

Phase 1
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Sibson Mill



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NE class license: Bats: survey (level 2)

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(References within this report are shown as superscript with a number, this relates to References in Section 6)

SUMMARY

The Phase 1 preliminary ecological appraisal is undertaken in order to identify key ecological constraints to the proposed development; inform planning to allow significant ecological effects to be avoided or minimized; identify any further ecological surveys needed to inform an ecological impact assessment and to support the development of mitigation of compensation measures.

Methodology

The survey was conducted by carrying out a systematic walkover of the site by Dr. Stefan Bodnar to record habitats, species, and any notable features of interest with regard to flora & Fauna. This is in accordance with standard Phase 1 survey techniques (JNCC, 2016) ¹and is a methodology recommended by CIEEM (2018^{1,2}).

Key Issues and Conclusions

This Phase 1 Ecology Report confirms that the proposed Construction Zone is of 'moderate to high ecological value' consisting primarily of a native deciduous woodland plantation. Loss of this area to development will require substantive mitigation.

- There are no Statutory or Non-Statutory Designated Nature Conservation Sites within or adjacent to the site.
- The Biological Data Search no protected species were recorded within the site.
- There is no evidence of badger use of the site.
- The site is of very low suitability for both reptiles and Great Crested Newts, therefore no further surveys are required, although a series of precautions (including ecological supervision of site strip) should be taken during development, as detailed in section 4.3b.
- No further surveys are recommended.
- Substantive mitigation including native woodland tree planting will be required to offset the proposed development.
- Any site clearance of woody vegetation should be undertaken outside of the peak bird breeding season (early March to mid August) or undertaken under ecological supervision. No building demolition April to September.
- There is no evidence of Non-Native Invasive Species on site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

At the request of the client, a Phase 1 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was carried out at a site at Sibson Mill, Wellsborough Rd, Nuneaton CV13 6LR, to evaluate the habitats, describe any further surveys required and indicate the level of required mitigation/ compensation/ enhancement in relation to a planning proposal. All site assessments were undertaken by Dr. Stefan Bodnar MCIEEM, a self employed ecologist and arboricultural consultant, the report was written by Dr. Louise Sutherland MIALE, also a self employed ecologist and arboricultural consultant and the report then checked and verified by Dr. Stefan Bodnar MCIEEM.

1.2. Site Location

The site is located at Sibson Mill, Wellsborough Rd, Nuneaton CV13 6LR. The site location is described on the image below. A satellite image and Phase One diagram (see Appendices) also show the area concerned.

Figure 1. Showing site location



*Map data 2025 © Google.*¹⁸

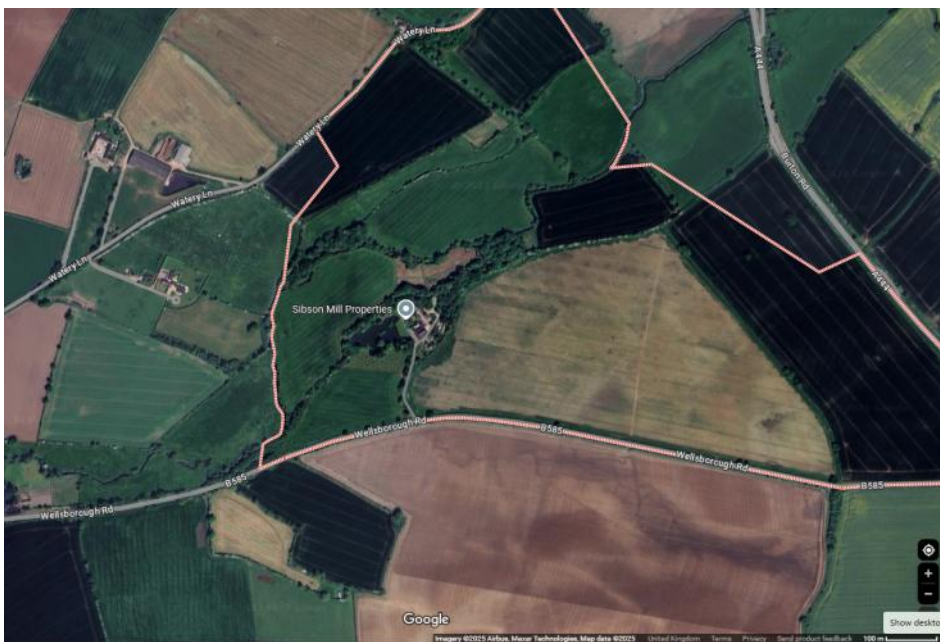
1.3. Site Description

The site consists of a native deciduous woodland plantation of around 30-35 years age.

See below:



The site lies near the rural village of Wellsborough in Leicestershire. It is an agricultural area with some woodlands and a pond nearby, see below:



Map data 2025© Google¹⁸

Figure 2. Satellite image of local area around proposed development site.

1.4. Brief Description of Project

Refer to planning application for full details. See plan below.



1.5. Purpose of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

The phase 1 preliminary ecological appraisal report identifies key ecological constraints to the proposed development; informs planning to allow significant ecological effects to be avoided or minimized; identifies any further ecological surveys needed to inform an ecological impact assessment and supports the development of mitigation of compensation measures.

It is composed of two parts. A site visit, during which a preliminary ecological appraisal of the site is carried out to identify the major habitat types, plant, bird, reptile, mammal and other species using the site. Also a desk study, which gathers ecological data on the site and its surrounding area, to identify protected species and statutory protected sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site, in order to produce recommendations on the key ecological constraints to the proposed development.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study Methodology

Information was gathered from a number of web-based data sources, published ecological reports and where appropriate, the authors own records. The ecological data search covers the following areas:

- ☐ Species of particular note
- ☐ Local Nature Reserves
- ☐ Protected species (e.g. badger, grass snake, great crested newts, otter, water vole and bats).

Plant names (common and scientific) within this report follow 'New Flora of the British Isles' (Stace, 2019)⁸.

2.2. Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted by carrying out a systematic walkover of the site by Dr. Stefan Bodnar to record habitats, species, and any notable features of interest with regard to flora & Fauna. This is in accordance with standard Phase 1 survey techniques (JNCC (2106)¹ and is a methodology recommended by CIEEM (2018)^{2,3}.

During the survey, emphasis was placed on searching for evidence of and potential of habitats and features supporting protected or notable species, especially those listed under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, revised 2017⁴, and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁵.

The range of methods used were as follows:

Bats

The assessment was carried out using the guidance provided within the publication: Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists (4th Edition), BCT (2023)⁶, the relevant section is reproduced below:

Bat Conservation Trust

Table 4.1. Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement.

Potential suitability	Description	
	Roosting habitats in structures	Potential flight-paths and foraging habitats
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines, or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
Negligible ^a	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions ^b and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats ^c).	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^a and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation – the categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure 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 ^b and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

^a Negligible is defined as 'so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant'. This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute).

^b For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

^c Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten *et al.*, 2016 and Jansen *et al.*, 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in the UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of numbers of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.

The trees within the site were appraised for their potential suitability to support breeding, resting and hibernating bats in accordance with survey methods documented in the Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines (Bat Conservation Trust 2023)⁶. Features of medium and high potential for bats were searched for signs of use by bats, such as droppings, urine staining and scratches around entrance holes etc.

A visual inspection of the trees from ground level with the aid of binoculars was undertaken to search for evidence of actual bats as well as signs of bats (droppings, feeding remains, urine staining, scratch marks, noise and the remains of dead bats etc.). In addition, the trees were

assessed for the presence of features likely to be attractive to roosting bats, such as cavities or rot holes in the trunk or branches, splits in the timber, delaminating bark, deep bark crevices, dead branches and dense ivy cover etc.

