



Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Preliminary Roost Assessment

44 Frys Lane, Everton, Lympington Hampshire SO41 0JY

Paul Eldridge

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Industry Guidelines and Standards

This report has been written with due consideration to:

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

Proportionality

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

This approach is enshrined in Government planning guidance, for example, paragraph 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework for England.

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

(BS 42020, 2013)

Executive Summary

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Paul Elridge to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) at 44 Frys Lane, Everton, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 0JY (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application for demolition of the existing garage and construction of a new chalet building 6m x 12m, which will match the same roof height as the existing house (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

The following is work you will need to commission to obtain planning permission and to comply with legislation. Further information, along with opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, are outlined in Table 7 of this report.

Feature	Foreseen impacts	Recommendations <i>Measures required to adhere to guidance, legislation and planning policies.</i>
Habitats	No impacts to any notable habitats are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such habitats. The proposal will be on an existing footprint of the demolished building and would have minimal extended reach into any habitat. The habitat effect would be a small area of modified grassland and gravel driveway.	Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution must be implemented during construction. Retained trees should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012). This is in regard to the mature Oak on the southern bank boundary.
Roosting bats B1	Bats are very unlikely to be roosting within this building and as such, there are not anticipated to be any impacts on bats in this location as a result of the proposed demolition of this building.	In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.
Roosting bats B2	No Development plans are proposed for B2 and therefore no features are being altered. However, there may be light spill across from B1 onto B2 during construction or from any installed security lights that may disrupt bats that may be roosting in B2	Following a low lighting strategy as listed under foraging and commuting bats to reduce light spill onto B2. For any future work to take place on B2 BERS survey are required.
Roosting bats B3	Bats are very unlikely to be roosting within this building and as such, there are not anticipated to be any impacts on bats in this location as a result of the proposed demolition or moving of this building.	In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.
Roosting bats T1	There are not anticipated to be any impacts on roosting bats as a result of the demolition of B1 and the new structure being built on it's footprint, as this tree is not being removed.	<u>For any future work on the oak tree</u> Best practice guidelines state that trees with low suitability for roosting bats do not require further surveys. Instead, prior to any pruning or felling, a close-up inspection of any features that could be used by roosting bats will be undertaken to determine the presence or likely absence of roosting bats. This may require a qualified climbing team or a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) to access the features.

		In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.
Foraging and commuting bats	<p>The proposed development will not result in the removal of any habitats which could be used by foraging or commuting bats.</p> <p>The proposed development could include the use of lighting which could spill on to bat roosting, foraging or commuting habitats and deter bats from using these areas.</p>	A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during and post-development, which is listed in full in table 7.
Reptiles	A small area of the modified grassland around the footprint of the demolished garage will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local reptile populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitats locally. However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of reptiles, if present.	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to reptiles, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction- Full description in table 7.
Amphibians.	<p>No impacts are anticipated on amphibians, including great crested newts, because of the proposed development.</p> <p>A small area of the modified grassland around the footprint of the demolished garage will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local amphibian populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitats locally. However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of amphibians, if present and hibernating around the brash and item piles behind B1.</p>	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to great crested newts, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented for common amphibians during construction Full description in table 7.
Hedgehog	The tidying up and removal of the brash and rubble piles around B1 will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.	A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, full details in table 7. This working method also applies to any visiting badgers on site.

Contents

1.0 Introduction and Context.....	8
1.1 Background	8
1.2 Site Context	8
1.3 Scope of the Report.....	8
2.0 Methodology.....	10
2.1 Desk Study	10
2.2 Field Survey	10
2.3 Limitations	11
3.0 Results and Evaluation	12
3.1 Designated Sites	12
3.2 Field Survey Results	13
4.0 Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations	26
4.1 Informative Guidelines	26
4.2 Evaluation	26
5.0 Bibliography	36
Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan.....	39
Appendix 2: Site Location Plan	40
Appendix 3a: Habitat Survey Plan	41
Appendix 3b: PRA Survey Plan	42
Appendix 4: Legislation and Planning Policy	43

1.0 Introduction and Context

1.1 Background

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Paul Elridge to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) at 44 Frys Lane, Everton, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 0JY (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application for the demolition of the existing garage and construction of a new chalet building 6m x 12m, which will match the same roof height as the existing house (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

A plan showing the proposed development is provided in Appendix 1.

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

1.2 Site Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SZ28946228 and has an area of approximately less than 0.1ha comprising of residential house and gardens. To the east and west are several more semi-detached dwellings with sizable gardens. Adjacent to the site to the north is a large arable field, and a hedgerow leading to a large broadleaf woodland 240m north of the site. There are further extensive farmland and woodland starting 150m west. The south is 360m of residential houses and gardens till reaching the A337 road.

A site location plan is provided in Appendix 2.

1.3 Scope of the Report

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

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

To achieve this, the following steps have been taken:

- A desk study has been carried out.
- A field survey has been undertaken to record baseline information on the site and surrounding area including habitat types and their suitability for notable or protected species, including roosting bats.

- Invasive plant and animal species (such as those listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act) have been identified.
- Potential impacts on features of value, as a result of the proposed development, have been identified.
- Recommendations for further surveys and mitigation have been made.
- Opportunities for the enhancement of the site for biodiversity have been set out.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

The desk study included a review of the magic.gov.uk database for statutory designated sites within a 2km radius of the site. Landscape value and the presence of notable habitats as well as granted European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) and notable species records held on magic.gov.uk database has also been considered where these are within influencing distance of the site.

2.2 Field Survey

The survey was undertaken by Annabel Sharpe Graduate Ecologist, Accredited on License 2022-10316-CL18-BAT on 16/02/2022.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

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

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

Preliminary Roost Assessment

The PRA focussed on 2 built structures which will be affected by the proposed development as well as providing an overview of the wider site and the surrounding landscape for bat roosting, foraging and commuting habitat.

For any surveyed buildings

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

For any surveyed trees

A visual inspection was undertaken from ground level using binoculars and, where accessible and safe to do so, an internal inspection of any features which bats could use for roosting was completed using an endoscope, torch and ladders.

Suitability Assessment

Built structures and trees were categorised according to the likelihood of bats being present and the types of roost that the identified features could support. This is summarised in Table 1 and Table 2 below. Roost suitability is classified as high, moderate, low and negligible and dictates any further surveys required before works can proceed.

