

**Bath Grounds
Ashby de la Zouch**

**Habitat Scoping Survey
&
Recommendations for Biodiversity Improvements**

A report to:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Works

No works are currently proposed for this site as part of the request for commissioning this report with Wildlife Services, Leicestershire County Council. This report, and preceding survey, was intended to identify habitats on site and recommend potential management and additions to improve biodiversity of the site.

The site, The Bath Grounds, Ashby de la Zouch, is located to the south of Ashby de la Zouch town centre and can be accessed from Prior Park Road. The site consisted of a 5.2 ha parcel of land best described as amenity grassland with parkland trees. The site is located at grid reference SK 35765 16414 to the south of South Street, Ashby de la Zouch.

Method of Study

The brief was to assess the existing ecological value of the site, identify potential ecological issues associated, and make recommendations for enhancement of the site for potential increase in biodiversity. A search of the Bath Grounds was made on foot to establish a current baseline of habitats on site and species composition.

Baseline Ecological Conditions

No statutory designated nature conservation sites occur within the survey area or immediately adjacent to it. There are no rare or notable habitats on the site. No potential habitat for amphibians was identified on the site, and no records exist of GCN breeding ponds within 500m of this site. No badger activity or badger setts were identified on site, though given the short overly mown grass badger tracks would not be apparent.

The Royal Hotel and Bath Ash Tree, a candidate for a Local Wildlife Site, (usually as it has been recorded as a veteran tree), lies to the west of Bath Grounds.

This site is within Ashby de la Zouch Conservation Area which has been cited for its historic connections rather than ecology.

Potential Ecological Issues/ Impacts

None currently as this report is not for any development proposals.

Mitigation Recommendations

None currently as this report is not for any development proposals.

Compensation Recommendations

None currently as this report is not for any development proposals.

Enhancement Recommendations

- Identify and mark out possible areas to allow a no-mow regime. The area identified should be mown once in in late March or early April, then left until late August. Grass can then be cut and removed until it stops growing in late Autumn. This will stimulate a 'summer meadow effect', removing arisings will gradually, over time, reduce vigour.

- Areas adjacent to the ‘summer meadow’ can be treated as a ‘spring meadow’. Where mowing is similar to ‘summer meadow’ above, but mowing in this area can resume earlier, usually at the end of June. Again, arisings should be removed to lower vigour of site grasses over time. Both regimes, ‘summer and spring meadow’ will encourage seeds to grow and ripen which will reseed the area creating a more diverse plant community over time. Some of the seed will be taken by sparrows, goldfinch and other seed eating birds, thereby encouraging diversity.
- Scarifying to create bare earth areas within the ‘summer and spring meadows’ in the autumn and seeding with red clover, birds foot trefoil, yellow rattle will help to encourage a more diverse insect population. Lady’s bedstraw and cornflower would be good additions to the taller ‘summer meadow’ areas, and field-forget-me-not to the shorter ‘spring meadow’ areas. Seeds can be sown directly on to the area in the autumn or early winter, as some seeds need vernalisation to germinate. Be generous with seeds as some will be taken by birds.
- Fritillary, native daffodil and native tulip bulbs or plugs and be planted in both areas but should not be mown at all until they have died back and reseeded, therefore, these areas should be chosen well.
- Bird nesting boxes and bat roosting boxes to be installed on mature trees. Sparrow and starling boxes would be a great asset to the site and ‘mesh’ nicely with a lower mowing regime. Bat boxes may also be used by blue tits and wrens as places to roost over winter too.

Please note all seeds, plugs and bulbs should be of local origin, and should be recorded to show the floral history of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report has been prepared by the Wildlife Survey Section of Leicestershire County Council for Ashby de la Zouch Town Council to establish the current diversity of the site with the aim to recommend management and enhance biodiversity of the site.

1.2 The site concerned is the Bath Grounds, Ashby de la Zouch. The name “Bath Grounds” originate from Ivanhoe Baths built in 1822 and demolished in 1962. The site was chosen after a saline spring was found at nearby Moira Colliery by miners. The water was piped to the site by developers and the Baths and adjacent, remaining, Royal Hotel, renamed from Hastings Hotel, was built.

The site is situated to the south of South Street, close to the centre of Ashby de la Zouch Town Centre, at grid reference SK 35765 16414.

