TYNE ECOLOGY

Preliminary Roost Assessment - Bats and Birds

1 Hall View, Whitburn, SR6 7DQ



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Date: 3rd June 2023

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VERSIONING AND QUALITY CONTROL

Status	Version	Author	Reviewed by	Date
Final	1.0	Rachel Galler, BSc Hons.	Tim Sexton, BSc Hons	03/06/2023

DISCLAIMER

This document has been prepared by Tyne Ecology for Dennis Reed solely as a Preliminary Roost Assessment Report for bats and birds. Tyne Ecology accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.

The evidence which we have prepared and provided is true, and in accordance with the guidance of The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

LONGEVITY

Survey data should ideally be from the last survey season before a planning or licence application is submitted, although the length that survey data remains valid should be decided on a case-by-case basis and is dependent upon several factor (Collins, 2016).

If development works do not begin within eighteen months to two years of the date the last site survey (01/06/2023), an update survey may be required in accordance with guidance in BS42020:2013[1] and CIEEM (2019), to determine if conditions and evidence of bat use has changed since described in the current report.

[1] As set out in Section 6.2.1, Point 7 which states that ecological information should not normally be more than two/three years old, or as stipulated in good practice guidance.

SUMMARY

Brief and Site Location	This report presents the findings of a preliminary roost assessment survey for bats and birds of 1 Hall View, Whitburn, SR6 7DQ (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference centred at: NZ 4084 6160). The building is referred to as B1 in this report.
Proposed Works	Plans are for extensions on all elevations, new roofs and skylight windows.
Survey Methodology	The preliminary roost assessment comprised a daytime internal and external inspection of buildings on-site, searching for signs of bats and nesting birds. The inspection provides a preliminary assessment of the potential of the site to support roosting bats and nesting birds. Other ecological constraints were also noted such as the likelihood of presence of other protected and priority species.
Survey Assessment for bats.	The building has **moderate suitability** for supporting roosting bats with a number of gaps that could allow access. The immediate areas in close proximity are good for foraging and commuting.
Foreseen impacts on bats.	As the proposed development plan includes impacts on roof structures that have the potential to support roosting bats, any bat roosts present could be destroyed. Works could result in death/injury or disturbance of bats.
Recommendations - bats	Two bat emergence/re-entry surveys are required during the active bat season May to September, to confirm presence/likely-absence of a bat roost in the building. One of the surveys must be completed between during the optimal survey period late-May to mid-July. Four surveyors are required to provide full coverage of the building. If bat roosts are confirmed in building B1 then additional surveys may be required to fully categorise roosts. **This is work you will need to commission to obtain planning permission and comply with legislation.**
Mitigation/ Compensation and Enhancements for bats.	Mitigation/compensation and enhancement measures for bats will be confirmed after further surveys.
Survey Assessment for birds.	There was evidence of a bird nest; a herring gull is nesting on roof of the south elevation
Foreseen impacts on birds.	Active nests could be destroyed if works are undertaken during the bird nesting season March to August inclusive.
Recommendations - birds	Works must avoid the bird nesting season, March to August inclusive.

Impacts on other protected/priority species and habitats	The development exceeds the existing footprint of the existing property, however, no ecological constraints regarding other protected/priority species and habitats were noted.
Conclusions	Additional surveys must be undertaken to fully assess impacts of the proposed development on bats.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Tyne Ecology was commissioned by Dennis Reed (the client) to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) for bats and birds at 1 Hall View, Whitburn, SR6 7DQ (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference centred at: NZ 4084 6160). The building is referred to in this report as B1.

1.2 Plans are for extensions on all elevations, new roofs and skylight windows.

1.3 The principal author of this report is Rachel Galler BSc Honours who is an Accredited Agent against Natural England Bat Licence Level 2 no: 2020-44753-CLS-CLS.

Site description

1.4 The site is within the village of Whitburn, 200m west of the east coastline. The wider landscape consists of open farmland, with small woodland areas and playing fields in close proximity.



Figure 1: Aerial image of the site (red dot denotes the site). Image used under licence (Google 2023). Imagery date 01/06/2023.

Purpose of this report

1.5 The purpose of this report is to provide sufficient information for the local planning authority to fully assess the potential ecological impacts of the proposed development, or to identify what further information is required before a full assessment can be made.

1.6 The result of the PRA has been used to inform whether further surveys are required, or to establish the need for, and extent of, any mitigation or compensation measures required as part of the proposed development.

2 METHODOLOGY

Desk study

2.1 A biodiversity desk study was undertaken in relation to the site in June 2023. The sources consulted and the type of information obtained are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Sources of biodiversity and ecological records.

Source	Information requested (search buffer from site centre/boundary)
Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside[2].	• Statutory sites (1km) • EPSMLs (2km) • Priority habitats (1km)
Environmental Records Information Centre North East	• Non-statutory sites (1km) • Bat records (2km)

2.2 The search buffers are sufficient to cover the potential zone of influence (ZoI) of the proposed development[3].

2.3 The impacts of the proposed development on the biological integrity of any nearby designated protected sites have been fully considered.