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

Classification	Feature of building and its context
Moderate to high	Buildings or structures with features of particular significance for larger numbers of roosting bats e.g. mines, caves, tunnels, icehouses and cellars. Habitat on site and surrounding landscape of high quality for foraging bats e.g. broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is connected with the wider landscape by strong linear features that would be used by commuting bats e.g. river and or stream valleys and hedgerows. Site is proximate to known or likely roosts (based on historical data). Buildings with high suitability could support roosts of high conservation value such as maternity or hibernation roosts.
Low	A small number of possible roost sites or features, used sporadically by individual or small numbers of bats. Potential roost features may be suboptimal for reasons such as shallow depth, poor thermal qualities or upwards orientation with exposure to inclement weather or predators. Habitat suitable for foraging in close proximity, but isolated in the landscape. Or an isolated site not connected by prominent linear features. Few features suitable for roosting, minor foraging or commuting.
Negligible	Unsuitable for use by bats.

Table 2: Features of a tree that are correlated with use by bats

Classification	Feature of tree and its context
Moderate to high	A tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. Trees with high suitability could support roosts of high conservation value such as maternity or hibernation roosts.
Low	A tree of sufficient size and age to contain potential roosting features but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential to be used sporadically by individual or small numbers of bats. Potential roost features may be suboptimal for reasons such as shallow depth, poor thermal qualities or upwards orientation with exposure to inclement weather or predators.
Negligible	Unsuitable for use by bats.

2.3 Limitations

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

A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given the location of the site, the nature of the habitats present and the assessed suitability of the site for protected or notable species, it is not anticipated that the purchase of biological records data will add any significant weight or alter the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report.

The survey was completed during the sub-optimal survey period limiting the identification of ground flora species.

The north elevation of B1 could not be observed, due to this being an elevation only viewed from neighbour property and could not be done without trespassing.

These limitations have been taken into account during the evaluation of the site and requirement for further surveys and mitigation.

3.0 Results and Evaluation

3.1 Designated Sites

Details of any statutory designated sites within a 2km radius of the site, including their reasons for notification, are provided in Table 3 below.

The site lies within the impact risk zone for The New Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The proposed development type is not listed as a possible high risk with regard to this designation.

Table 3: Statutory designated sites within 2km radius of the site

Designated site name	Distance from site (approx.)	Reasons for notification from Natural England
The New Forest SSSI	1425 m northeast	The New Forest is rich in wildlife thanks to the wonderful mosaic of wet and dry heaths, mires and bogs, ancient pasture woodland, coniferous plantations, acid grasslands, mixed farmland and coastline. This combination of natural environments is hard to find anywhere else in western Europe. The New Forest is a stronghold for bats and of the 18 species found in the UK, at least 14 can be found here. Three are particularly rare: greater horseshoe, Bechstein's and barbastelle.

<i>Designated site name</i>	<i>Distance from site (approx.)</i>	<i>Reasons for notification from Natural England</i>
The New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	1480m northeast	<p>Annex 1 Habitats that are a primary reason.</p> <p>3110- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</p> <p>3130- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i></p> <p>4010-Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>4030- European dry heaths.</p> <p>6410- <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>7150- Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></p> <p>9120- Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>)</p> <p>9130- <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests</p> <p>9190- Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>91D0- Bog woodland</p> <p>91E0- Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</p> <p>Annex 1 Habitats that are a qualifying feature</p> <p>7140- Transition mires and quaking bogs</p> <p>7230- Alkaline Fens</p> <p>Annex 2 species that are a primary reason</p> <p>1044- Southern damselfly</p> <p>1083- Stag beetle</p> <p>Annex 2 species that are a qualifying feature.</p> <p>1166- Great crested newt.</p>

3.2 Field Survey Results

The results of the field survey are illustrated in Appendix 3. The weather conditions recorded at the time of the survey are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Weather conditions during the survey

Date: 16/02/23	
Temperature	9°C
Humidity	95%
Cloud Cover	100%
Wind	9mph
Rain	None

Habitats and Flora

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

- G4- Modified grassland
- U1b5- Buildings
- H3d- bramble scrub
- U1b6- Other developed land
- U1c- Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- H2b- Other hedgerow

A description and photographs of each habitat are provided in Table 5.

No protected or non-native invasive plant species (as listed under Schedules 8 or 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) were identified on the site.


Table 5: Description and photographs of habitats within and adjacent to the site

Habitat Type	Habitat description	Photograph
<p>G4-11-66-230 Modified grassland, scattered trees, frequently mown, garden</p>	<p>These photographs show the condition of the modified grassland on site.</p> <p>The grassland is part of the front and rear garden and is regularly mowed to keep a tight short sward. Composition varies compared to the rear(north) and front (south) gardens, but overall variety and composition are low. The dominant grass is rye grass and creeping bent, with very few other species seen throughout.</p> <p>The rear garden has poor fob composition, with mostly daisies and dandelions seen, with some scattered nettles around the edges where there have been previous ground disturbances, such as around the parking area.</p> <p>The front garden grassland had a carpet of lesser celandine and field speedwell that was absent from the rear garden.</p> <p>These north grassland areas will only see a minimal footprint loss with the proposed development and only around the building labelled as B1 and B3. Less than a meter boundary width is expected to be lost with any encroachment into the grassland area.</p> <p>A slightly larger area of the south grassland area will be lost roughly 40sq m, to make way for more parking. There will still be a grass buffer between the parking area and an on-site hedge. This is demonstrated on the plans in Appendix 1.</p> <p>There are four singular trees at the rear of this garden, including apple tree, and small hawthorn as the top photograph shows, these are not being touched as part of the development either.</p>	

	<p>The second photograph shows the composition of the north grassland area, while the third photograph below shows the composition of the south grassland area.</p> <p>There is a fence around the perimeter of this grassland, to the west and east, this is a 6ft wooden fence with very few gaps underneath to allow any wildlife to pass. However, the northern fence line is a metal stock-proof fence, leading directly to the adjacent arable field.</p> <p>A dead bird was found in the northeast area of this grassland, the colour of feathers and size indicates this is likely a blackbird. The presence of feline on site and confirmation from the site owner on cats catching animals indicates the likely culprit. The location was noted on the habitat survey map in appendix 3</p>	
<p>U1b5 Buildings</p>	<p>There are several structures on site, with full details listed in the PRA section of this report, the building shown in this photograph is the building that is to be removed as part of the proposal.</p>	

<p>U1b6 Other developed land</p>	<p>This are of the site is a raised wooden decking that sits on the southeast corner of the north grassland area. It's a large decking area and has evidence of rodent digging, hole size and evidence later seen within the buildings indicate this is likely rats. Opening up access underneath here could eventually lead to other species residing underneath, whether hibernating reptiles or amphibians, however, there is the risk these could also be predated on by rats.</p> <p>This decking area is to remain in situ and not be changed.</p>	
<p>U1c-89 Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, car park</p>	<p>This area is a gravel car parking area for the site. It's made of loose gravel material that's been slightly compressed from the weight of the vehicles.</p> <p>This area has low ecological value and alterations to this part of the site will not impact biodiversity.</p>	

