the time of the survey.

4.2 Site/Habitats Descriptions

- 4.2.1 The site is a former paddock, approximately 0.4ha in size. The southern half of the site comprises a field of improved grassland, areas of sown wildflower meadow and bounding semi-mature trees. This area is proposed for development. The northern half of the site comprises an orchard set within a field of improved grassland which is to be retained and not subject to development. These two sections are separated via a tree line and post-and-wire fencing. Within the southern half of the site there are several small, wooden chicken coops with corrugated metal roofs, enclosed by an electric fence. Directly to the north-west is a neighbouring paddock and to the south-west is the Leigh-on-Mendip First School playing field. Adjacent to the site to the east is an un-named B-road.
- 4.2.2 The distribution and extent of habitats are shown on the Phase 1 habitat map at Annex 2. Site photographs are provided at Annex 3.

³ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2010) Handbook for Phase I Habitat Survey – a Technique for Environmental Audit. JNCC Peterborough.

Improved Grassland

- 4.2.3 This is the dominant habitat on site. The grassland is unmanaged, and until recently housed free-ranging chickens, geese and ducks. Grass species include Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, meadow-grasses *Poa* species and rye-grasses *Lolium* species. The grassland has moderate herb coverage, comprising oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, docks *Rumex* species, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, with occasional honeysuckle *Lonicera* species and wildflower meadow escapes.

Wildflower Meadow

- 4.2.4 In the west of the site are two areas of wildflower meadow which are approximately 200m² and 250m² in size. Species include meadow crane's-bill *Geranium pratense*, greater knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, evening primrose *Oenothera biennis*, poppy *Papaver somniferum*, and common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

Trees

- 4.2.5 Semi-mature trees form the boundaries of the site along all sides, except for a few areas where low-growing shrub, dense bramble *Rubus fruticosus* or post and wire fencing form small sections of the boundaries. A line of semi-mature trees, alongside post-and-wire fencing, bisects the site, separating the northern half and the southern half. Species include hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, red alder *Alnus rubra*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre*, whitebeam *Sorbus aria* and overgrown and un-managed cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* and box *Buxus* species. The northern half of the site contains approximately ten semi-mature apple trees *Malus* species.

Structures

- 4.2.6 There are several small chicken coops located within the southern half of the site, some enclosed by electric fencing. These structures are approximately 1m x 0.5m in size and are constructed of wood with corrugated metal roofs.

4.3 Suitability to Protected/Notable Species

- 4.3.1 The site is two fields of unmanaged improved grassland, with areas of wildflower meadow. The northern half of the site features approximately ten semi-mature apple trees and the entire site is bordered by semi-mature trees. The southern half of the site is used to house chickens.

- 4.3.2 The site has suitability to the following protected species:

- *Bats* - The chicken coops do not offer suitable roosting sites for bats, being of unsuitable construction. The trees on site are semi-mature and no suitable roosting features (such as bole holes or broken branches) were observed. The presence of bounding trees offer foraging and commuting habitats for bats which are well-connected to the surrounding habitats which comprise arable and improved grassland, hedgerows and pockets of woodland.

Referring to the desk study, there are records for several species of bat occurring within 2km and 3.7km of the site, including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, and lesser horseshoe. Mells Valley SAC is located 3.5km to the west, greater horseshoe bat being a primary feature of this designation. The site lies within Consultation Band C for the SAC. The bounding trees, fruit trees and areas of wildflower meadow on site offer foraging and commuting habitat for these species.

- *Nesting birds* – No evidence of nesting birds utilising the site were observed during the survey, however the bounding trees offer suitable nesting habitats for birds, and the areas of wildflower meadow and unmanaged grassland offer foraging opportunities.
- *Reptiles and amphibians* - The low growing shrub and unmanaged grassland provide areas of refuge and commuting habitats for the common and widespread species of reptiles and amphibians. With consideration to the potential for great crested newt to utilise the site, there are no ponds present on site to offer aquatic habitat. The low growing shrub, trees and unmanaged grassland offer commuting and refuge habitats. There is one water body apparent within 500m of the site, situated 330m to the south. There is also one record for a European Protected Species Licence for great crested newt within 2km of the site, approximately 1.9km north of the site.

