Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)

Land adjacent to Straight Drove, Farcet, Peterborough PE7 3DJ

October 2026

For Pamela Spencer

Sound Ecology

Report: SE2643

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LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS

Limitations of the Report

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This report takes account of the client's instructions and requirements. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party, and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

This report is prepared and written in the context of the proposals outlined in the introduction and should not be used in a different context. If circumstances change or 18 months have passed since the report date, the report should be referred to the author for reassessment and, if necessary, reappraisal.

The Summary and Recommendations sections of the report provide only an overview and guidance and should not be relied upon in isolation; they should be considered in the context of the whole report. Interpretations and recommendations in the report represent my professional opinion, developed in accordance with accepted industry practices and current legislation at the time of writing. No responsibility is accepted for any inaccuracies in the supplied data.

Scientific survey data will be shared with the local biological records centre in accordance with professional codes of conduct.

Limitations of Surveys

This report documents the wildlife observed during the survey, along with anecdotal evidence of particular species. It does not record any animals or plants that may appear at other times of the year and therefore were not evident during the survey visits. Animal behaviour can be unpredictable and may not conform to standard patterns documented in the scientific literature. Therefore, this report cannot predict with absolute certainty that animal species will occur in apparently suitable locations or that they will not occur in locations or habitats that appear to be unsuitable. Habitats outside the site boundary were visited only when considered appropriate and when access was available.

This survey is valid for 18 months. If development does not occur within this period, the survey should be repeated as part of a comprehensive ecological reappraisal.

Andrew Palmer BSc (Hons), DipLA, MCIEEM
Sound Ecology – October 2026

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sound Ecology has prepared this report on behalf of Pamela Spencer, relating to land adjacent to Straight Drove, Farcet, Peterborough PE7 3DJ.

The report comprises a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA). A separate Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment has been prepared by the BNG Partnership. This report supports a planning application to relocate Folly Farm Equestrian Centre from Yaxley to the site. The proposals include installing stables and a yard, an outdoor schooling manège, car parking, and a significant landscape planting belt.

Description

The 1.23-ha site lies north of Straight Drove, Farcet, and fronts a 9.6 ha field under arable crops. The site lies 1 km southeast of Farcet Bridge in an agricultural landscape with mixed arable and pasture. It is largely featureless, with shallow ditches along the road frontage and eastern perimeter, but no hedgerows or significant trees. Grassy and tall forb swards line the site edges, but they have low conservation value. A small part of the site wraps around the side and rear of Blackpool Cottages, and here the boundary comprises timber fences.

Survey Results

The application site showed no evidence of utilisation by protected and priority species. The ditches were unsuitable for Water Voles. Several ponds have been created on nearby land since 2022, with the closest at 200 m from the site. However, as arable land, the site is not suitable to support the terrestrial phase of Great Crested Newt and impacts on this species are not anticipated. No evidence of Badgers was found, and the site is unsuitable for bat roosting, foraging, or commuting.

Skylarks were seen and heard in the broader field to the north (blue line site), but not within the application site, and the cropped land may support a small number of widespread farmland birds.

Evaluation, Mitigation & Enhancement

The proposals fall on land of low ecological value, with no significant impacts likely to arise for protected or priority species. Sufficient evidence was gathered to establish that further surveys for the application site are not required. However, the presence of Skylark in the area of field north of the application boundary would be sufficient for a further assessment if that land were to be modified in the future.

It is considered that baseline conditions are not favourable for the site to serve as functionally linked land for wintering wildfowl associated with the Nene Washes SPA. The Goose and Swan Functional Land Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) map produced by the neighbouring Fenland District Council as part of a Habitats Regulation Assessment shows the IRZ is at least 3.6 km away.

Precautionary working methods (PWMS) will be required when clearing the site to avoid impacts on nesting birds. The proposals will incorporate proportionate habitat opportunities for wildlife likely to occur within the local area.

2 INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Introduction

Sound Ecology has prepared this report on behalf of Pamela Spencer, relating to land adjacent to Straight Drove, Farcet, Peterborough PE7 3DJ (hereinafter referred to as 'the site').

