Ground Level Tree Assessment

Abingworth Winery, Thakeham, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 3EF

May 2025



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Project	Abingworth Vineyard, Champions Farm, Storrington Road, Thakeham, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 3EF
Revision number	1.0

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Summary

Xenia Snowman was commissioned by Chris Stedman to undertake a Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) at Abingworth Vineyard and Winery, Champions Farm, Storrington Road, Thakeham, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 3EF. The request for this work has come following comments received from Place Services, acting in an advisory role to Horsham District Council (HDC), in their response to a planning application for the erection of a tractor shed, reference number HDC DC/24/0505.

A bat scoping assessment was completed on the site by The Ecology Co-op in September 2023. This identified that the building on site provided negligible bat roosting potential. However, one tree on site (T4) provided potential bat roosting features, but it was not to be impacted by the proposals. An arboricultural assessment has also been conducted on all trees on the site by The Mayhew Consultancy Ltd in March 2024. This identified 2 Category U trees (T4 and T14) that were recommended for removal, along with one small apple tree as part of a group (G3) recommended for removal as it is located in the footprint of the proposed access route. It was noted that other trees may also require minor crown-lifting and cutting back to facilitate access to the proposed tractor shed.

The site comprises an existing barn with adjacent hardstanding, a line of mature trees, and a field of improved grassland.

The GLTA completed on the trees on the site identified T4 as having fallen since the last survey. T7, a mature poplar due to be retained, was assessed as having potential roosting features due to a rot hole leading to an internal cavity. T14, recommended for removal following the arboricultural assessment, supports bat roosting features and is now due to be retained and monitored closely by an arboricultural consultant trained in tree safety assessments. Further advice will be sought from a bat licensed ecologist if any work is required, including for health and safety reasons. It is recommended that if work is required, that the bat roosting feature be retained (externally and internally) and the tree be taken down to a monolith above the retained feature. This should remove the weight from the top of the tree and reduce the chances of the tree coming down or the top snapping off in high winds, or when water-logged. All other trees were classified as of ‘none’ suitability for roosting bats and therefore no further surveys are required.

Recommendations and enhancements have been provided to include monitoring Tree T14 and conducting further bat surveys where any tree works are required, including for the safety of the tree, the retention of T7; a sensitive lighting scheme to safeguard foraging and commuting bats around the site; installation of bat and bird boxes; planting of native shrub and flowering species; precautionary measures with regards to reptiles; measures to safeguard badgers, hedgehogs and other mammals; sensitive timing for habitat clearance to protect nesting birds; arboricultural recommendations, and site good practice protocols.

The prescribed measures within this document will be issued to all relevant contractors working on site, and kept in the site office at all times, to ensure that they are implemented in full.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Natural England Bat Licence holder and Principal Ecologist, Xenia Snowman BSc (Hons.), was commissioned by Work By Here Ltd to conduct a Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) on trees at the site that require tree works or removal, at Abingworth Vineyard and Winery, Champions Farm, Storrington Road, Thakeham, West Sussex. The request for this work has come from Place Services at Essex County Council in their comments responding to a planning application for the erection of a tractor shed (agriculture). The planning application is reference number DC/24/0505.

1.1.2 In October 2024, Place Services stated that 'we are still not satisfied the sufficient ecological information is available for determination of this application, until further clarification is provided on roosting bats.' The requests for further information include:

- Seeking clarification as to whether further bat assessment is necessary on a dead tree with potential roost features (T4), located approximately 3m from the southern elevation of the barn.
- An assessment for potential roost features (PRF) for bats on Tree T14 (Lombardy Poplar) to the north of the barn, and Tree G3 (Apple) to the east of the barn; as these trees were recommended for removal.
- An assessment for the presence of PRFs on any trees which may be impacted by minor crown-lifting and cutting back to allow for the access track, as per the recommendations in the Arboricultural Report (The Mayhew Consultancy Ltd., March 2024).

