

**Proposed redevelopment of
land at Lyndale Cattery
Lindridge Lane
Desford
Leicestershire
LE9 9GN**

Habitat Scoping Survey

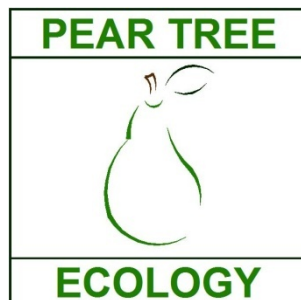
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Works

It is proposed that up to four detached dwellings are to be built on this small parcel of land. It is proposed that a belt of trees to the west and south of the site are to be retained to provide a buffer to the development from passing traffic but the timber and wire cattery pens, and trees within the centre of the site will be cleared.

The site lies to the east of Lindale Road, Desford, Leicestershire. The centre of the site being at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SK 47732 03908.

The site lies to the north of Desford, in a rural setting.

No ponds or waterbodies were found on site or adjacent to site

Method of Study

The brief was to assess the existing ecological value of the site, identify potential ecological issues associated with the development and make recommendations for general mitigation, compensation, enhancement and further surveys, as appropriate.

Baseline Ecological Conditions

No statutory designated nature conservation sites occur within or adjacent to the survey area. There are no rare or notable habitats on the site. Potential breeding habitat for amphibians was not identified on or adjacent to the site.

Potential Ecological Issues/ Impacts

The main potential ecological constraints associated with the proposed development are disturbance to badgers should they have been resident within the site or close to the site boundary. Severance of bat commuting routes is deemed to be low given that it is proposed to retain roadside trees and a belt of trees to the south of the development.

There are ecological opportunities through habitat creation and enhancements for fauna and flora.

Mitigation Recommendations

- Any common amphibians found during the works should be removed carefully by hand and placed outside the main development area.
- Trenches should be left with a sloping end or ramp to allow any animals that may fall in to escape. Pipes over 200 mm in diameter should be capped off at night to prevent animals entering.
- Exterior lighting for the development should be sympathetic to roosting, foraging and commuting bats.
- Site clearance works removal should be timed to avoid the bird breeding season, which runs from March to September (inclusive). This is to avoid adverse impacts to any nesting birds present.

Compensation Recommendations

- Plant native trees, fruit trees, shrubs and hedgerows to the east of development site boundary where a hedgerow has been lost.

Enhancement Recommendations

- Habitat creation, including Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats. Habitats could include additional native species-rich hedgerow to the east of the site, and native species-rich wildflower grassland areas to the rear of each plot.
- Bird and bat boxes should be sited on mature trees and bat boxes built in to each new dwelling.

Further Survey Recommendations

- N/A

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by the Pear Tree Ecology for Liam Halloran.
- 1.2 The site concerned is situated within the small, 0.47 ha, lawned garden to the south of Lyndale House, Lindridge Drive, Desford Leicestershire LE9 9GN. The centre of the site is located at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SK 47732 03908.

The site is set within a rural landscape, to the north of the village of Desford.

- 1.3 The proposed works consist of clearance of the existing timber and wire cattery pens and felling of 20 trees within the main body of the site for construction of up to four detached dwellings.