<p>H3d 17 77- Bramble scrub-ruderal neglect</p>	<p>This photograph shows an area of land situated behind the building proposed to be demolished. The land to the west of building B1 and the north. There is a lack of grassland here, and instead, there is bare ground with the occasional herb species of dandelion, daisy, nettles, lesser celandine, white clover and field speedwell, as well as an encroachment of brambles. There is a mixture of discarded items that have been stored in this area. This area could act as a hibernation site for reptiles or amphibians that may get on site, due to the number of hiding spaces, and the neglected nature of this corner.</p> <p>It is unlikely to be used for basking due to its overshadowing from the nearby buildings. This area has been marked on the habitat survey map in Appendix 3.</p> <p>This area will be tidied up and removed to make way for the new building proposal.</p>	 <p>A photograph showing a cluttered area behind a red building. There is a white plastic bin, a green tarp, and various pieces of debris. The ground is overgrown with brambles and other vegetation. A timestamp in the bottom right corner reads 'Feb 16, 2023 01:30:56 pm'. The 'arbtech' logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the image.</p>
<p>H2b-47-48-75, 1160 Other hedgerow, native, non-native, active management, introduced shrubs.</p>	<p>This photograph shows a corner of a small hedgerow in the mouth southwest corner of the site. The total length is 13m. The southern area is sparse, turning from a patch of coppice hazel into the sparse bramble, as shown in this photograph. The hedge as it runs north turns into a trimmed privet hedge as part of the boundary with the neighbouring property. There are introduced non-native shrubs planted the base of this hedgerow on the eastern border.</p> <p>There are no plans to alter or remove this hedge area as part of the site development.</p>	 <p>A photograph of a hedgerow in the foreground, with a building under construction in the background. The hedgerow consists of various shrubs and trees. A timestamp in the bottom right corner reads 'Feb 16, 2023 12:40:47 pm'. The 'arbtech' logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the image.</p>

<p>Target note Tree.1 large oak, southwest corner</p>	<p>This photograph shows a large oak tree on the southwest corner of the site, at the parking entrance. This tree has had previous branch trimming and pollarding and has regrowth in several areas. Some of the large limbs are showing signs of decay, and cavities starting to open up. These may provide features for roosting bats and birds as these enlarge.</p> <p>Some of these branches overhang the powerline seen in this photograph and into the car parking area. These may be subjected to future trimming to reduce any risk.</p> <p>Currently, there are no plans to touch this oak tree. This Tree is listed as T1 on the habitat survey map in appendix 3.</p>	
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Fauna

Bats



There are 3 EPSL for bats within a 2km radius of the site. These are;


- 2017-29815-EPS-MIT 1200m southeast- For the destruction of a resting place for brown long-eared and common pipistrelle.
- 2018-37117-EPS-MIT 1500m southeast- For the destruction and damage of a resting place for brown long-eared and common pipistrelle
- 2019-43250-EPS-MIT 1760m northwest- For the destruction of a resting place of a common pipistrelle.

The site has high value as a commuting route for bats, a series of shrubs and hedges are north of the site against the adjacent gardens, which flank an arable field. This boundary joins hedges to the west and east, which both loop around into a deciduous woodland 240m north of the site, as well as to further farmland and woodland within 150m to the west. If bats are roosting in the woodlands, the rear garden boundary could be part of a commuting route for any bats in the area.

The results of the PRA are provided in Table 6.

Table 6: Assessment of the suitability of the site for bats

Feature Ref	Description	Photographs
B1 (exterior)	<p>This photograph is of the existing garage B1.</p> <p>As part of the proposal this building and the shed behind it (B3) will be demolished and a new chalet structure built on its footprint. The new building will not attach to the current main house (B2) and will remain detached.</p> <p>The roof is felt shingles and is in good condition on the east elevation, however, no clear line of site of the western elevation could be done without climbing into the neighbour's property.</p> <p>The structure is made of inter-locking wood and is in good condition with no warping or gaps seen on the north, south or east elevation.</p> <p>No bat droppings were seen under the gable ends or around the windowsill and door frames.</p>	 <p>The photograph shows the exterior of a red wooden garage building with a dark grey felt shingle roof. The building has a white door and a window. It is situated in a residential area with a brick house and a white van visible in the background. The photo includes a green 'arbttech' watermark and a timestamp 'Feb 16, 2023 01:23:09 pm'.</p>
B1 (interior)	<p>The interior of B1 was in good condition. There is no lining in this void space, but there are exposed ridge beams and rafters.</p> <p>There is no interior void space separate from the garage area, which is in regular use. There are no holes or features that lead directly into this space that are suitable for a roosting bat. The window and door present let in natural light into this space. This overall would greatly reduce its suitability as a day roost.</p> <p>No bat droppings or other evidence was seen inside this building.</p>	 <p>The photograph shows the interior of the garage, which is cluttered with various items including motorcycles, tools, and equipment. The walls are made of wood, and there are exposed ridge beams and rafters. The photo includes a green 'arbttech' watermark and a timestamp 'Feb 16, 2023 01:21:55 pm'.</p>

	<p>B1 was concluded negligible for roosting bats.</p>	
<p>B2 – south elevation</p>	<p>Building B2 is the house on site. This building is not part of the development plans but has been assessed for roost value due to proximity. There are no plans to alter this structure in any way.</p> <p>B2 is a two-storey red-brick building, originally a one-storey but has since had an extension upstairs. It has clay tiles, PVC windows, and a wooden door. The tile of this building has significant lifting, with over 40 lifted or slipped tiles seen across this exterior as in the below photograph.</p> <p>These lifted tiles would be suitable for crevice-dwelling bat species to roost under as many have gaps of 8mm or more which is the ideal size for crevice-dwelling bats to roost. These could potentially lead into any loft space area inside B2, which may be suitable for void-dwelling bats.</p>	 <p>The top photograph shows the front elevation of a two-story red-brick house. It features a red door with a small porch, white-framed windows, and a brick chimney. A satellite dish is visible on the left side of the roof. The bottom photograph is a close-up of the roof tiles, showing several that are lifted or missing, creating gaps. Both photos include a green 'arbtech' logo and a timestamp 'Feb 16, 2023 01:23:47 pm' and 'Feb 16, 2023 01:23:57 pm' respectively.</p>



B2 – north elevation



This photograph is of the norther exterior of B2, there is a one-storey lean-to extension on this elevation which is newer than the original structure, at least ten years old. The original roof above holds many roost features with lifted tiles, the same as the south elevation. The below photograph shows the condition of the tiles.



These tiles would be suitable for crevice-dwelling species and faces towards the adjacent farmland to the site.

The tiles of the one-storey extension had no roosting features.