2.4 A search was undertaken for previous ecological survey information for the site via the local authority planning portal[4].

Field survey

2.5 A field survey was undertaken on the 01/06/2023.

2.6 An assessment of the structures to be impacted by the development was undertaken in accordance with the latest published best practice guidance (Collins, 2016).

2.7 Structures were externally and internally inspected for bats and their signs with the aid of a Petzl ACTIK® CORE ACTIVE torch, PRAKTICA Falcon 8x40 binoculars and a Bosch Inspection endoscope.

2.8 The suitability of structures on-site for bats to roost in was assessed, along with a systematic search for signs of bats (e.g. droppings, moth/butterfly wings, scratch marks, staining) or actual bats that were present. Particular attention was paid to the roof areas, with searches for gaps in walls, gaps between beams and joists, droppings stuck to the walls, floors, or other surfaces, or feeding remains below beams.

2.9 Bat droppings, if found, were collected for DNA analysis.

2.10 In addition, structures were classified according to suitability for bats, based on the presence of features within them and/or landscape, see Table 2 below.

2.11 The site habitats were assessed for suitability for bats, see Table 3 below.

2.12 Evidence for barn owls and other breeding birds was recorded along with any other ecological constraints.

[2] https://magic.defra.gov.uk/
[3] https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/BDS-Guidance-final.pdf
[4] https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/3622/Planning-Portal

Table 2: Summary of guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats (from Collins 2016).

Suitability	Description of roosting habitats	Number of activity survey visits required
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.	None
Low	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, potential roost sites not suitable for larger numbers or regular use (i.e. maternity or hibernation).	One, in the period May to August
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats, but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status	Two, in the period May to September with at least one of the surveys between May and August
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time.	Three, in the period May to September with at least two of the surveys between May and August
Confirmed roost	Evidence of bats or use by bats found	Minimum of two surveys to characterise the roost in the period May to September with at least one of the surveys between May and August

Table 3: Summary of guidelines for assessing bat habitat suitability (from Collins 2016).

Suitability	Description of commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on-site likely to be used by commuting and foraging bats.
Low	Commuting Habitat Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as sparse hedgerow or un-vegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitats. Foraging 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	Commuting Habitat Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Foraging Habitat Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	Commuting Habitat Continuous high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. Foraging Habitat 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. Proximity to Known Bat Roosts Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

Surveyor information

2.13 The PRA was undertaken on the 01/06/2023 by Rachel Galler BSc Honours degree who is an Accredited Agent against bat survey licence Level 2 (Class Licence) 2020-44753-CLS-CLS. She has five years of experience surveying for bats.

Limitations and constraints

2.14 No limitations or constraints were encountered during either the desk study or the field survey. It is considered that with the access gained and recording undertaken that an accurate assessment of the sites ecological value with regard to bats and birds has been made.

3 RESULTS

Desk study

Designated sites - statutory

3.1 There are four statutory sites within 1km, see Table 4 below.

Designated sites - non-statutory

3.2 There are three non-statutory sites within 1km of the site, see Table 4 below.

Table 4: Summary of designated sites within 1km of the site

Site name	Designation	Description/ reason for designation	Distance & direction (approx.)
Statutory			
Northumbria Coast	Ramsar and SAOC	The site is notified for features such as large shallow inlets and bays, intertidal mudflats and sandflats, reefs, submerged sea caves and grey seal	200m E
Durham Coast	SSSI and SPA	Considerable biological, geological and physiographic interest. It contains most of the paramaritime magnesian limestone vegetation in Britain, as well as a species-rich dune system, and supports nationally important numbers of wintering shore birds	200m E
Non-statutory			
Whitburn Bents	LWS	Area of sand dunes with natural vegetation, containing bee orchids, spotted orchids and northern marsh orchids. The site has large areas of lyme-grass	370m S
Whitburn Steel Rocks	LWS	Considered to be of geological interest, in particular for its foreshore plant and animal communities providing a feeding habitat and roosting site for wading birds	470m S
Whitburn Firing Range	LWS	A substantial area of heavily grazed pasture grassland. Considerable ornithological importance with approx. 5000 golden plover and 1000 lapwing	660m N

3.3 There are no protected areas (SSSIs or SACs) designated for their bat populations within 1km of the site.

Protected species

3.4 A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted European Protected Species Mitigation Licences (EPSMLs) for bats, within a 2km radius of the site, found no roosts have been destroyed under licence (see Table 5 below).

3.5

Table 5: Granted EPSMLs (bats) within 2km of the site

Case reference of granted application	Approx. distance from site (m)	Bat Species Effected	Licence Start Date:	Licence End Date:	Impacts allowed by licence
None					

Priority habitats

A search of the magic.gov.uk database found priority habitats within 1km of the site, see Table 6 below.

Table 6: Priority habitats within 1km of the site

Habitat	Distance & direction of nearest (approx.)
Deciduous woodland	110m W
Maritime cliffs and slopes	200m E

Historical bat records

3.6 Bat records held by the Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) within 2km of the site are summarised table 7 below.