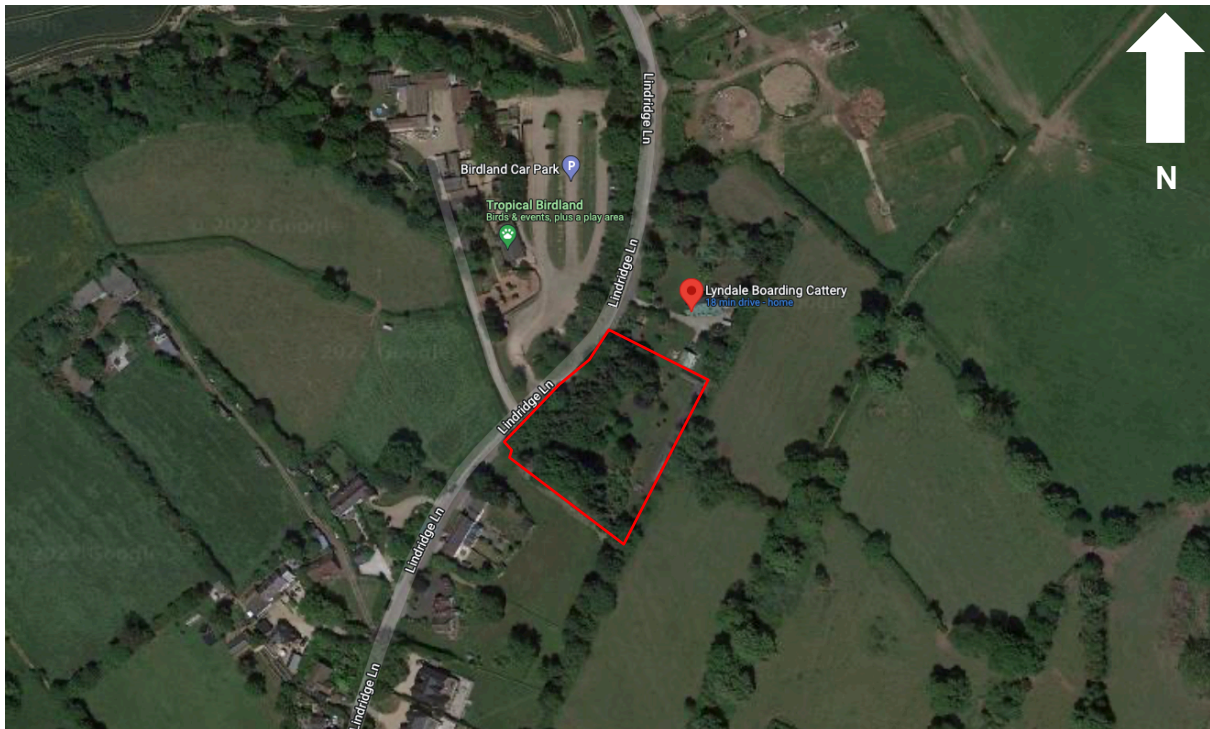
The client supplied: -

- Location of the site.
- Proposals for the site.
- Nature of construction and potential disturbance to the site by proposals.
- Timings and duration of works were not available for construction work.

- 1.4 The brief was to carry out an assessment of the site, existing site boundaries, and establish the quality of the site's ecological value to include any activity that indicates use of the site by badger, the potential for the site to support great crested newt, and any trees or features with specific bat roosting, commuting or foraging potential for bats.
- 1.5 To meet the requirements of the brief, a survey of the site was carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Photographs of the surveyed area of the site are provided throughout this report. The site comprised a 0.47-hectare (ha) parcel of land. The land consisted of short mown grass with an L-shaped plantation woodland to the west and south of the site. A sparsely, and relatively recently, planted plantation of trees occupied the centre of the site on a lawned area. A cattery of timber and wire pen occupied the area adjacent to the east boundary. The cattery was constructed from a deep concrete base.



Photograph 1 – Proposed site shown by the red polygon.



Photograph 2 – Proposed site viewed southwest to northeast showing trees and short mown lawn.



Photograph 3 – Catteries viewed south to north.



Photograph 4 – Potential site entrance (red polygon) and roadside trees.

- 2.2 The site is located to the north of Desford and is accessed from Lindridge Lane.
- 2.3 The centre of the site was located at Ordnance Grid reference SK 47732 03908.
- 2.4 The address of the site being Lyndale Cattery, Lindridge Lane, Desford, Leicestershire. LE9 9GN.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Baseline Ecological Conditions

- 3.1.1 The ecological baseline was established through desk study and site survey as outlined below.