The report comprises a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA). A separate Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment has been prepared by the BNG Partnership. This report supports a planning application to relocate Folly Farm Equestrian Centre from Yaxley to the site. The assessment informs a planning application and evaluates development constraints arising from ecological issues, ensuring compliance with wildlife legislation (Appendix A1). It also allows any work that may otherwise harm protected and biodiversity species to be appropriately scheduled.

Andrew Palmer BSc (Hons), DipLA, MCIEEM, undertook the survey and produced this report (See 3.1)

2.2 Site Location, Description, and Development Proposals

The 1.23-ha site lies north of Straight Drove, Farcet, and fronts a 9.6 ha field under arable crops. The site lies 1 km southeast of Farcet Bridge in an agricultural landscape with mixed arable and pasture. The site is largely featureless, with shallow ditches along the road frontage and eastern perimeter, but no hedgerows or significant trees. Grassy, tall-fescue swards line the site edges, but they have low conservation value. A small part of the site wraps around the side and rear of Blackpool Cottages, and here the boundary comprises timber fences.

The proposals include installing stables and a yard, an outdoor schooling manège, car parking, and a significant landscape planting belt.

No statutory conservation sites were within 2 km, with the closest internationally significant sites being Nene Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar/SSSI, 3.35 km to the north; Holme Fen NNR/SSSI, 3.9 km to the south; and Orton Pit SAC/SSSI, 4 km to the west.

No European Protected Species applications or Great Crested Newt (GCN) Class Survey Licence returns had been granted within 2 km. This site lies within the GCN green risk zone.

2.3 Scope and Objectives

The objectives of the survey are:

- To undertake a scoping exercise to assess potential impacts on protected habitats and species.
- To recommend follow-up species surveys as needed.
- To make recommendations to mitigate potential negative impacts arising from development proposals.
- To recommend enhancing on-site habitats and wildlife opportunities, resulting in an overall net gain in biodiversity.

2.4 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

A separate BNG assessment accompanies the application. This has been prepared by the BNG partnership.

3 METHODOLOGIES

3.1 Surveyor

The survey was conducted by Sarah Downing (SD) BSc (Hons), MCIEEM. SD holds a Level 1 bat survey licence (2025-84203-CL17-BAT), a Hazel Dormouse survey licence (2026-87033-CL10a-DOR), and a Great Crested Newt survey licence (2025-81276-SCI-CL08), and meets the requirements set out in BS 42020:2013 for a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE).

The report was prepared by Andrew Palmer (AP), an experienced ecologist who also meets the requirements of a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) as specified in BS 42020:2013. AP has held a Level 2 Bat Survey Licence since 2011 (Class Licence Registration Number: 2025-84600-CL18-BAT) and Great Crested Newt and Barn Owl Survey Licences (Class Licences 2025-82676-SCI-CL08 and 2026-87016-CL29-OWL).

3.2 Desk Study

A desk study was conducted to provide an ecological context and inform an assessment of potential ecological constraints on development. MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside) was searched in October 2026. Current Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs were used to identify features within a 500-metre radius of the site that may be used by protected or notable species. Given the localised and discrete nature of the proposal, a biological records data search is not considered necessary. However, nearby planning applications were reviewed to determine whether any significant ecological issues were identified.

3.3 Habitat Survey

The survey involved site visits on 11 August (SD) and 08 October (AP), 2026, to record and map habitat types and ecological features. 50 x 50 cm steel quadrats were used to record species density.

3.4 Protected and Biodiversity Species Assessment

The site was inspected for evidence of protected and notable species and assessed for potential to support them. This included species listed under all relevant English legislation (as Appendix A1). The following protected and notable species were considered within the assessment.

3.4.1 Bat Roosts

No bat roosting opportunities were identified on site, and the survey confirmed that no further consideration of bat roosts is required.

3.4.2 Bat Foraging and Commuting:

As no structural vegetation was present, the site was not considered suitable to support bat foraging and commuting, and the survey considered these behaviours would be largely absent.