1.4 The brief was to carry out an assessment of the site and recommend management and enhancements for biodiversity.

1.5 To meet the requirements of the brief, a survey of the site was carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and experienced botanist and gardener.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Photographs of the site are provided throughout this report. The site comprised a 5.2 hectare (ha) of land currently very well maintained and very shortly mown on a regular basis. To the southwest of the site is the cricket pitch of the Ashby Hastings Cricket Club and a bowls green to the east of the site. The site had an all-weather perimeter path, part of which ran under a mature parkland treeline including ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), cherry (*Prunus spp.*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), large-leaved lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) weeping willow (*Salix x sepulcralis*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*).



Photograph 1 – Site viewed north to south along its western boundary



Photograph 2 – Site viewed northeast to southwest



Photograph 3 – The eastern boundary of the site showing the all-weather perimeter walkway and mature trees.

- 2.2 The site is situated in a greener area of the older urban centre of Ashby de la Zouch (see aerial photograph below). Ashby de la Zouch is a Designated Conservation Area.

The site is bordered to the east by Ashby de la Zouch Memorial Grounds and an adjacent meadow, with a section of rough wet meadow between the Memorial and Bath Grounds not being part of the site, so not surveyed. To the south, the site is bordered by a rail line used now mainly as a mineral transport route. Ashby Hastings Cricket Club, The Royal Hotel, now disused, and a small woodland lie to the west. Large mature private gardens surround the northern end of the park and abut a more formally garden series of flowerbeds.

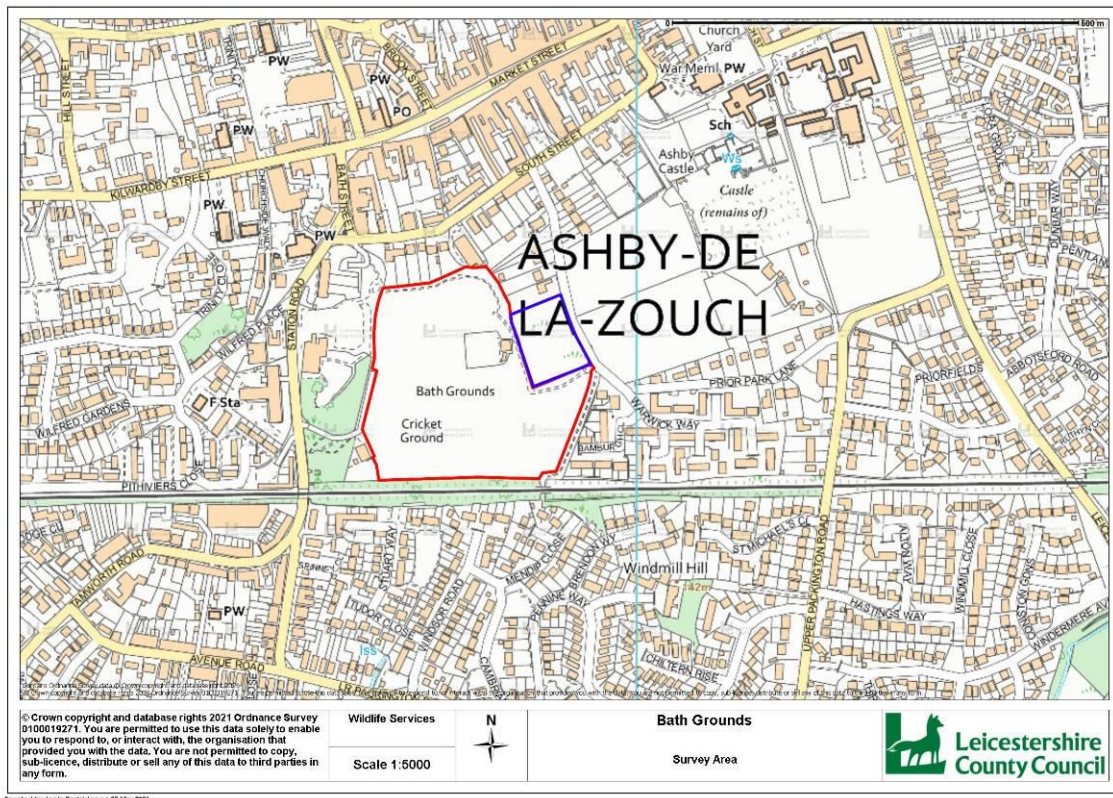


Figure 1 – Location of the proposed site is indicated by the red polygon. The blue polygon shows an area of rough pasture and wet woodland.