- The site was also assessed for potential bat foraging areas and commuting routes.
- Features of medium and high potential for bats were searched for signs of use by bats, such as droppings, urine staining and scratches around entrance holes etc. The site was also assessed for actual and potential bat foraging areas and commuting routes.
- Buildings within the site were assessed in accordance with the methodology outlined in the Bat Conservation Trust's Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines (2016)⁶

□ **Reptiles**

The site was assessed for its suitability to support reptiles based upon the abundance of suitable habitats such as structurally diverse habitats, hedgerows, scrub, rough grassland, wood piles, rubble, banks and compost heaps etc. The site was assessed with respect to its potential for use for hibernation and spring/summer use based on guidance provided in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Joint Nature Conservation Committee 2003)⁹, Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Reptiles and Amphibians, 2004, JNCC¹⁰ and the Reptile Management Handbook (Edgar, Foster & Baker 2010)¹¹. Great Crested Newts were assessed using techniques described in the Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook by Tom Langton, Catherine Beckett and Jim Foster¹⁴

Badgers

The whole site was searched systematically, with particular attention being paid to features likely to support badger setts (e.g. earth embankments, wooded copses etc.). The location of all badger signs such as runs, dung pits, prints, hair, foraging snuffle holes found during the survey were mapped and all setts characterised as either main, annex, subsidiary or outliers in accordance with guidance given in Surveying Badgers (Harris, Cresswell & Jefferies, 1988)¹². Account was also taken of more recent guidance Scottish badgers: surveying for badgers, 2018)¹³

Birds

All birds observed during the field survey were recorded, in addition to features capable of supporting nesting birds (e.g. trees, hedgerows, buildings, bramble beds, ruderal vegetation and rough grassland etc). The site was also assessed for its actual and potential suitability to support

Schedule 1 (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁵ and Biodiversity Action Plan priority species (now included within Section 41 of the NERC Act)⁷.

Other Species

The site was also assessed for its actual and potential suitability to support other protected or notable fauna including species listed as Invasive species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, (as amended)⁵ in accordance with the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, 2018^{2,3}).

2.3. Site Location and Access

Sibson Mill, Wellsborough Rd, Nuneaton CV13 6LR. All areas of the site were available for access.

2.4. Date and Time of Survey

The site assessment was conducted on 5th March 2025.

2.5. Weather Conditions

The weather conditions during the survey were clear and sunny.

2.6. Survey Constraints

Owing to the time of year the initial survey took place it can be considered to provide a reasonable, though not exhaustive plant list. This survey noted the habitat types on the site, and the dominant vegetation at the time of the survey, which is likely to be constant and a fair reflection of the habitat quality present.

2.7 Evaluation of Ecological Features

The potential of the Site to support legally protected or notable species was determined through a review of field observations and desk study information.

The likelihood of the occurrence of any protected and/or invasive species is ranked as follows and relies on habitat suitability for the species at the Site as well as an evaluation, in parallel, of desk study data and published guidance/literature which is referenced accordingly:

- Negligible – while presence cannot be absolutely discounted, the Site supports very limited or poor-quality habitat for a species or species group. There may be no local records of the

species/species group from the data search, and the surrounding habitats are considered unlikely to support wider populations of a species/species group. The Site may also be outside or peripheral to the known natural range of a species/species group;

- Low – habitats within the Site are of poor to moderate quality for a given species/species group. There are few or no returns from the data search, but presence cannot be discounted based on the national distribution of the species/species group, the nature of surrounding habitats, habitat fragmentation or recent on-site disturbance, etc.
- Medium – habitats within the Site are of moderate quality providing some opportunities for a given species/species group. The desk study reveals historic local occurrence of the species/species group and the Site is within the national distribution and with suitable surrounding habitat. Factors limiting the likelihood of occurrence may include small habitat area, habitat isolation, and/or disturbance
- High – habitats within the Site are of high quality for a given species/species group. The desk study provides evidence of local occurrence. The Site may be within/peripheral to a national or regional stronghold and/or has good quality surrounding habitat and good connectivity
- Confirmed Presence - presence confirmed from the most recent site survey or by recent, confirmed records

The CIEEM EcIA guidelines (CIEEM, 2018) state that “the importance of an ecological feature should be considered within a defined geographical context. It is recommended that the following frame of reference be used, or adapted to suit local circumstances:

- International and European;
- National
- Regional
- Metropolitan, County, vice-county or local authority-wide area
- Local

3. RESULTS

3.1 Desk Study Results

The data is provided from the Natural England 'MAGIC' website¹⁶, obtained on 10th March 2025, appropriate sections reproduced and referenced below:

Statutory Designations

Sites with statutory designations receive varying degrees of legal protection under UK statute and European Directives. There are a number of statutory designations used for sites of high nature conservation value in the UK, which are applied depending upon the importance of the site in a local, regional, national or international context.

Statutory nature conservation sites within 2km of the site were recorded. Statutory designations recorded include:

- Ramsar Sites (International designation)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) (European designations)
- National Nature Reserves (NNR) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (National designations)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR) (Local designation)

Non-Statutory Designations

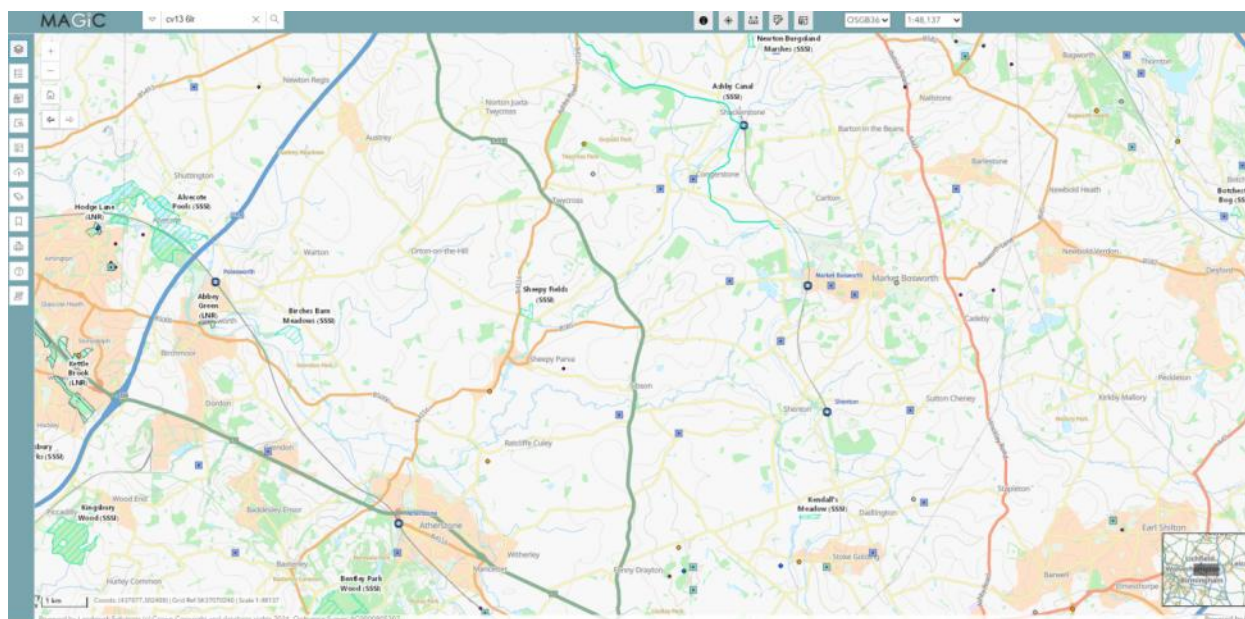
Non-statutory sites are afforded no statutory legal protection, but are normally recognised by local planning authorities and statutory agencies as being of local nature conservation value. The protection afforded to such sites is usually discretionary, through Local Plan policies. Non-statutory sites are designated by the local authority, usually in partnership with the County Wildlife Trust (or equivalent).