Considering the low number of ponds within 500m, the distance of the pond and the licence record to the site and the presence of intervening barriers to migrating great crested newts (a number of farms, residential properties and the main Leigh-Upon-Mendip road), which restricts movement, it is considered that there is negligible likelihood of great crested newt utilising the site.

- *Badger and other mammals* – No badger setts were found on site (or within 30m of the site) and there was no evidence of badger activity (for example latrines, dung, hair or prints) during the survey, however a number of mammal runs were present across the site. The site offers a small area of suitable refuge and foraging habitats for badger and common and widespread species of small mammals. The electric fence enclosing the chicken coops covers a large proportion of the southern half of the site and is likely to deter foraging and commuting badgers and small mammals.

5. Evaluation and Recommendations

- 5.1.1 The site features a moderate diversity of habitats comprising two fields of unmanaged improved grassland, areas of wildflower meadow, bounding semi-mature trees, low-growing shrub and fruit trees. The bounding trees and fruit trees offer elements of permanence and fragility, which is otherwise absent on site.
- 5.1.2 There was no evidence of protected species on site. The habitats offer opportunities for protected species, including commuting and foraging bats, nesting birds, small mammals, and common and widespread species of reptiles and amphibians.
- 5.1.3 The bounding trees offer connectivity to the wider landscape, providing a small area of commuting and foraging opportunities for bats, including horseshoe species (these species being recorded locally, referring to the desk study). The site lies within Consultation Band C of the Ecological Zones of Influence for Mells Valley Bats SAC. Under Band C, developers should take advice from their consultant ecologist on the requirement for surveys depending on the type and scale of the proposal and potential impacts on greater horseshoe bats. The site is around 0.4 hectares in size and the boundary trees and fruit trees in the northern half, offer a small area of commuting and foraging habitats, which are connected to the wider countryside.
- 5.1.4 The site is the subject of a planning proposal for the development of three residential houses with associated hard and soft landscaping in the southern half of the site and the retention of grassland and fruit trees in the northern half. The main impacts of the development are habitat loss (mainly unmanaged improved grassland and small areas of wildflower meadow) and

disturbance during the construction phase, and artificial lighting during the operational phase. The site is currently unlit, although a low level of light spill across the site is likely from adjacent residential areas to the west. Therefore, new lighting introduced to the site could reduce the value of the boundary trees and fruit trees to foraging and commuting bats.

5.1.5 With consideration to the proposal and the likely impacts, the following is recommended:

5.2 Bat Activity Surveys

5.2.1 It is recommended that one bat activity survey is undertaken to determine any use of the site by greater horseshoe bat, the primary feature of Mells Valley Bats SAC. The survey should consist of five consecutive nights static monitoring in July or August. Depending on the level of activity by greater horseshoe bat, additional monitoring may be required.

5.3 Reptile Survey

5.3.1 It is recommended that a presence/absence reptile survey is undertaken at the site. This would follow guidance in Froglife (1999), with 30 artificial reptile refuges, comprising approximately 0.5m² squares of roofing felt, positioned across the site in areas of suitable reptile habitat. The refuges would be left for one week to allow time to settle before commencing checks. The site would then be visited on seven occasions between April and September.

5.3.2 The objectives of the reptile survey are to determine presence of reptile species on site and numbers, to inform appropriate mitigation and compensation within the proposal and to ensure that reptiles are protected throughout the works.

5.4 Protection Measures

5.4.1 It is recommended that the bounding trees of the site are retained, where possible, and protected during construction with appropriate protective fencing.

5.4.2 If any trees or shrubs are to be removed, it is recommended that a precautionary approach is taken. If possible, works should be timed to avoid the nesting bird season (usually March to August) or a pre-works check prior to clearance by an experienced Ecological Clerk of Works should be carried out.

5.4.3 During construction works, any trenches left open overnight should include a means of escape for animals. A plank angled from the bottom to the top of the trench, will allow animals to escape.

5.4.4 It is recommended that the northern half of the site containing the apple trees remains largely unmanaged with one cut of the grassland in late August, to improve diversity and to maintain suitable habitat for foraging and refuge for common species of reptiles and amphibians.

5.5 Lighting

5.5.1 Due to the presence of horseshoe bats (and other bat species) within the local area, which are light-sensitive, the proposal should incorporate a sensitive lighting scheme. External lighting should be low-level and preferably operated on PIR systems with timers to minimise times of illumination. Lighting should avoid illuminating the bounding trees, and the surrounding vegetation, to maintain opportunities for foraging and commuting bats.