Table 7: Historical bat records within 2km of the site.

Common name	Scientific binomial	Records
	Vespertilionidae	2 records, 1 roost (max count 60)
	Pipistrellus sp.	1 record
Common pipistrelle	*Pipistrelle pipistrellus*	11 records, closest within 300m
Noctule	*Nyctalus noctula*	1 record

Previous surveys

3.7 A search of the local planning portal found no previous ecology surveys for this site.

Field Survey

3.8 Prevailing weather conditions during the field survey are summarised in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Summary of weather conditions during the field survey

Date	Weather conditions			
	Temp [°C]	Cloud cover [Oktas]	Wind speed [Beaufort scale]	Precipitation
01/06/2023	11	7	3	Nil

3.9 A description of the structures inspected during the PRA are given in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Description of building

Building/Tree Reference	Building/Tree type/section	Description	Development plans
B1	Detached house	A two-storey house with a double-pitched pantile roof with uPVC window frames and soffits. The building construction is brick with a rendered wall at the front, and has flat felt roof extensions on the east and south, and a flat felt roof garage on the north. Internally, the roof has a 1F felt bitumen lining and mineral wool insulation. The beams are timber and the gable ends are breezeblocks. The garage internally has an asbestos roof.	Plans are for extensions on all elevations, new roofs and skylight windows

3.10 The results of the Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) are given in Table 10 below.

Table 10: PRA Results

Building/Tree Reference	Evidence of use by bats	Bat signs and internal and external Potential Roost features (PRFs) & access points	Evidence of birds
B1	None	A small number of gaps were found that could allow access for bats: • Gap between flat roof at wall on north elevation • Gaps under fascias of flat roofs • Gaps between soffits • Gaps under ridge tile	Confirmed. A herring gull nesting on roof of south elevation

3.11 The site is of moderate suitability for commuting and foraging with mature trees in close proximity and there are woodland habitats directly adjacent.

Other protected/priority species

3.12 No protected species/priority habitats were noted on-site or in close proximity.

4 INTERPRETATION AND ASSESSMENT

4.1 Plans are to extend the building, a combination of single and two-storey extensions from all elevations, with new roofs and skylight windows.

4.2 The following interpretation and assessment are provided to ensure full compliance with both UK and European legislation and both local and national planning policy, see Appendix V.

Designated sites

4.3 There are seven designated sites within 1km, see Table 4.

4.4 There are no protected areas (SSSIs or SACs) designated for their bat populations within 1km of the site.

4.5 The development works do exceed the existing footprint, however, given the scale of the proposed development, there will be no impacts on designated sites as a result of the development.

Preliminary roost assessment (PRA) for bats (and nesting birds)

4.6 Based on the results of the PRA, an assessment of the potential suitability of the on-site buildings for bats and nesting birds could be made and are given in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Suitability of surveyed structures/trees for bats and nesting birds.

Structure/Tree Reference	Suitability / confirmed use	
	Bats	Nesting birds
B1	Moderate	Confirmed

Bats

4.7 The building B1 has a number of gaps that could be allow access for bats.

4.8 The roof structure, pantiles with lining, is suitable for maternity roosts.

4.9 The habitats in immediate proximity of the site are of have moderate suitability for bats as there is a deciduous woodland adjacent to the site.

4.10 There are suitable habitats within 1km of the site that would allow for good commuting and foraging.

4.11 The planned works could result in destruction/obstruction of roosts, and if present, death/injury or disturbance of bats.

Nesting Birds

4.12 The building is a confirmed nesting site for a herring gull, observed on the nest during the assessment. The nest is located on the roof alongside the chimney on the south elevation of the building

4.13 Active nests could be destroyed by works if they are undertaken during the bird nesting season March to Augusy inclusive, and plans will result in permanent loss of a nesting site.

Other Protected/priority habitats and species

4.14 The development exceeds the existing footprint of the property but no ecological constraints regarding other protected/priority species and habitats were noted.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Tyne Ecology was commissioned by Dennis Reed (the client) to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) for bats at 1 Hall View, Whitburn, SR6 7DQ.

5.2 The development will not impact designated sites.

5.3 The development will not impact on other protected species/habitats.

5.4 The Preliminary Roost Assessment considers the building B1 as having moderate suitability for roosting bats.

Recommendations

Bats

5.5 Two bat emergence/re-entry surveys must be undertaken during the active bat season, May to September, to confirm presence/likely-absence of a bat roost in the buildings. One survey must be completed between during the optimal survey period late-May to mid-July.

5.6 Four surveyors are required to provide full coverage of potential roost features.

5.7 If bat roosts are confirmed in the building, then additional surveys may be required to fully categorise roosts.

5.8 Mitigation/compensation and enhancement measures for bats will be considered after further surveys have been undertaken.

Birds

5.9 The herring gull nest site on the south elevation will be lost to the development.

5.10 Works must avoid the nesting season between March and August inclusive.

Overall conclusion

5.11 Additional surveys must be undertaken to fully assess impacts of the proposed development on bats.

6 REFERENCES

Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

BSI (2013) BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity - Code of practice for planning and development. British Standards Institution, London.