Figure 2 – Aerial Photographs of the site (please note these are from 2011)

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Baseline Ecological Conditions

3.1.1 The ecological baseline was established through desk study and site survey as outlined below.

3.2 Desk Study

3.2.1 The site was searched using Location Centre (A GIS System) to establish the presence or absence of Local Wildlife Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

3.2.2 The following websites were also reviewed:

- www.naturalengland.org.uk (for information on statutory designated nature conservation sites).
- www.nbn.org.uk (National Biodiversity Network website for protected species distribution).

3.3 Site Survey

3.3.1 **Survey Area**

The survey area is shown in *Figures 1 & 2*, above by the red polygon. The blue polygon shows an area of rough wet meadow and scrubby wet woodland.

3.3.2 **Survey Methodology**

A scoping survey of the site was carried out on foot, whereby notes were taken on species composition and evidence indicating the presence of badger, fox and other habitat potential for other species including trees with roosting potential for bats, great crested newts, and nesting potential for birds.

A search for any invasive non-native species such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) was also carried out.

Target notes were used to record any habitats or features of particular interest and any sightings, signs, or evidence of protected or notable faunal species or any potential habitat for such species, as detailed below:

- The suitability of habitats was assessed for amphibians and reptiles (including great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*).
- The suitability of habitats was assessed for badger (*Meles meles*) and any evidence of badger including setts, dung pits/latrines, badger paths, hairs, bedding, footprints, and scratching of trees/shrubs was noted.

- Trees with features suitable for roosting bats were noted, such as hollows, cracks and cavities within trunks and branches (e.g. old woodpecker holes), crevices behind loose bark and ivy growth. Landscape features such as woodland, hedgerows, trees and shrubs were assessed for their potential suitability for bat foraging and commuting.
- The suitability of habitats was assessed for nesting birds and
- The suitability of habitats was assessed for reptiles.

The ideal time to carry out a survey is during the plant growing season (i.e. April-September) and this is also when most animals are active.

3.3.3 **Survey Details**

Jools Partridge assisted Julie Partridge carried out scoping survey on the 29th April 2021

The lead surveyor is licensed for the following:

- Natural England class survey licence registration number CLS02385
- WML CL15 (Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor Level 1)
- WML CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2)
- WML-CL09 (Great Crested Newt Class 2)
- WML-CL11 (White Clawed Crayfish)

3.3.4 **Survey Limitations**

It should also be noted that single visits to a site at any time of year is likely to miss a proportion of the plant species present.

Full access was available to site, trees, shrubs, and hedgerows under ownership of Ashby de la Zouch Town Council.

3.4 Baseline Evaluation Criteria

- 3.4.1 Based upon the desk study and site survey, an ecological evaluation of the site was undertaken using a combination of evaluation criteria for habitats and species, although the general framework follows that provided by CIEEM (IEEM 2006) (see *Table 2* below).
- 3.4.2 Where relevant, the evaluation was made with reference to the statutory protection afforded to species and habitats.
- 3.4.3 Legal protection does not always correspond to conservation value. Some species (e.g. badger) are protected for reasons of animal welfare rather than conservation. Others are of National conservation value but are not protected by law (e.g. some Red Data Book species and UK BAP species).

Table 2: Determination of Ecological Value

Ecological Value	Description and Examples
High	Habitats or features that have high importance for nature conservation, such as statutory designated nature conservation sites of International or National importance or sites maintaining viable populations of species of International or National importance (e.g. Red Data Book species; European protected species).
Medium	Sites designated at a County or District level, e.g. Local Wildlife Site (LWS), ancient woodland site, ecologically 'important' hedgerows or ecological features that are notable within the context of a region, county or district (e.g. a viable area of a Priority Habitat on the county BAP or a site that supports a viable population of a county BAP species).
Low	Sites of nature conservation value within the context of a Parish or neighbourhood, low-grade common habitats, such as arable fields and improved grasslands and sites supporting common, widespread species.

4. BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

4.1 Desk Study

4.1.1 *Designated Nature Conservation Sites*

a) *Statutory sites*

There are no statutory designated nature conservation sites (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) National Nature Reserve (NNR) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) within or bounding the survey site.

b) *Non-statutory sites*

There are no non-statutory designated nature conservation sites (i.e. county Local Wildlife Site, LWS) identified within the area of proposed development. However, The Royal Hotel and Bath Ash Tree, a candidate for a Local Wildlife Site, (usually as it has been recorded as a veteran tree), lies to the west of Bath Grounds.

4.1.2 *Protected/notable Faunal Species*

No request has been made for a protected species search centred on this site from Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Record Centre.

4.2 Site Survey

4.2.1 *Habitat Types*

The following Phase-1 habitat types were recorded on the site:

- Amenity grassland (J1.2) – The main body of the site.

4.2.2 **Habitat Descriptions**

a) *Amenity grassland (J1.2) – The main body of the site.*

The site comprised a 5.2 hectare (ha) of land, currently consisting of very shortly mown, species poor amenity grassland, part of which is occupied by a cricket pitch and bowling green. The bowling green and its perimeter hedge were not included in the survey as the main task of this report is to inform potential improvements to the site for enhancement of biodiversity, which would not be suitable for this more formally managed area.

Several areas on site, mostly slightly less well mown areas, including a banked area along the northwest boundary of the site (*See Photograph 6 below*) and boundary edges, had a little more species richness due to being mown less often. Boundary and bank species included cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), dandelion (*Taraxacum spp.*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*); as well as white clover (*Trifolium repens*), dandelion (*Taraxacum spp.*) and also red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) the latter few species being found over the rest of the site grasslands. The site had all-weather perimeter path around the site, part of which ran under a mature treeline listed under 2.1 for reference. *See Photographs 1, 2, & 3 above, and 4, 5 & 6 below.*

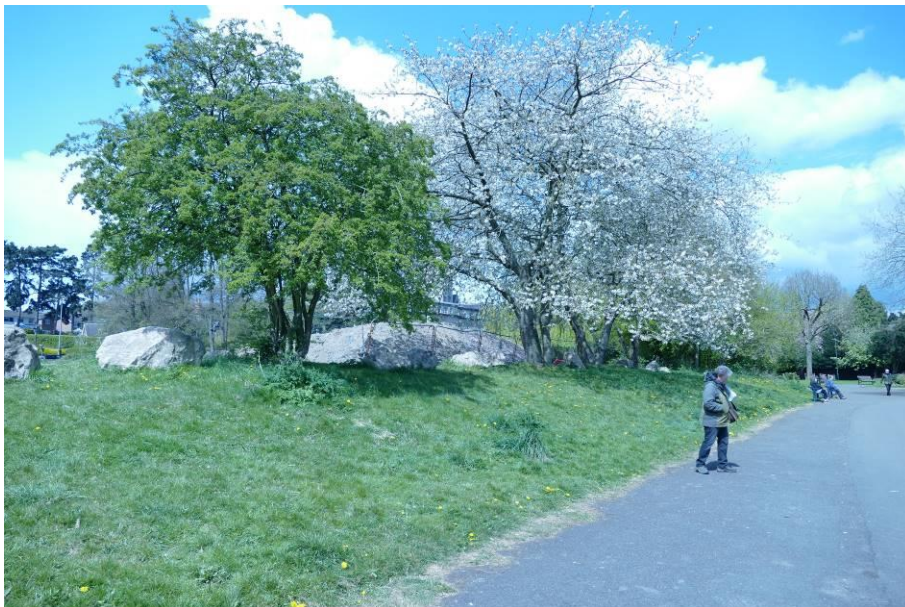
Please note that the culverted and gardened southern boundary, not part of this site survey, was a good example of what could be implemented over many of the less used corners of the Bath Ground. This area is currently managed by Friends of Bath Ground.



Photograph 4 – Northern section viewed NE toward the bowling green



Photograph 5 – Southern section, viewed from the bowling green to the SW.



Photograph 6 – The embanked area to the NW of the site boundary.

