



Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Graphite Way, Glossop

ISSUE RECORD

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

This report has been prepared by Peak Ecology Ltd on behalf of Mercia Power Response Ltd. It provides the results of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal associated with a planning application for a back-up power generation facility. Specifically, three 2MW generators are proposed for land off Graphite Way, Glossop in Derbyshire.

The site comprised approximately 0.3ha of land in Hadfield, Glossop in Derbyshire (central grid reference: SK 01421 96301). The site itself was within an industrial estate adjacent to the River Etherow.

Designated Sites

A single statutory designated site was present within 2km of the site; Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated as Dwarf Shrub Heath situated approximately 1.55km north-east of the survey site. The site did fall within the associated SSSI risk zone and was included in a risk categories i.e. "Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction." However, no impacts on the SSSI are envisaged from an ecological perspective.

A number of non-statutory sites were also present, the closest being Hollingworth Reservoir & Swallowswood Nature Reserve, a Local Wildlife Site approximately 0.85km N of the site. No impacts are envisaged.

Habitats

Habitats on site comprised semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, scattered scrub and hard standing. These habitats were small in area and likely to be common in the wider area. No rare or notable floral species were found and the habitats were not included in the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Therefore, no significant ecological impacts are envisaged.

Protected Species

Although no evidence was found, the site provided suitable habitat for badgers *Meles meles*, foraging and breeding birds and foraging bats. The nearby river was suitable for foraging/commuting otters *Lutra lutra*.

Implications and Recommendations

Bats:

Any lighting associated with the development, either during the construction of operational phase should be low level to minimise any disturbance to foraging bats. In particular, illumination of the nearby river must be avoided as this is potentially an important commuting and foraging corridor for bats.

Birds:

In order to minimise the risk to nesting birds, any vegetation clearance should ideally be timed to avoid the bird nesting season, which typically runs from March to September. Any vegetation removal should be preceded by a check for nesting birds, undertaken by the contractors, as some species can nest year-round. Any active nests will need to remain unaffected until all chicks have fledged. If the vegetation clearance must take place during the bird nesting season, this check must be performed by an appropriately experienced ecologist.

Mammals:

Trenches and pipework should be covered/capped overnight to prevent mammals which may pass through the site from becoming trapped.

Otters:

As otters are a crepuscular species (animals active primarily during dusk and/or dawn) works should only take place during daylight hours as there is the potential for otters to use the river.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Report

This report has been prepared by Peak Ecology Ltd on behalf of Mercia Power Response Ltd. It provides the results of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal associated with a planning application for a back-up power generation facility. Specifically, three 2MW gas generators are proposed for land off Graphite Way, Glossop in Derbyshire.

The purpose of this report is to:

- Describe the existing habitat types present within the site;
- Provide an assessment of habitat suitability for protected and/or notable species
- Identify key ecological constraints to the proposed development;
- Provide outline recommendations for mitigation and/or avoidance measures where appropriate;
- Highlight opportunities for ecological enhancement where appropriate; and
- Confirm any further ecological surveys required, for example to confirm presence / likely absence of a specific protected species.

In relation to planning and development, this report should be read in conjunction with the reports for any additional ecological surveys that are recommended as a result of the findings of this appraisal, see Section 5 for details.