CIEEM (2019) Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf

CIEEM (2020) Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity data in the UK. https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Guidelines-for-Accessing-and-Using-Biodiversity-Data-June-2020.pdf

Mitchell-Jones, A.J, & McLeish, A.P. Ed., (2004) Bat Workers' Manual (3rd Edition). Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004) Bat Mitigation Guidelines. Natural England, Peterborough.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, July 2021)

APPENDIX I: SURVEY MAP

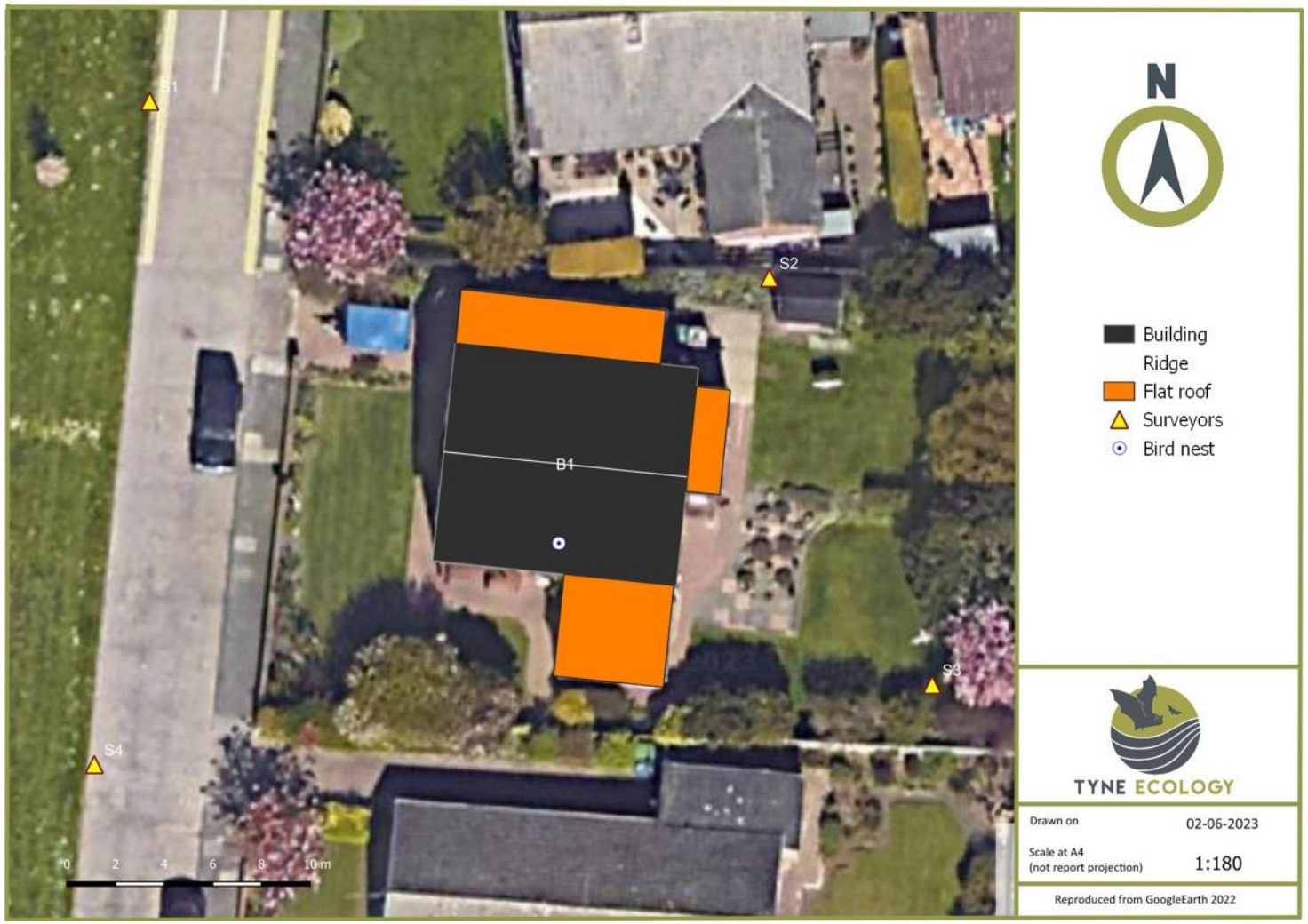


Figure 2: Survey plan

APPENDIX II: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Figure 3: Proposed development plan