3.1a Statutory & Non Statutory Nature Conservation Sites

The maps below (MAGIC)¹⁶ show all Statutory and Non Statutory Nature Conservation Sites (this includes Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Special Areas of Concern) within 5 km of the proposed development.

The closest protected statutory protected sites are approximately 1.2 W Sheepy Fields SSSI

Statutory Designated Nature Conservation sites in Vicinity of Proposed Development



3.1b. Protected & Notable Species Records

In relation to protected and notable species, the following were recorded. All records are post-2018 unless otherwise stated. In this case, records below are all derived from the Natural England 'Magic' website¹⁵, accessed on 9th March 2025.

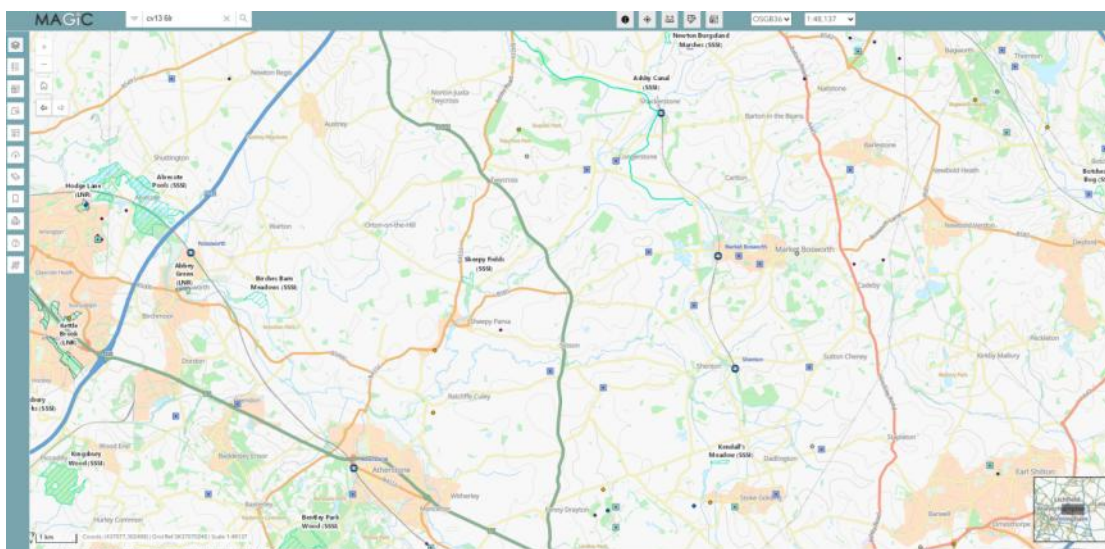
Protected Bat Species

Species (Latin Name)	Common Name	Approximate distance of nearest record from the survey site (km)
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Brown long-eared bat	Within 2 km
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Common pipistrelle	Within 2 km
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano pipsitrelle	Within 2 km
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natterers bat	Within 2 km

In relation to protected species, the following were recorded within 5 km and are presented here with the approximate distances of the nearest record.

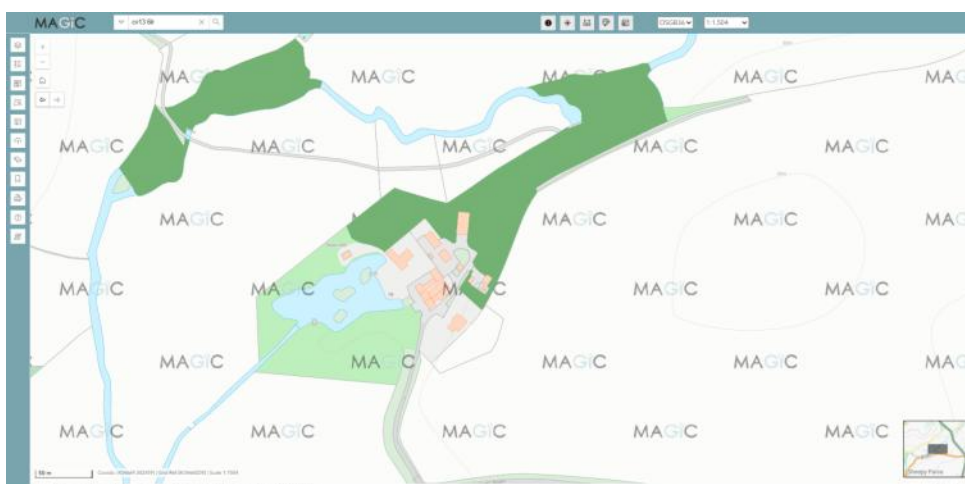
Other Statutory Protected Species

Species (Latin Name)	Common Name	Approximate distance of nearest record from the survey site (km)
<i>Meles meles</i>	Badger	Within 2 km
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Great Crested Newt	Within 2 km S
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Hedgehog	Within 1 km



Habitats:

The 'MAGIC' search reveals the site contains a Habitat of Principle Importance (HPI) within the site (Deciduous woodland), see below:



3.1c Interpretation of Available Biological Data

The site is not directly adjacent to any statutory designated site, and any development would likely have no impact on those at further distances. There are no species of bat recorded within the survey site, with 4 species (Soprano pipistrelle, Natterers bat, brown long eared and Common pipistrelle recorded within 2km. Badger are not recorded within 2 km of the site. Great Crested Newts are found within 2 km of the site.

Development of this site will create a net biodiversity loss and extensive woodland replanting will be required to offset this loss.

3.2 Survey Results

3.2.1. Habitat Types Present & Baseline Ecological Conditions

The site consists of a native deciduous woodland plantation of around 30-35 years age. Species mixture is Cherry, field maple, crack willow, ash, yew, spruce, Silver birch, English oak, Understorey of coppice hazel. Ground storey contains species such as Lords and Ladies, Non native Daffodils, Snowdrops, forget me not, Cow parsley, Spanish bluebell, wood avens. Grassland to edge is Perennial ryegrass with daisy and dandelion.

Buildings

There are no buildings on site.

See Phase 1 Habitat plan (appendix 1d) and images, Appendix 2. A list of vascular plant species is provided in Appendix 3.

3.2.2. Protected and Notable Species on Site

Bats:

External Visual Assessment

The assessment was carried out using the guidance provided within the publication: Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists (4th Edition), BCT (2023), which states:

Bat Conservation Trust

Table 4.1. Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement.

Potential suitability	Description	
	Roosting habitats in structures	Potential flight-paths and foraging habitats
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Negligible ^a	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions ^b and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats ^c).	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^b and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation – the categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure 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 ^b and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

^a Negligible is defined as 'so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant'. This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute).

^b For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

^c Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten *et al.*, 2016 and Jansen *et al.*, 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in the UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of numbers of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.

There are 18 species of bat found in the UK, 17 of which are known to breed in the UK. All are small, nocturnal, flying, insectivorous mammals that are under considerable conservation threat

and many having undergone severe population declines over the last century. Some species, such as pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus* sp) still remain relatively common and widespread in the UK, while others, such as greater horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*), have an extremely restricted distribution. All species of bats and their roosting sites are afforded full protection under both UK and European legislation and are designated as 'European protected species'.

Building Assessment:

No buildings

Site Assessment: Foraging:

The site has high potential for bat foraging and commuting routes, as it is deciduous woodland. Therefore, development of this site should aim to minimize lighting on this site to prevent light spilling into the adjacent woodland and as good practice for bat species conservation.

Bat Assessment of Trees:

None of the trees on site have bat roost potential as they are not mature enough to have developed suitable features.

Badgers

Badgers (*Meles meles*) are protected in England and Wales under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Protection applies both to the animal itself and to its nesting burrows (setts), and current interpretation of the Act also confers some protection to key foraging areas. Badgers remain comparatively widespread and common throughout the UK..

There are no signs of badger on site, no trackways, latrines or setts. It can also be confirmed that there are no setts within 30m of the site boundaries.

