

# Hopkins Ecology

**Site:** Land Between Buckenham Lane and Buckenham Road, Lingwood

**Work Item:** Ecological Appraisal

**Client:** ESCO Developments

**Author:** Dr GW Hopkins CEnv MCIEEM

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## SUMMARY

Hopkins Ecology Ltd was appointed by Brown & Co on behalf of ESCO Developments to prepare a preliminary ecological appraisal of a parcel of Land Between Buckenham Lane and Buckenham Road, Lingwood. The Site comprises part of an arable field, currently under sugar beet, and is ~3.4ha in area.

The nearest component site of The Broads SAC, Broadland SPA and Broadland Ramsar Site, Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI, is 1.9km distant and a second, Cantley Marshes SSSI, is at 2.6km. Within 2km there are five County Wildlife Sites.

The Site comprises part of an arable field with verges of rank grass sward and ruderal vegetation. The eastern and western verges have young trees planted after the late 1980s. Habitats of Principal Importance are absent.

Most protected species are scoped out, other than nesting birds. Other species of conservation concern that may be present are some widespread but declining species that would be present as minor components of larger local populations.

The proposed scheme will mainly impact arable cropland with probably some removal of the rank swards on the east and west boundaries.

Construction phase impacts on nesting birds should be mitigated via timing works to avoid the nesting bird season.

The scheme design should include native species within structural planting, offering resources relevant to local species. Other options within the scheme include bird and bat boxes, and raised gates / access holes for hedgehogs to move across the completed scheme.

Impacts on designated sites are considered to be negligible by virtue of distance. In terms of a Habitats Regulations Assessment screening it is concluded that there will not be impacts on the integrity of international / European sites via the following pathways:

- Recreational disturbance. The nearest international / European site is 1.9km distant and is managed as a nature reserve with visitor infrastructure. The next nearest SSSI is 2.6km distant and lacks public access. Thus, the Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI is designated as the Mid-Yare Broads and Marshes National Nature Reserve (NNR) and is managed by the RSPB as a nature reserve, while the component site of Cantley Marshes SSSI lacks public access.
- Surface water run-off. The scheme is separated from the designated boundaries by 1.9km and there are no surface water connections.

It is concluded that the scheme will not impact designated sites, and that in the specific case of The Broads SAC, Broadland SPA and Broadland Ramsar Site impacts on site integrity can be screened out with sufficient confidence.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Hopkins Ecology Ltd was appointed by Brown & Co on behalf of ESCO Developments to prepare a preliminary ecological appraisal of a parcel of land between Buckenham Lane and Buckenham Road, Lingwood. The Site comprises part of an arable field, currently under sugar beet, and is ~3.4ha in area.

## SITE CONTEXT

- 1.1 The Site is within the North East Norfolk and Flegg National Character Area<sup>1</sup>, which is characterised as a 'a rich agricultural area with small- to medium-scale fields and is mainly unwooded'.

## LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

- 1.2 The following key pieces of nature conservation legislation are relevant to legally protected species (with a more detailed description in Appendix 2):
  - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the Habitats Regulations); and
  - The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended).
- 1.3 Also, the National Planning Policy Framework (MfCLG, 2019<sup>2</sup>) requires local authorities to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity and, where possible, to provide net gains in biodiversity when making planning decisions. A substantial number of species are of conservation concern in the UK. A small number of these species are fully protected under the legislation listed above, but others in England are recognised as Species of Principal Importance under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and reinforced by the National Planning Policy Framework. For these species local planning authorities are required to promote the "*protection and recovery*" via planning and development control. Examples include the widespread reptiles, house sparrows and soprano pipistrelle and noctule bats.
- 1.4 Although the NPPF has an overarching aim of minimise impacts to biodiversity, the majority of species of conservation concern are not specifically recognised by legislation or planning policy. The level of protection afforded to these is undefined and should be considered within the overall aim of minimising impacts on biodiversity.

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<sup>1</sup> Natural England (2014) *National Character Area 79. North-east Norfolk and Flegg*. Available from: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4543880858959872?category=587130>

<sup>2</sup> MfCLG (2019) *National Planning Policy Framework*. Ministry for Communities and Local Government, London.

## 2. METHODS

### PERSONNEL

- 2.1 This ecological assessment was prepared by Dr Graham Hopkins CEnv MCIEEM FRES, who holds full survey licences for great crested newts and bats. He has over 15 years of consultancy experience and has worked on a number of major schemes in Norfolk.

### DATA SEARCH

- 2.2 A data search for a 2km radius around the Site was commissioned from the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service and also included a review of relevant data and information from other sources (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Overview of desk study data sources.