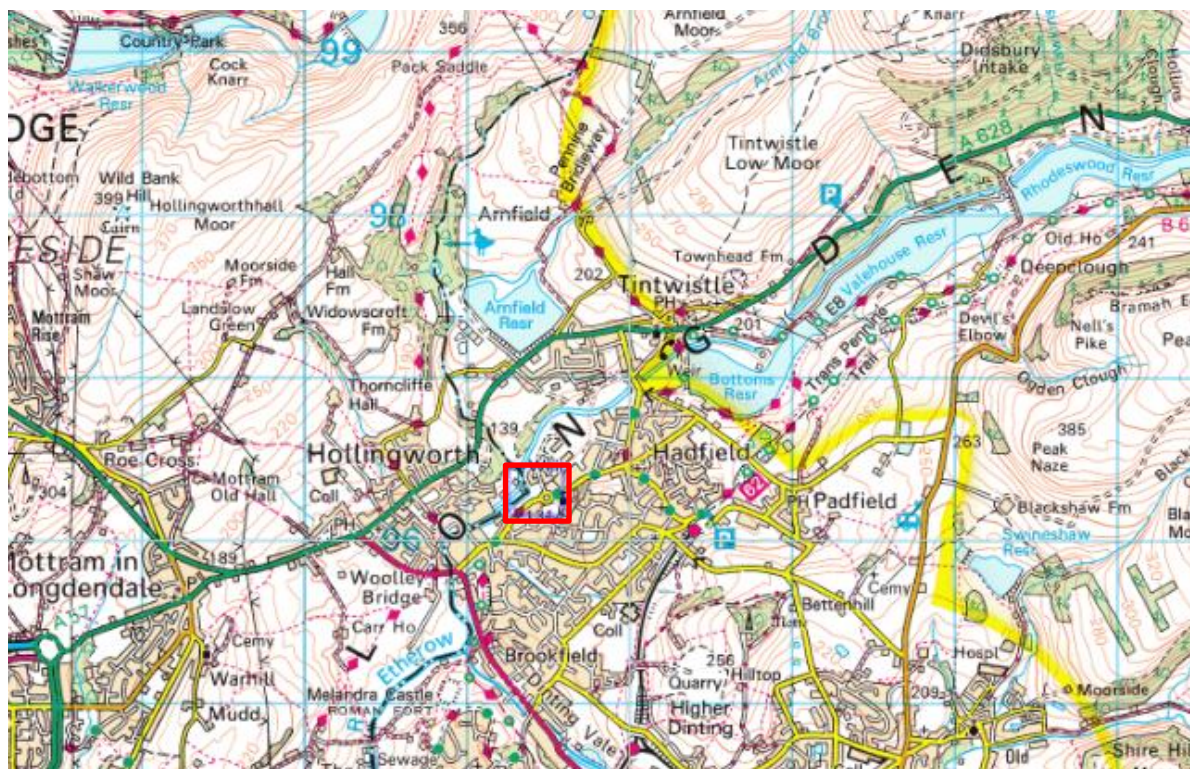
The approach to this ecological appraisal follows best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2013 & 2015) and the British Standards Institution (BSI, 2013). Details of individual survey methods and associated supporting information are provided in Section 2.

1.2 Site Description

The site comprises approximately 0.3ha of land in Hadfield, Glossop in Derbyshire (central grid reference: SK 01421 96301). The site itself was within an industrial estate adjacent to the River Etherow.

The survey boundary is as per the redline boundary on drawing 16-2620-01 provided by the client. The site location is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Location plan*



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1.3 Planning Context

The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 requires that when assessing a planning application all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) must consider potential impacts on biodiversity that may result from the proposals. In addition to this, county and borough councils typically have biodiversity policies within their Local Development Frameworks that they must also comply with.

In practice, this means that potential impacts on designated sites, notable species and habitats such as those listed on the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (formerly the UK Biodiversity Action Plan) and species that receive legal direct protection (typically via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and/or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are all material planning considerations.

In relation to European Protected Species, the LPA requires sufficient information about likely impacts and mitigation or compensatory measures to satisfy the three Habitats Directive tests, the most relevant to ecological reports being that which relates to the Favourable Conservation Status of the species in question.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study

The desk study comprised a review of existing information held by the local biological records centre and other specialist groups, as appropriate. As the site was near the border of Derbyshire and Greater Manchester, both the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit were contacted to obtain locations of designated sites and any existing records of protected or priority species within 2km of the site. A Site Check Report was also carried out using the online interactive mapping tools on the Magic (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside) website to identify any statutory designated sites within the search radius.

2.2 Phase 1 Habitat Survey

A daytime site visit was carried out on 13th June 2016. Following standard methodology (JNCC, 2010) the survey comprised a walkover of the site to classify and map the extent of individual habitat types, based on the identification of individual plant species. Any evidence of invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* was also noted.

The extent of the habitats recorded is illustrated on the Phase 1 Habitat Plan in Figure 2.

Nomenclature for vascular plant species follows Stace (2010).

2.3 Scoping for Protected / Notable Species

The habitats present were assessed for their potential to support any legally protected or otherwise notable species and any incidental sightings or field signs discovered during the surveys were recorded.

All British wildlife and countryside legislation, policy and guidance were taken into consideration including;

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended);
- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC;
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992;
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997;
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006; and
- The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (formerly known as UK BAP)

Appendix A provides greater detail on the legislation context relevant to this site.

2.4 Surveyors

The habitat survey was carried out by Chris Grocock BSc (Hons) MSc GradCIEEM. Chris has been a professional ecologist for over three years and is experienced in the use of the Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology, identification of vascular plants and scoping assessments for protected species.