3.4.2 Amphibians

Great Crested Newt (GCN) surveys are only relevant where suitable breeding ponds are present within 250 m (this may be extended to 500 m where the habitat between the site

and ponds is highly suitable). Several new ponds (created in the last three to four years) lie within 250 m. Consequently, potential impacts on GCN were assessed.

3.4.3 Other Species

The site was not considered suitable for widespread reptiles. However, suitability was assessed for other protected and notable fauna species and assemblages, including Water Voles, Badgers, Hedgehogs, and nesting birds. The potential impacts on wintering wild geese and swans were also considered given the proximity of the Nene Washes SPA.

Additionally, the site was searched for invasive non-native species (INNS), including Japanese Knotweed.

3.5 Ecological Evaluation

The site has been assigned an ecological value based on the approach described in 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK & Ireland' published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018; updated 2022), which defines the resource (in this case, the habitat and scope for protected species) within a geographical context.

3.6 Limitations and Assumptions

No significant limitations were identified, and the surveys followed established good-practice guidelines. Adjacent land was only examined closely where public access was possible.

This PEA provides an overview of the likelihood of protected and notable species occurring on the site. The absence of a species cannot be presumed where no evidence was found. Further surveys are recommended where there is a reasonable likelihood that a protected species may be present and potentially impacted by the development proposal.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Desk Survey - Designated Sites and Habitats

Statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations do not cover the site. No statutory conservation sites were within 2 km, with the closest internationally significant sites being Nene Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar/SSSI, 3.35 km to the north; Holme Fen NNR/SSSI, 3.9 km to the south; and Orton Pit SAC/SSSI, 4 km to the west. Refer to the evaluation in Section 5.

4.2 Desk Survey - Protected and Biodiversity Species

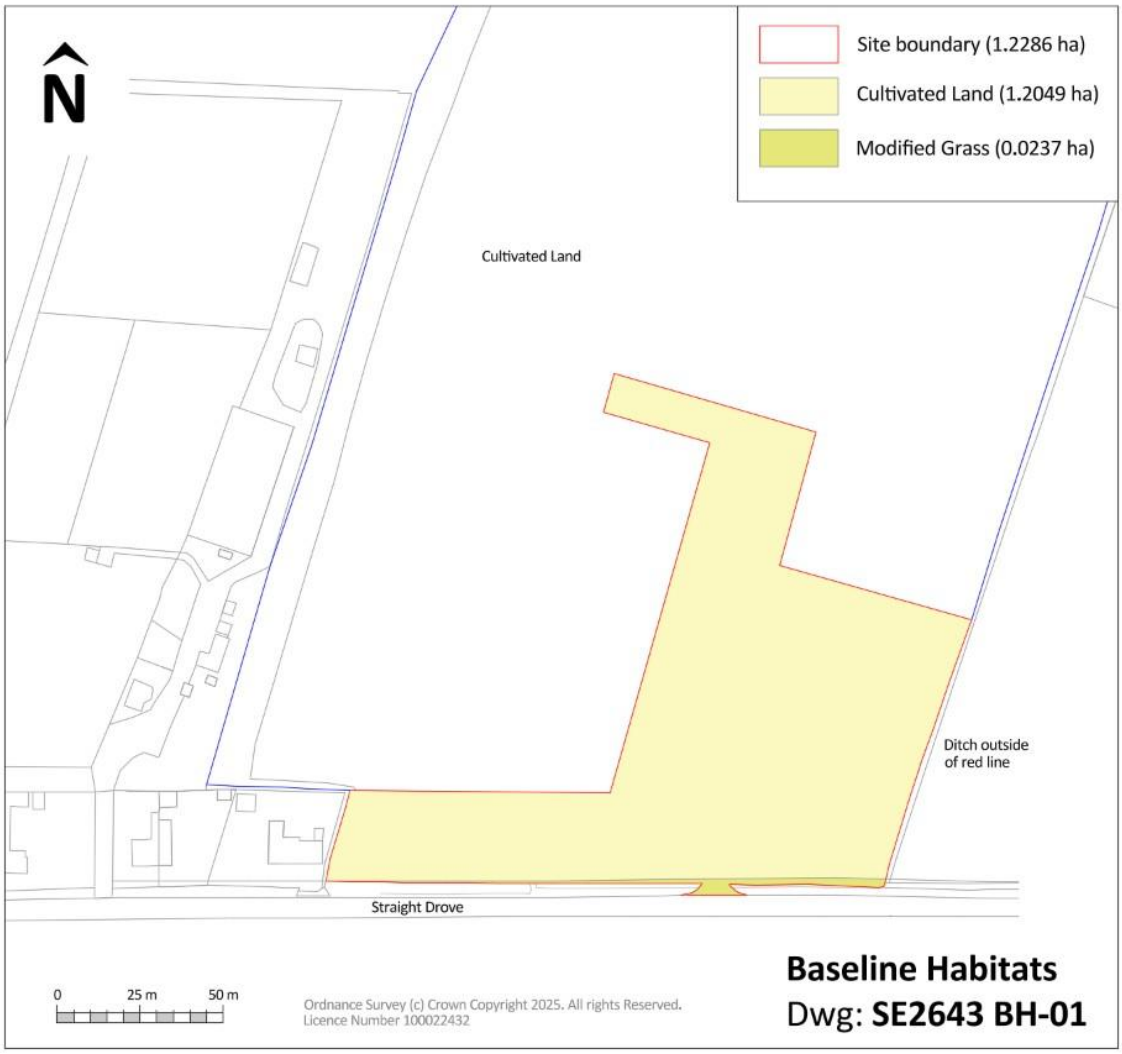
No European Protected Species applications or Great Crested Newt (GCN) class survey licence returns had been granted within 2 km. This site lies within the GCN green risk zone. No further consideration of these records is necessary.