Source	Information
Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service	Designated sites, species of conservation concern; 2km search radius
MAGIC ( <a href="http://magic.defra.gov.uk/">http://magic.defra.gov.uk/</a> )	Additional information on statutory sites, habitats of principal importance and wider countryside information
Greater Norwich Area and South Norfolk DC planning policy documents	Information regarding local planning policies, in particular green infrastructure and site impacts
Local planning applications, manual map-based searching of the South Norfolk DC website	Recent survey data for protected species locally, including negative data
Various literature and web-based searches	Information on local projects and initiatives of potential relevance as well as some species-level data
Historic maps Norfolk ( <a href="http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/">http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/</a> )	Aerial photographs from 1988 and 1946; OS maps from 1880s

### FIELD SURVEY

- 2.3 The walkover survey was on 13 May 2018. The description of habitats was based on the methods of JNCC (2010)<sup>3</sup> and trees were surveyed from ground level for their potential suitability for roosting bats, looking for gaps, cracks and other voids (Collins, 2016<sup>4</sup>). Searches were also made for signs of badgers.

### GUIDANCE

- 2.4 The ecological assessment has been prepared with reference to best practice guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and as detailed in British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity - Code of Practice for Biodiversity and Development.

### CONSTRAINTS

- 2.5 It is not thought that there are any significant constraints to this survey.

<sup>3</sup> JNCC (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Surveys*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

<sup>4</sup> Collins, J. (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists*. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

### 3. DESK STUDY

#### OVERVIEW

- 3.1 The site is part of an arable field on the southern edge of the Lingwood conurbation (Figure 1), with designated sites associated with both wetlands adjacent to the river and the wider countryside to the south.

**Figure 1.** Designated sites within 2km of the centre of the Site.



#### STATUTORY SITES

- 3.2 There is one statutory site within 2km, Yare Broads & Marshes SSSI, 1.9km south. A further SSSI, Cantley Marshes, is 2.6km south. Both are components of international Sites (Table 2):
- International: component sites of the Broadland Ramsar site;
  - European: component sites of the Broadland Special Protection Area (SPA) and The Broads Special Area of Conservation (SAC); and
  - National: Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI and Cantley Marshes SSSI.

**Table 2.** Statutory sites within 2km.

Level	Designation	Location	Features
International	Broadland Ramsar site	1.9km south (Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetland vegetation, fen orchid, a wetland snail and otters</li> <li>Wintering wildfowl (one species of swan, three ducks and two geese)</li> <li>Numerous rare and scarce plants and invertebrates</li> </ul>
European	Broadland SPA	As above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breeding bittern and marsh harrier</li> <li>Wintering wildfowl (two swan species and three ducks)</li> <li>Wintering hen harrier</li> <li>Wintering ruff</li> </ul>
	The Broads SAC	As above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seven types of wetland vegetation</li> <li>Fen orchid</li> <li>Two species of aquatic/wetland snail</li> <li>Otters</li> </ul>
National	Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI	1.9km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shallow lagoons with wetland vegetation and plants</li> <li>Birds</li> <li>Invertebrates</li> </ul>
	Cantley Marshes SSSI	2.6km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grazing marsh with dykes</li> <li>Birds</li> <li>Invertebrates</li> </ul>

### NON-STATUTORY SITES

- 3.3 There are five non-statutory County Wildlife Sites (CWS) within 2km (Table 3), two associated with the River Yare valley, and two in the 'wider countryside' to the south.

**Table 3.** County Wildlife Sites within 2km.

Zone	Name (and CWS reference)	Location	Description
River Yare valley	Farm Carr (2161)	1.8km south-west	Wet woodland and scrub.
	Long Meadow Buckenham Carrs (2054)	1.6km south-east	Wet grassland and carr.
Wider countryside	Highnoon Farm (2058)	1.7km west	Grassland and fen.
	Strumpshaw Wood (2162)	1.0km south-west	Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
	Buckenham Wood (2164)	0.6km south	Ancient and semi-natural woodland.

### GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- 3.4 The Site does not lie within a green infrastructure corridor as identified within the Greater Norwich Area (CBA, 2007<sup>5</sup>, updated 2011<sup>6</sup>) and neither is it within a B-Line ('bee-line') or a 'Living Landscape' as promoted by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

<sup>5</sup> CBA (2007) *Greater Norwich Development Partnership. Green Infrastructure Strategy. A Proposed Vision for Connecting People, Places and Nature.* Available from: <http://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/dmsdocument/201>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/dmsdocument/1590>

## 4. SITE DESCRIPTION

### OVERVIEW

- 4.1 The Site is on the southern edge of the Lingwood conurbation, and comprises part of an arable field (Figure 2). The natural soil type is a 'freely draining slightly acid loamy soil'.