2.5 Limitations

2.5.1 3rd Party Data

Desk study data obtained for this assessment is provided and validated by third parties, therefore Peak Ecology Ltd have no control over any errors within the dataset. The data represents the information available at the date of request and a lack of records for any particular species does not necessarily indicate absence from the local area as many species are under-recorded.

2.5.2 Survey Methods

Based on the identification of individual plant species, the Phase 1 Habitat Survey provides sufficient information to enable classification of broad habitat types; however, it does not constitute a detailed botanical survey. Plant species lists compiled by this type of survey should not be considered definitive as not all species will be apparent at all times of year.

The scoping assessment for protected species highlights habitats and features suitable for protected species and notes any incidental sightings or field signs discovered; however, it should not be interpreted as providing a comprehensive presence / likely absence survey for any individual species.

2.5.3 Survey Timing and Conditions

The survey was conducted in June, which is within the main plant growing season and a time when most faunal species are active. The site was fully accessible.

2.5.4 Lifespan of Data

The results and recommendations contained within this report are considered to be valid for up to two years from the date of survey, assuming that there are no significant changes to the site condition or management within this period. After this period, or should the site conditions change, an update may be required in order to inform ecological constraints to development proposals and/or accompany a planning submission.

3 **RESULTS**

3.1 **Desk Study**

3.1.1 *Designated Sites*

A single statutory designated site was present within 2km of the site; Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated as Dwarf Shrub Heath situated approximately 1.55km north-east of the survey site. The survey site fell within the associated SSSI risk zone and was included in a risk category i.e. "Oil & gas exploration/extraction".

Several Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Potential Local Wildlife Sites (PLWS) were also returned as part of the desk study as shown in Table 1. These are non-statutory sites and are a material consideration in the planning process.

Table 1: Designated sites identified during the desk study

Name	Ecological feature	Approximate Distance from Survey Site	Designation
Hollingworth Reservoir & Swallowswood Nature Reserve	Secondary broad-leaved woodland	0.85km N	LWS
Melandra Castle and Railway	Habitat mosaic	1.15km S	LWS
Dinting Nature Reserve	Ancient semi-natural ash woodland	1.45km S	LWS
Dinting Lodge Grassland	Unimproved neutral grassland	1.45km S	LWS
Dinting Vale Reservoirs and Brook	Standing open water	1.65km S	LWS
Dinting Junction Pond	Standing open water	1.75km SE	LWS
Banks Wood	Habitat mosaic	1.8km SE	LWS
Dinting Wood	Ancient semi-natural oak woodland	1.95km S	LWS
Robin Wood	Ancient semi-natural woodland - mixed deciduous	1.95km S	LWS
North Road Meadow	Unimproved neutral grassland	1.95km SE	PLWS
Gamesley Sidings	Habitat mosaic	1.9km S	LWS
North Road Ponds	Standing open water	1.9km SE	LWS

3.1.2 *Protected / Notable Species*

Table 2 provides a summary of the species records received that are considered most relevant to the site and/or proposals. Records more than ten years old have not been included. The full dataset is not included here but is available on request.

Table 2: Summary of protected and notable species records relevant to the site and/or proposals

Species	Common Name	Approximate Distance from Survey Site	Status
Herptiles			
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	1.2km S	UKBF
Bats			
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Common Pipistrelle	0.2km N	HabDir, COHS
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano Pipistrelle	0.45km W	HabDir, COHS, WCA, UKBF
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Brown Long-eared Bat	0.65km NW	HabDir, COHS, WCA, UKBF
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubenton's Bat	0.7km S	HabDir, COHS, WCA
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natterer's bat	0.85km W	HabDir, COHS, WCA,
<i>Myotis sp.</i>	Myotis	1.55km S	HabDir, COHS, WCA,
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule	1.55km S	HabDir, COHS, WCA, UKBF
Birds			
<i>Pyrhulla pyrhulla</i>	Bullfinch	0.2km E	UKBF, Amber BoCC
<i>Prunellus Modularis</i>	Dunnock	0.25km W	Amber BoCC
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	0.3km NW	UKBF, Red BoCC
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	0.75km NW	UKBF, Red BoCC
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	0.9km W	UKBF, Red BoCC
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Curlew	1.5km N	UKBF, Red BoCC
Invertebrates			
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall	1.55km S	UKBF
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	1.95km N	UKBF
Other Mammals			
<i>Meles meles</i>	Badger	Within 2km*	PBA
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown Hare	1.4km E	UKBF
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Otter	1.55km SW	HabDir, CoHS, WCA, UKBF
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Hedgehog	1.65km S	UKBF

UKBF – UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework

BoCC – Birds of Conservation Concern

LBAP – Local Biodiversity Action Plan

HabDir – Habitats Directive

CoHS – Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010 (as amended)

WCA – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

PBA – Protection of Badgers Act 1992

*NB. Due to high risk of persecution of this species, badger records remain confidential at the request of the records centre.

