
The Old Airfield, Honeystreet

Preliminary Ecology Appraisal

July 2025

Client: LP Planning
Report Ref: SEB3133_01
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Non-Technical Summary

Site Location	The Old Airfield, Honeystreet, Pewsey, SN9 5PS (OS grid reference: SU 10388 61714).
Scope of Works	Preliminary Ecology Appraisal comprising a Habitat Survey and Daytime Bat Walkover, supplemented with a desk study.
Survey Methods	The Habitat Survey was undertaken with reference to UKHab (2023) and CIEEM (2018) and the Daytime Bat Walkover was undertaken with reference to BCT (2023).
Personnel	Kate Hayward MCIEEM.
The Proposal	The site is the subject of a planning application for the conversion and extension of a former mess building to a residential dwelling.
Site Description and Suitability Assessment	The site lies in a rural location on the edge of the village of Honeystreet, approximately 6km to the north-west of Pewsey. It occupies the eastern edge of an arable field unit. The site is approximately 0.35 hectares in size. It contains one building (a former mess building), modified grassland, artificial unsealed and sealed surfaces (gravel with patches of tarmac) and built linear features (fencing). The Kennet and Avon Canal lies approximately 100m from the site. With consideration to protected/notable species: • The former mess building has <i>Confirmed Presence</i> of roosting bats and is assessed as <i>Moderate</i> suitability to roosting bats, owing to accesses into the building and gaps behind and above plasterboard. • The site is suitable to support low numbers of common and widespread species of reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. • The former mess building contained birds' nests at the time of the survey.
Recommendations	Three bat surveys of the former mess building are recommended, undertaken between May and mid-September and spaced three weeks apart. The commencement of works to the building should avoid the nesting bird season or a pre-works check should be undertaken by an Ecological Clerk of Works. Recommendations for precautionary protection measures during construction have been provided. Recommendations for sensitive lighting and biodiversity enhancements have also been provided.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 In July 2025, Seasons Ecology was instructed by LP Planning, on behalf of the landowner, to undertake a Preliminary Ecology Appraisal of The Old Airfield, Honeystreet, Pewsey, SN9 5PS (OS grid reference: SU 10384 61705). The site is the subject of a planning application for the conversion and extension of a former mess building to a residential dwelling.
- 1.1.2 The Preliminary Ecology Appraisal consisted of a Habitat Survey, Daytime Bat Walkover and Preliminary Roost Assessment. The survey was supplemented with a desk study.

1.2 Scope and Objectives of Survey

- 1.2.1 The survey was undertaken to identify and record the habitats on site and to assess the potential of the site to support protected/notable species. The purpose of the survey is to make known any ecological constraints or considerations that may be relevant to the proposal and to inform biodiversity enhancements.
- 1.2.2 This report is based on the findings of a survey undertaken on 22nd July 2025.
- 1.2.3 The report is supported by the following:
- Annex 1: Summary of Legislation and Planning Policy.
 - Annex 2: Habitat Map.
 - Annex 3: Site Photographs.

1.3 Personnel

- 1.3.1 The survey and reporting were led by Kate Hayward MCIEEM. Kate is Principal Ecologist and Director of Seasons Ecology with 25 years' experience as a professional consultant. Kate is a level 2 licensed bat surveyor (Class Licence Registration Number: 2015-15106-CLS-CLS) and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM).
- 1.3.2 The survey was assisted by Hayley Evenett.

2. Legislation and Planning Policy

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

3. Desk Study

3.1 Method

3.1.1 A web-based desk study was undertaken in July 2025 prior to the survey to provide local information that may be relevant to the proposal. The following online resources were consulted:

- The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website¹, to obtain information on:
 - Statutory designations within 2km of the site and within 4km for designations with bats as a primary feature.
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones and Bat Consultation Zones relevant to the site.
 - Habitats on or adjacent to the site listed on the Priority Habitats Inventory.
 - European Protected Species licences issued within 2km.
 - Other relevant species information.
- Google Maps², to view aerial photographs, maps and mapnik data, to assess the ecological context of the site.

3.2 Results

Statutory Designations

3.2.1 There are two statutorily designated sites withing 2km of the site:

- Pewsey Downs SSSI, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and National Nature Reserve (NNR) is located approximately 1.3km to the north of the site.
- The River Avon System SSSI is located approximately 1.9km to the south of the site.