3.2 Desk Study

- 3.2.1 The site was searched using Magic (the Multi-Agency Geographic Information website for maps of statutory designated nature conservation sites); to establish the presence or absence of Local Wildlife Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- 3.2.2 The following websites were also reviewed:

- www.naturalengland.org.uk (for information on statutory designated nature conservation sites)
- www.nbn.org.uk (National Biodiversity Network website for protected species distribution).

3.3 Site Survey

3.3.1 **Survey Area**

The survey area is shown in *Photograph 1* above and comprised a scoping survey of the land proposed for development.

3.3.2 **Survey Methodology**

A scoping survey of the site was carried out on foot, whereby notes were taken on species composition of potential species rich grasslands, historic hedgerows, and evidence indicating the presence of badger, fox and other habitat potential for other species including trees with roosting potential for bats and birds, and ponds with newt breeding potential.

A search for any invasive non-native species such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) was also carried out.

Target notes were used to record any habitats or features of particular interest and any sightings, signs or evidence of protected or notable faunal species or any potential habitat for such species, as detailed below:

- The suitability of habitats was assessed for amphibians (including great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*).
- The suitability of habitats was assessed for badger (*Meles meles*) and any evidence of badger including setts, dung pits/ latrines, badger paths, hairs, bedding, footprints and scratching trees/ shrubs was noted.

- Trees with features suitable for roosting bats were noted, such as hollows, cracks and cavities within trunks and branches (e.g. old woodpecker holes), crevices behind loose bark and ivy growth.
- The suitability of habitats was assessed for nesting birds.
- The suitability of habitats was assessed for reptiles.
- The suitability for any of the buildings impacted by proposals to be used by roosting bats.

The ideal time to carry out a survey is during the plant growing season (i.e. April-September) and this is also when most animals are active.

3.3.3 **Survey Details**

Jools Partridge BSc carried out the survey on the morning of 19th April 2022.

The surveyor is licensed for the following

Natural England class survey licence registration number CLS02385

WML CL15 (Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor Level 1)

WML CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2)

WML-CL09 (Great Crested Newt Class 2)

WML-CL11 (White Clawed Crayfish).

Weather conditions for the visit are shown in *Table 1* below.

Table 1: Visit Schedule and Weather Conditions during the Survey

Visit Date	Start Time	Weather Conditions (at start)	Finish Time	Weather Conditions (at finish)
19/04/21	09:00	Dry & sunny 8°C	10:00	Dry & sunny 9°C

3.3.4 **Survey Limitations**

A walkover survey was undertaken of the site, including a search of the site for evidence of badger. The site was also searched for ponds, wet ditches and other features that might provide potential for great crested newt breeding opportunity. The lack of evidence of a protected species does not necessarily indicate an absence of the species.

Full access was available to the site, including trees, shrubs, hedgerows, and the exterior of cattery.

3.4 Baseline Evaluation Criteria

- 3.4.1 Based upon the desk study and site survey, an ecological evaluation of the site was undertaken using a combination of evaluation criteria for habitats and species, although the general framework follows that provided by CIEEM (IEEM 2006) (see *Table 2* below).
- 3.4.2 Where relevant, evaluation was made with reference to the statutory protection afforded to species and habitats.
- 3.4.3 Legal protection does not always correspond to conservation value. Some species (e.g. badger) are protected for reasons of animal welfare rather than conservation. Others are of National conservation value but are not protected by law (e.g. some Red Data Book species and UK BAP species).

Table 2: Determination of Ecological Value

Ecological Value	Description and Examples
High	Habitats or features that have high importance for nature conservation, such as statutory designated nature conservation sites of International or National importance or sites maintaining viable populations of species of International or National importance (e.g. Red Data Book species; European protected species).
Medium	Sites designated at a County or District level, e.g. Local Wildlife Site (LWS), ancient woodland site, ecologically 'important' hedgerows or ecological features that are notable within the context of a region, county or district (e.g. a viable area of a Priority Habitat on the county BAP or a site that supports a viable population of a county BAP species).
Low	Sites of nature conservation value within the context of a Parish or neighbourhood, low-grade common habitats, such as arable fields and improved grasslands and sites supporting common, widespread species.

4. BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

4.1 Desk Study

4.1.1 *Designated Nature Conservation Sites*

a) *Statutory sites*

There are no statutory designated nature conservation sites (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest, SSSI, National Nature Reserve, NNR or Local Nature Reserve, LNR) within or bounding the survey site.

b) *Non-statutory sites*

There are no Local Wildlife Sites identified near to this site.

4.1.2 *Protected/ notable Faunal Species*

No request has been made for a protected species search centred on this site.

4.2 Site Survey

4.2.1 *Habitat Types*

The following Phase-1 habitat types were recorded on the site:

- Improved grassland (B4).
- Plantation woodland (A1).

4.2.2 **Habitat Descriptions**

a) *Improved grassland (B5)*

The main area of the site to be impacted comprised a very short and regularly mown area of lawn found to be low in forbs.

Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) formed the larger bulk of the site, with creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), some broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), common daisy (*Bellis perennis*), dandelion (*Taraxacum agg.*) and three cowslips (*Primula veris*) the latter were believed to be planted rather than a relic of the sites previous condition.

Trees planted within the centre of the site, and to be felled included 2 small ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), 2 mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*), 1 field maple (*Acer campestre*), 1 semi-mature copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea*), 1 beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), 3 horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), 1 downy birch (*Betula pubescens*), and two sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Several spindly Douglas firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), around the outer woodland, had also been marked to be felled.

See Photographs 2, 3 & 4 above and 5 below.



Photograph 5 – copper beech to centre of the photograph right of the downy birch, two of the larger trees indicated as to be felled.

b). *Plantation woodland (A1)*

An L-shaped plantation woodland formed a buffer around the west, roadside boundary, and south, land adjoining a neighbouring property, of the site. The plantation consisted of Douglass fir, with some Leyland cypress (*X Cupressocyparis leylandii*) and a single horse chestnut within the southern boundary. The roadside trees forming part of the west boundary planation included ash, and two English elms (*Ulmus procera*), to the south of the site, which seemed to be withstanding disease. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) formed an understorey. Ivy provided the main ground cover with common nettle, white dead-nettle (*Lamium album*), jack-by-the-hedge (*Alliaria petiolata*), lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and lords and ladies (*Arum maculatum*) were recorded in this area.



Photograph 6 – Existing site entrance at the southwest corner of the site.

C). *Site boundary to the east*

The eastern site boundary had at some point been a hedgerow but now almost entirely lost. The remnants consisted of large leggy hawthorn and several ash trees.



Photograph 7 – Remnants of hedgerow.

4.2.3 ***Protected/ notable Species***

a) ***Plants***

No specially protected trees or non-native invasive plants were recorded on the site.

b) ***Amphibians***

No ponds were identified on site or adjacent to it. The eastern ditch was found to be historically dry, and the western roadside ditch was found to be only damp. Species here suggested that it does not regularly hold water.

c) ***Badger***

There was some sign of badger foraging on a mowed path to the south of the southern woodland but no visible regularly used and worn paths to or from the site. No badger setts or latrine sites were found on or adjacent to site.

d) ***Bats***

There were no structures or trees identified on site which might support roosting bats. However, the L-shaped woodland would provide a good committing feature for bats both within the site and along the adjacent road.

e) *Birds*

Several woodpigeon nests, both old and in construction, were found in the Douglass fir plantation. One woodpigeon nest, potentially under construction, was found in a horse chestnut tree within the centre of site which has been identified as to be felled.

5. ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION

5.1 Designated Nature Conservation Sites

5.1.1 *Statutory Sites*

There are no statutory designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SSSI) within the surveyed site or study area; therefore, there will be no impacts to any SSSI.

5.1.2 *Non-statutory Sites*

There are no local wildlife site (LWS) identified that bound the development site.