3.2 Phase 1 Habitat Survey

The individual habitat types recorded at the site are described under the sub-headings below, with the location and extent of each illustrated on the Phase 1 Habitat map in Figure 2. Photographs referred to in the text can be found in Appendix B. No evidence was found of any invasive plant species such as Japanese knotweed.

3.2.1 *Hard Standing*

The proposed access route is an existing road and as such comprised hard-standing (Photograph 1).

3.2.2 *Scattered Scrub*

Throughout the site were areas of scattered scrub, particularly within the tall ruderal, dominated by willow *Salix* sp. and silver birch *Betula pendula* saplings (Photograph 2).

3.2.3 *Semi-improved Grassland*

The majority of the site comprised semi-improved grassland dominated by Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and meadow grasses *Poa* sp. (Photograph 3). Herbaceous species included common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, bittercress *Cardamine* sp., ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and red clover *Trifolium pratense*. Occasional small stands of rush *Juncus* sp. were also noted.

Some small areas more closely resembling ephemeral/short perennial were also interspersed within the grassland.

3.2.4 *Tall Ruderal*

Towards the north of the site was an area of tall ruderal comprising horsetail *Equisetum* sp., rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum* and a similar grassland composition to that described in Section 3.2.3 (Photograph 4). Occasional small stands of rush and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* were also observed.

Figure 2: Phase 1 Habitat Plan



3.3 Protected / Notable Species Assessment

3.3.1 Amphibians

The site provided good quality habitat for amphibians, the tall ruderal providing cover for commuting and foraging amphibians.

A search of aerial photographs and OS maps revealed a single pond within 500m of the site. However, the survey site was on the opposite side of the River Etherow to the pond which would act as a significant dispersal barrier to amphibians including great crested newts GCN *Triturus cristatus*. The closest pond to the survey site, which was not separated from the site by the river was approximately 1.4km from the site. Furthermore, no records of amphibians were returned as part of the desk study. GCN are therefore thought unlikely to be present on site and are not considered further within this report.

3.3.2 Reptiles

The habitats present on the site were considered generally sub-optimal for reptiles, due to the lack of open areas suitable for basking, the use of the site by dogs and the lack of features suitable for egg-laying or hibernation. Furthermore, no records of reptiles were returned as part of the desk study. Reptiles are therefore thought unlikely to be present on site and are not considered further within this report.

3.3.3 Birds

No birds were observed during the site visit but the habitats were suitable for foraging and nesting for a range of bird species.

3.3.4 Bats

The habitats on site were suitable for foraging bats. No features suitable for roosting bats such as mature trees or man-made structures were present and no linear features typically associated with commuting bats, such as hedgerows, were present.

3.3.5 Badgers

No evidence of badgers was found on site such as snuffle holes, footprints or mammal trails. The area was suitable for sett building but no setts were found. The area was suitable for foraging and commuting badgers and it cannot be ruled out that badgers may pass through the site from time to time as badgers have been recorded within the survey area.

3.3.6 Otter

The eastern bank of the River Etherow was within 30m of the site in places and as such was assessed for its potential to support otter *Lutra lutra*.

The bank was not suitable for otter holts/lay ups as there were no, for example, collections of tree roots or 'cut-unders' in the bank. The river was suitable for commuting and foraging otters.

3.3.7 **Water Vole**

The development boundary was approximately 20m away from the river at its closest point. This is a suitable distance from the river so as to not cause disturbance/harm to water voles *Arvicola amphibius* or their burrows. Water voles are therefore not considered further within this report.

3.3.8 **Other Protected and/or Notable Species**

The site was suitable for foraging hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus*.

Due to a lack of suitable habitats, the site was not considered likely to support any other protected or notable species.

4 EVALUATION

4.1 Designated Sites

In general, due to the proximity of the closest designated site to the survey site (0.85km N) and the scale of the development, no impacts to designated sites are envisaged. However, the survey site fell within SSSI risk zones and was included under the risk categories i.e. 'Oil & gas exploration/extraction 5ha'. Natural England state the following with reference to such development sites:

"Local planning authorities (LPAs) have a duty to consult Natural England before granting planning permission on any development that is in or likely to affect a SSSI. The SSSI IRZs can be used by LPAs to consider whether a proposed development is likely to affect a SSSI and determine whether they will need to consult Natural England to seek advice on the nature of any potential SSSI impacts and how they might be avoided or mitigated."