4.2.3 **Protected/notable Species**

a) **Plants**

Two areas to the northern boundary of the site, being fenced off with chestnut paling fence and consisting of disturbed ground, were enquired about, and found to be sites of a known, non-native invasive plant, Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). Both of these sites were under a long-term removal treatment programme commissioned by Ashby de la Zouch Town Council.

b) **Amphibians and reptiles**

Boggy land, best described and rough wet meadow, adjacent to the west boundary of the site, would have good potential to harbour amphibians and reptiles including,

potentially, great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) and/or grass snake (*Natrix natrix*). This area is currently under independent ownership and was not included in this survey.

c) *Badger*

No badger setts, well-worn tracks, foraging sign, or latrines were identified during the survey.

d) *Bats*

No trees within the site exhibited obvious bat roost potential, though a thorough tree climbing survey might identify features. There is potential for foraging within open areas of the grounds, and linear features of the site perimeter and tree line will be used by commuting bats.

e) *Birds*

There is potential for nesting birds within the site though no nests were noted during the survey.

5. ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION

5.1 Designated Nature Conservation Sites

5.1.1 Statutory Sites

There are no statutory designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SSSI) within the surveyed site or study area; therefore, there will be no impacts to any SSSI.

5.1.2 Non-statutory Sites

There are no non-statutory sites associated to this site.

5.2 Habitats

5.2.1 The ecological evaluation of the habitats on the site is summarised in *Table 5* below.

Habitat	Reason for Valuation
Value	
Amenity grassland	In general, this site currently provides low-grade foraging for pollinating insects and minimal habitat to provide cover for common and widespread invertebrates. Low/poor

Table 5: Summary of Ecological Evaluation of the Habitats on the Site

5.3 Protected/notable Species¹

5.3.1 Floral Species

None of the species recorded during the survey are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) or considered rare nationally or locally (e.g. Preston *et al.* 2002). Also, none of the species recorded are listed as Species of Principal Biological Importance on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 or as Priority Species listed on the National BAP (UK BAP 2007) or local BAP (Leicestershire and Rutland BAP).

5.3.2 Faunal Species

a) Amphibians/reptiles

The habitats present on the site suggest that the site will have a low to negligible potential for local amphibian and reptile populations due to increased potential for predation over a large area without vegetative cover.

b) Badger

No evidence was found on this site currently.

c) Bats

No bat surveys have currently been undertaken by which to set a baseline.

d) Birds

A variety of bird species may nest in shrubs and trees on the site. A good range of common bird species were noted during the survey, though mostly in gardens and hedgerows adjacent to site. These included goldfinch, starling, house, sparrow, blue tit, great tit, greater spotted woodpecker, magpie, song thrush, and mistle thrush.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Enhancement Recommendations

Meadow Grassland Creation

6.1 Identify and mark out possible areas to allow a no-mow regime. The area identified should be mown once in in late March or early April, then left until late August. Grass should then be cut and removed until it stops growing in late Autumn. This will stimulate a 'summer meadow effect', removing arisings will gradually, over time, reduce vigour.

6.2 Areas adjacent to the 'summer meadow' can be treated as a 'spring meadow'. Where mowing is similar to 'summer meadow' above, but mowing in this area should resume earlier, usually at the end of June. Again, arisings should be removed to lower vigour of site grasses over time. Both regimes, 'summer and spring meadow'

¹ Protected species legislation is provided in Appendix 1.

will encourage seeds to grow and ripen which will reseed the area creating a more diverse plant community over time. Some of the seed will be taken by sparrows, goldfinch and other seed eating birds, thereby encouraging diversity.

6.3 Scarifying to create bare earth areas within the ‘summer and spring meadows’ in the autumn and seeding with red clover, birds foot trefoil, yellow rattle will help to encourage a more diverse insect population. Lady’s bedstraw and cornflower would be good additions to the taller ‘summer meadow’ areas, and field-forget-me-not to the shorter ‘spring meadow’ areas. Seeds can be sown directly on to the area in the autumn or early winter, as some seeds need vernalisation to germinate. Be generous with seeds as some will be taken by birds.

6.4 Fritillary, native daffodil and native tulip bulbs or plugs could be planted in both areas but should not be mown at all until they have died back and reseeded, therefore, these areas should be chosen well. These areas, as with the ‘meadow’ zones, would also benefit from a raised cut compared to the rest of the site.

6.5 **Habitat Creation**

Consider a storage area in a corner/s of the site for a compost area/s. Some of the grass cuttings can be stored here with other bulkier debris from site including leaves, twigs and other compostable material to help keep the maturing compost aerated. No cooked foods should be added to the compost as this may encourage rats.