<p>B2 - interior L1</p>	<p>B2 has three loft areas. This loft space, labelled as L1 on the PRA survey map in Appendix 3, is in the lean-to roof extension as part of the newer part of the building. This is approximately ten years old.</p> <p>This part of the building had no tiles that had any roosting feature observed from the outside.</p> <p>The void space was very narrow, with exposed rafters, and a non-breathable liner, with a floor of loose wool roll insulation.</p> <p>Access into this area was not possible due to the lack of crawling boards in this space, Searching around the hatch area as far as was safe, the lining appeared in good condition, and there was no evidence seen on top of the insulation or on the wooden hatch and no evidence markings on any of the rafters.</p>	
<p>B2 - interior L2</p>	<p>This is loft area 2 -(L2) as marked out on the PRA map.</p> <p>The chimney serves as a break in the loft area, and L2 is the loft space east of the chimney. It's a very small loft area, measuring 1.3m high, 3m long and 1.7m wide.</p> <p>It is a pitch roof attic with an exposed ridge beam due to the lining peeling away, but no exposed rafters. The lining is in poor condition and exposes to the tiles outside opening for easy access.</p> <p>There are multiple stored items in here which greatly reduces the flying space for any bats in this space, reducing overall suitability. But the peeled-back liner could also mean any crevice-dwelling bats under the tiles could easily explore this area.</p>	

	<p>No droppings were seen in this loft space other than rats.</p>	
<p>B2 – interior L3</p>	<p>This photograph is of loft space 3, which runs to the west of the chimney. This loft space has no ridge beam exposed, and the lining has been hammered back in place with pieces of wood. This loft space is smaller than L2 and is also full of stored items. This small space would be unsuitable for many bat species to fly around in.</p> <p>Like L2, no droppings were found other than rat droppings.</p> <p>In conclusion, B2 has a high value for roosting bats, due to the number of tile features, the proximity of woodlands, and the rear garden possibly being part of a commuting route between the two.</p>	

<p>B3 - exterior</p>	<p>B3 is a small garden shed at the rear of B1. B3 will either be demolished or moved to another part of the site to make way for the new building. It's a wooden structure with a felt roof and had no roosting features on its exterior.</p> <p>No evidence of bats could be seen around the outside or on the inside, and no direct access to the inside for any bat was observed.</p> <p>The value of B3 is negligible for roosting bats.</p>	
<p>T1- Large oak, southern boundary.</p>	<p>The singular large oak on the southern boundary is to remain in situ.</p> <p>The tree has several large dead limbs, and others that have been pollarded back. No significant holes and cavities could be observed from the ground floor, but there are signs of cavities forming in some limbs, which would provide features in the future. Great spotted woodpecker was heard calling from adjacent woodland. This could indicate potential future use by this species in the dead-wood limbs to create future to support roosting bats. No woodpecker holes were observed at the time of the survey.</p> <p>Development plans include leaving this tree in situ, but may experience some future pruning, due to one of the dead limbs hanging over the power cable.</p>	

4.0 Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations

4.1 Informative Guidelines

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

Likelihood of the Presence of Protected Species

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

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

4.2 Evaluation

Taking the desk study and field survey results into account, Table 7 presents an evaluation of the ecological value of the site and also details any ecological constraints identified in relation to the proposed development which will comprise the demolition of the existing garage and construction of a new chalet building 6m x 12m, which will match the same roof height as the existing house.

Table 7: Evaluation of the site and any ecological constraints

Ref	Summary of Survey Findings	Foreseen Impacts	Recommendations <i>Measures required to adhere to guidance, legislation and planning policies.</i>	Biodiversity Enhancements <i>The Local Planning Authority has a duty to ask for enhancements under the NPPF (2021)</i>
Designated sites	<p>The site is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory designation.</p> <p>There are 2 statutory sites within 2km of the site, the closest being The New Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located 1424m from the site.</p> <p>The site lies within the impact risk zone for The New Forest</p>	<p>No impacts to designated sites are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such sites (where known) as well as the urban location of the site with surrounding physical barriers.</p>	None.	None.

	<p>Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but the proposed development type is not listed as a possible high risk for this designation.</p> <p>The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from the Local Records Centre, but this is not expected to alter the conclusions of this report.</p>			
<p>Habitats and flora</p>	<p>There are no notable habitats within the site, but there are broadleaf woodland habitats present within 1km of the site, the closest being located 150m west of the site.</p>	<p>No impacts to any notable habitats are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such habitats.</p> <p>The proposal will be on an existing footprint of the demolished building and will see a small area of modified grassland of the southern garden removed to make way for further parking. Due to the low value of these grassland areas, it's not expected to have a high impact on any biodiversity.</p>	<p>Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution must be implemented during construction.</p> <p>Retained trees should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012). This is regarding the mature Oak on the southern bank boundary.</p>	<p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of wildflower grassland as a border to the site boundary • The creation of a wildlife pond to include native plant species and no fish. • Increase in bushes and shrubs planting along the northern fence boundary to create a native hedgerow boundary. • Filling out the south hedge boundary with native species where it becomes sparse. <p>Species-specific enhancement opportunities are detailed later in this table.</p>

Amphibians	<p>There were no ponds identified on site. According to MAGIC maps, there's a collection of ponds or wetland areas in the woodland north of the site, the closest pond being 226m away, measuring approximately 60m long.</p> <p>Onsite habitats are generally unsuitable for amphibians with the grassland onsite being short and exposed to predation. Amphibians may cross the site transiently but this is unlikely to be in large numbers due to the limited habitat connectivity between site and these ponds.</p> <p>There are piles of brash and discarded wood and items behind B1, which will have to be moved. These have been in situ for a while and could serve as hibernation areas.</p> <p>There is a further shed in the northeast corner, which will not be moved. This building is closest to the field boundary and amphibians could potentially hide under the wooden structure.</p>	<p>A small area of the modified grassland around the footprint of the demolished garage will be removed during construction.</p> <p>The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local amphibian populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally.</p> <p>However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of amphibians, if present and hibernating around the brash and item piles behind B1.</p>	<p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to great crested newts, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented for common amphibians during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site clearance will be undertaken outside of the amphibian hibernation season (November to February) insofar as is possible. • A toolbox talk will be given to contractors regarding the possible presence of amphibians at the site. • A pre-commencement inspection of the site will be undertaken for amphibians. • Maintain the current short sward of the grassland on site. • The rubble and brash piles around B1 will be dismantled by hand and debris and brash will be stored on pallets or removed from the site to prevent amphibians from utilising these areas. These could be put against the north fence boundary. • Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to retained habitats that amphibians could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. • If any common amphibians are found in the working area these should be moved by hand to a vegetated area along the site boundaries or in retained habitats away from disturbance. • In the unlikely event that a great crested newt is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. 	<p>To be confirmed upon</p> <p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for amphibians:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a wildlife pond for wildlife to include native plant species and no fish. • Creation of amphibian refugia and hibernacula using debris and brash from site clearance against the northern fence boundary • Planting of native scrub and grassland to increase foraging opportunities.
Reptiles	<p>The site offers little value for reptiles on site, and the sward height of the grassland is low which reduces shelter, and foraging opportunities and will exposes individuals to</p>	<p>A small area of the modified grassland around the footprint of the demolished garage will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local reptile populations owing to their low</p>	<p>Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to reptiles, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p>	<p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for reptiles:</p>