Other mammals

The presence of other specially protected mammals, such as otter, dormouse and water vole, is assessed as extremely unlikely, due to the unsuitable habitats on this site.

Birds

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁵ makes it an offence (with certain limited exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird, or to damage, take or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst that nest is being built or in use, or to take or destroy its eggs. Furthermore, the Act affords additional protection to specific species of birds listed in Schedule 1 of the Act. In respect of these species, it is unlawful to intentionally or recklessly disturb such a bird whilst it is nest-building or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb their dependent young. Following recent revisions, fifty-nine species are listed on the UKBAP.

The following species were recorded on-site and nearby during the visit.

Bird Species:	Latin name:
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>

Substantive clearance is necessary to implement the scheme, it is required that any site clearance involving trees or woody vegetation is undertaken outside of the peak bird breeding season (early March to mid August). If site clearance is undertaken during these months, a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist should be employed to ascertain the presence of any breeding birds within the site.

Great Crested Newt

The Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) is one of the two rarest amphibian species in Britain. It is primarily a terrestrial animal, spending much of its life on land, but returning to the water to breed. Great crested newts will often return to breed in the same waterbody where they were spawned. In addition, they are highly opportunistic and will also colonise suitable new waterbodies rapidly. Great Crested Newt is a 'European protected species' afforded full protection under both UK and European legislation. This protection extends to the habitats which support it. The habitats within 500m of a breeding pond are generally considered to be protected by the legislation. The Great Crested Newt is a priority species and subject to its own Biodiversity Action Plan.

There are no waterbodies on site or impacted by the proposal. The development is very limited in extent and the habitats affected are of very low quality for Great Crested Newt. There are records of GCNs within 1 km of the site,

The on-site habitat is of low suitability for GCNs and it is considered unlikely that they will be present on site, therefore no further survey is recommended, though a range of precautions. To ensure no newts or other amphibians are harmed as a result of this development, it is recommended appropriate precautions should be taken during development.

Recommendations for safeguarding newts

Although the risk to great crested newts is very low, there will be a need for appropriate safeguards and reasonable avoidance through appropriate working methods to be employed during the development works. These are summarized below:

1. Carefully strip of any paved area, long grass or gravel on which the development is to take place. There is a very low chance that newts (including common species) could use these structures as refugia.
- 2 If great crested newts are discovered at any time during processes involved with the development, work will cease immediately and the advice of a licensed ecologist sought.
3. All site staff involved with site clearance and construction works are to be made aware of the potential (although extremely low) for encountering great crested newts through a tool kit talk and the appropriate measures to be taken if great crested newts are encountered.
4. Keep duration of ground-works as short as possible.

5. Undertake during the day works that might only affect newts above ground.
6. Backfill trenches and other excavations before nightfall, or leave a ramp to allow newts to easily exit. Raise stored materials (that might act as temporary resting places) off the ground, e.g. on pallets
7. The trees and hedgerows on and near to the site will be largely retained and protected during the development.
8. Working areas and storage: all storage of materials to take place on pallets, keep working area and disturbance within red boundary area, without tracking or construction vehicles entering other areas of the site.

Reptiles

There are four widespread species of British reptile comprising grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*). These animals are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁵ and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. They are given so called 'partial protection', which prohibits the deliberate killing or injury of individuals. The habitats of common reptiles are not specifically protected.

The on-site habitats are of low suitability for reptiles. The site is isolated from the nearest records of reptiles which are at over 1 km. It is therefore considered unlikely that reptiles would be present on site and no further survey is recommended. Instead the development should take a precautionary approach and to ensure no reptiles are harmed as a result of the proposed development it is recommended appropriate precautions should be taken during development.

Including where possible:

- Ensuring storage of piles of materials and excavated earth on the site should be kept to a minimum.
- Storing piles of materials and excavated earth away from the field boundaries to deter reptiles from using them for temporary cover.

The precautions recommended for Great Crested Newt will also ensure risk reduction for reptiles, should they be present on site.

4.0. DISCUSSION

It is important that this proposed development should demonstrate **Net Biodiversity Gain, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework 2024¹⁷**. There is also a duty to ensure no net loss of biodiversity placed on Local Authorities in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Section 40⁷. There are requirements noted for this under The National Planning Policy Framework (2024)¹⁷ which refers to compensation/ mitigation. It is confirmed that the enhancement, mitigation and compensation within this section will comply with all the relevant UK and EU legislation relating to protection and enhancement of ecology. The site is likely to require a Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment.

4.1. Ecological Constraints

This Phase 1 Ecology Report confirms that the proposed Construction Zone is of 'moderate to high ecological value' consisting primarily of a native deciduous woodland plantation. Loss of this area to development will require substantive mitigation.

The habitats present within the area consists of the following elements (see Phase 1 Habitat Map in Appendix 1d and refer to JNCC habitat Survey codes, 2016).

- Native deciduous woodland (UKHabs W15 Other broadleaved woodlands), the woodland is unmanaged.

The on-site lighting should be carefully chosen to ensure it is low lux, cowled (directed downwards to prevent light splay), and used on timers or motion sensors to minimize the impact on local bat populations and protect the adjacent woodland from light spill. This should conform to recommendations within BCT lighting guidance, 2018¹⁹. This guidance was updated in 2023.

4.2. Additional Ecological Surveys Recommended

- No further surveys are recommended.

4.3. Minimising Ecological Impact

This section states how the negative impacts of the development can be addressed.

4.3a. Protecting the Ecological Value of the Site

On site features of value are the trees and hedges, which should be extensively mitigated for within any proposed development.

The on-site lighting should be carefully chosen to ensure it is low lux, cowled (directed downwards to prevent light splay), and used on timers or motion sensors to minimize the impact on local bat populations.

Nest boxes suitable for common species should be integrated into the built fabric of the new building. A minimum of one bird box and one house sparrow terrace on the new unit. Schwegler 1B nest boxes with 32mm entrance holes are recommended. These should be erected in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations. Generally, this will entail mounting the box between 3 – 4 m above the ground, with a north / northwest aspect. Care should be made to make the nest box inaccessible to predators, and generally, nest boxes should not be sited too close to each other.

It is also suggested that south facing bat boxes be integrated as bat bricks into the new building or attached to new building. A minimum of one bat box on the new unit. Details can be found in appendix 5.

4.3b. Precautionary Measures during Development

Peak bird breeding season is between mid March and mid August, although certain species can breed outside these months and if breeding birds are found then work should cease and the advice of an ecologist sought. Site clearance should be carried out outside of the bird breeding season.

The off site trees should be treated in accordance British Standard BS5837 (2012) Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations, to ensure require adequate root protection fencing.

Although the risk to great crested newts is very low, there will be a need for appropriate safeguards and reasonable avoidance through appropriate working methods to be employed during the development works. These are summarized below:

1. Carefully strip of any paved area, long grass or gravel on which the development is to take place. There is a very low chance that newts (including common species) could use these structures as refugia.
2. If great crested newts are discovered at any time during processes involved with the development, work will cease immediately and the advice of a licensed ecologist sought.
3. All site staff involved with site clearance and construction works are to be made aware of the potential (although extremely low) for encountering great crested newts through a tool kit talk and the appropriate measures to be taken if great crested newts are encountered.
4. Keep duration of ground-works as short as possible.
5. Undertake during the day works that might only affect newts above ground.
6. Backfill trenches and other excavations before nightfall, or leave a ramp to allow newts to easily exit. Raise stored materials (that might act as temporary resting places) off the ground, e.g. on pallets
7. The trees and hedgerows on and near to the site will be largely retained and protected during the development.
8. Working areas and storage: all storage of materials to take place on pallets, keep working area and disturbance within red boundary area, without tracking or construction vehicles entering other areas of the site.

4.4 Opportunities for Biodiversity Gain and Off-setting Requirements

It is important that this proposed development should demonstrate Net Biodiversity Gain, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework 2024¹⁷. A statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment and metric will be required.