3.2.2 There are no statutory designations within 4km with bats as the primary feature.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones and Bat Consultation Zones

3.2.3 The site itself is not covered by any statutory designations, but it does lie within the Impact Risk Zones for nearby SSSIs. This Impact Risk Zone requires consultation with Natural England if the development includes large-scale infrastructure works; mineral, oil, and gas extraction; significant rural developments, both residential (100+ units) and non-residential (footprint over 1ha); industrial or agricultural projects that could cause air pollution; high-capacity combustion processes over 20MW; waste operations; substantial discharges of liquid waste over 5m³/day; and developments with significant water supply demands. Therefore, consultation is unlikely to be required.

3.2.4 The site does not lie within a Bat Consultation Zone.

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

² <http://acme.com/planimeter/>

Priority Habitats Inventory

- 3.2.5 There are no Priority Habitats located on or adjacent to the site. The closest are two patches of Deciduous Woodland located approximately 380m to the south-east and 450m to the north-east of the site.

European Protected Species Licences

- 3.2.6 There is one European Protected Species licence that has been issued within 2km of the site. This is for brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* for a location approximately 1.2km to the north-west of the site.

Other Species Relevant Information

- 3.2.7 There are no great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* Natural England Pond Surveys (2017-2019) undertaken within 2km of the site and no great crested newt licence returns submitted within 2km of the site.
- 3.2.8 The site lies within a Countryside Stewardship Targeting Area for the Priority Species, lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus*.

Ecological Context

- 3.2.9 The site lies in a rural location on the edge of the village of Honeystreet, approximately 6km to the north-west of Pewsey. It occupies the eastern edge of an arable field unit, which is bounded by hedgerows or fencing with a very low number of scattered trees. To the north are further agricultural field units and beyond is the village of Alton Barnes. To the south are residential houses of Honeystreet. To the east and west are arable and pasture fields bounded by hedgerows and scattered trees.
- 3.2.10 The nearest watercourse is the Kennet and Avon Canal, which flows approximately 100m to the south of the site.
- 3.2.11 There is one pond evident within 500m of the site, located approximately 370m to the north-east of the site.

4. Survey

4.1 Methods

Habitat Survey

- 4.1.1 A systematic walkover of the site was undertaken on 22nd July 2025. Notes were taken on the habitats present, and their suitability to support protected and notable species. Any incidental evidence of protected and notable species was noted. The survey was carried out with reference to UKHab Classification (2023)³, CIEEM 2018⁴ and BS 42020:2013 *Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development* (BSI 2013).

Daytime Bat Walkover and Preliminary Roost Assessment

- 4.1.2 Concurrent with the Habitat Survey, a Daytime Bat Walkover of the site was carried out to observe, assess and record any habitats suitable for bats to roost, commute and forage both on site and in the surrounding area.
- 4.1.3 One building on site, a former mess building, was assessed for its suitability to roosting bats. This assessment considered the style, construction and condition of the building (missing roof tiles, rotten beams, cracks in stonework and ivy cover, for example) and presence of any suitable access points. Based on these factors, the former mess building is assessed as having *Negligible, Low, Moderate or High* suitability to roosting bats.
- 4.1.4 Trees on site were subject to a Ground Level Tree Assessment to identify Potential Roosting Features (PRF) on the exterior of trees. The trees are then assessed as follows:
- PRF – I: PRF(s) only suitable for individual bats or a very small number of bats either due to their size or a lack of suitable surrounding habitats.
 - PRF – M: PRF(s) suitable for multiple bats and could be used by a maternity colony.
- 4.1.5 The site is assessed as either having no habitat features, or *Negligible, Low, Moderate or High* suitability to roosting, foraging and commuting bats.
- 4.1.6 The walkover and assessment are undertaken with reference to BCT, 2023⁵.

Constraints to Survey

- 4.1.7 The survey is not able to record flora or fauna that may appear on the site at other times of the year and were therefore not evident at the time of the survey.

³ UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification, Version 2.0 at <https://ukhab.org/>

⁴ CIEEM (2018) *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

⁵ BCT (2023): Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

4.2 Site Description

- 4.2.1 The site is approximately 0.35 hectares in size. It contains one building (a former mess building), modified grassland, artificial unsealed and sealed surfaces (gravel with patches of tarmac) and built linear features (fencing). There are no trees on site, but there are two trees to the south, which overhang the south site boundary.
- 4.2.2 Habitats are mapped on the habitat plan at Annex 2. Site photographs are provided at Annex 3.