	<p>predation, from both other wildlife and felines on site. Reptiles could hibernate underneath a shed in the northeast corner of the site, closer to the adjacent farmland, and commute through the more tussocky grass enveloping the base of the northern fence line.</p> <p>There are the discarded brash and items piled behind B1, which could also serve as a hibernation opportunity, it offers poor basking opportunity due to the shading from B1</p>	<p>value and the presence of more extensive habitats locally. However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of reptiles, if present.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site clearance will be undertaken outside of the reptile hibernation season (November to February) insofar as is possible. • A toolbox talk will be given to contractors regarding the possible presence of reptiles at the site. • A pre-commencement inspection of the site will be undertaken for reptiles. • Maintain the current short sward around the site to deter reptiles from coming onto site. • The brash and rubble piles around B1 will be dismantled by hand and debris and brash will be stored on pallets or removed from the site to prevent reptiles from utilising these areas. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. • In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a wildlife pond to include native plant species and no fish. • Creation of reptile refugia and hibernacula using debris and brash from site clearance. This could be done against the northern fence boundary to keep them further from harm. • Planting of native scrub and grassland to increase foraging opportunities. • The creation of basking areas such as rock piles or areas of cleared ground with shelter nearby. The north west corner of the site would be an optimal area.
Roosting bats B1	<p>Building B1 has negligible value for roosting bats due to a lack of potential roost features and no bat evidence found on inspection.</p>	<p>Bats are very unlikely to be roosting within this building and as such, there are not anticipated to be any impacts on bats in this location as a result of the proposed demolition of this building.</p>	<p>In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.</p>	<p>The installation of a minimum of two bat boxes on mature trees around the site boundaries will provide additional roosting habitat for bats e.g.</p> <p>Harlech woodstone bat box Vivara Pro Woodstone Bat Box Or a similar alternative brand.</p> <p>Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path</p>

				<p>to and from the entrance, away from artificial light.</p> <p>The mature oak on site would be an ideal location to install a new bat box, as other trees on site are quite small in stature and height.</p> <p>Alternatively, bat boxes could be incorporated into new chalet building on the site e.g. Habibat Bat Box Schwegler 1FR Bat Tubes Bat tubes should be inserted into the fabric of the building during construction, positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance and facing landscapes areas, away from artificial light.</p>
<p>Roosting bats B2</p>	<p>B2 has an extensive number of roosting features in the form of lifted or slipped tiles. This was seen across both roof elevations with over 40 roosting tile features observed. The interior void space was very small and lacked any bat roosting evidence of void-dwelling bats. B2 is more likely to support crevice-dwelling bats under the tiles.</p> <p>B2 has a high roost value.</p>	<p>No development plans are proposed for B2 and therefore no roost damage, modification or destruction will occur. However, there may be light spill across from B1 onto B2 during construction or from any installed security lights that may disrupt bats that may be roosting in B2</p>	<p>Following a low lighting strategy as listed under foraging and commuting bats to reduce light spill onto B2.</p> <p>For any future work to take place on B2.</p> <p>Three bat emergence and re-entry surveys are required during the active bat season (optimal May to August, suboptimal September) to confirm presence or likely absence of a bat roost in the building. At least two of the surveys should be completed during the optimal survey period mid-May to August inclusive. Infra-red cameras should be used as an aid. Surveys should be a minimum of two weeks apart. Two surveyors are required to provide full coverage of the building. If bat roosts are confirmed in the building an EPSL application to Natural England will be required. The EPSL application requires that surveys have been undertaken</p>	<p>See recommendations of B1</p>

			within the most recent active bat season and planning permission must have been granted and all relevant wildlife-related conditions have been discharged prior to submission.	
Roosting bats B3	Building B3 has negligible value for roosting bats due to a lack of potential roost features.	Bats are very unlikely to be roosting within this building and as such, there are not anticipated to be any impacts on bats in this location as a result of the proposed demolition or moving of this building.	In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.	See recommendations of B1
Roosting bats, T1	The large mature oak on the southwest corner of the site, showing signs of decay on several trimmed branches, which could prove a future roosting feature developing. No features could be seen from the ground observation, however with the current condition of some of the oak limbs, it's expected that roosting features are present or will further develop.	There are not anticipated to be any impacts on roosting bats as a result of the demolition of B1 and the new structure being built on it's footprint, as this tree is not being removed.	For any future work on the oak tree Best practice guidelines state that trees with low suitability for roosting bats do not require further surveys. Instead, prior to any pruning or felling, a close-up inspection of any features that could be used by roosting bats will be undertaken to determine the presence or likely absence of roosting bats. This may require a qualified climbing team or a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) to access the features. In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.	
Foraging and commuting bats	The north boundary scattered trees and fence boundary line could be used by local bat populations for foraging and commuting. These could also be used by bats dispersing from nearby roosts outside of the site. This boundary line with scattered trees links the deciduous woodlands to the north and west of the site	The proposed development will not result in the removal of any habitats which could be used by foraging or commuting bats. The proposed development could include the use of lighting which could spill onto bat roosting, foraging or commuting habitats and deter bats from using these areas.	A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during and post-development, which will include the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use narrow spectrum light sources to lower the range of species affected by lighting. • Use light sources that emit minimal ultra-violet light. • Avoid white and blue wavelengths of the light spectrum to reduce insect attraction and where white light sources are required in order to manage the blue shortwave length content they should be of a warm / neutral colour temperature <4,200 kelvin. 	The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for foraging bats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a wildlife pond • Planting of native tree, shrub and hedgerows on the north boundary to increase foraging opportunities and create a better commuting route.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not use bare bulbs and any light pointing upwards. The spread of light will be kept in line with or below the horizontal. <p>Light spill will be reduced via the use of low-level lighting used in conjunction with hoods, cowls, louvers and shields. Lights will also be directional to ensure that light is directed to the intended areas only.</p> <p>External lighting will be on PIR sensors that are sensitive to large objects only (so that they are not triggered by passing bats) and will be set to the shortest time duration to reduce the amount of time the lights are on.</p> <p>Wall lights and security lights will be 'dimnable' and set to the lowest light intensity settings. There are several products on the market that allow the control of the light intensity and the duration that the lights are on. All lighting on the developed site will make use of the most up to date technology available.</p>	
<p>Badger</p>	<p>There was no evidence of badgers coming onto site, such as latrines, diggings or badger runs. Badgers could easily access the site through the southern entrance if they travel the road and from other garden areas. The north boundary would be easy for a badger to dig under, but there's no evidence of this happening.</p> <p>The site has poor sward height for foraging opportunities for a badger, reducing the chance of badgers coming onto site.</p>	<p>The small area of modified grassland being lost as part of the development would have minimal consequences on foraging badgers visiting the site</p>	<p>A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. • The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. 	<p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for badgers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting fruit bearing trees on the north boundary which allows fruit to eventually fall into the adjacent land, or close to the boundary within easy reach.