APPENDIX III: DESKTOP SURVEY

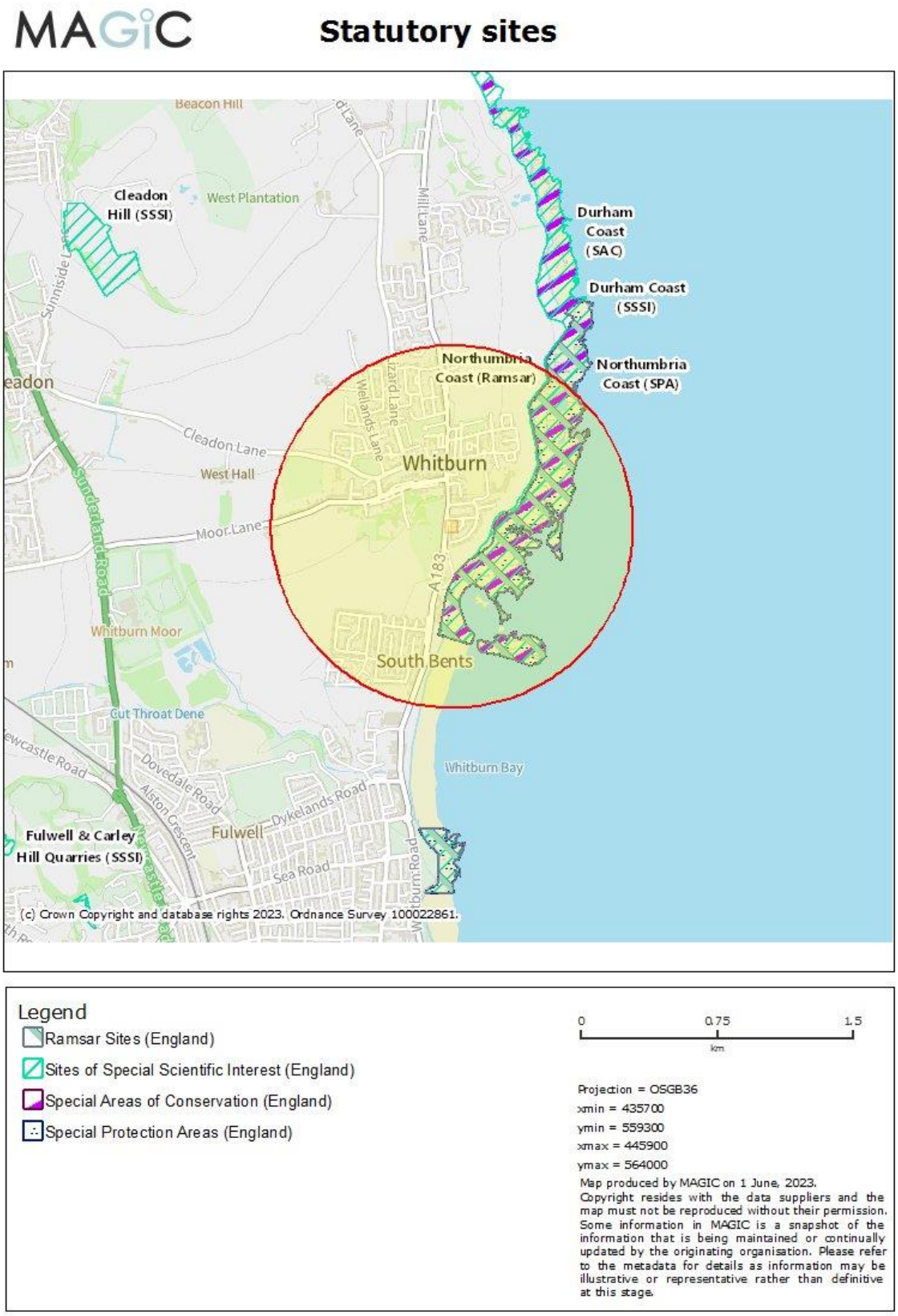


Figure 4: Designated statutory sites