4.3 Building Description

- 4.3.1 The former mess building is currently disused. It is single-storey, with a footprint of approximately 70m², and constructed of partially rendered brick with a pitched, corrugated metal roof. There are metal-framed windows, several of which have missing panes of glass, there are open wooden vents located on the north-east and south-east elevations and there is an open door located on the south-west elevation.
- 4.3.2 Internally, the walls and sections of the ceiling are clad with plasterboard, much of which is in a state of disrepair with gaps and crevices between the plasterboard and the walls, and sagging, which creates gaps between the plasterboard and the ceiling. In the north-west corner of the roof area adjacent to one of the open wooden vents is an old asbestos-clad water tank.
- 4.3.3 A low number of bat droppings (approximately 10-20) were found within the building, which have been confirmed by DNA analysis as belonging to serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, and several birds' nests were present inside the building at the time of the survey (Target Note 1, Annex 2).

4.4 Habitat Descriptions

Modified Grassland

- 4.4.1 Modified grassland is the dominant habitat on site. It appears regularly cattle-grazed and maintained as a short to medium sward height, with a low diversity of species. Grasses comprise cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, bent-grasses *Agrostis* species and rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, with false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* along the fringes, and a low diversity and cover of herbs, comprising creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and occasional docks *Rumex* species, mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, welshed thistle *Carduus crispus* and goosefoot *Chenopodium* species.
- 4.4.2 Scattered farm equipment, materials and machinery are located adjacent to the building and on modified grassland in the north of the site. There is a pile of sand, partially vegetated, on modified grassland in the north-east corner of the site and a pile of gravel located to the east of the building (Target Note 2, Annex 2).

Artificial Unsealed and Sealed Surfaces

- 4.4.3 To the north of the building is a surface of gravel and tarmac, which leads to Honeystreet to the east.

Built Linear Features

- 4.4.4 A timber-post and wire fence demarcates the south and west site boundaries. The rest of the site boundaries have no physical feature.

Individual Trees (off-site)

- 4.4.5 To the south of the site, there is one mature beech *Fagus sylvatica* and one semi-mature sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, which overhang the south boundary of the site.

5. Evaluation

- 5.1.1 The site is small in size when compared with the surrounding agricultural units, but larger than residential plots to the south. Currently, its only use appears to be for storing agricultural equipment. The site supports a very low diversity of habitats, with one building, dominant modified grassland, artificial surfaces and built linear features present. The modified grassland has very low species diversity with no notable plant species present. There are no rare habitats on site, the site has no intrinsic value, and it lacks naturalness, permanence and fragility with all habitats being easily recreated. There are no barriers between the site and the wider surrounding habitats, but the site lacks linear features to provide a commuting corridor for wildlife.
- 5.1.2 The site has no value beyond the immediate Zone of Influence and is assessed as ecologically valuable at a Site level.

5.2 Statutory Designations

- 5.2.1 Referring to the desk study, the closest statutorily designated site is Pewsey Downs SSSI, SAC and NNR, which is located approximately 1.3km to the north. No impacts are predicted on these designations due to their distance from the site and small-scale of the proposal.

5.3 Habitats

- 5.3.1 The habitats on site are typical of the wider surroundings, with no rare or notable habitats present.
- 5.3.2 The nearest Priority Habitat is Deciduous Woodland located approximately 380m to the south-east. No impacts are predicted on this Priority Habitat due to its distance from the site and small-scale of the proposal.
- 5.3.3 The Kennet and Avon Canal lies approximately 100m from the site; therefore, there is a very low risk of disturbance and potential pollution of this water body.

5.4 Suitability to Protected/Notable Species

- 5.4.1 Consideration to the site's suitability to protected/notable species is provided below:
- *Flora*

No notable plants or plant communities were identified on site, and the site is unlikely to support notable species.
 - *Roosting, Foraging and Commuting Bats*

The former mess building has *Confirmed Presence* of roosting bats (Target Note 1) and is assessed as *Moderate* suitability to roosting bats, owing to accesses into the building and gaps behind and above plasterboard.

There are no trees on site, and the two trees adjacent to the south boundary, off-site, do not support potential bat roosting features.

The site offers a small area of very low-quality foraging habitats for bats provided by the modified grassland.

Referring to the desk study, there is one record for bats within 2km of the site, for the species brown long-eared. This species and other bat species may use the site as part of their wider foraging habitats.

- *Badger*

There was no confirmed evidence of badger activity identified on site at the time of the survey. The site offers a small area of foraging habitat to badger.

- *Small Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians*

The modified grassland supporting taller herbs, and the sand and gravel piles (Target Note 2), provide very small areas of refuge and foraging habitats for common and widespread species of small mammals, including hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, and common and widespread species of reptiles and amphibians, such as slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, common frog *Rana temporaria* and common toad *Bufo bufo*.