Potential impacts on the status of the functionally linked area for wild geese and swan wintering populations are evaluated in Section 5.

4.3 Habitat Survey

No habitats were priority or irreplaceable. Figure 1 shows the distribution of measurable habitats. These are also illustrated in the photographs below.

Figure 1: Baseline habitats



The 1.23-ha site is adjacent to Straight Drove. The road frontage has a grass verge with a small amount of tall forbs, although very little of this habitat falls within the application boundary. This comprised modified grass dominated by Cock's-foot, with Perennial Rye-grass, Yorkshire Fog, Common Nettle, Creeping Thistle, Rosebay Willowherb and Bristly Oxtongue.

The ditch on the eastern boundary falls outside the application area. The development and fencing are set back far enough to avoid affecting the ditch. Forbs here included Common Nettle, Creeping Thistle, Rosebay Willowherb, False Oat-grass, and Cock's-foot.

Aside from these peripheral habitat strips, most of the site was cropped land, with significant bare ground and scattered ruderal and ephemeral forbs such as Fat hen, Common Mugwort, Spear thistle, Groundsel, and Common Amaranth.

No trees or shrubs were present within the application site, although several were found around the perimeter of the blue line area.

Photographs: 1 – Site Area of proposed development looking north from the road. **2** – Close-up of cropped field. **3** – Road frontage. **4** – Eastern perimeter marked by a shallow ditch and tall forbs.



4.4 Protected and Priority Species Scoping Survey

The site was broadly unsuitable for most protected and priority species. The ditches were unsuitable for Water Voles. Several ponds have been created on nearby land since 2022, with the closest at 200 m from the site. However, as arable land, the site is not suitable to support the terrestrial phase of Great Crested Newt and impacts on this species are not anticipated. No evidence of Badgers or Hedgehogs was found, and the site is unsuitable for bat roosting, foraging, or commuting.

Skylarks were seen and heard in the field to the north (adjacent blue line site), but not within the application site. The cropped land may support a small number of foraging farmland birds, but given its condition and lack of significant hedgerows, utilisation by finches and buntings is likely to be low.