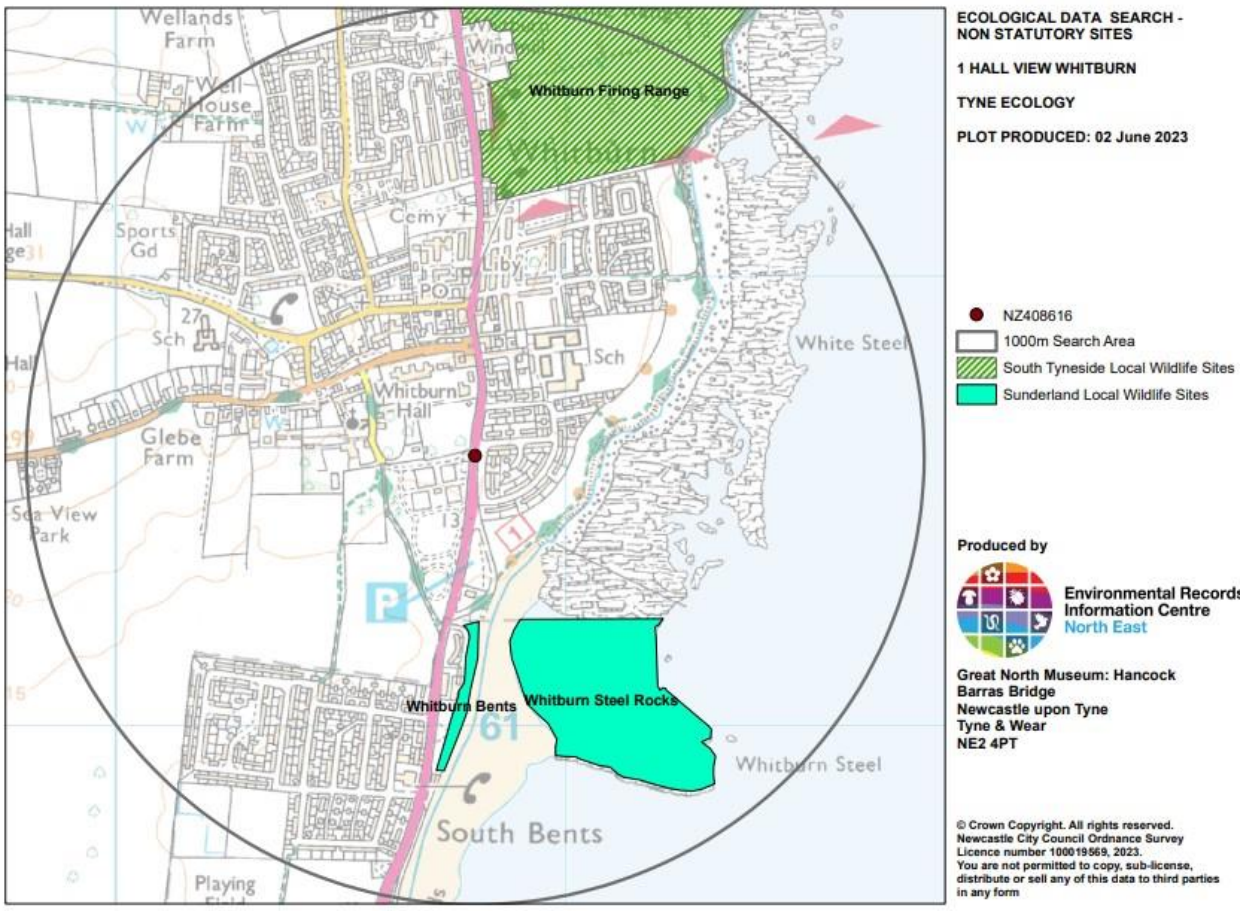
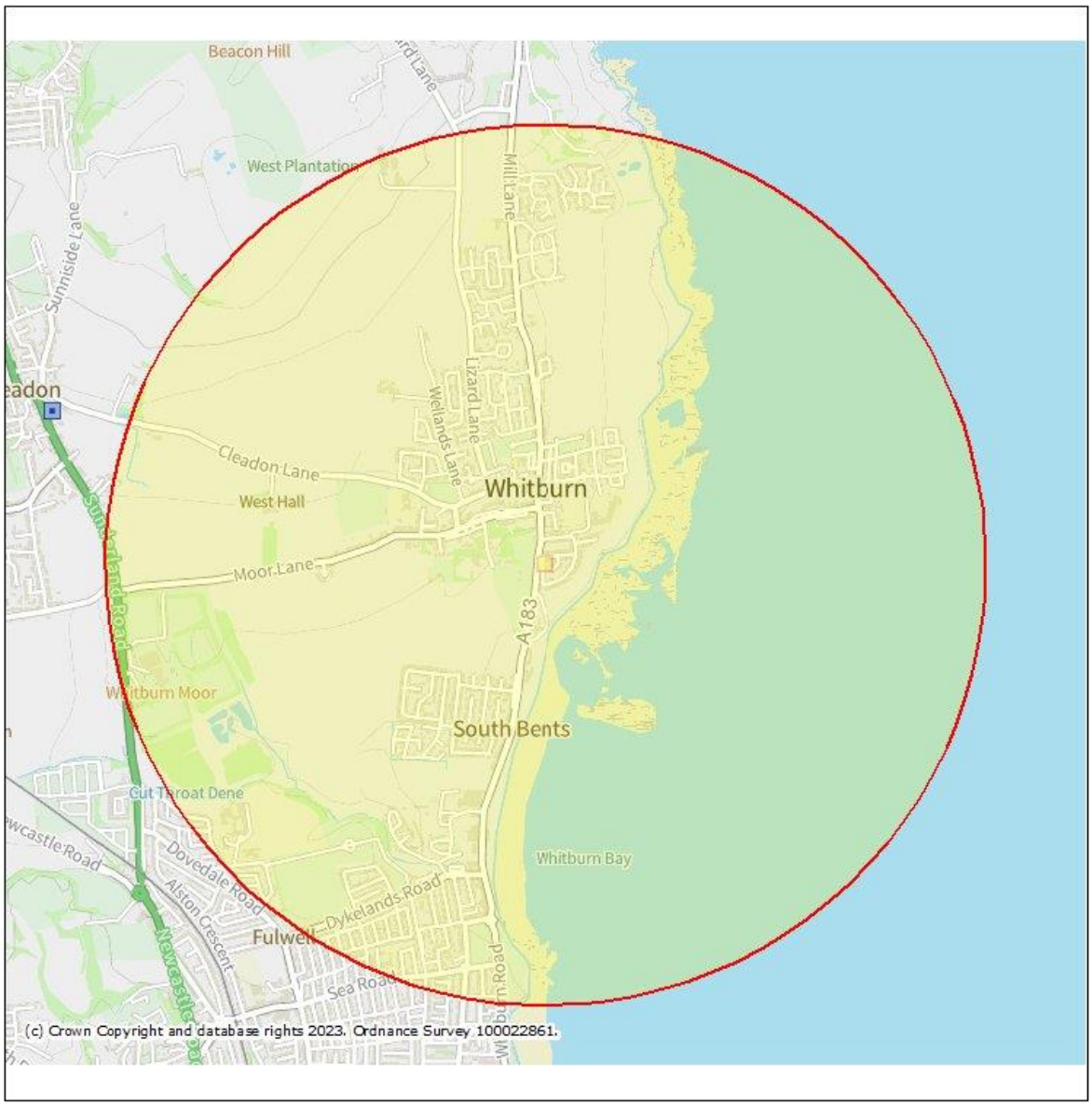