5.2 Habitats

5.2.1 The ecological evaluation of the habitats on the site is summarised in *Table 3* below. Most habitats recorded on the site are common, and present in the surrounding landscape.

5.2.2 General mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are recommended to avoid/minimise adverse impacts (see Sections 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 below).

Table 3: Summary of Ecological Evaluation of the Habitats on the Site

Habitat	Reason for Valuation
<i>Value</i>	
Improved grassland	Species poor. Trees planted within it were recently planted, badly cut and pruned and most showed disease. Low
Woodland planation	Low in diversity. Low
Boundary ditches	Historically dry or unable to hold standing water. Low

5.3 Protected/ notable Species¹

5.3.1 *Floral Species*

None of the species recorded during the survey are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) or considered rare nationally or locally (e.g. Preston *et al.* 2002). Also, none of the species recorded are listed as Species of Principal Biological Importance on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 or as Priority Species listed on the National BAP (UK BAP 2007) or local BAP (Leicestershire and Rutland BAP).

5.3.2 *Faunal Species*

a) *Amphibians*

The habitats present on the site and in its vicinity, suggest that the proposals for this site will have no potential to negatively impact upon local amphibian populations.

Some general mitigation measures are provided in Section 6.2.2 below.

Precautionary and best practice measures are recommended for common amphibians and great crested newts in Section 6.2.2 below.

b) *Badger*

A small amount of foraging activity was identified on site. Therefore, some general mitigation measures are provided in Section 6.2.3 below.

c) *Bats*

While there is potential for removal of any trees to impact bat foraging and commuting routes, the impact from current proposals is considered to be moderate to low.

d) *Birds*

A variety of bird species may nest in shrubs and trees on main site though none, other than woodpigeon, were noted during the site survey. All birds with the exception of certain pest species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) whilst breeding. This legislation protects nests, eggs and unfledged young from damage or destruction.

There are enhancement recommendations in Sections 6.2.5, 6.3.2, 6.4.6 and 6.5.3 below.

¹ Protected species legislation is provided in Appendix 1.

5.4 Main Potential Ecological Issues/Impacts

- 5.4.1 The main potential ecological constraints associated with the proposed development are, (i) disturbance to potential foraging badgers. (ii) disturbance to nesting birds during site clearance. (iii) disturbance to small mammal populations.
- 5.4.2 There are ecological opportunities through habitat creation and enhancements for fauna.
- 5.4.3 A summary is provided in *Table 4* below.

Table 4: Summary of Main Potential Ecological Issues

Habitat/ Species	Potential Ecological Issue
Potential Negative Impacts (Constraints)	
Badgers	Minor potential interruption to foraging badgers.
Birds	During any potential site clearance works. However, if works are conducted outside the bird breeding season or if a survey is firstly carried out, impacts could be mitigated. Loss of nesting habitat.
Potential Positive Impacts (Opportunities)	
Habitat creation	Native species-rich hedgerows.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Wherever possible, negative ecological impacts shall be avoided. If this is unavoidable then mitigation and compensation measures will be proposed for adverse ecological effects. In addition, it is best practice to seek positive biodiversity benefits through enhancement measures, in particular with regard to Priority Habitats and Species listed on the national and local Biodiversity Action Plans and the NERC Act 2006.
- 6.1.2 CIEEM (2006) endorses the following principle, recommended by the Royal Town Planning Institute (2000) for optimising the biodiversity outcomes of planning decisions:

New Benefits: seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity over and above requirements for mitigation and compensation.

- 6.1.3 Planning authorities are required to actively seek in development proposals, measures that aim to promote appropriate Priority Habitats and Species listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and treat these as 'material considerations'.
- 6.1.4 *The National Planning Policy Framework states at paragraph 109:*
"The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the

overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures....”