No evidence of invasive non-native species (INNS) was found.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Designated Conservation Sites

The proposed redevelopment is not large enough to pose direct risks to local sites or more distant, internationally recognised sites of conservation value. Regarding potential impacts on the status of the functionally linked area for wild geese and swan wintering populations related to the Nene Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar/SSSI, the site lies adjacent to Straight Drove and residential properties, where human activity is frequent, and

disturbance is high. This issue has not been raised in any of the nearby planning applications related to development or increases in activity or land use. Additionally, the Goose and Swan Functional Land Impact Risk Zone (IRZ), produced by the neighbouring Fenland District Council as part of a Habitats Regulation Assessment (Regulation 18), shows that the IRZ is no closer than 3.6 km away.

5.2 Site Evaluation and Potential Impacts on Biodiversity

The site is evaluated at the 'site' importance level, i.e., it provides ecological functions within its immediate boundaries but does not extend significantly beyond this area. The principal value is likely derived from foraging within crops and from more diverse boundary vegetation, although this is excluded from the application site.

Within the redline, significant impacts on protected or priority species are not anticipated. However, Skylark (a Section 41 Species of Principal Importance) was present in the field to the north on both survey dates. It is recommended that any changes to the habitats within the blue line ownership to the north be preceded by breeding bird surveys to establish the presence or likely absence of Skylarks. However, this is not strictly necessary for the current application.

Potential impacts on other protected and priority species are negligible, and the proposals are not significantly constrained by ecological sensitivity. Nevertheless, Precautionary Working Methods (PWMS) are applied to eliminate low-level risks.

5.3 Further Ecological Surveys

The potential impacts on biodiversity are sufficiently well understood; therefore, no further ecological surveys are required.

5.4 Opportunities for Biodiversity Enhancement

The proposals will include proportionate opportunities to enhance biodiversity.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Precautionary Working Methods Statement (PWMS)

PWMS applies immediately before and during construction. Therefore, retain a copy of this report on-site during clearance and construction work. All site operatives should be made aware of its contents when relevant to the tasks they are undertaking. Additionally, the contact details of a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) should be available if advice is required during operations.

6.1.1 Protected Species

Construction personnel will conduct a brief site walkover and check excavations each day before work commences to ensure no protected species have entered the site overnight.

If protected species are found during site clearance or construction, stop work and contact the SQE immediately for advice. Protected species should not be handled unless they are an immediate and unavoidable danger*. If this arises, the SQE should be

contacted immediately. Secure the animal in an escape-proof, ventilated container and store it in a shady location before the ecologist releases it. [*Bats should be handled with gloves to prevent injury to the animal and to avoid being bitten.]

6.1.2 Birds

Pre-work inspections should be conducted to ensure that nesting birds are not present. If nesting birds are found during work, stop work and contact the SQE immediately for advice.

All bird species are offered protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) when nesting or preparing nests (typically, but not exclusively, between March and August inclusive). As such, carry out work likely to impact nesting birds outside the breeding season (September-February inclusive) to avoid disturbing or destroying active nests. If this timeframe is infeasible, carry out the checks within 48 hours of construction commencing. If active nests are observed, the area must be left alone until the SQE is satisfied that the young have successfully fledged.

6.1.3 Site Clearance

Ground Works and Miscellaneous - Maintain short-mown vegetation on-site throughout the pre-demolition period to prevent it from becoming a favourable habitat for species that may be harmed during the works. When strimming or cutting longer vegetation, take extreme care to avoid harming Hedgehogs and amphibians. In all cases, check the area before cutting begins. Once cut short, these areas should be maintained as short swards.

During debris clearance and timber and rubble pile removal, check these areas before moving on to ensure wildlife is not seeking refuge. Dismantle loose material piles manually rather than mechanically. Bring and store only the building products intended for use that day. If building products need to be stored on-site (e.g., overnight or for a few days), store them on pallets or in bags on pallets to prevent the creation of refuges that attract wildlife. Where possible, building products should be placed on hard standings.

Fill and finish all excavations created during construction (e.g., for foundations or services) on the same day to avoid leaving traps animals might fall into. If this is unavoidable, then an escape route is provided overnight from the hole, which can be in the form of a wooden plank cut into the bank to provide a ramp, or the hole is entirely covered by a heavy sheet or slab flush with the surrounding ground and without holes at the sides, to exclude amphibians from crawling beneath. If in doubt, pile soil along the slab edges to seal them.