1.1.3 The site is located in a rural area, approximately 2.4km north of the village of the village of Storrington, West Sussex. The site comprises a single-storey barn with adjacent hardstanding to the north, and west. The barn is used to store farm equipment and as offices. There is a line of trees immediately to the east of the barn, and a field of improved grassland past this, also to the east. This field is the location of the proposed new tractor shed. A hardstanding access track is also present as part of the site boundary. In the wider area, there are fields, woodland parcels and residential housing.

1.1.4 A bat scoping assessment was completed on the site by The Ecology Co-op in September 2023. This mostly focussed on the building present on the site which was assessed to have negligible bat roost suitability due to its construction and lack of potential roosting features. The survey identified one tree that supported potential bat roosting features. However, this

tree was not understood not to be impacted by the proposals at the time of the report. This tree (T4) was a dead standing stump and assessed as 'PRF' (a tree with at least one PRF). The survey also identified suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats in the surrounding areas, including ancient and semi-natural woodland, deciduous woodland, and traditional orchards. The survey identified evidence of past nesting by birds within the barn which may have been from house sparrow or starling. The survey also noted that the line of trees to the east and south of the existing barn has the potential to support a variety of common nesting birds. In addition, these trees were considered to be suitable habitat for use by hazel dormouse. Due to the built nature of the site, no further protected species were considered to be present or likely to be impacted by the proposals.

1.1.5 An arboricultural report was produced by The Mayhew Consultancy Ltd. in March 2024. This report detailed the results of the survey completed on 8 trees and 4 groups of trees on the site, and surrounding area. The survey identified 1 Category A tree, 3 Category B trees, 2 Category C trees and 2 Category U trees; as well as 2 groups of Category C trees and 2 groups of Category B trees.