Hazel dormouse	<p>There are two EPSL within 2km of the site for hazel dormice, 1616m northeast (2017) and 1520m (2019) southeast both allowing damage and impacts on a breeding site.</p> <p>The site holds no habitat suitable for hazel dormice. The north boundary does not have any hedges to connect the site to the wider landscape, and the privet hedge in the front garden is small, only 5-6m long and does not connect to any wider landscape. Hazel dormice are not expected to be on site.</p>	No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.	None.	<p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for dormice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting of native trees, shrubs and hedgerows, as part of the north boundary creation, in particular fruit and nut bearing species, to increase foraging opportunities.
Hedgehog	<p>Hedgehogs could easily access the site from both the south entrance and the north boundary, where the fence had suitable gaps to allow travelling to and from the site. The grassland on site is a poor sward, which does reduce the quality of foraging opportunities for hedgehogs. Hedgehogs could use the northern boundary line as part of a commuting route passing between woodland following via the east hedgerow and along the northern garden boundaries.</p> <p>No evidence of hedgehogs was seen on site such as signs of hedgehog droppings.</p>	<p>The tidying up and removal of the brash and rubble piles around B1 will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally.</p> <p>However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.</p>	<p>A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site clearance will be undertaken outside of the hedgehog hibernation season (November to March) insofar as is possible. A toolbox talk will be given to contractors regarding the possible presence of hedgehogs at the site. A pre-commencement inspection of the site will be undertaken for hedgehogs. Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use. Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. If a hedgehog is found then this should be moved by gloved hand to the north field boundary. 	<p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities. Creation of brash piles or installation of hedgehog houses in shady areas. Installation of gaps under boundary fencing to enable hedgehogs to move freely through the site.

Otter	According to magic, there are small streams scattered through the woodland to the northeast of the site. They appear to be from springs and possibly ditches as they do not flow into this woodland area, but flow outwards to the east to become part of the Avon water, 1380m away. The streams within the woodlands would likely be too small to support otters compared to the main river. It's unlikely otters would cross the arable fields, to come to the site, when the site offers little habitat value for otters.	No impacts are anticipated on otters as a result of the proposed development.	None.	None.
Water vole	The same listed as otters, with the small streams scattered throughout the woodland, it could not be established if there's a bank or vegetation suitable for water vole. However, with the distance between the site and this woodland area, it's unlikely of water voles cross the arable field. Habitats on site are not suitable for water voles if they do manage to travel the distance, and the presence of feline on site would be a high risk of predation.	No impacts are anticipated on water vole as a result of the proposed development.	None.	None.
Birds	The site offers some nesting opportunities for species on site, with small trees in the north garden, and a large oak tree in the southern garden. Starlings were seen on the date of the survey which is a	A small area of modified grassland will be removed during construction and cleaning up of an area of brash and discarded items. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local bird populations owing to their low	Clearance of brash and discarded items should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August. If this timeframe cannot be avoided, a close inspection of this area should be undertaken immediately, prior to the commencement of work to make sure no nests are being constructed in this area.	The installation of a minimum of two bird boxes on mature trees around the site boundaries or on retained buildings will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g.

	<p>red-listed species on the oak, but likely are not nesting within. The decaying branches will hold value for woodpeckers which could then provide value for other nesting birds.</p> <p>The presence of residential cats in the garden does lower the overall value for nesting birds and bird skeletons were seen in the rear garden on the site visit, indicating possible predation by the felines.</p> <p>Robins, starlings, wrens and blue tits were seen around the garden on the day, as well as corvids, pheasants collared doves and woodpigeons in the adjacent farmland</p>	<p>value and the presence of more extensive habitats locally. However, the proposed development could result in the destruction or the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests.</p>	<p>All active nests will need to be retained until the young have fledged.</p>	<p>Woodstone Robin Boxes (trees) Woodstone Nest Box (buildings or trees) Or a similar alternative brand. Tree boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Small-hole boxes are best placed approximately 1-3m above ground on an area of the tree trunk where foliage will not obscure the entrance hole.</p> <p>These can be placed on the mature oak on the southern boundary, this is safer than the small northern trees, as these could be easily climbed by a cat.</p>
<p>Invertebrates</p>	<p>The site may support a population of invertebrates with trees on site, the brash and discarded items piles, as well as the small hedge. It's not expected that a significant or rare invertebrate population is expected on this site.</p>	<p>No impacts are anticipated on notable species or populations of invertebrates as a result of the proposed development. The majority of habitats that will support insects on the site will remain in situ and untouched.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for invertebrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native tree, hedgerow and shrub planting at the north boundary • Creation of wildflower grassland. • Retention of deadwood and brash cuttings on the site, stacked against the north boundary