The site does not support habitats suitable to dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* with no scrub, hedgerows or woodland present on site.

The site supports very limited terrestrial habitats for great crested newt, but there is only one pond evident within 500m (370m away), with unsuitable intervening habitats, therefore, it is considered that there is negligible potential for great crested newt to utilise the site.

- *Nesting Birds*

The building contained several birds' nests at the time of the survey. The two overhanging trees to the south offer opportunities for nesting birds.

The site lies within a Countryside Stewardship Targeting Area for lapwing. The site offers very limited suitability to this species and is adjacent to residential houses to the south. The wider agricultural fields offer better-quality habitats for this species.

- *Invertebrates*

The site is suitable to support a low diversity and abundance of common and widespread invertebrate species.

6. Recommendations

6.1.1 The site is the subject of a planning application for the conversion and extension of a former mess building to a residential dwelling.

6.1.2 With consideration to the proposal, the following is recommended:

6.2 Roosting Bats

6.2.1 The former mess building has *Confirmed Presence* of roosting bats (confirmed as serotine bat). Therefore, three emergence surveys should be undertaken of the building, to provide further information on the identified bat roost and any other roosts that may be present. This will inform the approach to works, licensing and mitigation and compensation measures.

6.2.2 The emergence surveys must be undertaken between May and mid-September and spaced three weeks apart.

6.3 Nesting Birds

6.3.1 The commencement of works to the building should avoid the nesting bird season (generally the nesting bird season is considered to be from 1st March to 31st August), or a pre-works check should be undertaken by an Ecological Clerk of Works.

6.4 General Protection Measures

6.4.1 The following general protection measures are recommended:

- Habitat Removal

The grassland within the footprint of the development and work areas should continue to be maintained as a short sward up to the start of construction works.

The removal of the sand and gravel piles (Target Note 2) should be undertaken using hand tools and preferably avoiding the hibernation season (winter months).

- Construction Phase Protection Measures

Standard good practice pollution prevention measures should be implemented throughout the construction phase to prevent impacts on the nearby water body (canal).

During construction works, any trenches left open overnight should include a means of escape for animals. A plank angled from the bottom to the top of the trench, will allow animals (such as badger and hedgehog) to escape.

Should a protected species be discovered at any stage during the works then works should stop immediately and advice sought from an Ecologist.

Owing to the rural location of the site, construction phase lighting should be avoided, to prevent impacts on foraging and commuting bats, badger and other wildlife.

6.5 Lighting

- 6.5.1 Owing to the rural location of the site, lighting should be limited to one downlighter outside the front entrance to the converted building, which should be low-level and operated by motion sensor with a timer to minimise times of illumination.

6.6 Biodiversity Enhancements

- 6.6.1 The following biodiversity features are considered appropriate to the type and scale of the proposal:
- Roosting bats – One built-in bat box could be provided, built-in to the south-facing elevation of the new extension to the former mess building, or attached to the existing south-west elevation, at a height of between 3m and 5m.
 - Nesting birds – Two built-in swift boxes could be provided, built-in to the north or east-facing elevations of the new extension to the former mess building, or attached to the existing north-east elevation and located under the eaves.
 - Beneficial Landscaping – Species of benefit to wildlife should be included in garden planting, including species to attract day and night-flying insects, which will enhance foraging resources for bats and birds. Owing to the rural location of the site, non-native, invasive species should be avoided.

7. Annexes

Annex 1: Legislation and Planning Policy

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

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

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended) (EU Exit)

In 1992, the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)⁵ came into force. This provides for the creation of a network of protected wildlife sites across the European Union, known as 'Natura 2000'. This network consists of designated sites, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC)⁶. These sites form part of a series of measures aimed at conserving important and threatened habitats and species.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended) commonly known as 'the Habitat Regulations' transpose the Habitats Directive into national law and set out the provisions for the protection and management of species and habitats of European importance, including Natura 2000 sites. The Regulations have been amended in England in relation to candidate SACs and SPAs. These are sites submitted by the Government for consideration as part of the Natura 2000 network, and are also now defined as European Sites. All European Sites are of national importance and have been notified as SSSIs.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as Amended in Quinquennial Review and by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000⁷

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981⁸ provides the foundation for much of the statutory wildlife protection in the UK. Part I deals with the protection of plants, birds and other animals and Part II deals with the designation of SSSIs.

The following broad areas are covered by the Act:

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

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

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

⁵ European Commission (1992). Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. European Commission, Brussels.