This would provide habitat for invertebrates and may help retain passing amphibians and reptiles, as well as small mammals.

A bird feeding station may also be considered in a quitter area of the site close to hedges and trees.

6.4.2 **Hedgerows**

Consider introducing new mixed fruit and nectar rich species hedges to site. Hedges are known to be beneficial to biodiversity enhancement, as is under planting the hedge with native flora. A suitable list of species for planting is provided in Appendix 2 & 3.

6.4.3 **Trees and Shrubs**

Consider further planting of individual native tree and shrub species on the site where possible, perhaps to include fruit and nut trees. A suitable list of species for planting is provided in Appendix 2 & 3.

6.4.4 **Bird and Bat Boxes**

To provide enhancements for roosting bats and further additional habitat for nesting birds on the site, it is recommended that a variety of bat roosting boxes and bird nesting boxes are installed on mature trees. Further details can be provided, as requested.

REFERENCES

Institute of Environmental Assessment 1995 *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*. Chapman and Hall, London.

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management 2006 *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment*. IEEM.

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Nbn Gateway. Available: nbn.org.uk.

Poland, J., Clement. E, J., 2009 *The Vegetative Key to the British Flora – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland*. London.

Rose, F., 1981 *The Wild Flower Key – British Isles & Northwest Europe*. Warne, London.

Royal Town Planning Institute 2000 *Planning for Biodiversity*.

UK BAP website. Available at: www.ukbap.org.uk.

Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom, ARG UK Advice Note 5 (2010)

Appendix 1: Protected Species Legislation

Plants

All wild plants are protected against unauthorised removal or uprooting under Section 13 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Plants listed on Schedule 8 of the Act (e.g. triangular club rush and Deptford Pink) are afforded additional protection against picking, uprooting, destruction and sale. Bluebell is protected against sale only.

Amphibians (Common Species)

Common amphibian species (i.e. common frog, common toad, smooth newt and palmate newt) are afforded partial legal protection under UK legislation, i.e. Schedule 5, Section 9 (5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This legislation prohibits:

- sale
- transportation
- advertising for sale

Badger

Badger is a widespread and generally common species. However, they are legally protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which is based primarily on the need to protect badgers from baiting and deliberate harm or injury. Under this legislation it is illegal to:

- 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

A badger sett is defined in the legislation as *“any structure or place, which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”*.

Bats

All bat species are afforded full protection under UK and European legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Together, this legislation makes it illegal to:

- Intentionally or deliberately take, kill or injure a bat
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts
- Deliberately disturb bats

A bat roost is defined in the legislation as *“any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection”*. Roosts are protected whether or not bats are present at the time. If a development activity is likely to result in disturbance or killing of a bat, damage to its habitat or any of the other activities listed above, then a licence will usually be required from Natural England.

Birds

The bird breeding season generally lasts from early March to September for most species. All birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000. This legislation makes it illegal, both intentionally and recklessly to:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or in use;
- Take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird; and
- Possess or control any wild bird or egg unless obtained legally.

Birds listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) (e.g. barn owl) are afforded additional protection, which includes makes it an offence to disturb a bird while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Great crested newt

Great crested newts and their habitat are afforded full protection under UK and European legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). This makes it is an offence to kill, injure or disturb great crested newts and to destroy any place used for rest or shelter by a newt. The great crested newt is also listed on Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats Directive and Appendix II of the Bern Convention. If a development activity is likely to result in disturbance or killing of a great crested newt, damage to its habitat etc, then a licence will usually be required from Natural England.

Reptiles

There are six native species of reptiles in the UK, including the slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), viviparous/common lizard (*Lactera vivipara*), grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and adder (*Vipera berus*), smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*) and sand lizard (*Lactera agilis*), which are afforded varying degrees of protection under UK and European legislation.

Slow-worm, viviparous/common lizard, adder and grass snake are protected under Schedule 5, Section 9 (1 and 5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 against deliberate or reckless killing and injuring and sale.

Appendix 2: Native Species Suitable for Planting and Sowing

The plants should be obtained from specialist nurseries and preferably be of local genetic stock.