The SSSI with which the risk zone appears to be associated is the Dark Peak SSSI. Dark Peak SSSI is designated for a number of criterion, including ecological i.e. habitats (e.g. blanket bog), birds (e.g. golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and dunlin *Calidris alpina*) and invertebrates. The development site is not an important resource for any of these habitats/species, nor will the works impact upon these habitats/species. The SSSI is also designated for its geological importance; any impacts the development may have on the geological nature of the site is beyond the scope of this report.

4.2 Habitats & Botanical Interest

The habitats species present on site were small in area and likely to be common in the wider area. No rare or notable floral species were found and the habitats are not included in the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Therefore, no significant ecological impacts are envisaged.

4.3 Protected / Notable Species

4.3.1 Birds

If vegetation removal were to take place during the bird breeding season (March – September) then there is a possibility that breeding birds and their eggs could be disturbed or harmed or that nests could be damaged or destroyed.

No significant impacts are envisaged for foraging birds given the availability of comparable habitat in the wider area and the small area of the development site.

4.3.2 Bats

No significant impacts are envisaged for foraging bats given the availability of comparable habitat in the wider area and the small area of the development site. As no suitable roosting features were observed on site no impacts to roosting bats are envisaged. However, any

new lighting associated with the construction or running of the generators has the potential to disturb bats.

4.3.3 ***Badgers***

It cannot be ruled out that badgers may pass through the site periodically (records of badgers were returned as part of the desk study). Badgers may become trapped in any trenches if left uncovered or within pipework if left uncapped overnight.

4.3.4 ***Otters***

The development has the potential to disturb otters during the construction phase which may commute along or forage within the nearby river.

4.3.5 ***Other Protected and/or Notable Species***

Hedgehogs which may pass through or forage within the site could become trapped in any trenches if left uncovered or within pipework if left uncapped overnight.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Additional Surveys

No further surveys are recommended.

5.2 Avoidance Measures / Mitigation

- In order to minimise the risk to nesting birds, any vegetation clearance should ideally be timed to avoid the bird nesting season, which typically runs from March to September. Any vegetation clearance should be preceded by a check for nesting birds, undertaken by the contractors, as some species can nest year-round. Any active nests will need to remain unaffected until all chicks have fledged. If the clearance must take place during the bird nesting season, this check must be performed by an appropriately experienced ecologist.
- Any lighting associated with the development, either during the construction of operational phase should be low level to reduce any disturbance to foraging bats. In particular, illumination of the nearby river must be avoided as this is potentially an important commuting and foraging corridor for bats.
- Any trenches dug as part of the construction work must be left with a ramp or sloping end and any pipes should be capped off overnight, in order to prevent mammals from becoming stuck;
- As otters are a crepuscular species (animals active primarily during dusk and/or dawn) works should only take place during daylight hours as there is the potential for otters to use the river.

5.3 Ecological Enhancement

National planning policy recommends that all developments incorporate ecological enhancement where possible therefore consideration should be given to the introduction of bat boxes and bird boxes either on site or within the surrounding land.

6 **REFERENCES**

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APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A : Relevant Legislation

The following text provides information on the key legislation, which is applicable to this survey.

The main wildlife legislation in the UK is as follows:

European Legislation

The relevant sections of the EC Directives and international conventions are summarised below:

- EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitat Directive 1992) as amended (92/43/EEC)

The Directive requires Member States to introduce a range of measures including the protection of species listed in the Annexes. The 189 habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and the 788 species listed in Annex II, are to be protected by means of a network of sites. Once adopted, these are designated by Member States as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and along with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the EC Birds Directive. The Habitats Directive introduces the precautionary principle; that disturbance to the designated sites can only be permitted having ascertained no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

- EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive 1979) as amended (79/409/EEC)

The main provisions of the Directive includes; the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distributional range.

- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)

The Convention imposes legal obligations on contracting parties, protecting over 500 wild plant species and more than 1000 wild animal species.

UK Legislation

The sections of UK legislation considered to be of relevance include:

- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, and c.) Regulations 2010 (as amended)

This transposes the Habitats Directive into national law. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', and the protection of 'European protected species.

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA)

This consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain.

- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)

This act strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation.

- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Species-Specific Legislation

Species specific legislation is provided in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Species-Specific Wildlife Legislation

Feature/Species	Legislation	It is an offence to:
Plants	Sch. 8 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick; • Uproot; • Trade; • Possess (for trade) Any wild plant listed.
Hedgerows	Hedgerow Regulations 1997.	<p>Outlines a number of criteria for designation of 'important' hedgerows.</p> <p>'Important' hedgerows cannot be removed without notifying the relevant body.</p>
Breeding birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kill; • Injure; • Take; any wild bird, their eggs or nest (with the exception of those on Sch. 2).
Specially protected birds	Sch. 1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	<p>As above but includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbing birds at their nest, or their dependent young.

Feature/Species	Legislation	It is an offence to:
Badgers	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilfully kill, injure, take, or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or attempt to do so; • Possess any dead badger or any part of, or anything derived from, a dead badger; • Intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett by disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, damaging or destroying a sett, causing a dog to enter a sett, or obstructing access to it. <p>A badger sett is defined in the legislation as “any structure or place, which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”.</p>
Bats	Sch. 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture (or take) bats: • Deliberately disturb bats (whether in a roost or not); • Recklessly disturb roosting bats or obstruct access to their roosts; • Damage or destroy bat roosts.
Common reptiles	Sch. 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	<p>Deliberate or reckless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killing; • Injuring • Sale.
Common amphibians	pokpo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sell; • Transport; and • Advertise for sale.

Feature/Species	Legislation	It is an offence to:
Great crested newt	Sch. 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kill; • Injure; • Disturb • Destroy any place used for rest or shelter.
Otter	Sch. 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage or destroy an otter breeding site or resting place (holt or couch); • Deliberately capture, kill, injure or disturb an otter.

In addition, species and habitats listed on the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (formally the UK BAP) are also considered. Details on these species and habitats can be found at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5705>.

Protected Sites

A network of protected sites, at varying levels, have been put in place across the UK. Further details are provided below;

International importance

- Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is the name of the European Union-wide network of nature conservation sites established under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives. This network will comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive. The Directive applies to the UK and the overseas territory of Gibraltar. SACs are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety within the European Union of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive. SACs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are designated under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended). New and/or amended Habitats Regulations are shortly to be introduced to provide a mechanism for the designation of SACs and SPAs in UK offshore waters (from 12-200 nm).

National importance

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)





The SSSI series has developed since 1949 as the national suite of sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. Most SSSIs are privately-owned or managed; others are owned or managed by public bodies or non-government organisations. The SSSIs designation may extend into intertidal areas out to the jurisdictional limit of local authorities, generally Mean Low Water in England and Northern Ireland; Mean Low Water of Spring tides in Scotland. In Wales, the limit is Mean Low Water for SSSIs notified before 2002, and, for more recent notifications, the limit of Lowest Astronomical Tides, where the features of interest extend down to LAT. There is no provision for marine SSSIs beyond low water mark. Originally notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, SSSIs have been renotified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs were introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (in England and Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

Regional/local importance

- Wildlife Sites

Local authorities for any given area may designate certain areas as being of local conservation interest. The criteria for inclusion, and the level of protection provided, if any, may vary between areas. Most individual counties have a similar scheme, although they do vary. These sites, which may be given various titles such as 'Listed Wildlife Sites' (LWS), 'County Wildlife Sites' (CWS), 'Local Nature Conservation Sites' (LNCS), 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINCs), or 'Sites of Nature Conservation Importance' (SNCIs), together with statutory designations, are defined in local and structure plans under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

APPENDIX B : Site Photographs

No.	Description	Photograph
1	Hardstanding access road	 A photograph showing a paved access road. The road is made of dark asphalt and runs straight towards the background. On the left side, there is a grassy verge and a signpost. The background is filled with dense green trees and foliage.
2	Scattered scrub	 A photograph of a field with scattered scrub. The foreground is dominated by tall green grasses and various shrubs. In the background, there are several houses with red roofs and more trees. A green metal post is visible in the foreground on the right side.
3	Semi-improved grassland	 A photograph of semi-improved grassland. The field is covered in a mix of green grasses and wildflowers. There are some dark mounds of earth or compost in the foreground. The background shows a dense line of trees.
5	Tall ruderal	 A photograph of tall ruderal vegetation. The field is filled with tall, green grasses and various weeds. In the background, there are houses and trees, similar to the other photographs.