Following the built development there will be opportunities for enhancement of the site's ecological value by on site landscaping measures designed to encourage wildlife into the site, including native planting, bird and bat boxes on built structures. Species should be selected, that are both native and wildlife friendly, focusing on measures to encourage birds and foraging bats, wherever possible. See appendices 4 - 8 for detailed information.

The opportunities for enhancement lie in the following main areas:

1. Retention and enhancement of value of existing nearby trees.
2. Substantive mitigation planting of mixed native deciduous woodland
3. Bird and bat boxes incorporated within or on the new building or other built fabric, in particular should be included.

Bird box specifications

A minimum of 1 hole nesting bird box and one sparrow terrace, to be installed on the north face of the building. Bird box details can be found in appendix 5.

Bat Box Specifications

A minimum of one bat box on the building. Bat boxes can be attached to the south facing edges of the built structure. Details can be found in appendix 5.

4. Selection of wildlife-friendly shrub/planting species as part of the terrestrial landscaping scheme within the development. The specification should include elements of landscaping details selected from a palette of species beneficial to wildlife (further information can be found in Appendix 4):

5. Conclusion

This Phase 1 Ecology Report confirms that the proposed Construction Zone is of 'moderate to high ecological value' consisting primarily of a native deciduous woodland plantation. Loss of this area to development will require substantive mitigation.

- There are no Statutory or Non-Statutory Designated Nature Conservation Sites within or adjacent to the site.
- The Biological Data Search no protected species were recorded within the site.
- There is no evidence of badger use of the site.
- The site is of very low suitability for both reptiles and Great Crested Newts, therefore no further surveys are required, although a series of precautions (including ecological supervision of site strip) should be taken during development, as detailed in section 4.3b.
- No further surveys are recommended.
- Substantive mitigation including native woodland tree planting will be required to offset the proposed development.
- Any site clearance of woody vegetation should be undertaken outside of the peak bird breeding season (early March to mid August) or undertaken under ecological supervision. No building demolition April to September.
- There is no evidence of Non-Native Invasive Species on site.

Date	Prepared by	Checked and Verified by
31st March 2025	Dr Louise Sutherland MIALE Ecologist	Dr Stefan Bodnar MCIEEM Principal Ecologist

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Appendix 1a Satellite Image



*Map data 2025© Google.*¹⁸

Appendix 1d Phase 1 Habitat Map



Native deciduous woodland (UKHabs W15 Other broadleaved woodlands), the woodland is unmanaged.

Appendix 2 Photographs





Site images showing woodland group impacted

Appendix 3 Species Lists

Yew	<i>Taxus baccatta</i>
Spruce	<i>Picea sp.</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Cherry	<i>Prunus sp.</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquilifolium</i>

Crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
English oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>

Appendix 4: Specifications for Biodiversity Gain

Appendix 4a: British Native Trees to Attract Wildlife

Species	Average mature / ultimate height			Growth rate			Soil/ground conditions					Tolerant of sites that are				Valuable for	
	0.5-5m	6m-15m	16m+	Fast	Medium	Slow	Wet ground	Light sandy soils	Heavy soils	acid	alkaline	Shaded	Polluted	Coastal	Exposed	Birds	Insects
Alder		•		•			■		•		•	•	•		•		•
Ash		•	•		•		▲	•			•	•	•	•	•		
Aspen		•		•					•	•	•		•	•	•		•
Beech			•			•		•			•	•					•
Birch, Downy		•		•			▲			•			•		•		•
Birch, Silver		•		•				•		•			•		•		•
Blackthorn	•			•				•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•
Broom	•				•			•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Buckthorn, Alder	•					•	▲			•							
Cherry, Wild		•			•			•	•		•		•				
Cherry, Bird		•			•			•	•	•		•				•	•
Crabapple		•				•		•	•	•	•	•				•	•
Elder		•		•				•	•	•	•		•	•	•		•
Elm, Wych		•			•				•		•	•	•	•	•		•
Gorse	•				•			•		•	•					•	•
Hawthorn	•				•			•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Hazel		•		•					•		•	•					•
Holly		•				•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Lime, small-leaved			•		•				•		•	•					•
Maple, Field		•			•				•		•	•	•				
Oak, Pedunculate			•			•			•		•				•	•	•
Oak, Sessile			•			•	▲	•	•	•		•			•	•	•
Pine, Scots			•		•			•		•					•		•
Poplar, Black			•	•			▲	•	•		•						•
Rose, Dog	•				•			•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•
Rose, Guelder	•				•		▲		•		•	•					•
Rowan		•		•				•		•			•	•	•	•	
Spindle	•				•				•		•	•					
Whitebeam, Common		•			•			•	•		•						•
Wild Service	•					•			•		•	•		•		•	
Willow, Crack		•		•			■				•		•	•	•	•	•
Willow, Goat		•		•	•		■		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Willow, White			•	•			■				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Yew		•				•		•			•	•				•	

■ Only species to survive waterlogged sites with anaerobic conditions.

▲ Will tolerate wet ground if there is some seasonality of "flushing (water movement) within the soil.

Appendix 4b: Non-native plants to attract wildlife

Buddleja X weyeriana cultivars

You can plant the orange-flowered B. X weyeriana hybrids with a clear conscience as they don't appear to produce viable seed, they also attract a broad spectrum of insects including both butterflies and bees, and they flower late into the season when nectar is scarce. The beautiful B. x fallowiana 'Lochin' with silver leaves is attractive to butterflies and is also said not to produce seeds. The orange ball Buddleja (B. globosa) from South America seems to attract bees rather than butterflies.

Bupleurum fruticosum ('Shrubby Hare's Ear')

A shrubby evergreen umbellifer from Southern Europe, where it is often cultivated. It has leathery aromatic foliage and umbels of yellowish flowers, a bit like those of Fennel, that are very attractive to hoverflies and other small insects. Well worth growing for this reason.

Ceanothus X 'Gloire de Versailles'

Ceanothus come from the Western United States. Most Ceanothus have bunches of very small flowers that don't seem very attractive to insects. 'Gloire de Versailles' however is a hybrid with loose bunches of pale blue tubular flowers that are very attractive to butterflies and bees.

Caryopteris X clandonensis 'Kew Blue'

A deciduous shrub from China for a sunny position, has small tubular blue flowers attractive to insects.

Clethra alnifolia ('Sweet Pepper Bush')

A deciduous shrub from the Eastern United States that likes damp, acid or woodland soil. Has spikes of small scented white flowers attractive to moths and butterflies.

Hebe X 'Great Orme' and H. X 'Midsummer Beauty'

Hebes are close relatives of the herbaceous genus Veronica, and come from New Zealand. Some are much more attractive to insects than others. 'Great Orme' is a medium-sized hybrid with pale pink flowers that are attractive to butterflies. It is a distinctive cultivar and available true to name in the nursery trade.

'Midsummer Beauty' seems to be more of a generic name for a series of large shrubs with blue or grey-blue flowers in long spikes, attractive to both bees and butterflies. There are a number of other blue and white flowered Hebes that seem very popular with bumblebees.

Myrtus communis ('European Myrtle')

An attractive evergreen shrub from the South of France and Spain with small evergreen aromatic leaves. It has been grown in our gardens for centuries, but is susceptible to hard frost and prefers a site against a warm sunny wall. Fluffy white flowers in early summer are bumblebees' heaven. Purplish berries follow later which are stripped by blackbirds in January.

Amelanchier species ('Shad Bush')

Shrubs with white cherry-like blossoms early in the year, followed by blackish berries in late summer. Valuable for the berries as a source of food for berry-eating birds when most other berries are not yet ripe.

Erica terminalis ('Corsican Heath')

A shrubby heather-like plant popular with bumblebees. The Cornish Heath, Erica vagans, from the Atlantic fringes of Europe is also a good bee plant. Erica manipuliflora, from Southern Europe, and its hybrid Erica X griffithii have fragrant flowers that attract butterflies.