Figure 2. Habitat plan.



### HABITATS

- 4.2 The habitats are described as follows:

- Arable. The field was under sugar beet at the time of survey. Along most of its boundary the crop was continuous to the edge of the adjacent permanent field margins of rank grass and tall ruderals (as described below). The arable herb flora was very sparse and only groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*, pineapple weed *Matricaria discoidea*, common speedwell *Veronica persica*, fumitory *Fumaria officinalis* and scarlet pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis* were noted.
- Improved grass swards. Around the field boundaries were rank grass swards with frequent tall ruderals, occasional brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg, and a few low growing species where the swards are more open:
  - Along the eastern and western boundaries the hedgerows have been removed historically leaving low banks. The most frequent grasses were tall rank species, namely false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata* and sterile brome *Anisantha sterilis* with rye grass *Lolium* and soft brome *Bromus hordeaceus* in places. Squirrel foxtail *Vulpia bromoides* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* were also present in open areas. The tall ruderal components were horseradish *Armoracia rusticana*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, nettle *Urtica dioica*, broad leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, wood dock *Rumex sanguineus*, field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria*, creeping thistle



*Cirsium arvense*, and tansy *Tanacetum vulgare*. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is frequent on the eastern boundary. Lower growing species or those more typical of open swards that were noted were St John's wort *Hypericum* species, garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, silverweed *Argentina anserina*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, red campion *Silene dioica*, common vetch *Vicia sativa* and hairy tare *Vicia hirsuta*. Also present on the eastern verge were hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* and greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*.

- The verges along the northern boundary are adjacent to rear gardens and are rank throughout with sparse brambles. These are dominated by false oat grass with other rank grasses and tall ruderals, with few low growing species.
- On both the eastern and western verges there are planted standard trees, mainly oak *Quercus robur* but also beech *Fagus sylvatica* and lime *Tilia* species. These are young and post-date the late-1980s.

## 5. SCOPING FOR SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

### GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

- 5.1 No records of great crested newt were returned by the data search. There are no ponds marked on OS maps or visible on Google Earth within 250m of the Site. It is therefore concluded that great crested newts are absent locally and not utilising the Site as terrestrial habitat.

### BATS

- 5.2 The data search returned records for barbastelle, serotine, noctule, Daubenton's, Natterer's, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, and brown long-eared bat. The majority are derived from a systematic recording scheme for foraging bats<sup>7</sup>, and none appear to be of roosts.
- 5.3 The trees on the eastern and western boundaries have negligible bat roost potential. The wider Site is likely to be of lower value as foraging habitat, with low numbers of bats utilising the boundary areas only.

### BREEDING BIRDS

- 5.4 Records for a wide range of species were returned, although many are unlikely to be relevant, such as bee eater and other vagrants and wetland species. The reported local assemblage of farmland and urban edge species comprise turtle doves, song thrushes, and bullfinches. House sparrows were also noted in Lingwood during the survey.
- 5.5 The extent of habitat for most species is very low, with scrub and hedgerow being absent. The most likely species are ground nesting birds, although none were noted during the survey. Although the likelihood of nesting birds in the rank swards is low, it cannot be wholly discounted.

### REPTILES

- 5.6 No reptile records were returned and it is thought very unlikely that reptiles are present due to the very limited extent and low quality of potential habitat (the rank swards), and their isolation from semi-natural areas. Reptiles are therefore scoped out.

### MAMMALS

- 5.7 Small mammals are scoped as follows:
- Badgers. There was no evidence of badgers and no records from within 2km.
  - Hedgehogs are known from Lingwood (within 500m) and more widely within 2km. There is very little suitable permanent cover on Site but they may forage in the field boundary areas of rank grass swards.

### INVERTEBRATES

- 5.8 A small number of wetland species were reported from within 2km by the data search. The other 14 species recorded comprise two that are specialist on open grass swards, a habitat that is absent from the Site. The remaining 12 species are widespread but declining moths with the status of Species of Principal Importance (Butterfly Conservation, 2007<sup>8</sup>) that are associated with a range of foodplants and without particular habitat specificity.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.batsurvey.org/>

<sup>8</sup> Butterfly Conservation (2007) *The UK Biodiversity Action Plan - Moths*. Available from: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/files/the-uk-biodiversity-action-plan.pdf>

5.9 It is concluded that rare or scarce species are unlikely to be present but that a small assemblage (one or two species) of widespread but declining moths may breed in the field boundary vegetation.