1.1.6 This report details the results of the GLTA surveys completed on the trees present on, and bordering, the site.

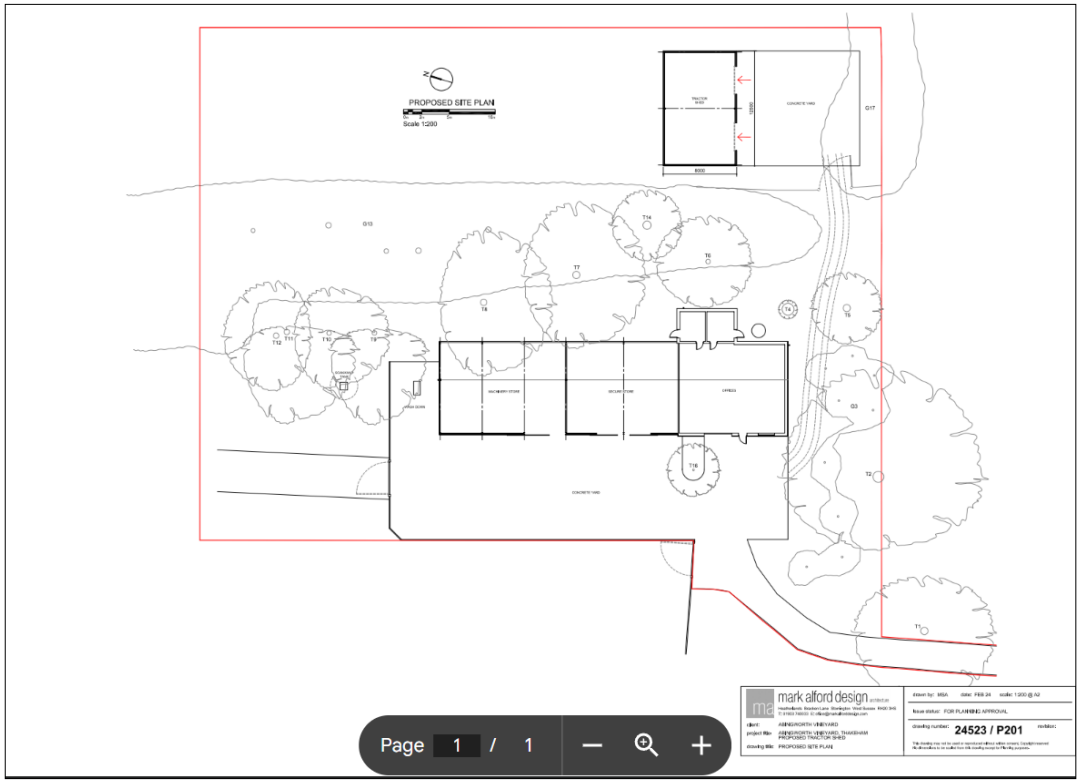


Figure 1: Proposed Site Plan of the tractor shed at Abingworth Vineyard and Winery, Champions Farm, West Sussex, produced by Mark Alford Design (February 2024).

2. Policy and Legislation

2.1.1 The legal protection afforded to relevant habitats and protected species is detailed in Appendix 3. This includes legislation that protects bats and breeding birds.

3. Methodology

3.1 Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)

3.1.1 A GLTA of five trees was completed on 8th April 2025 by Xenia Snowman. The weather conditions were suitable for a GLTA with dry and sunny conditions and a temperature of 13℃. The survey followed the bat survey guidelines (Collins, J. (ed.), 2023[1]).

3.1.2 The trees present on the site were assessed for their potential to support bat roosting features, in line with Table 4.2 in the guidelines, repeated as Table 1 below.

Table 1: Guidelines for assessing the suitability of trees for bats.

Suitability	Description of tree
None	Either no Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) in the tree, or highly unlikely to be any
FAR	Further Assessment Required (FAR) to establish if PRFs are present in the tree
PRF	A tree with at least one Potential Roosting Feature (PRF) present

3.1.3 For any trees categorised as FAR or PRF, a further Ground-Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) was completed. This is a detailed assessment of the exterior (and interior where applicable) of the tree from ground-level only. High power binoculars, torches and mirrors were used, where appropriate, to fully assess the trees from ground-level. If any features could be reached safely, these were also inspected using an endoscope. Each tree was systematically assessed for any features that could form PRF for bats. The assessment was completed from multiple angles including close-to, and further-away, from the trunk. Features of note were recorded on a plan of the tree to allow easier identification for any follow up surveys. Features that were searched for included woodpecker holes, knot holes, pruning cuts, tear-outs, wounds, forks, hazard beams, butt rots, lightning strikes, cracks, lifting bark, fissures,

[1] Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

fluting, and mature ivy stems creating crevice features between the tree and the matted ivy that may be suitable for bats. All trees surveyed were numbered and GPS mapped.

3.1.4 The GLTA further categorised the PRF on the trees, where appropriate, as follows:

Table 2: *Guidelines for categorizing the potential suitability of PRFs on a proposed development site for bats, to be applied using professional judgement.*

Suitability	**Description**
PRF-I	PRF is only suitable for Individual (I) bats or very small numbers of bats, either due to size, or lack of suitable surrounding habitats.
PRF-M	PRF is suitable for Multiple (M) bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

3.2 Desk Study

3.2.1 A desk study was completed to inform the GLTA report. This desk study included:

- Local Record Centre search from Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) within a 1km radius of the site;
- Web-based interactive mapping system Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC.defra.gov.uk); and
- Aerial mapping and ordnance survey maps