Eupatorium ligustrinum

A late-flowering evergreen bush that looks very like a privet, but has bunches of white fluffy flowers in September and October. These flowers seem very attractive to range of insects, especially hoverflies.

Ribes sanguineum (Flowering Currant)

It is a very good early flower for bumblebees, as indeed are the flowers of the closely related blackcurrants and gooseberries.

Appendix 4c: Plants good for moths, with species of moth they encourage beside

Plant	Moths
Bird's Foot Trefoil (<i>lotus corniculatus</i>)	<i>Burnet, Belted Beauty, Chalk Carpet, Latticed Heather</i>
Bladder Campion (<i>silene vulgaris</i>)	<i>Campion, Marbled Coronet, Nettle Pug, Marbled Clover, Dark Brocade, Sandy Carpet</i>
Borage (<i>borago officinalis</i>)	<i>Crimson Speckled</i>
Wild Clary (<i>salvia horminoides</i>)	<i>Twin-spot Carpet</i>
Biting Stonecrop (<i>sedum acre</i>)	<i>Yellow Ringed Carpet, Northern Rustic</i>
Cowslip (<i>primula veris</i>)	<i>Plain Clary, Northern Rustic</i>
Dropwort (<i>filipendula hexapetala</i>)	<i>Satyr Pug</i>
Evening Primrose (<i>oenothera biennis</i>)	<i>Elephant Hawk</i>
Field Scabious (<i>kanutia arvensis</i>)	<i>Marsh Fritillary, Narrow Bordered Bee Hawk, Lime Speck Pug, Shaded Pug</i>
Foxglove (<i>digitalis purpurea</i>)	<i>Lesser Yellow Underwing, Foxglove Pug</i>
Golden Rod (<i>solidago</i>)	<i>Lime Speck Pug, Bleached Pug, Golden Rod, Wormwood Pug, V Pug</i>
Greater Stitchwort (<i>stellaria holostea</i>)	<i>Dart, Yellow Underwing, Marsh Pug, Plain Clary</i>
Hedge Bedstraw (<i>gallium mollugo</i>)	<i>Ruddy Carpet, Royal Mantle, Common Carpet, Wood Carpet, Water Carpet, Beech Green Carpet, Mottled Grey, Green Carpet</i>
Hedge Woundwort (<i>stachys sylvatica</i>)	<i>Rosy Rustic, Plain Golden Y, Sub-angled Wave</i>
Hemp Agrimony (<i>eupatorium cannabinum</i>)	<i>Wormwood Pug, V Pug, Lime Speck Pug, Marsh Pug, Gem, Scarce Burnished</i>
Herb Bennet (<i>geum urbanum</i>)	<i>Riband Wave</i>
Herb Robert (<i>geranium robertianum</i>)	<i>Barred Carpet</i>
Hollyhock (<i>althaea rosea</i>)	<i>Mallow</i>
Kidney Vetch (<i>anthyllis vulneraria</i>)	<i>6-belted Clearwing</i>
Lady's Bedstraw (<i>gallium verum</i>)	<i>Hummingbird Hawk, Small Elephant Hawk, Gallium Carpet, Plain Wave, Riband Wave, Bedstraw Hawk, Archer's Dart, Red Chestnut, Ruddy Carpet, Royal Mantle, Common Carpet, Water Carpet, Beech Green Carpet, Red Twin Spot Carpet, Wood Carpet, Mottled Grey, Green Carpet</i>
Lady's Mantle (<i>alchemilla mollis</i>)	<i>Red Carpet</i>
Lesser Knapweed (<i>centaurea nigra</i>)	<i>Silver Y, Lime Speck Pug, Satyr Pug</i>
Lesser Meadow Rue	<i>Marsh Carpet</i>
Maiden Pink (<i>dianthus deltoides</i>)	<i>Marbled Coronet</i>
Marjoram (<i>majorana originaum</i>)	<i>Sub-angled Wave, Lace Border</i>

Marshmallow (<i>althea officinalis</i>)	<i>Marshmallow</i>
Meadow Clary (<i>salvia pratensis</i>)	<i>Brown Spot Pinion, Hebrew Character, Powdered Quaker, Emperor</i>
Mullein	<i>Mullein, Striped Lychnis</i>
Navelwort (<i>umbilicus rupestris</i>)	<i>Weaver's Wave</i>
Pink	<i>Hawk</i>
Primrose (<i>primula vulgaris</i>)	<i>Pearl Bordered Yellow Underwing, Double Square Spot, Green Arches, Triple Spotted Clary, Ingrained Clary, Silver Ground Carpet</i>
Purple Loosestrife (<i>lythrum salicaria</i>)	<i>Emperor, Small Elephant Hawk, Powdered Quake</i>
Ragged Robin (<i>lychnis flos cuculi</i>)	<i>Campion, Lychnis, Twin-spot Carpet, Marbled Clover</i>
Red Campion (<i>melandrium rubrum</i>)	<i>Rivulet, Campion, Lychnis, Twin-spot Carpet, Sandy Carpet, Marbled Clover</i>
Red Clover (<i>trifolium pratense</i>)	<i>Latticed Heath, Chalk Carpet, Belted Beauty, Mother Skipton, Shaded Broad Bar, Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet</i>
Red Valerian (<i>centranthus ruber</i>)	<i>Elephant Hawk</i>
Rock Rose (<i>helianthemum mummularium</i>)	<i>Amulet, Cistus Forester, Silky Wave, Ashworth's Rustic, Argus, Wood Tiger, Northern Brown</i>
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Twin-spot Carpet, Small Phoenix, White Banded Carpet</i>
Small Scabious (<i>scabiosa columbaria</i>)	<i>Lime Speck Pug, Shaded Pug</i>
Soapwort (<i>saponaria officinalis</i>)	<i>Marbled Clover</i>
St John's Wort	<i>Treble Bar</i>
Sweet Violet (<i>viola odorata</i>)	<i>Broad Bordered Yellow Underwing, Lesser Broad Bordered Yellow Underwing</i>
Tansy (<i>tanacetum vulgare</i>)	<i>Essex Emerald</i>
Thrift (<i>armeria maritima</i>)	<i>Amulet, Feathered Ranunculus, Thrift Clearwing, Black Banded</i>
Thyme	<i>Thyme Pug, Satyr Pug, Lace Border</i>
Toadflax (<i>linaria vulgaris</i>)	<i>Toadflax Pug, Marbled Clover</i>
Valerian (<i>valeriana officinalis</i>)	<i>Valerian Pug, Lesser Cream Wave</i>
White Campion (<i>silene latifolia alba</i>)	<i>Marbled Coronet, Marbled Clover, Sandy Carpet</i>
Wild Clematis (<i>clematis vitalnba</i>)	<i>Lime Speck Pug, Haworth's Pug, Small Emerald, The Fern, Pretty Chalk Carpet, Least Carpet, Pug, Chalk Carpet, Small Waved Umber</i>
White Clover (<i>trifolium repens</i>)	<i>Cloudy Wing Skipper, Orange, Clouded Sulphur</i>
Wild Pansy (<i>viola tricolor</i>)	<i>Pluvia</i>
Wild Strawberry (<i>fragaria vesca</i>)	<i>Amulet, Yellow Shell, Beautiful Carpet, Dark Marbled Carpet</i>