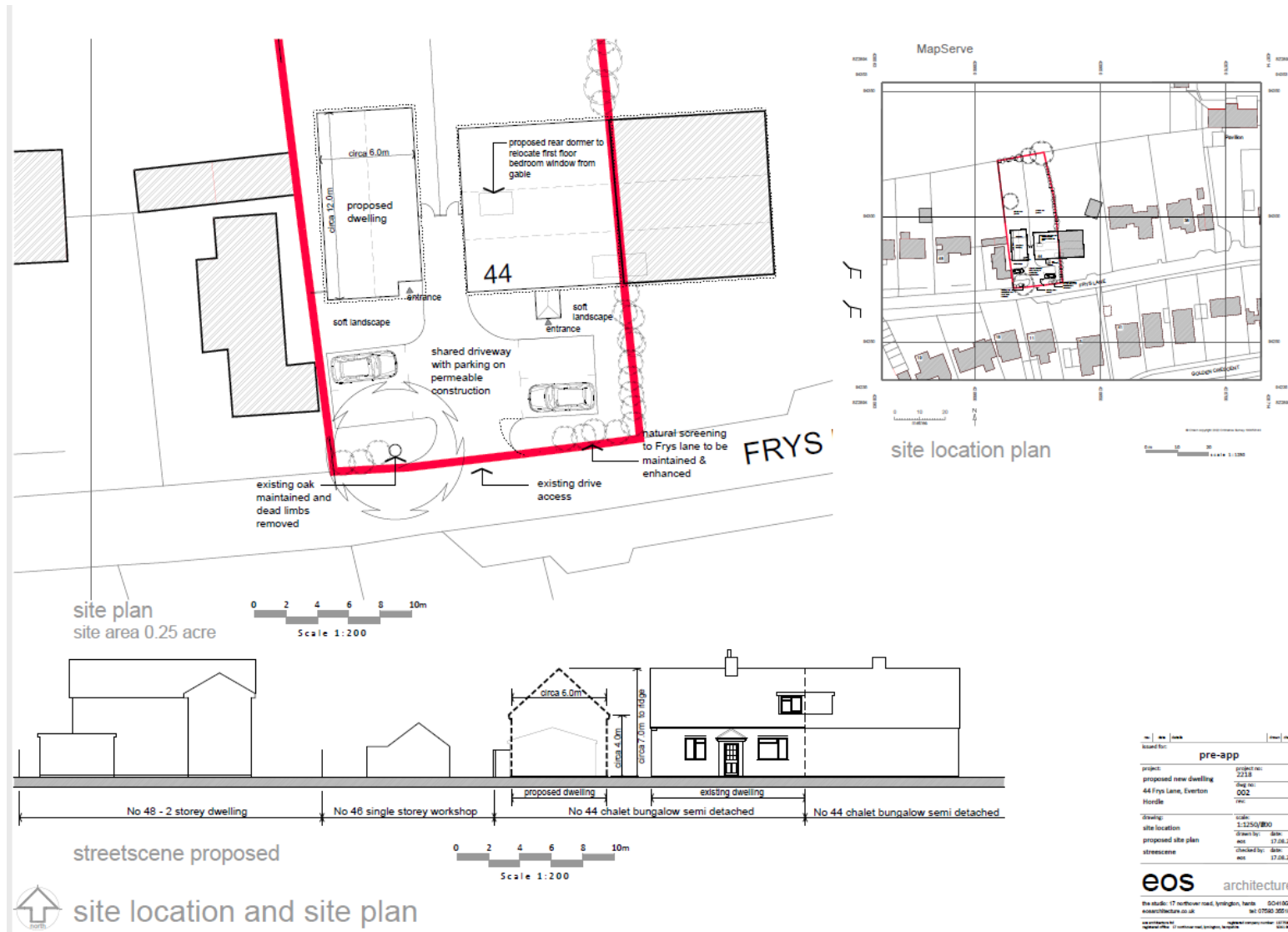
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Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan



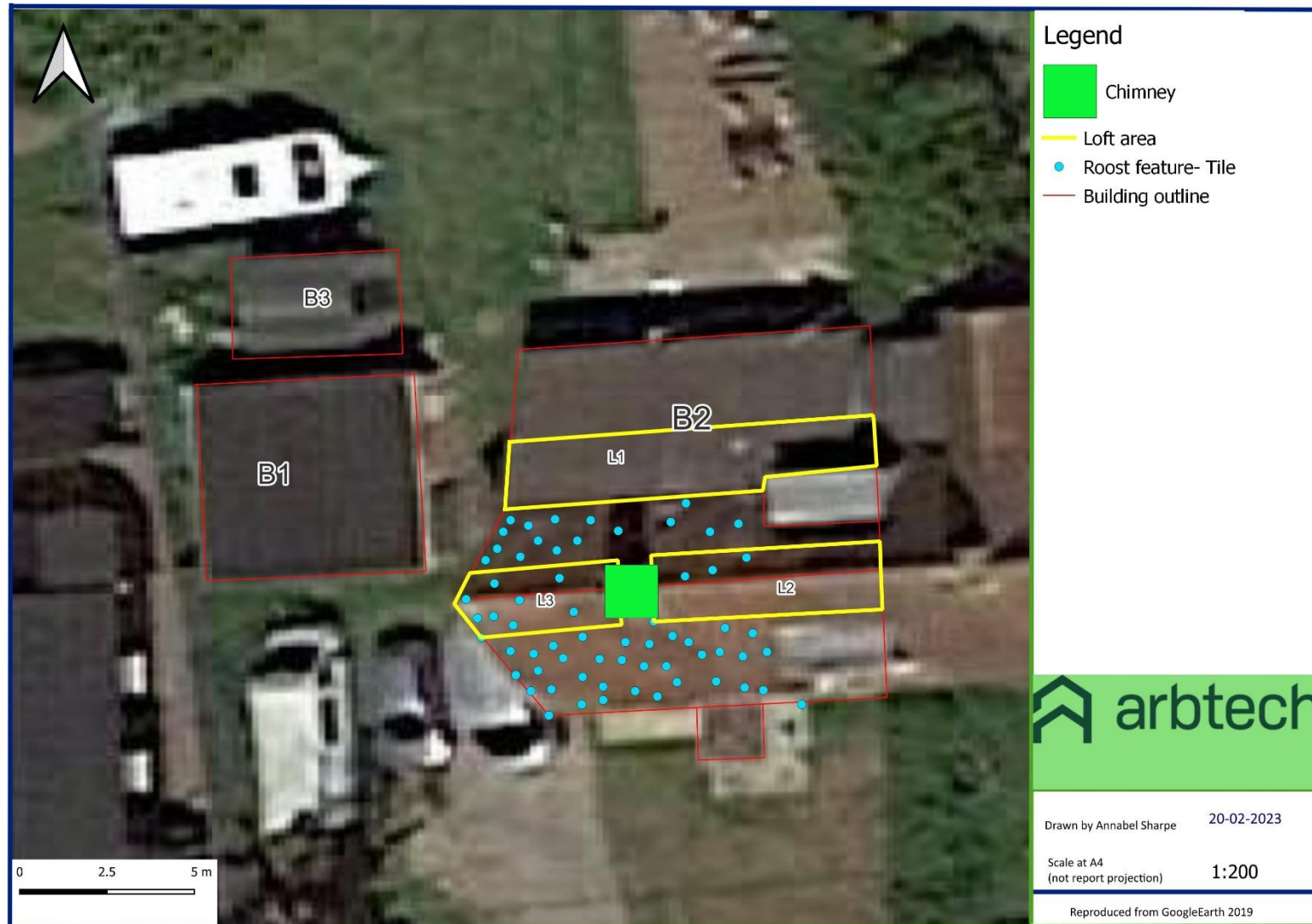
Appendix 2: Site Location Plan



Appendix 3a: Habitat Survey Plan



Appendix 3b: PRA Survey Plan



Appendix 4: Legislation and Planning Policy

LEGAL PROTECTION

National and European Legislation Afforded to Habitats

International Statutory Designations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and recognises the importance of wetland ecosystems in relation to global biodiversity conservation. The Convention refers to wetlands as “*areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres*”.