3.2.2 This information was used to inform the proposed biodiversity enhancements for the site.

4. GLTA Results

4.1.1 The trees surveyed were as follows:

Table 3: GLTA Surveyed Tree Information

Tree Number	Species	Arboricultural Report Tree Category	Arboricultural Recommendations or Site Proposals	GLTA Assessment Results and Recommendations
T1	Oak	Category B	Will be retained.	Negligible bat roost potential – Classification 'None'. Unlikely to require crown-lifting or cutting back to facilitate access due to location.
T2	Oak	Category A	Will be retained. May need some minor crown lifting and cutting back to facilitate access.	Negligible bat roost potential – Classification 'None'. Unlikely to require crown-lifting or cutting back to facilitate access due to location.
G3	Apple x 9	Category C	Recommended for removal due to location. May need some minor crown lifting and cutting back to facilitate access.	Negligible bat roost potential – Classification 'None'. Will be retained and pruned back where necessary to allow the creation of the access route.
T4	Lombardy Poplar	Category U	Dead standing trunk – removal recommended.	Dead standing tree trunk has now fallen. No further advice
T5	Lombardy Poplar	Category B	Possible topping required given size of re-growth. May need some minor crown lifting and cutting back to facilitate access.	Negligible bat roost potential – Classification 'None' Will be retained and may require crown-lifting or cutting back to facilitate access due to location.
T6	Prunus	Category C	Will be retained.	Negligible bat roost potential – Classification 'None'

T7	Poplar	Category B	Will be retained.	High bat roost potential due to a rot hole leading to an internal cavity. Classification – 'PRF – M' Will be retained.
G13	Mixed broadleaved	Category B	Will be retained. May need some minor crown lifting and cutting back to facilitate access.	Negligible bat roost potential – Classification 'None' Will be retained and may require crown-lifting or cutting back to facilitate access due to location.
T14	Lombardy Poplar	Category U	Significant stem decay noted – advised to be felled.	High bat roost potential due to internal fissures within stem cavity. Classification – 'PRF – M' Will be retained and monitored closely by an arboricultural consultant trained in tree safety assessments. If work is required in future, further advice will be sought from a bat licensed ecologist to ensure that the PRF be retained (externally and internally) and no bat roosts will be impacted. Following a repeat assessment, the tree can potentially be taken down to a monolith under bat licensed supervision under licence, if required, above the retained feature. This should remove the weight from the top of the tree and reduce the chances of the tree coming down in high winds or when water-logged.
G15	Fruit x 2	Category C	Will be retained.	Negligible bat roost potential – Classification 'None'
T16	Oak	Category C	Will be retained.	Negligible bat roost potential – Classification 'None'
G17	Mixed broadleaved	Category B	Will be retained. May need some minor crown lifting and cutting back to facilitate access.	Negligible bat roost potential – Classification 'None'

4.1.2 The majority of the trees were classified as ‘none’ with regards to potential roosting features. Two trees (T7 and T14) were classified as PRF-M. T7 has a rot hole leading to a cavity in the main stem, the access to which is located on the northern aspect approximately 2m from the ground. T14 has a trunk cavity located on the western aspect starting with the basal rot from ground level up to approximately 4.5m externally and approximately 7m internally currently. This feature may increase in size and may become less suitable as a bat roosting feature as time goes on. The main cavity is considered to be too large to be a suitable roosting area due to predation risk. The internal fissures within the cavity offer multiple high potential roosting opportunities for bats.

4.1.3 The trees were all surveyed previously in March 2024 by arboriculturalist Clive Mayhew. The results of this survey can be found in the report titled ‘Arboricultural Survey’ dated March 2024 (Reference AR/144724).



Figure 2: T1 behind with G3 trees in front.



Figure 3: Left T7 - a mature poplar due to be retained. Right – a close-up of the high potential bat roosting feature in T7.



Figure 4: Left - T14 with large cavity in the trunk starting with basal rot. Right – fissures within trunk cavity providing high potential bat roosting features internally.



Figure 5: Tree line to the east of the existing barn.



Figure 6: Tree line to the east of the existing barn, some small branches of which may require cutting back. None have bat roosting potential or would impact potential bat roosts.



Figure 7: Trees and improved grassland area to the east of the existing barn proposed as the location of the new tractor shed.