Figure 5: Designated non-statutory sites

MAGIC

EPSMLs



Legend

Granted European Protected Species Applications (England)

- Amphibian
- Bat
- Cetacean
- Invertebrate
- Other Mammal
- Plant
- Reptile

0 0.75 1.5
km

Projection = OSGB36
xmin = 435800
ymin = 559300
xmax = 445900
ymax = 564000

Map produced by MAGIC on 1 June, 2023.
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Figure 6: Granted EPSMLs

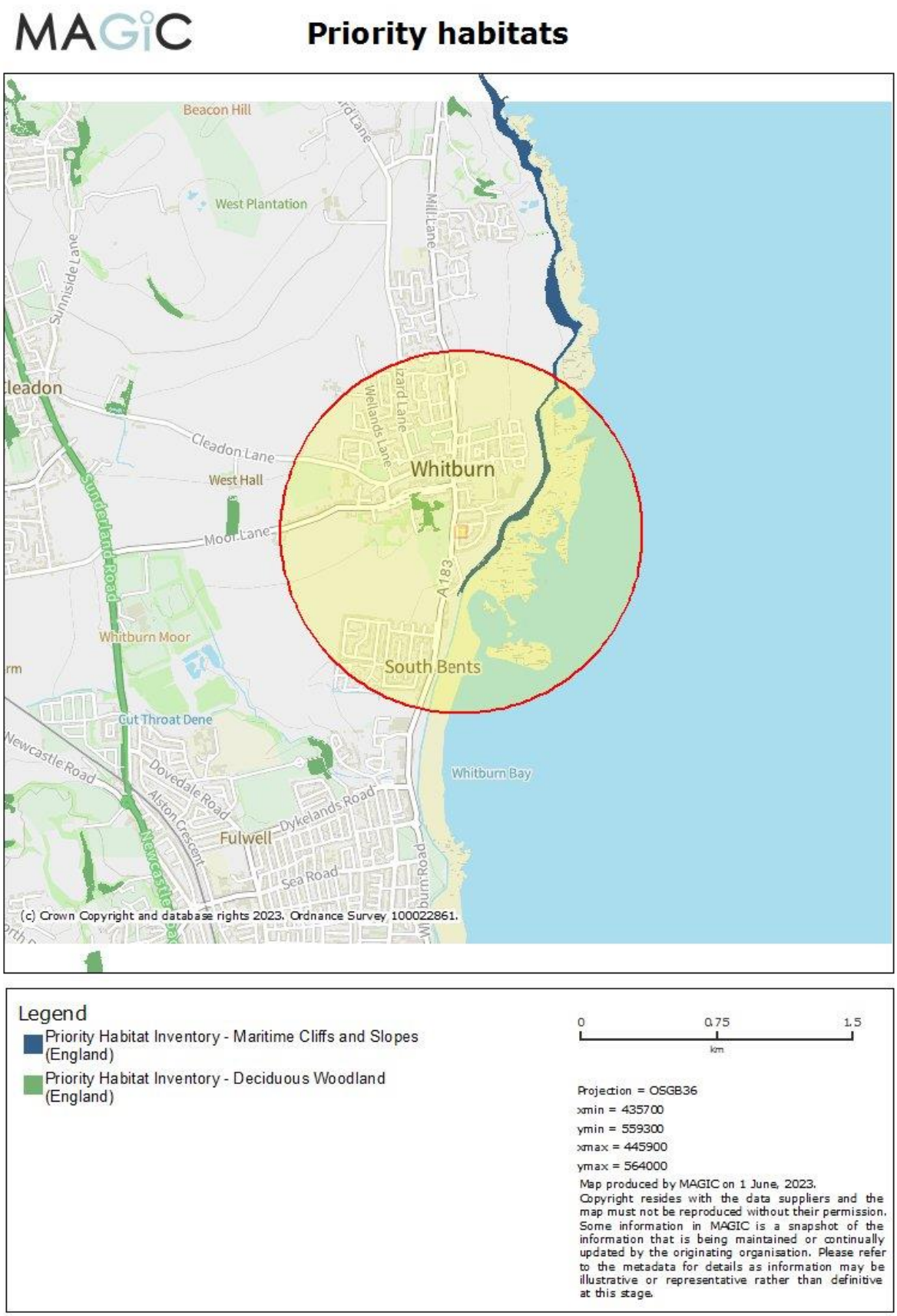


Figure 7: Priority habitats

APPENDIX IV: FIELD SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 8: B1 - north elevation