### **SUMMARY**

5.10 In summary, the species of conservation concern considered likely or potentially present are restricted to widespread but declining species. utilising the roadside verge and other boundary vegetation:

- Foraging bats;
- Nesting birds;
- Hedgehogs, foraging in field verge areas; and
- Widespread but declining moths.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### EVALUATION

#### Habitats

6.1 No Habitats of Principal Importance (following Maddock, 2011<sup>9</sup>) are present.

#### Species

6.2 The species scoped in as potentially present will be components of larger local populations.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER SURVEY

6.3 No further surveys are considered necessary to inform the assessment of the Site.

### IMPACTS

#### Designated Sites

6.4 The nearest non-statutory site is Buckenham Wood CWS, which is ~0.6km distant and lacks public access other than a footpath that traverses it. Other non-statutory sites are more distant and unlikely to be visited.

6.5 The nearest statutory sites are Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI (1.9km south) and Cantley Marshes SSSI (2.6km south), both of which are components of the Broadland Ramsar Site, Broadland SPA and The Broads SAC:

- The Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI are Managed as the Mid-Yare Broads and Marshes National Nature Reserve<sup>10</sup> (NNR), and promoted as a visitor destination as Strumpshaw Fen RSPB Nature Reserve<sup>11</sup>.
- Cantley Marshes SSSI are outside of the RSPB reserve boundary and the NNR, however it is not thought that there is public access via footpaths.

6.6 The scheme will implement a surface water drainage strategy. However, in the context of the Broadland Ramsar Site, Broadland SPA and The Broads SAC it is not thought that this surface water strategy is required to mitigate impacts given that the Site is distant from the designated boundaries and lacks surface water connections.

6.7 In terms of a Habitats Regulations Assessment screening it is concluded that there will not be impacts on the integrity of international / European sites via the following pathways:

- Recreational disturbance. The nearest international / European is 1.9km distant and is managed as a nature reserve with visitor infrastructure, while the next nearest site lacks public access.
- Surface water run-off. The scheme is separated from the designated boundaries by 1.9km and there are no surface water connections.

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<sup>9</sup> Maddock, A. (2011) *UK BAP Priority Habitat Descriptions*. Available from: [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/UKBAP\\_PriorityHabitatDesc-Rev2010.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/UKBAP_PriorityHabitatDesc-Rev2010.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/norfolks-national-nature-reserves/norfolks-national-nature-reserves>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.visitnorfolk.co.uk/Norwich-RSPB-Strumpshaw-Fen-Nature-Reserve/details/?dms=3&venue=0230010>

6.8 It is concluded that the scheme will not impact designated sites and that in the specific case of The Broads SAC, Broadland SPA and Broadland Ramsar Site impacts on site integrity can be screened out with sufficient confidence.

### On-Site

6.9 The scheme layout is shown below (Figure 3), with habitat impacts as follows:

- Construction will be mainly on arable cropland; and
- Access will be across the improved verges on the east and west boundaries.

6.10 The direct impact of habitat loss is considered to be of negligible significance.

**Figure 3.** Scheme layout.



### MITIGATION

6.11 Appropriate mitigation for construction impacts are:

- Clearance of vegetation should be outside of the nesting bird season (March to August). This includes the roadside verge areas and the main field if it develops a sparse sward vegetation suitable for skylarks. Any clearance within this nesting period should be under a watching brief with pre-clearance inspection for nests.

### ENHANCEMENTS

6.12 Soft landscaping is the most appropriate key enhancement for the site, able to provide insect prey for bats and also for the chicks and fledgling birds of many species, such as house sparrows. Thus, a range of native plant types should be planted to provide a range of resources across the seasons from spring to autumn for insect prey, and also fruit and berry producing species in autumn.

6.13 As well as utilising appropriate soft landscaping in the areas of wider greenspace, the boundaries should be reinforced and infilled with suitable hedgerow species.

6.14 Structural planting within the scheme area and boundary planting should:

- Use mainly species typical of local hedgerows (see Norfolk County Council, undated<sup>12</sup>) and appropriate species include: hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, maple, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, elm and hazel *Corylus avellana*, with lesser amounts of crab apple *Malus sylvestris*, hornbeam *Carpinus betulinus* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*, and scattered examples of native privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, oak, wild cherry *Prunus avium* and guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*. Species such as guelder rose and crab apple would offer good nectar sources for pollinating insects at times when other species are not in bloom.
- Where trees of high visual appeal and small stature are required within the developed areas then silver birch *Betula pendula* should be used in preference to non-native white birches; fastigiata hornbeam, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and whitebeams *Sorbus* species are also appropriate species.
- Ornamental planting could use hornbeam or beech, which have benefits for wildlife and good ornamental characteristics.
- In general ornamental planting should include species that offer good blossom for pollinators and tend to avoid non-native evergreen shrubs such as the evergreen honeysuckle *Lonicera nitida* and similar species.