5. Recommendations and Enhancements

5.1 *Roosting Bats and Trees*

5.1.1 T7 and T14 offer potential roosting features for bats. However, it is understood that these trees are not proposed for removal. The arboricultural report recommends due to the large cavity in T14 that this tree is felled. The tree will continue to be assessed and monitored regularly by a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant trained in tree safety assessments. If any work is proposed, including for health and safety reasons, it will be undertaken following further advice from a bat licensed ecologist. Nocturnal surveys and a licence may be required following an internal inspection from a ladder with an endoscope. Advice is likely to include the recommendation for the bat roosting feature be retained as a weatherproof monolith in-situ. This will require the retention of the feature past the internal rot, currently standing at approximately 7.5m. This should remove the weight from the top of the tree and reduce the likelihood of the tree coming down or the top snapping off in high winds, or when water-logged

5.1.2 All other trees were considered to offer no potential roosting features for bats, and as such, no further bat surveys are required with regards to these trees. Should more than a year pass between the date of the GLTA (April 2025) and any required tree works, then an update GLTA should be conducted to establish any changes that may have occurred with regards to the trees suitability for roosting bats in this time.

5.2 *Bats and Lighting*

5.2.1 The bat scoping report stated that no artificial lighting should be installed on the eastern and southern elevations of the barn to eliminate light spill onto the adjacent lines of trees and the dead tree with bat roosting suitability near the southern elevation (T4 which has since fallen). An ecologically sensitive lighting scheme is to be followed.

5.2.2 Artificial lighting can affect the way that bats use habitats in several ways, depending on the species and proximity to a roost. Direct bright lighting of a roost causes bats to delay emergence from a roost (BCT and ILP, 2023[2]). The prey items for British bats are flying insects, including mosquitoes, and many flying insects are attracted to certain types of artificial light sources, especially those that emit light with an ultraviolet component (BCT and ILP, 2023). Some of the less rare species of bat are known to be attracted to insects

[2] Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professionals (2023) *Guidance Note GN08/23, Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night, Warwickshire*

gathered around light sources (such as pipistrelle and noctule), whereas other, often rarer species, will actively avoid lit areas (such as Myotis species and long-eared bats) (BCT and ILP, 2023). Lighting within the Site could therefore be expected to affect the ways that bats in the area are able to use the Site. It is also possible that artificial lighting within the Site could attract insects, and in turn, attract higher numbers of more light-tolerant bat species to the lit areas from outside the Site. This may act as a sink for insect activity and potentially result in the adjacent areas supporting lower numbers of insects, and therefore bats, and a reduced availability of foraging resources for bats within the habitats surrounding and adjacent to the site.

5.2.3 The lighting scheme will follow the guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance (2023) and will aim to reduce light-spill overall, while any lighting utilised will be directed downwards, hooded and baffled. All new lighting will meet the current environmental standards of good practice to reduce potential light pollution, and will use the lowest intensity for its purpose. This will minimise light spill onto foraging and commuting routes, and minimise potential disturbance to dark corridors.

5.2.4 All lighting should be fitted with motions sensors and timers and should only be used where absolutely necessary. All existing lighting should be fitted with hoods and angled to avoid any bat habitat features. Lighting especially needs to avoid the eastern and southern boundaries where there are lines of mature trees.

5.3 *Bats and Nesting Bird Enhancements*

5.3.1 Other enhancements included in the bat scoping report include:

- Two improved crevice bat boxes (or similar) to be installed on the barn or suitable mature trees in the adjacent treelines;
- Two sparrow terrace nest boxes (or similar) to be installed on the exterior walls of the barn; and
- Native shrub, tree, and flowering species of local provenance to be included in the planting scheme in this area, as well as across the estate. This will increase food items for invertebrates which in turn will be beneficial to bats and birds.

5.3.2 Please refer to the Bat Scoping Report produced by The Ecology Co-op in November 2023 for further details and full specifications.