5.5.2 Further advice on lighting should be provided following the bat survey(s).

5.6 Biodiversity Enhancements

Wildflower Meadow

- 5.6.1 If the areas of wildflower meadow is to be removed, then it is recommended that two areas within the northern half of the site are sown with a wildflower meadow mix (general purpose meadow mix, such as Emorsgate EM1 or similar) to replace the wildflower meadow lost.
- 5.6.2 The seed mix comprises 80% grasses, including five species; crested dog's-tail, red fescue, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, smaller cat's-tail *Phleum bertolonii* and smooth meadow-grass *Poa pratensis* and 20% herbs including ten species; common knapweed, wild carrot *Daucus carota*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, oxeye daisy, musk mallow *Malva moschata*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and red campion *Silene dioica*.

Roosting Bats

- 5.6.3 To offer roosting habitat for bats, which is currently absent on site, it is recommended that three built-in roosts are incorporated into the new buildings (one in each) and bat boxes (Schwegler 1FF bat box, or similar) could be installed on suitable trees on site. These should be placed at south-east and south-west aspects and at a height of between 3m and 5m off the ground.

Nesting Birds

- 5.6.4 Consideration should be given to the provision of bird nest boxes within each property.

Other Fauna

- 5.6.5 To enhance opportunities for reptiles, amphibians and small mammals, two partially buried log piles could be created along the boundaries of the site.
- 5.6.6 The boundaries between the new properties should allow for migration of hedgehog between them. Gaps at the base of fencing, measuring 13cm by 13cm, will allow hedgehogs to pass through.

6. Annexes

Annex 1: Legislation and Planning Policy

A summary of relevant legislation and national policy is provided below. For each individual case, it is advised to consult the relevant documents in full and obtain legal advice, where appropriate.

There are several UK legislation tools, which are listed below. European legislation has not been included as it is incorporated in UK legislation by domestic provisions.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)

In 1992, the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)⁴ came into force. This provides for the creation of a network of protected wildlife sites across the European Union, known as 'Natura 2000'. This network consists of designated sites, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC)⁵. These sites form part of a series of measures aimed at conserving important and threatened habitats and species.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 commonly known as 'the Habitat Regulations' transpose the Habitats Directive into national law and set out the provisions for the protection and management of species and habitats of European importance, including Natura 2000 sites. The Regulations have been amended in England in relation to candidate SACs and SPAs. These are sites submitted by the Government for consideration as part of the Natura 2000 network, and are also now defined as European Sites. All European Sites are of national importance and have been notified as SSSIs.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as Amended in Quinquennial Review and by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000⁶

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981⁷ provides the foundation for much of the statutory wildlife protection in the UK. Part I deals with the protection of plants, birds and other animals and Part II deals with the designation of SSSIs.

The following broad areas are covered by the Act:

Nature Conservation - Protecting those sites which are National Nature Reserves (NNR) and SSSIs.

Wildlife - Listing endangered or rare species in need of protection and creating offences for killing, disturbing or injuring such species. The disturbance of any nesting bird during the breeding season is also noted as an offence.

The Act also makes it an offence to cause to grow in the wild certain plant species or to release certain fauna into the wild. The Act is enforced by local authorities.

⁴ European Commission (1992). Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. European Commission, Brussels.

⁵ European Commission (1979). Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, European Commission, Brussels.

⁶ Secretary of State, 2000. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

⁷ Secretary of State, 1981. Wildlife and Countryside Act. Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides a new statutory right of access to the countryside and improves upon the rights of way system, providing stronger protection for both wildlife and countryside.

Part III of the Act - Nature Conservation and Wildlife Protection: A number of measures to promote and enhance wildlife conservation are detailed, including improving protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and increasing penalties for deliberate damage to SSSIs. The Act affords statutory protection to Ramsar Sites which are wetlands designated under the International Convention on Wetlands.

National Planning Policy Framework, 2012

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012 and came into immediate effect superseding all existing Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system and how these are expected to be addressed. The NPPF is a material consideration for the purposes of planning decision-making.

The NPPF places a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The NPPF states that the presence of a legally protected species is a material consideration for a local authority dealing with planning applications for any development that would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat. Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and geological conservation⁸, prepared in support of the former PPS9, is still relevant and provides more guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation.