6.15 Additional measures could include:

- Bird boxes on buildings, such as:
  - House sparrow or 'terrace' boxes<sup>13</sup>. These should be on outbuildings at least 2m above ground.
  - Boxes for other hole-nesting species on buildings, with both 'small hole' and open front boxes. It is particularly important that open front boxes are screened by vegetation such as climbers.
- Bat boxes could be erected on buildings as either integral features or externally mounted boxes<sup>14</sup>.
- The scheme should allow for the continued movements of hedgehogs, with garden gates raised to allow them to pass under and / or holes within gravel boards to allow them to pass through<sup>15</sup>. The holes need to be at least 15cm x 15cm.

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<sup>12</sup> Norfolk County Council (undated) *Planting Hedges in Norfolk – Maintaining Regional Character*. Available from:

<http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/pdf/reportsandpublications/HedgeBookletPROOF4.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <http://shopping.rspb.org.uk/rspb-sparrow-terrace-nest-box.html>

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.arkwildlife.co.uk/Category/0/Wildlife\\_Habitats~Bat\\_Boxes.html](https://www.arkwildlife.co.uk/Category/0/Wildlife_Habitats~Bat_Boxes.html)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk/News/outdoor-living/new-hedgehog-friendly-gravel-boards-winter-news-topical-treats-and-more-6511.aspx>

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Habitats of Principal Importance are absent.
- 7.2 Most protected species are scoped out, other than nesting birds. Other species of conservation concern that may be present are some widespread but declining species that would be present as minor components of larger local populations.
- 7.3 The proposed scheme will mainly impact arable cropland with some removal of improved verges for access.
- 7.4 Construction phase impacts on nesting birds should be mitigated via timing works to avoid the nesting bird season.
- 7.5 The scheme design should include native species within structural planting, offering resources relevant to local species. Other options within the scheme include bird and bat boxes, and raised gates / access holes for hedgehogs to move across the completed scheme.
- 7.6 Impacts on designated sites are considered to be negligible by virtue of distance. There are two component sites of The Broads SAC, Broadland SPA and Broadland Ramsar Site in the vicinity, the nearest 1.9km distant. The potential pathways of impact are considered to be recreational disturbance and surface water run-off. Both these pathways are screened out via a Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and it is concluded that there will not be impacts on the integrity of international / European sites.

## 8. APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 4.**  
The west boundary,  
looking south.



**Figure 5.**  
The east boundary  
looking north.





**Figure 6.**  
Crop edge with narrow  
margin and adjacent  
grass verge.

## 9. APPENDIX 2: LEGISLATION SUMMARY

### Non-technical account of relevant legislation and policies.

Species	Legislation	Offence	Licensing
Bats: European protected species	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Reg 41	Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat; deliberate disturbance of bats; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a bat. [The protection of bat roosts is considered to apply regardless of whether bats are present.]	A Natural England (NE) licence in respect of development is required.
Bats: National protection	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a bat in such a place.	Licence from NE is required for surveys (scientific purposes) that would involve disturbance of bats or entering a known or suspected roost site.
Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.1	Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a Schedule 1 species while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; intentionally or recklessly disturb dependent young of such a species [e.g. kingfisher].	No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development.
Great crested newt: European protected species	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) Reg 41	Deliberately capture, injure or kill a great crested newt; deliberate disturbance of a great crested newt; deliberately take or destroy its eggs; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a great crested newt.	Licences issued for development by Natural England.
Great crested newt: National protection	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb it in such a place.	A licence is required from Natural England for surveying and handling.
Adder, common lizard, grass snake slow worm	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.9(1) and S.9(5)	Intentionally kill or injure any common reptile species.	No licence is required. However, an assessment for the potential of a site to support reptiles should be undertaken.
Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	To carry out or permit to be carried out any potentially damaging operation. SSSIs are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Owners, occupiers, public bodies and statutory undertakers must give notice and obtain the appropriate consent under S.28 before undertaking operations likely to damage a SSSI. All public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs.

Species	Legislation	Offence	Licensing
County Wildlife Sites	There is no statutory designation for local sites.	Local sites are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Development proposals that would potentially affect a local site would need to provide a detailed justification for the work, an assessment of likely impacts, together with proposals for mitigation and restoration of habitats lost or damaged.