Figure 9: B1 - east elevation



Figure 10: B1 - south elevation



Figure 11: B1 - west elevation



Figure 12: Surroundings



Figure 13: B1 - internal



Figure 14: B1 - internal - garage



Figure 15: B1 - gap between fascia and wall of flat roof extension on north elevation



Figure 16: B1 - gaps under fascias of flat roofs



Figure 17: B1 - gaps in-between soffits



Figure 18: B1 - gaps under ridge tiles



Figure 19: Herring gull nesting on south elevation

APPENDIX V: PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The following local and national planning policy and both primary and European legislation relating to nature conservation and biodiversity status are considered of relevance to the current proposal.

Planning and biodiversity

Local Authorities have a requirement to consider biodiversity and geological conservation issues when determining planning applications under the following planning policies.

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021) states:

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

(a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

(b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services - including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

(c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;

(d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

(e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and

(f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

Legislation and biodiversity

Certain species of animals and plants found in the wild in the UK are legally protected from being harmed or disturbed. These species are listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or are named as European Protected Species (EPS) in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. These two main pieces of legislation have been consulted when writing this report and are therefore described in detail within this section.

Other relevant legislation and policy documents that have been consulted include - The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006; The Hedgerow Regulations 1997; Biodiversity Action Plans, both UK-wide (UKBAP) and Local plans (LBAPs), and The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

There is also legislation that legally protects certain animals - for example, the Protection of Badgers Act (1992) protects badgers and their setts, and the Deer Act (1991) places restrictions on actions that can be taken against deer species.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) [WCA] is the primary legislation for England and Wales for the protection of flora, fauna and the countryside. Part I within the Act deals with the protection of wildlife.

Most European Protected Species offences are now covered under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (see below), but some 'intentional' acts are still covered under the WCA, such as obstructing access to a bat roost.

The WCA prohibits the release to the wild of non-native animal species listed on Schedule 9 (e.g. Signal Crayfish and American Mink). It also prohibits planting in the wild of plants listed in Schedule 9 (e.g. Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron ponticum) or otherwise deliberately causing them to grow in the wild. This is to prevent the release of invasive non-native species that could threaten our native wildlife.

The provisions relating to animals in the Act only apply to 'wild animals'; these are defined as those that are living wild or were living wild before being captured or killed. It does not apply to captive bred animals being held in captivity.

There are 'defences' provided by the WCA. These are cases where acts that would otherwise be prohibited by the legislation are permitted, such as the incidental result of a lawful operation which could not be reasonable avoided, or actions within the living areas of a dwelling house.

Licensing: certain prohibited actions under the Wildlife and Countryside Act may be undertaken under licence by the proper authority. For example, scientific study that requires capturing or disturbing protected animals can be allowed by obtaining a licence - e.g. bat surveys.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 came into force on the 01/01/2021 and are the principal means by which the EC Habitats Directive is transposed in England and Wales) update the legislation and consolidate all the many amendments which have been made to the Regulations since they were first made in 1994.

These regulations provide for the:

- protection of European Protected Species [EPS] (animals and plants listed in Annex IV Habitats Directive which are resident in the wild in Great Britain) including bats, dormice, great crested newts, and otters.
- designation and protection of domestic and European Sites - e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI] and Special Area of Conservation [SAC]; and
- adaptation of planning controls for the protection of such sites and species.

Public bodies (including the Local Planning Authority) have a duty to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in exercising their function - i.e. when determining a planning application.

There is no defence that an act was the incidental and unavoidable result of a lawful activity.

Licensing: it is possible for actions which would otherwise be an offence under the Regulations to be undertaken under licence issued by the proper authority. For example, where a European Protected Species has been identified and the development risks deliberately affecting an EPS, then a 'development licence' may be required.

Species protection

The following protected species information is relevant to this report. Legislation is only discussed in relation to planning and development; other offences may exist.

Bats

All British bats are classed as European Protected Species and therefore receive protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, making it an offence inter alia to:

- Deliberately kill, injure or capture a bat;
- Deliberately disturb bats;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat.

In addition, all British bats are also listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which contains further provisions making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- Obstruct access to any structure or place which any bat uses for shelter or protection; or
- Disturb any bat while occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

If proposed development work is likely to destroy or disturb bats or their roosts, then a licence will need to be obtained from Natural England, which would be subject to appropriate measures to safeguard bats.

Birds

In the UK, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected it an offence to:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any such bird whilst it is in use or being built; or
- take or destroying an egg of any such wild bird.

The law covers all species of wild birds including common, pest or opportunistic species.

Special protection against disturbance during the breeding season is also afforded to those species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act.