5.4 *Other Protected Species recommendations*

5.4.1 The site offers potentially suitable habitat for reptiles. However, due to the small scale of the works, targeted reptile surveys are considered disproportionate. It is recommended that prior to any habitat clearance works to create the access track or to build the proposed

tractor shed, that the area is inspected by a suitably experienced ecologist for any areas that could be used by resting or basking reptiles. Where suitable habitat is present, the vegetation should be cut in a two phase approach to give any reptiles present an opportunity to disperse safely. Any log piles or similar habitat piles that could be used for hibernating reptiles should be dismantled by hand under the supervision of an ecologist. Should any reptiles be encountered, these will be translocated to safety by the ecologist to a suitable habitat area close-to, but outside the zone of impact of the proposals.

5.4.2 As badgers and other mammals may use the surrounding habitats for foraging and commuting, the following measures will be followed during the operational phase of the site to avoid harm or injury:

- Tools and hazardous chemicals will be secured safely at night;
- Any trenches will be closed overnight, or a means of escape e.g. ramp or wooden board will be installed, to ensure no animals become trapped;
- No food or waste will be left out overnight;
- If badger activity is detected works should cease, and advice from a suitably experienced ecologist be sought, to prevent harm to this species or their setts.

5.4.3 Any brush pile, compost and debris piles on site could provide shelter and hibernation potential for hedgehogs. If any piles need to be removed in the hibernation period of mid-October to mid-March inclusive, the piles must undergo sensitive deconstruction and removal.

5.4.4 To avoid impacts to nesting birds, any habitat clearance will take place outside of the nesting bird season (of 1st March to 31st August). If this is not possible, the area will be checked by an ecologist prior to start of works to confirm the absence of nests. If any active nests are present, no works will take place within a 5m radius until chicks have fledged.

5.5 *Arboricultural Recommendations*

5.5.1 The arboricultural report recommended the following to protect the root systems of the retained trees during the construction period:

- The installation of two tree protection barriers;
- The installation of one area of temporary ground protection;
- The installation of one area of ‘no-dig’ surfacing.

5.5.2 For full details and examples of fencing and barriers required, please refer to the Arboricultural Report produced by The Mayhew Consultancy Ltd produced in March 2024.

5.6 *Site Good Practice Protocols*

5.6.1 During the duration of the operational phase of the site, good practice measures must be adhered to around the site as follows:

- Any wastewater produced by the development, either during the construction or operational phase, must be collected and treated, ensuring none enters any nearby waterbodies;
- All storage and use of materials will be in line with construction best practice. Materials, such as sand or cement, must be kept securely and located where there isn't a risk of them being washed into waterways or drains;
- Any waste generated on site will be reused, recycled or disposed of in accordance with Section 33 and 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990;
- All drains must be covered to prevent waste from entering any waterbodies;
- Pollution prevention protocols must be followed (to include suitable storage of hazardous materials and liquids, availability of spill kits and use of spill containers); and
- The access road to the site must be kept clean at all times to prevent silt and other pollutants from running off into nearby watercourses or boundary features.

Appendix 1 – Wildlife Legislation

National Planning Policy and Legislation

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Provides for the protection of Natura 2000 sites (SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites), European Protected Species and habitats. European Protected Species are protected from:

- Deliberate capture, injury or killing;
- Deliberate disturbance of a European Protected Species, such that it impairs their ability to breed, reproduce or rear their young, hibernate or migrate or significantly affect their local distribution or abundance;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place;
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange any live, dead or part of a European Protected Species.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981, all wild birds (with the exception of those listed on Schedule 2), their eggs and nests are protected by law and it is an offence to:

- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built
- take or destroy the egg of any wild bird
- disturb any bird listed on Schedule 1, while it is nest building, or at a nest with eggs or young, or disturb the dependant young of any such bird.

Under Schedule 5 of the act, it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal listed under Section 9, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturb animals while occupying such places.

