



## PUBLIC RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

PUBLIC RECORDS SEARCH (SUMMARY)		
Source	Data/Response	Betts comment
Herefordshire Biological Records Centre	Amphibians	<p>The search revealed three records of common frog within the 2km search radius. The most recent record is from 2006. The common frog has protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Bern-A3, HabDir-A5, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b.</p> <p>The search revealed one record of common toad within the 2km search radius. The record is from 2006. The common toad has protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Bern-A3, HabDir-A5, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b.</p> <p>The search revealed one record of smooth newt within the 2km search radius. The record is from 2006. The smooth newt has protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Bern-A3, HabDir-A5, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b.</p> <p>The search revealed three records of great crested newt within the 2km search radius. The most recent records are from 2006. Great crested newts have protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Priority species-2007, Bern A2, England NERC S.41, HabDir-A2, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4b, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b.</p>
	Bats	<p>The search revealed twelve records of unspecified <i>Myotis</i> bat species within the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2015.</p> <p>The search revealed seven records of unspecified pipistrelle species within</p>

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		<p>the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2015.</p> <p>The search revealed two records of barbastelle bats within the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2015.</p> <p>The search revealed four records of brown long-eared bats within the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2013.</p> <p>The search revealed fourteen records of common pipistrelle bats within the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2015.</p> <p>The search revealed two records of Daubenton's bat within the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2004.</p> <p>The search revealed fifteen records of soprano pipistrelle bats within the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2015.</p> <p>The search revealed fourteen records of lesser horseshoe bat within the 2km search radius. The two most recent is from 2015.</p> <p>The search revealed three records of Noctule bat within the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2015.</p> <p>All bats have protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Cons Regs 2010 Sch2, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4b, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4c.</p> <p>All bat species are listed as BAP Priority in Herefordshire.</p>
		

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	Dormouse	<p>The search revealed seven records of dormouse within the 2km search radius. All records are from 1991.</p> <p>Dormice have protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Cons Regs 2010 Sch2, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4b, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4c.</p> <p>The dormouse is listed as BAP Priority in Herefordshire.</p>
	Hedgehog	<p>The search revealed four records of hedgehog within the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2013.</p> <p>Hedgehogs have protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Priority species-2007, Bern A2, England NERC S.41.</p>
	Otter	<p>The search revealed six records of otter within the 2km search radius. The most recent is from 2012.</p> <p>Otters have protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Cons Regs 2010 Sch2, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4b, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4c.</p> <p>The otter is listed as BAP Priority in Herefordshire.</p>
	Reptiles	<p>The public records search revealed two records of adder within the 2km search radius. The most recent record is from 1978.</p> <p>Adders have protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Priority species-2007, Bern A2, England NERC S.41, HabDir-A2, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4b,</p>

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		<p>WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b.</p> <p>The public records search revealed three records of slow-worm within the 2km search radius. The most recent record is from 2013.</p> <p>Slow-worms have protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Priority species-2007, Bern A2, England NERC S.41, HabDir-A2, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4b, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b.</p> <p>The public records search revealed four records of common lizard within the 2km search radius. The most recent record is from 2006.</p> <p>Common lizards have protective status under the following legislation and agreements; Priority species-2007, Bern A2, England NERC S.41, HabDir-A2, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 4b, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5a, WACA-Sch5-sect9. 5b.</p>

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

The site surveyed contains several small groups of fruit trees (apples and damsons) once part of a larger group. Together, all the remaining fruit trees throughout the site may be considered as a small 'traditional' orchard. Traditional orchards are a declining habitat now recognised as being of importance for a wide variety of species, as such, they are now recognised as priority habitats with a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in place. One of the principal reasons for their importance is that as fruit trees mature, they typically develop decaying wood still attached to the trunk and main limbs that provide essential niche habitats for the larval development of a wide range of saproxylic invertebrates dependent on dead and diseased standing wood; many of these specialist invertebrates are now scarce and threatened due to loss of habitat. As many of these trees as possible should be retained and the potential for further losses of these trees is why this report has



been given a cautionary ‘amber’ indication because achieving a “No Net Loss to Biodiversity” outcome is uncertain at present without viewing final development proposals for the site. All trees and hedges to be retained should be protected by a buffer strip during construction activities (including the root-zones), and nowhere within the buffer strip should be used for the storage of machinery or materials.