Security and work floodlighting should be used only where necessary to avoid potential detrimental impacts on commuting bats during construction. These lights should not continuously illuminate boundary vegetation at night. The principles outlined below, as set out in the Institute of Lighting Professionals' Guidance Note, should also be applied to lighting during the construction phase.

6.2 Mitigation – Lighting

There should be no additional light spillage onto the surrounding boundary habitats to avoid detrimental lighting impacts on bats and nocturnal wildlife using the Site. Lighting should be restricted to the minimum level of illumination necessary for safety and security, and only where necessary. The following measures should be implemented within the lighting scheme:

- New column-mounted luminaires, lighting bollards, and wall-mounted luminaires should be selected, sited, and angled to prevent unnecessary spillage of light onto areas without illumination.
- Ensure new LED luminaires have dimming capability, a warm white spectrum (ideally less than 2700 K, but below 3000 K) with peak wavelengths higher than 550 nm, and no UV output.
- Security lamps should use a trigger (e.g., passive infrared detector) and switch off after a short period (ideally 1-2 minutes) rather than remaining on all night.

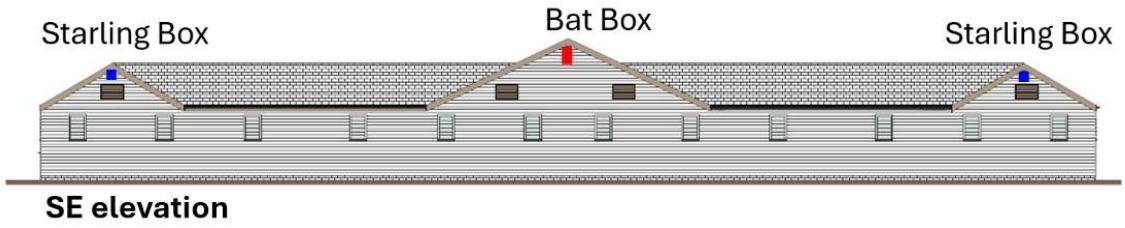
Further guidance is available in 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK' (ILP 2023).

6.3 Biodiversity Enhancement Proposals

6.3.1 Proposed Enhancements

Bat Box Provision: A single externally mounted, crevice-type bat box will be provided on the southeast-facing gable of the stable block near the new hedgerow. The recommended model is the Beaumaris Woodstone Bat Box (https://www.nhbs.com/beaumaris-woodstone-bat-box) as this is durable and requires no maintenance. The location is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Bat and Bird Box Locations



Bird Box Provision: Two externally mounted Vivara Pro WoodStone Starling Nest Boxes (https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-woodstone-starling-nest-box) will be provided on the southeast-facing gable of the stable block near the new hedgerow. The locations are shown in Figure 2.

Hedgehog access: The side is fully accessible to Hedgehogs and no additional provision is required. Additionally, habitat improvements within the site will benefit Hedgehog foraging.

Landscape improvements: The proposals include a significant new landscape belt comprising mixed native scrub and other neutral grassland, plus a new hedgerow along the eastern perimeter. These will not only meet the BNG requirement but also provide substantial habitat for nesting birds and invertebrates, and foraging bats.

6.3.2 Programme and management of enhancement features

All features will be installed before the first occupancy, and written confirmation will be provided to the Local Planning Authority. The selected habitat boxes require no maintenance.

7 REFERENCES

Collins, J. (2023). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. 4th Ed.* London: The Bat Conservation Trust.

Fenland District Council (2022). *Fenland Local Plan 2021-2040: Habitats Regulations Assessment of Fenland Local Plan Consultation Draft (Regulation 18). Main Report, August 2002.*

Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023). *Bats and artificial lighting in the UK*. Guidance Note 08/23.

A1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

A1.1 Protected and Notable Species and Habitats

A1.1.1 European Protected Species (bats, great crested newts, otters, dormice, and others)

This information is intended solely as guidance, and the relevant Acts should be consulted for the correct legal wording.