6.2 Mitigation Recommendations

6.2.1 **Trees and Shrubs (Mitigation and Best Practice)**

Loss of mature broadleaved trees shall be avoided where possible. No storage of materials, equipment or plant shall take place under the ‘drip-zone’ of retained mature trees (i.e. under their canopy). Best practice should be followed (i.e. BS5837: 2012 Trees in Relation to Construction) to ensure individual mature trees are not adversely affected.

Losses of any native trees and shrubs shall be minimised. All native tree and shrub removal shall be compensated by replacement with locally sourced native species where practicable.

6.2.2 **Amphibians (Best Practice)**

Should any amphibians be found during any site clearance works the animals shall be placed carefully by hand outside the main development site. If any newt species are found then work should cease and a qualified ecologist shall be contacted for advice.

6.2.3 **Badger (Best Practice)**

If any trenches dug during works activities are left open over night, they shall be left with a sloping end or ramp to allow any badgers or other animals that may fall in to escape. Also, any pipes over 200 mm in diameter shall be capped off at night to prevent animals entering. See Section 6.5.1 below).

6.2.4 **Bats (Mitigation & Best Practice)**

Any exterior lighting of the development shall be sympathetic to roosting, foraging and commuting bats. It is recommended that shrouded down lighters are used rather than flood lights if lighting is required.

6.2.5 **Nesting Birds (Mitigation)**

Any site clearance works shall be timed to avoid the bird breeding season, which runs from March to September (inclusive). This is to avoid adverse impacts to any active nests present. If it is necessary to carry out the work during the breeding season, then a survey must firstly be carried out by a qualified ecologist (see Section 6.5.3 below).

Compensation and enhancements for the loss of bird nesting habitat are also recommended (see Sections 6.3.2 and 6.4.6 below).

6.3 Compensation Recommendations

6.3.1 **Habitats – Trees and Shrubs**

Trees and shrubs removed shall be compensated for by replanting with replacements. This should ideally be equal to or in excess of those lost.

6.3.2 **Birds**

Several bird nesting boxes shall be fitted to trees and/or new the building. House sparrow and starling boxes are recommended.

6.3.2 **Bats**

Bat boxes suitable for pipistrelle species are recommend to be built within each new dwelling.

6.4 Enhancement Recommendations

6.4.1 **Habitat Creation**

There are opportunities within the proposed development to provide positive biodiversity benefits/ ecological gains by creating a diversity of new habitats on the site and thereby enhancing the site for a range of faunal species. A list of suitable species for planting and sowing is provided in Appendix 2 & 3.

6.4.2 **Hedgerows**

It is recommended that the site boundary to the east of site is replanted with native shrubs and trees; fruit trees are a valuable early nectar source too and could be added to the boundary. This would provide security to the site but allow small mammals, such as hedgehog, to forage over the site. Close-board fencing is not recommended, unless fitted with small mammal passes.

6.4.3 **Trees and Shrubs**

It is recommended that further planting of individual native tree and shrub species is undertaken on the site where possible.

6.4.4 **Bird and Bat Boxes**

To provide enhancements for roosting bats and further additional habitat for nesting birds on the site, it is recommended that a variety of bat roosting boxes and bird nesting boxes are installed on the proposed new buildings and mature trees on site. Further details can be provided, as requested. See Appendix 3.

6.5 Further Survey Recommendations

6.5.1 ***Ecological Walk-over Survey***

Not applicable.

6.5.2 ***Bat Surveys***

Not applicable.

6.5.3 ***Nesting Birds***

If it is necessary to carry out site clearance works during the bird breeding season, then a nesting bird survey must be carried out by a qualified ecologist prior to works going ahead to ensure that no active nests will be affected. If active nests are found then work will shall be delayed in that area and a buffer until all chicks have fledged.

REFERENCES

Institute of Environmental Assessment 1995 *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*. Chapman and Hall, London.

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Royal Town Planning Institute 2000 *Planning for Biodiversity*.

UK BAP website. Available at: www.ukbap.org.uk.

Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index *Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom*

ARG UK Advice Note 5 (2010)

J. S. Rodwell *British Plant Communities (Volume 3) Grasslands and montane communities (1998)* – Cambridge University Press

Appendix 1: Protected Species Legislation

Plants

All wild plants are protected against unauthorised removal or uprooting under Section 13 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Plants listed on Schedule 8 of the Act (e.g. triangular club rush and Deptford Pink) are afforded additional protection against picking, uprooting, destruction and sale. Bluebell is protected against sale only.

Amphibians (Common Species)

Common amphibian species (i.e. common frog, common toad, smooth newt and palmate newt) are afforded partial legal protection under UK legislation, i.e. Schedule 5, Section 9 (5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This legislation prohibits:

- sale
- transportation
- advertising for sale

Badger

Badger is a widespread and generally common species. However, they are legally protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which is based primarily on the need to protect badgers from baiting and deliberate harm or injury. Under this legislation it is illegal to:

- Wilfully kill, injure, take, or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or attempt to do so
- Possess any dead badger or any part of, or anything derived from, a dead badger
- Intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett by disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, damaging or destroying a sett, causing a dog to enter a sett, or obstructing access to it

A badger sett is defined in the legislation as *“any structure or place, which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”*.

Bats

All bat species are afforded full protection under UK and European legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Together, this legislation makes it illegal to:

- Intentionally or deliberately take, kill or injure a bat
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts
- Deliberately disturb bats

A bat roost is defined in the legislation as *“any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection”*. Roosts are protected whether or not bats are present at the time. If a development activity is likely to result in disturbance or killing of a bat, damage to its habitat or any of the other activities listed above, then a licence will usually be required from Natural England.

Birds

The bird breeding season generally lasts from early March to September for most species. All birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000. This legislation makes it illegal, both intentionally and recklessly to:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or in use;
- Take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird; and
- Possess or control any wild bird or egg unless obtained legally.

Birds listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) (e.g. barn owl) are afforded additional protection, which includes makes it an offence to disturb a bird while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Great crested newt

Great crested newts and their habitat are afforded full protection under UK and European legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). This makes it is an offence to kill, injure or disturb great crested newts and to destroy any place used for rest or shelter by a newt. The great crested newt is also listed on Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats Directive and Appendix II of the Bern Convention. If a development activity is likely to result in disturbance or killing of a great crested newt, damage to its habitat etc, then a licence will usually be required from Natural England.

Hazel dormouse

Hazel dormouse and their nests are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981 (as amended), the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). This makes it offence to intentionally or recklessly: to kill, injure or take a hazel dormouse from the wild; to damage or obstruct a place used for shelter or protection; and disturb a dormouse in such a place. It is a Priority Species under the National BAP (UK BAP 2007).

Reptiles

There are six native species of reptiles in the UK, including the slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), viviparous/common lizard (*Lactera vivipara*), grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and adder (*Vipera berus*), smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*) and sand lizard (*Lactera agilis*), which are afforded varying degrees of protection under UK and European legislation.

Slow-worm, viviparous/common lizard, adder and grass snake are protected under Schedule 5, Section 9 (1 and 5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 against deliberate or reckless killing and injuring and sale.

Appendix 2: Native Species Suitable for Planting and Sowing

The plants should be obtained from specialist nurseries and preferably be of local genetic stock.

1. Native Wildflower Species for Grassland Creation in Gardens

Grasses	
Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Crested dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
Meadow fescue	<i>Festuca pratensis</i>
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Rough meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
Quaking grass	<i>Briza media</i>
Small timothy	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>
Smooth meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
Soft brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>
Sweet vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Yellow oat-grass	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>
Herbs	
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatorium</i>
Betony	<i>Betonica officianalis</i>
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Common cat's-ear	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Meadow clary	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>
Meadow crane's-bill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Salad burnet	<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Wild basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