Wild Wallflower	<i>Flame Carpet</i>
Wormwood (<i>artemesia absinthium</i>)	<i>Wormwood Pug</i>
Yarrow (<i>achillea millefolium</i>)	<i>Essex Emerald, Lime Speck Pug, Straw Belle, Wormwood Pug, Ruby Tiger, Yarrow Pug, V Pug, Sussex Emerald, Grey Pug, Tawny Speckled Pug, Common Pug, Mullein Wave</i>
Yellow Flag Iris (<i>iris pseudacorus</i>)	<i>Belted Beauty, Water Ermine</i>
Barberry	<i>Scarce Tissue, Wheat</i>
Blackthorn/Sloe	<i>March, Common Emerald, Little Emerald, Mottled Pug, Feathered Thorn, Orange, Scalloped Hazel, Scalloped Oak, August Thorn, Brimstone, Early Thorn, Pale Brindled Beauty, Blue Bordered Carpet, Broken Barred Carpet, November, Pale November, Winter, Sloe Pug, Green Pug, Sharp Angled Peacock, The Magpie</i>
Broom	<i>Grass Emerald, The Streak, Broom-tip, Lead Belle, Spanish Carpet, Frosted Yellow</i>
Dog Rose	<i>V Pug, Little Thorn, Shoulder Stripe, Barred Yellow, Streamer</i>
Hawthorn	<i>March, Common Emerald, Little Emerald, November, Pale November, Winter, Mottled Pug, Pinion Spotted Pug, Common Pug, Grey Pug, Peppered, Brindled Beauty, Pale Brindled Beauty, Feathered Thorn, Scalloped Hazel, The Magpie, Scalloped Oak, Large Thorn, Early Thorn, Oak Tree Pug, Broken Barred Carpet</i>
Hazel	<i>Oak Beauty, Small White Wave, The Magpie, Clouded Border, Barred Umber, Winter, Pale November</i>
Oak	<i>Brindled Pug, Oak Tree Pug, Spring Usher, Peppered, Oak Beauty, Brindled Beauty, Pale Brindled Beauty, Small Brindled Beauty, Feathered Thorn, Orange, Lunar Thorn, Purple Thorn, Scalloped Hazel, Scalloped Oak, Scorched Wing, Large Thorn, August Thorn, November, September Thorn, Pale November, Winter, March, Blotched Emerald, Common Emerald, Little Emerald, False Mocha, Maiden's Blush, Marbled ug, Red-green Carpet, Broken Barred Carpet</i>
Rowan	<i>Orange Underwing, Welsh Wave, Mottled Pug, Red-green Carpet</i>
Wild Privet	<i>Lilac Beauty, Barred Toothed Striped, Yellow Barred Brindle,</i>

Appendix 4d: Plants and Habitats to attract Bats

1. Flower Borders and Lawns

Larvae and adults of many insects will be catered for by introducing a wide range of food, in the form of nectar, seeds and fruit as well as vegetation.

- Grow night scented flowers. These attract moths and other night flying insects of particular importance to bats.
- Plant herbs and old fashioned cottage-garden annuals attractive to insects.
- Leave part of your lawn un-mown from about mid-May to encourage insect larvae which feed on grass. Allow to seed before cutting, and rake up the hay afterwards.
- Sow wild flower seed collections in your borders.

2. Trees and Shrubs

At woodland edges space and sunshine combine with the trees to give shelter and warmth, and insects will concentrate there. So even in the smallest garden try to have at least one tree or shrub. Native trees are more attractive to insects than foreign species.

If space is limited, silver birch and goat willow are quick growing and are host to many insect visitors. With a little more space, try to make a bank of vegetation to give your garden a woodland edge structure.

3. Shelter Belts

Rows of bushes or trees can be created or improved, encouraging concentrations of insects and providing a feeding area for bats,

- Plant up gaps in natural hedges,
- A row of fast-growing cypress can be valuable.
- Train climbers using battens against a wall or fence, to provide possible roosting sites.
- Create a sheltered corner by using any combination of walls, fences, hedges or woodland edge at two angles.

Scented herbs

Chives, Borage, Lemon balm, Marjoram, Mint - many varieties

Night scented flowers for the border (in approximate order of flowering)

Bedding Plants

Nottingham catchfly	<i>Silene nutans</i>
Night-scented catchfly	<i>S. noctiflora</i>
Bladder campion	<i>S. vulgaris</i>
Night-scented stock	<i>Matthiola bicornis</i>
Sweet rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>
Tobacco plant	<i>Nicotiana affinis</i>
Cherry pie	<i>Heliotropium x hybridum</i>
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>

Climbers

European honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera caprifolium</i>	July-November
Italian honeysuckle	<i>L. etrusca superba</i>	July-August
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>L. japonica halliana</i>	August-October
Honeysuckle (native)	<i>L. periclymenum...</i>	July-August
White jasmine	<i>Jasminium officinale</i>	
Dogrose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	
Sweetbriar	<i>R. rubiginosa</i>	
Fieldrose	<i>R. arvensis</i>	
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	
Bramble - many species		

Large trees, small trees and shrubs

Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i> & <i>Q. petraea</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Hazel	<i>Coryllus avellana</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Buddleia davidii	

Rock plants for walls

Ivy-leaved toadflax	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>
Wall pennywort	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>

Appendix 4e: Plants and Habitats to Attract Birds

Plants to Feed Birds.

Many shrubs, climbers, trees, garden and 'wild' plants provide food, directly or indirectly, through berries, seeds or the insects they attract.

Berry or fruit bearing trees and shrubs will attract members of the Thrush family, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Mistle and song Thrush, Redwing and Robin. Also Starlings and, in some winters, Waxwing and even some Warblers, e.g., Blackcaps who eat berries in the early autumn before they migrate. Unless mentioned, the berries attract all the above birds plus others as specified.

Shrubs with Berries.

- Aronia arbutifolia (Red Chokeberry) : bright red fruits
- Berberis: most forms have black/purple berries, especially loved by Blackbirds.
- Callicarpa 'Profusion': bright violet coloured berries.
- Cornus (Dogwood): blue tinted white berries (not C.Mas).
- Cotoneaster : prolific red, orange or yellow berries - birds often choose red first, through orange to yellow last. (Note berries are poisonous to humans).
- Euonymous europaeus (spindleberry: large bright red fruits which open to emit orange red seeds.(Note berries are poisonous to humans).
- Ilex (Holy): red, orange or yellow berries - red berries preferred (need partner to fruit).(Note berries are poisonous to humans).
- Mahonia: decorative black berries.
- Rosa rugosa : large red hips, particularly attractive to Greenfinches which pick out the seeds.
- Sambucus (Elder): red or black berries - over 32 species reported eating them, especially Blackcap and, occasionally, Collar Doves.
- Viburnum opulus (Guelder Rose) : translucent berries
- Viscum album (Mistletoe): familiar white globular berries of this parasite that grows in trees, especially apple, are a good food source for Blackbirds.

Climbers with Berries.

- Chaenomeles (Flowering Quince/Cydonia): Autumn Quinces.
- Hedera (Ivy) : shiny black berries
- Lonicera (Honeysuckle: red or black berries attract Thrushes plus Bullfinches and Marsh and Willow Tits. (Note berries are poisonous to humans).
- Pyracantha (Firethorn) :red, orange or yellow berries - choose red for the birds to eat before Christmas usually with orange or yellow to follow in a hard winter.
- Clematis vitalba (Old Man's Beard): seed heads are enjoyed by many birds.

Trees with Berries or Fruits.

- Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn : red berries.
- Malus (Crab Apple: red fruited varieties are best for birds.
- Prunus (Cherries): fruits quickly picked off.
- Sorbus aucuparia (Mountain Ash/Rowan) :red, orange or pink flushed white berries. The darker the fruits the more attractive they are to birds. Occasionally bring Spotted Flycatchers to the garden.
- Taxus (Yew): sparse red berries attract a wide range of birds. Attractive also to Badgers.(Note berries are poisonous to humans).

Trees with Seed Cones.

- Alnus glutinosa (Alder), and Betula (Birch): seeds from cones enjoyed by Goldfinches, Greenfinches, Redpolls, Siskins and Tits.
- Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine) : pine cones from which Crossbills and Great Spotted Woodpeckers prise seed.

Trees with Blossom.

- Although not always welcome, Bullfinches strip the buds of fruit trees in late winter and early spring.