European Protected Species (EPS) are protected under the EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Habitats and Species Directive. This legislation is enacted under the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (the 2017 Regulations). Therefore, works that impact EPS will likely require a licence from Natural England.

Broadly, it is an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly/deliberately injure, take, or kill a bat (or other EPS).
- Possess a bat (unless obtained legally), alive or dead.
- Intentionally or recklessly/deliberately damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that bats (or other EPS) use for shelter or protection, whether bats are present or not.
- Intentionally or recklessly/deliberately disturb a bat (or other EPS) while occupying a structure or place it uses for shelter or protection.
- Deliberately disturb bats (or other EPS) in such a way as to be likely to affect significantly:
  i. The ability of any significant group to survive, breed, rear or nurture their young
  ii. The local distribution or abundance of that species.

Prosecution could result in imprisonment, £5,000 fines per affected animal, and the confiscation of vehicles and equipment used.

A European Protected Species Licence is required before any development that may impact bats and their roosts, or other European Protected Species (EPS). An EPS licence could be required for (relevant examples):

- Demolition of a building known to be used by bats before the development of a site.
- When removing trees or pruning out features in which bats roost.
- When undertaking significant alterations to roof voids used by bats.

Exemptions from the protection afforded to bats under the Habitat Regulations can be granted through an EPS (European Protected Species) Habitats Regulations licence obtained from Natural England (NE).

Three tests must be satisfied before a licence can permit acts that would otherwise be prohibited. In this case, only Regulation 53(2)(e) is relevant to preserving public health or safety or to other overriding public-interest reasons. This includes social or economic ones, with beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment.

This is subject to Natural England's satisfaction that the application additionally meets:

- Regulation 53(9)(a) that there is no satisfactory alternative.
- Regulation 53(3)(b) that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

A1.1.2 UK Protected Species (including EPS species, badgers, water voles, barn owls, reptiles, etc.)

In England, Scotland and Wales, all bat species are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) through inclusion in Schedule 5. The offences under

this Act, which cover the obstruction of places used for shelter or protection, disturbance, and sale, still apply to European Protected Species.

In England and Wales, the WCA is amended by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW), which adds the word ' or recklessly ' to S9(4)(a) and (b), makes species offences arrestable, increases the time limits for some prosecutions and increases penalties.

Other species receive protection at the national level, typically against injury and killing, but this may also include destroying their resting places and collecting and selling them (the latter may also apply to selected named plants). The more common reptile species have partial protection and are also Species of Principal Importance (SPI).

Certain species are protected under other national legislation, such as the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which provides special protection against harm to badgers or their setts.

A1.1.3 Biodiversity Species and Habitats

Some species and habitats that do not merit national protection are nevertheless threatened or endangered at a local scale, usually at the county level, or have been found to have undergone rapid decline. These are listed on the UK Species/Habitats of Principal Importance (S41) list or in county Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and are part of the NPPF lower tier.

A1.2 Planning

A1.2.1 General

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (MHCLG, 2026) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and explains how they are expected to be applied. The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to sustainable development, minimise impacts on biodiversity, and deliver net gains. This includes establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures, and incorporating features that support priority or threatened species, such as swifts, bats, and hedgehogs.

In addition, it aims to promote the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of priority habitats and ecological networks, the protection and recovery of priority species, and the identification and pursuit of opportunities to achieve measurable net gains for biodiversity.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (OPSI 2006) (section 40(1)) states that: "*Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity*."

A1.2.2 Species/Habitats of Principal Importance and Biodiversity

A list of species and habitats of principal importance (SPI & HPI) has been developed to support the assessment and evaluation of biodiversity impacts. Natural England has produced standing advice (*Purpose and use of the England Biodiversity List*) regarding SPI as follows:

> The England Biodiversity List has been developed to meet the requirements of Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). This legislation requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of flora and fauna species, as well as habitats considered of principal importance, to conserve biodiversity. The S41 list will be used to *guide* decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 "*to have regard*" to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions (author's italics).



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