2. Native Shrub, Tree, Climbing and Herbaceous Species for Hedgerow Planting on Garden and Site Boundaries

Shrubs	
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Dog wood	<i>Cornus sanguine</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Wild privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Trees	
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Climbers	
Field rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Traveller's-joy	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
Herbs	
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Lord's-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula veris</i>
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>

3. Native Trees, Shrubs and Herbaceous Species for Individual Tree and Shrub Planting

Trees	
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Shrubs	
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Herbs	
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Lord's-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula veris</i>
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>

Appendix 3: Guidance to aid or maintain biodiversity during development and construction

Introduction

It is imperative that all sites where construction and/or redevelopment is proposed, that species diversity is maintained or improved as per [Leicestershire & Rutland's Biodiversity Action Plan](#).

Special consideration should be given to protected species, pollinators, flora and fauna known to be or thought to be locally present. This document aims to assist developers, landowners and those considering redevelopment of sites within the UK Midlands area, where there is the potential for a net loss of biodiversity due to potential loss of nesting, roosting, foraging or breeding habitat.

This document aims to provide methods to aid biodiversity in such a manner that it's application is practicable within the constraints of modern developments, that they are pleasing to the senses for potential occupants of the finished proposed site or are included within the site so as to be low or maintenance free, designed within the development and not easily removed after site completion.

Pollinators

[Pollinators](#) face many pressures within the UK but especially in urban settings whereby a succession of native and useful nectar sources may be few and far between thereby reducing viable local populations of delicate and often beautiful invertebrates. Additionally, to their intrinsic value and the wellbeing virtues they have when seen in our gardens, parks and wider countryside they are important for pollination for the germination of fruit, nuts and seeds. The pollinating insects themselves are also important as a food source to other invertebrates, small mammals and birds.

Simple and effective measures to attract and maintain populations of pollinators could include:-

- Planting fruit trees ([dwarf rootstock](#) on espaliers and [step-over cordons](#) in areas with restricted room) and fruit bushes.
- Planting local native hedges of [hawthorn](#), [midland thorn](#), [blackthorn](#) and [hazel](#)
- Clover rich [verges](#) along roadsides, driveways and parking areas (including red clover, birds foot trefoil, greater knapweed)
- Troughs, [window boxes](#) and borders sown with wildflowers (including Knapweed, lady's bedstraw, meadow buttercup, cowslip, oxeye daisy, black medic, field scabious, selfheal, wild parsnip, wild marjoram and yarrow.
- Herb beds (including rosemary, thyme, sage, basil, sweet marjoram, chives, lovage, lemon balm, parsley, borage and mint)
- [Insect and bee hotels](#) either [made](#) or [purchased](#)

Small mammals, reptiles and amphibians

Often overlooked during development schemes is the need to retain or provide connectivity to and from the site and surrounding landscape for access to small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

Therefore if fences are required, gateways or tunnels at the base of them should be left to allow access up to at least the size of [hedgehog](#). If the recommendations for pollinators have been followed then food requirements may be in place, therefore other mitigation should include:-

- A small [wildlife pond](#) with sloping sides, rocks, aquatic native plants and preferably no stocked fish.
- [Refuges for small mammals](#)
- Compost bins ([The ultimate compost bin](#) is ideal as both an area for recycling un-cooked household waste, vegetable peelings, fallen fruit, grass clippings and leaf matter, etc. but also as habitat refuge for invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. It can be built as a single bin or multiples as shown)

General mitigation

- Hedgerows, large shrubs and trees shall be retained where possible; this is best achieved where consideration of such is undertaken at the predesign stage.
- [Bird boxes](#) erected on existing trees and large shrubs – these should include boxes for house sparrow, tits and robin style open fronted boxes. Other requirements for specific species may be required for your site based on site surveys.
- [Bat boxes](#) are recommended to be constructed of woodcrete or similar and attached to buildings within the development, as they require less maintenance than boxes attached to trees that often require pruning of branches to allow clear flight paths for bats. Predators often gain easy access to boxes erected on trees and damage them. Other requirements for specific species may be required for your site based on site surveys.