1. Native Wildflower Species for Grassland Creation in Gardens

Grasses	
Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Crested dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
Meadow fescue	<i>Festuca pratensis</i>
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Rough meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
Quaking grass	<i>Briza media</i>
Small timothy	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>
Smooth meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
Soft brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>
Sweet vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Yellow oat-grass	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>
Herbs	
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatorium</i>
Betony	<i>Betonica officianalis</i>
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Common cat's-ear	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Meadow clary	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>
Meadow crane's-bill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Salad burnet	<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Wild basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

2. Native Shrub, Tree, Climbing and Herbaceous Species for Hedgerow Planting on Garden and Site Boundaries

Shrubs	
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Dog wood	<i>Cornus sanguine</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Wild privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Trees	
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Climbers	
Field rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Traveller's-joy	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
Herbs	
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Lord's-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula veris</i>
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>

3. Native Trees, Shrubs and Herbaceous Species for Individual Tree and Shrub Planting

Trees	
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Shrubs	
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Herbs	
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Lord's-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula veris</i>
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>

Appendix 3: Guidance to aid or maintain biodiversity

Introduction

It is imperative that all sites where construction and/or redevelopment is proposed, that species diversity is maintained or improved as per [Leicestershire & Rutland's Biodiversity Action Plan](#).

Special consideration should be given to protected species, pollinators, flora, and fauna known to be or thought to be locally present. This document aims to assist developers, landowners and those considering redevelopment or improvement of sites within the UK Midlands area, where there is the potential for a net loss of biodiversity due to potential loss of nesting, roosting, foraging or breeding habitat.

This document aims to provide methods to aid biodiversity in such a manner that it's application is practicable within the constraints of modern developments, that they are pleasing to the senses for potential occupants of the finished proposed site or are included within the site so as to be low or maintenance free, designed within the development and not easily removed after site completion.

Pollinators

[Pollinators](#) face many pressures within the UK but especially in urban settings whereby a succession of native and useful nectar sources may be few and far between thereby reducing viable local populations of delicate and often beautiful invertebrates. Additionally, to their intrinsic value and the wellbeing virtues they have when seen in our gardens, parks and wider countryside they are important for pollination for the germination of fruit, nuts and seeds. The pollinating insects themselves are also important as a food source to other invertebrates, small mammals and birds.

Simple and effective measures to attract and maintain populations of pollinators could include:-

- Planting fruit trees ([dwarf rootstock](#) on espaliers and [step-over cordons](#) in areas with restricted room) and fruit bushes.
- Planting local native hedges of [hawthorn](#), [midland thorn](#), [blackthorn](#) and [hazel](#)
- Clover rich [verges](#) along roadsides, driveways and parking areas (including red clover, birds foot trefoil, greater knapweed)
- Troughs, [window boxes](#) and borders sown with wildflowers (including Knapweed, lady's bedstraw, meadow buttercup, cowslip, oxeye daisy, black medic, field scabious, selfheal, wild parsnip, wild marjoram and yarrow.
- Herb beds (including rosemary, thyme, sage, basil, sweet marjoram, chives, lovage, lemon balm, parsley, borage and mint)
- [Insect and bee hotels](#) either [made](#) or [purchased](#)

Small mammals, reptiles and amphibians

Often overlooked during development schemes is the need to retain or provide connectivity to and from the site and surrounding landscape for access to small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

Therefore if fences are required, gateways or tunnels at the base of them should be left to allow access up to at least the size of [hedgehog](#). If the recommendations for pollinators have been followed then food requirements may be in place, therefore other mitigation should include:-

- A small [wildlife pond](#) with sloping sides, rocks, aquatic native plants and preferably no stocked fish.
- [Refuges for small mammals](#)
- Compost bins ([The ultimate compost bin](#) is ideal as both an area for recycling un-cooked household waste, vegetable peelings, fallen fruit, grass clippings and leaf matter, etc. but also as habitat refuge for invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. It can be built as a single bin or multiples as shown)

Bird and Bat Boxes

- [Bird boxes](#) erected on existing trees and large shrubs – these should include boxes for house sparrow, tits and robin style open fronted boxes. Other requirements for specific species may be required for your site based on site surveys.
- [Bat boxes](#) are recommended to be constructed of woodcrete or similar and attached to buildings within the development, as they require less maintenance than boxes attached to trees that often require pruning of branches to allow clear flight paths for bats. Predators often gain easy access to boxes erected on trees and damage them. Other requirements for specific species may be required for your site based on site surveys.