However, they may also include riparian and coastal zones. Ramsar sites are statutorily protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended 01.04.1996) with further protection provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. Policy statements have been issued by the Government in England and Wales highlighting the special status of Ramsar sites.

The Government in England and Wales has issued policy statements which ensure that Ramsar sites are afforded the same protection as areas designated under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives as part of the Natura 2000 network (e.g. SACs & SPAs). Further provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs have been introduced by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

National Statutory Designations

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

Local Statutory Designations

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

Non- Statutory Designations

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

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

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Badgers

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

- Wilfully kill, injure, take, or attempt to kill, injure or take a badger
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger, including use of tongs and digging
- Possess or control a dead badger or any part thereof
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett or any part thereof
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a badger when it is occupying a badger sett
- Intentionally or recklessly cause a dog to enter a badger sett
- Sell or offers for sale, possesses or has under his control, a live badger

Effects on development works:

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

Birds

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

- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) take, damage or destroy (or, in Scotland, otherwise interfere with) the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built
- Intentionally take or destroy an egg of any wild bird
- Sell, offer or expose for sale, have in his possession or transport for the purpose of sale any wild bird (dead or alive) or bird egg or part thereof.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct or prevent any wild bird from using its nest (Scotland only)

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

This affords them protection against:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young
- Intentional or reckless disturbance of dependent young of such a bird
- In Scotland only, intentional or reckless disturbance whilst lekking
- In Scotland only, intentional or reckless harassment

Effects on development works:

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

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

Amphibians and Reptiles

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

- Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species
- Deliberate disturbance of species in such a way as:

- To impair their ability to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;
- To impair their ability to hibernate or migrate
- To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

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

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

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

- Intentionally or recklessly kill or injure these species.

Effects on development works:

A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) issued by the relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage) will be required for works likely to affect the breeding sites or resting places amphibian and reptile species protected under Habitats Regulations. A licence will also be required for operations liable to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, rear young and hibernate). The licences are to allow derogation from the relevant legislation, but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficacy to be monitored.

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

Water Voles

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

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

Effects on development works:

If development works are likely to affect habitats known to support water voles, the relevant countryside agency (i.e. Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage) must be consulted. It must be shown that means by which the proposal can be re-designed to avoid contravening the legislation have been fully explored e.g. the use of alternative sites, appropriate timing of works to avoid times of the year in which water voles are most vulnerable, and measures to ensure minimal habitat loss. Conservation licences for the capture and

translocation of water voles may be issued by the relevant countryside agency for the purpose of development activities if it can be shown that the activity has been properly planned and executed and thereby contributes to the conservation of the population. The licence will then only be granted to a suitably experienced person if it can be shown that adequate surveys have been undertaken to inform appropriate mitigation measures. Identification and preparation of a suitable receptor site will be necessary prior to the commencement of works.

Otters

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

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

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

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

Effects on development works:

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

Bats

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

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

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

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

Effects on development works:

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

Hazel Dormice

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

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

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

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

Effects on development works:

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

White Clawed Crayfish

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

- Protected against intentional or reckless taking

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

It is also classified as Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species. As a result of this and other relevant crayfish legislation such as the Prohibition of Keeping of Live Fish (Crayfish) Order 1996, a series of licences are needed for working with White-clawed and non-native crayfish. These are:

- A licence to handle crayfish (therefore survey work) in England
- A licence for the keeping of crayfish in England and Wales with an exemption for Signal crayfish (England).
- People in the post-code areas listed with crayfish present prior to 1996 do not need to apply for consent for crayfish already established. It does not, however, allow any new stocking of non-native crayfish into waterbodies. Consent for trapping of non-native crayfish for control or consumption is most likely to be granted in Thames and Anglian regions in the areas with "go area" postcodes.
- Harvesting of crayfish is prohibited in much of England and in any part of Scotland and Wales.

Effects on development works:

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

Wild Mammals (Protection Act) 1996

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

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

Legislation Afforded to Plants

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

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

- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) picking, uprooting or destruction of any wild Schedule 8 species (or seed or spore attached to any such wild plant in Scotland only)
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, or possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale, any wild live or dead Schedule 8 plant species or part thereof

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

Effects on development works:

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

Invasive Species

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

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

Effects on development works:

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

Injurious weeds

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

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

Effects on development works:

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

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY (ENGLAND)

Environment Act 2021

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

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

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

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

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

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

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

New Forest Local plan (2016-2036)

The New Forest Local Plan can be viewed here: <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/>

The following planning policies have implications for developers in relation to bats:

Policy DP2- All new development and uses of land within the New Forest National Park must uphold and promote the principles of sustainable development. New development proposals must demonstrate high quality design and construction which enhances local character and distinctiveness. This includes, but is not restricted to, the ensuring.

- Development respects the natural, built and historic environment, landscape character and biodiversity
- Development takes opportunities to protect and enhance the setting of groups and individual trees, hedges, and hedgerows and to include new planting of native trees and hedges where appropriate.

Policy SP6

The natural environment

Proposals should protect, maintain and enhance nationally, regionally and locally important sites and features of the natural environment, including habitats and species of biodiversity importance, geological features and the water environment.

Development which is likely to have an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (either individually or in combination with other developments) will not be permitted. Only where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh both the impacts on the special interest features of the SSSI and on the broader national network of SSSIs will an exception be considered

Development proposals which adversely affect locally designated sites, priority habitats and species populations, protected species or those identified of importance by national or local biodiversity plans will be refused unless the Authority is satisfied that:

- a) it has been demonstrated that suitable measures for mitigating adverse effects will be provided and maintained in order to achieve a net gain in biodiversity value; and
- b) there are no alternative solutions; and
- c) there are overriding reasons which outweigh the harm.

In cases where it is not possible to fully avoid or mitigate for the loss of biodiversity interests resulting from a development, appropriate compensation will be secured for any residual losses via on or off-site compensation measures. The latter may include the provision of compensatory habitats elsewhere.

New Forest BAP 2013

The New Forest BAP- can be viewed here: - <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/conservation/protecting-nature/biodiversity-action-plan/>

There is no agreed separate priority list of species for the New Forest, indeed many experts would caution against promoting single species as their conservation in the New Forest relies more on managing supporting habitats on a landscape scale than individual 'gardening' which is likely to adversely affect other conservation interests.

The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan identified 50 notable species which local organisations and experts regarded as meriting special regard. The richness of the New Forest is illustrated by 41 of these being found within the area

EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES POLICIES

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

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

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