The Environment Act (2021)

The Environment Act (2021) makes a provision for biodiversity net gain to be a condition of planning permission in England. All planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) except for small sites will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain from 12 February 2024. BNG will be required for small sites from 2 April 2024.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the Act places a duty on local planning authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England whilst carrying out their normal functions. Section 41 comprises a list of Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) and Species of Principal Importance (SPIs) which should be considered.

Habitats of Principal Importance

Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 details 56 HPIs, of which the following could be present in south-east England: Lowland calcareous grassland, Lowland dry acid grassland, Lowland meadows, Lowland Heathland, Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land, Lowland fens, Lowland raised bog,

Reedbeds, Lowland beech and yew woodland, Lowland mixed deciduous woodland and Wet woodland.

Ancient woodland and veteran trees

The NPPF 2021 states that 'Planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss'. In addition, Natural England's standing advice for ancient woodland indicates that a 15 m buffer is retained between ancient woodland and any works or development. Ancient woodlands, and ancient and veteran trees, may also be protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

Hedgerows Regulations 1997

Under these regulations it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly remove, or cause or permits another person to remove, a hedgerow.

Protected Species

All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This includes damage and destruction of their nests whilst in use, or construction. Species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act, such as barn owl, are afforded protection from disturbance during the nesting season. The following 50 bird species are SPIs: lesser redpoll, aquatic warbler, marsh warbler, skylark, white-fronted goose, tree pipit, scaup, bittern, dark-bellied brent goose, stone-curlew, nightjar, hen harrier, northern harrier, hawfinch, corncrake, cuckoo, Bewick's swan, lesser spotted woodpecker, corn bunting, cirl bunting, yellowhammer, reed bunting, red grouse, herring gull, black-tailed godwit, linnet, twite, Savi's warbler, grasshopper warbler, woodlark, common scoter, yellow wagtail, spotted flycatcher, curlew, house sparrow, tree sparrow, grey partridge, wood warbler, willow tit, marsh tit, dunnock, Balearic shearwater, bullfinch, roseate tern, turtle dove, starling, black grouse, song thrush, ring ouzel and lapwing.

Badger is protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under this legislation it is an offence to kill or injure a badger; to damage, destroy or block access to a badger sett; or to disturb badger in its sett. The Act also states the conditions for the Protection of Badgers licence requirements.

All bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), as detailed above. Bats are further protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it an offence to:

- Deliberately or recklessly damage or destroy any structure or place which bat(s) use for shelter or protection;
- Disturb bat(s) while occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection;
- Obstruct access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection.

Furthermore, seven bat species are SPIs, covered under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. These include western barbastelle, Bechstein's, noctule, soprano pipistrelle, brown longeared, lesser horseshoe and greater horseshoe.

Amphibians: Natterjack toad, pool frog and great crested newt are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). They are also afforded additional protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Natterjack toad, common toad, great crested newt and northern pool frog are also SPIs.

Reptiles: Smooth snake and sand lizard are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). They are afforded additional protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow-worm are all protected from killing and injury under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). All UK reptile species are SPIs.

Hazel dormouse is protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is afforded additional protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), including obstruction to a place of shelter or rest. Hazel dormouse is also a SPI.

Otter is protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and is afforded additional protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Otter is also a SPI.

Water vole is fully protected from capture, killing or injury; damage, destruction or blocking access to a place of shelter; disturbance whilst in a place of shelter or possessing, selling any part of a water vole, dead or alive under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Water vole is also a SPI.

West European hedgehog, brown hare, mountain hare, pine marten, harvest mouse, polecat and red squirrel are all SPIs. The following mammals are listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended): wildcat, brown hare (Schedule 5A), mountain hare (Schedule 5A), pine marten and red squirrel.

Fifty-six terrestrial and freshwater invertebrate species are listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). A total of 398 invertebrates are Species of Principal Importance.

Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is a list of non-native plant species for which Section 14 of the Act applies. It is an offence to plant, or otherwise cause to grow in the wild species listed under Schedule 9 of the act.