Biodiversity Action Plans

In 1994, the Government produced the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)⁹, a national strategy for the conservation of biodiversity. Regional and District/Borough BAPs apply the UK BAP at a local level. The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' succeeded the UK BAP in July 2012¹⁰. The UK BAP lists of priority species and habitats remain, however, important and valuable reference sources. Notably, they have been used to help draw up statutory lists of priorities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In England, there are 56 habitats of principal importance and 943 species of principal importance.

⁸ ODPM Circular 06/2005 Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Importance within the Planning System.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7692/147570.pdf

⁹ Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1994. Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan. London.

¹⁰ JNCC and Defra (on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group). 2012. UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. July 2012. Available from: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>

Species/species group	Legal protection and policy
Flora	<p>A number of plant species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (amended). It is an offence to deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy these wild plants. It is also an offence for any purpose to possess, sell or exchange such a plant.</p> <p>In addition, a number of plant species are species of principal importance in England (formerly referred to as UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species), LBAP priority species and/or notable species that are a material consideration in planning.</p>
Bats	<p>Bat species in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill bats; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which bats use for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Seven of the 18 species of bats occurring in the UK are species of principal importance in England and many are also included in LBAPs.</p>
Badgers	<p>Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1979. Under this legislation it is illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett in any way.</p>
Otters	<p>Otters in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill an otter; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb otter; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which an otter uses for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Otter is a species of principal importance in England.</p>
Water voles	<p>Water voles in England and Wales are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill a water vole; • Intentionally disturb water vole in their breeding or resting places; and • Deliberately damage, destroy or obstruct of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Water vole is a species of principal importance in England.</p>

Dormice	<p>Dormice in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill a dormouse; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb dormice; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a dormouse uses for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Dormouse is a species of principal importance in England.</p>
Other mammals	<p>Several other species of mammals, whilst not afforded specific legal protection, are of note and consideration to such species is necessary in respect to planning in accordance with national and often local policy. Such species are typically identified as species of principal importance in England and/or LBAPs.</p> <p>Species of principal importance in England include brown hare and hedgehog.</p>
Birds	<p>All wild birds in England and Wales are granted legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kill, injure or take any wild bird; • Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and, • Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird. <p>Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act are afforded further protection and it is illegal to disturb such species while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.</p> <p>A number of bird species are also included as species of principal importance in England and LBAPs.</p>
Reptiles	<p>Smooth snakes and sand lizards in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill a smooth snake or sand lizard; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb a smooth snake or sand lizard; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a smooth snake or sand lizard use for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Widespread species of reptile (slow worm, common lizard, grass snake and adder) are protected against killing, injury and sale.</p> <p>Reptile species are also species of principal importance in England and often LBAP species.</p>
Amphibians	<p>Great crested newts and natterjack toads in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill a great crested newt or natterjack toad; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt or natterjack toad; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a great crested newt or natterjack toad use for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Great crested newt, pool frog, natterjack toad and common toad are species of principal importance in England. These and other amphibian species are also often included in LBAPs.</p>
Invertebrates	<p>45 species of invertebrate are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional kill, injure or take such species; • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place used by such species; and, • Disturb such species when occupying such a structure or place. <p>A further 24 species are only afforded partial protection (typically only against sale). Stag beetle for instance is only protected against sale.</p> <p>Eight species and their habitats are also afforded further protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).</p> <p>398 species of invertebrate are included as species of principal importance in England and such species are often also included within LBAPs.</p>

Annex 2: Phase 1 Habitat Map (June 2020)



Key	
	Site area to be retained
	Site area to be developed
	Improved grassland
	Wildflower meadow
	Tree
	Low-growing shrub
	Structures
	Post and wire fencing
	Electric fencing
	Dense bramble scrub

Annex 3: Site Photographs (June 2020)

Photograph 1. View of the northern half of the site looking north-east.



Photograph 2. View of the northern half of the site looking south.



Photograph 3. View of the southern half of the site looking south, with wildflower meadow to the right and electric fencing in the centre of the photo.



Photograph 4. View of the southern half of the site looking south, with the chicken coops in picture.



Photograph 5. View of the southern half of the site looking north-east.



Photograph 6. View of the southern half of the site from the entrance looking north.