⁶ European Commission (1979). Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds. European Commission, Brussels.

⁷ Secretary of State, 2000. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

⁸ Secretary of State, 1981. Wildlife and Countryside Act. Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000

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

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

National Planning Policy Framework, 2024

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012 and revised in December 2024. It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system and how these are expected to be addressed. The NPPF is a material consideration for the purposes of planning decision-making.

The NPPF places a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The NPPF has an environmental objective to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

The presence of a legally protected species is a material consideration for a local authority dealing with planning applications for any development that would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat. Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and geological conservation⁹, prepared in support of the former PPS9, is still relevant and provides more guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation.

Biodiversity Action Plans

In 1994, the Government produced the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)¹⁰, a national strategy for the conservation of biodiversity. Regional and District/Borough BAPs apply the UK BAP at a local level. The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' succeeded the UK BAP in July 2012¹¹. The UK BAP lists of priority species and habitats remain, however, important and valuable reference sources. Notably, they have been used to help draw up statutory lists of priorities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In England, there are 56 habitats of principal importance and 943 species of principal importance.

⁹ ODPM Circular 06/2005 Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Importance within the Planning System.

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

¹⁰ Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1994. Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan. London.

¹¹ JNCC and Defra (on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group). 2012. UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. July 2012. Available from: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>

Species/species group	Legal protection and policy
Flora	A number of plant species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (amended). It is an offence to deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy these wild plants. It is also an offence for any purpose to possess, sell or exchange such a plant. In addition, a number of plant species are species of principal importance in England (formerly referred to as UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species), LBAP priority species and/or notable species that are a material consideration in planning.
Bats	Bat species in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to: • Deliberately capture, injure or kill bats; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which bats use for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. Seven of the 18 species of bats occurring in the UK are species of principal importance in England and many are also included in LBAPs.
Badgers	Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1979. Under this legislation it is illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett in any way.
Otters	Otters in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to: • Deliberately capture, injure or kill an otter; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb otter; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which an otter uses for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. Otter is a species of principal importance in England.
Water voles	Water voles in England and Wales are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to: • Deliberately capture, injure or kill a water vole; • Intentionally disturb water vole in their breeding or resting places; and • Deliberately damage, destroy or obstruct of a breeding site or resting place. Water vole is a species of principal importance in England.

Dormice	Dormice in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to: • Deliberately capture, injure or kill a dormouse; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb dormice; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a dormouse uses for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. Dormouse is a species of principal importance in England.
Other mammals	Several other species of mammals, whilst not afforded specific legal protection, are of note and consideration to such species is necessary in respect to planning in accordance with national and often local policy. Such species are typically identified as species of principal importance in England and/or LBAPs. Species of principal importance in England include brown hare and hedgehog.
Birds	All wild birds in England and Wales are granted legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to: • Kill, injure or take any wild bird; • Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and, • Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird. Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act are afforded further protection and it is illegal to disturb such species while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird. A number of bird species are also included as species of principal importance in England and LBAPs.
Reptiles	Smooth snakes and sand lizards in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to: • Deliberately capture, injure or kill a smooth snake or sand lizard; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb a smooth snake or sand lizard; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a smooth snake or sand lizard use for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. Widespread species of reptile (slow worm, common lizard, grass snake and adder) are protected against killing, injury and sale. Reptile species are also species of principal importance in England and often LBAP species.
Amphibians	Great crested newts and natterjack toads in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:

	• Deliberately capture, injure or kill a great crested newt or natterjack toad; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt or natterjack toad; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a great crested newt or natterjack toad use for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. Great crested newt, pool frog, natterjack toad and common toad are species of principal importance in England. These and other amphibian species are also often included in LBAPs.
Invertebrates	45 species of invertebrate are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to: • Intentional kill, injure or take such species; • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place used by such species; and, • Disturb such species when occupying such a structure or place. A further 24 species are only afforded partial protection (typically only against sale). Stag beetle for instance is only protected against sale. Eight species and their habitats are also afforded further protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended). 398 species of invertebrate are included as species of principal importance in England and such species are often also included within LBAPs.

Annex 2: Habitat Map (July 2025)



Annex 3: Site Photographs (July 2025)

Photograph 1: The north-west elevation of the former mess building.



Photograph 2: The south-west elevation of the former mess building.



Photograph 3: The internal area of the former mess building.



Photograph 4: Gap between plasterboard and brickwork.



Photograph 5: The site looking north.



Photograph 6: The site looking south showing off-site trees.



Photograph 7: The entrance to the site located on the east boundary.