Garden Plants.

- Crocus: yellow and orange flowers are attractive to Sparrows because they contain yellow pigment carotene to brighten up their plumage for the breeding season.
- Echinops ritro (Globe Thistle: seed heads are eaten by Goldfinches and flower heads attract insects.
- Helianthus (Sunflower: seed heads are eaten by Greenfinches. The nectar attracts a wide range of insects.
- Lavandula (Lavender): flowers going to seed are attractive to Goldfinches.
- Primula (Polyanthus/Primrose): yellow and orange flowers are attractive to Sparrows.

Wild Plants.

You can provide a haven for wild plants to exist in their own right recreating a wild meadow to attract insects which, in turn, attract birds and other wildlife.

- Betony.
- Bird's Foot Trefoil.
- Common Poppy - seeds are favourite food of Finches.
- Field Scabious.
- Greater Knapweed.
- Meadow Cranesbill.
- Musk Mallow.
- Ox Eye Daisy.
- Oxlip.
- Primrose.
- Rough Hawkbit.
- Self Heal.
- Teasel - seed heads are a favourite food of Goldfinches.
- Wild Strawberry

The Lawn.

This is one of the principal sources of food for birds who enjoy feeding on insects including:-Ants eaten by Green Woodpeckers; Leatherjackets by Starlings; Snails by Song thrushes; Slugs by Toads and Worms by Blackbirds, Robins and Thrushes.

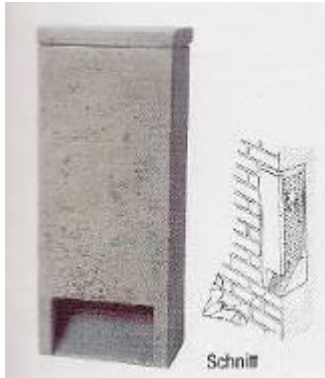
Cover and Protection.

By surrounding your garden by thick and often prickly hedging and dotting suitable shrubs around, you can provide safe nesting havens that are protected from marauding cats and even the unwelcome attention of unfriendly humans.

The most successful shrubs and trees for this purpose include:-

- Conifers especially chamaecyparis, Taxus (Yew) and Thuja Placata.
- Crataegus.
- Eleagnus.
- Hedera (Ivy) up a tree.
- Ligustrum (Privet) especially for Blackbirds.
- Lonicera (Honeysuckle).
- Pittosporum.
- Salix caprea (Weeping Kilmarnock Willow).

Appendix 5: Bat Boxes and Bat Brick Specifications to Provide Bat Habitat on Buildings



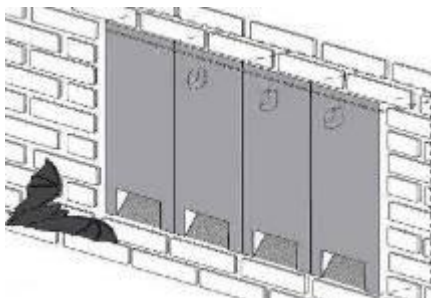
Schwegler 1FR can be installed within brick masonry just leaving the entrance and can be rendered over.



Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box B is designed specifically for the pipistrelle bat.



Schwegler W1 integral Summer & Winter Bat Box.



Schwegler 2FR Bat Tube is the same design as the 1FR but with holes in the sides. Multiple tubes to be placed next to each other to form a much larger roost.



Schwegler 27 wall can be installed within brick masonry. It can be rendered over.



Schwegler 1FQ wall-mounted bat box.



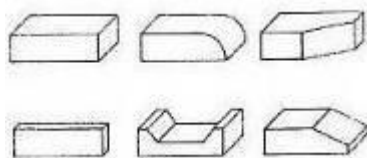
Schwegler 1FE Bat Access Panel can be surface-mounted or integrated. The open back enables bats access through exterior walls.



Ibstock Bat Box with Engraved Motif C is designed specifically for the pipistrelle bat and is available in all brick colours.



Ibstock Free Access Bat Box allows bats to access the cavity wall of the building.



Modified bricks for creating bat access points. A standard brick is shown top left. Purpose made bat bricks can also be used.



Norfolk Bat Brick allows bats to access the cavity wall of the building. The slits are the perfect size for Natterer's bat, Daubenton's bat, Brandt's bat and Brown long-eared.



Marshall's Bat Access Brick (Also available in stone) allows bats access into the cavity wall of the building.

APPENDIX 6: Insect Box Specifications

A variety of insect boxes is recommended to encourage a diversity of insect species and encourage bats.

Wooden Insect House

A general insect habitat for beneficial insects in summer and, later in the year, over wintering ladybirds and lacewings. Locate in a sheltered place near nectar or pollen plants or by a pond. Durable and strong construction in acacia, oak or larch with no maintenance necessary. Dimensions: 22 × 13.5 × 13.5cm.



Woodcrete Insect House

An insect nest made from long-lasting, insulating, woodcrete, with holes of different sizes providing homes for a variety of beneficial insects such as bees and solitary wasps. Dimensions: 14 × 8 × 26cm; Weight: 3.65kg



Insect House with Inspection Tubes

This nesting and hibernation box for insects has a woodcrete exterior with a wooden front panel which can be removed for observation. Through the transparent tubes you can see the usually hidden lifecycle of many solitary types of bees and hymenoptera including egg-laying, development of larvae and sealing of brood chambers. Typical inhabitants are wild bees and thread-waisted wasps. All the species attracted to this box are harmless non-aggressive pollinating insects.

Dimensions: 33 × 21 × 51 cm; Weight: 7.1kg.



Appendix 7. Bird Box Specifications

Schwegler boxes have the highest occupation rates of all box types. They are carefully designed to mimic natural nest sites and provide a stable environment for chick rearing and winter roosting. They can be expected to last 25 years or more without maintenance.

2. Schwegler No 11 House Martin Nest (Code: 002097D)



It is increasingly difficult for swallows and house martins to find suitable nest-building material. The mud they do find, if any, is often poor quality. In addition, the walls of buildings are nowadays often very smooth. As a result, nests tend to fall down, sometimes with the nestlings inside. In many places, the vibration caused by heavy vehicles shakes the nests loose. This nest has been developed to enable House Martins to breed successfully on external facades without overhanging eaves and has proved highly successful.

3. Schwegler No 16 Swift Box (Code: 002087D)

The design of this box mimics bell tower louvres. It has a removable panel for easy inspection of the nest chamber.



4. 2H Robin Box (Code: 002015D)



This box is attractive to robins, pied wagtails, spotted flycatcher, wrens and black redstarts. Best sited on the walls of buildings with the entrance on one side.

5. Sparrow Terrace



House sparrows are gregarious and prefer to nest close to each other, so this woodcrete box provides room for three families under one roof. Made from long-lasting, breathable woodcrete. No maintenance required. Designed for fixing to walls (not suitable for fences or sheds due to the weight of the box). Available in choice of stone colour (pictured) or brown.

6. Schwegler 1B Bird Box

The most popular box for garden birds, the 1B appeals to a wide range of species, and is the official nest box of National Nest Box Week. The box can be nailed to the trunk of a tree, or hung from a branch. Woodcrete, 23cm high x 16cm diameter. Available in choice of four colours - brown, green, red or white. Available with 32mm entrance hole (standard) or with 26mm hole



7. Schwegler Built-in Multi-System Main Cavity Bird Box (Code: 002101D)



The multi-system has exchangeable front panels for kestrels, jackdaws or swifts. The system can be installed in all types of buildings, whether constructed of concrete, brick or timber. To meet the needs of various species of bird, different types of front panel are available for use with the main cavity. The main cavity is supplied without a front panel which should be ordered separately. **Positioning:** At heights of 5m or more on a sheltered external wall. **Suitable for:** Dependant on the type of front panel chosen. **Material:** Woodcrete **Height:**415mm **Width:** 445mm **Depth:**415mm **Weight:**2.8Kg