The detached stone cottage on the upper slope at the east of the site (Target Note 1) and the timber barn/outbuilding (Target Note 3) were assessed for bats. The daytime bat assessment found both to have ‘low’ potential to support roosting bats. In line with current recommendations outlined in the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines this means that the buildings will each need a dusk emergence survey. Should bats be observed using the buildings during the survey, two further surveys will be required and at least one should be a dawn re-entry survey. No further surveys are required at the recently renovated cottage at Target Note 2.

All parts of this site, including the buildings, provide excellent foraging and nesting habitat for a wide range of bird species: including the amber-listed redstart and house martin established as breeding here. In the event of removal of any trees or hedgerows, or demolition/alteration works to any of the buildings, undertake site clearance outside the bird nesting season (usually taken as March to mid-August inclusive in this part of Britain). If this is unavoidable, pre-clearance inspection by a suitably experienced ornithologist will be required to identify whether any nests are present, and ensure appropriate action is taken.

Target Note 10 is all parts of the southern site boundary on steep sloping ground alongside a block of neighbouring woodland which has a community of native grasses and forbs conforming closely to MG9, the *Deschampsia cespitosa* community. MG9 is found on permanently moist, gleyed soils and is typical natural grassland/wood-edge habitat for this geographic locality. This area is a further example of why this report has been given a cautionary ‘amber’ indication because achieving a “No Net Loss to Biodiversity” outcome is uncertain at present without viewing final development proposals for the site.

This site lies close to the River Lugg SSSI and water courses nearby flowing down into the Lugg catchment. The River Lugg supports important breeding populations of Atlantic salmon, brown trout, sea trout, twaite shad, and bullhead. It will be important to ensure a robust and efficient system conforming to currently approved pollution prevention measures is designed and incorporated into the proposed development to ensure no pollution can ever enter nearby water courses flowing into the River Lugg. The River Lugg is part of the River Wye SAC catchment. The Local Authority will be required to produce a Habitat Regulations Assessment to determine whether there are any likely significant effects on this nationally designated site as a result of the proposals.

There will be an opportunity to enhance biodiversity by providing locally sourced native flowering shrubs and native tree species in the grounds and any green spaces of the proposed development. Further enhancement measures should include the

provision of bird, bat and invertebrate boxes at appropriate locations, and ensuring permeability for hedgehogs at the bases of all new perimeter fencing.

It is essential that the ecological recommendations of this report are securely incorporated as formal Conditions within any planning consent the Local Authority is minded to grant, and that their implementation and ongoing care are verified and monitored

### **Notes**

Please note that there is complex and strict legislation protecting many species and habitats. Full details are available on the web sites of Defra and the various statutory authorities, some of which now have direct powers of enforcement. If you are in any doubt about the status of species or habitats on your site, please be sure to contact us before undertaking any site work. You should also make sure that you are aware of, and have allowed for, all national and local planning policies relating to wildlife and nature conservation before proceeding.

This baseline audit may not be sufficient on its own for planning application purposes where notable habitats/species are present or potentially present, particularly where necessary further studies have been indicated in the text.



## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs were taken on 04 June 2021.



**Plate 1:** A general view looking east across the proposed development site. The hazard tape marks the northern boundary of the proposed development.



**Plate 2:** Target Note 1. A view looking east alongside the species-poor hedgerow forming the southern site boundary.





**Plate 3.** Target Note 2. A view looking south towards the oak tree occupying the far south-western corner of the site. Note how the base of the tree is just inside the neighbouring property boundary.



**Plate 4:** Target Note 2. Looking west towards the oak tree occupying the far south-western corner of the site.



**Plate 5:** A general view looking west showing the location of the proposed development in relation to Cage Brook Valley at the bottom of the hill.



**Plate 6: Target Note 2.** A view looking north-west towards the recently renovated cottage. All parts are in excellent condition throughout with no gaps in the exteriors anywhere potentially allowing bats access into the interiors.





**Plate 7: Target Note 2.** A typical view showing the tightly-sealed eaves and soffits around all sides of the recently renovated cottage.



**Plate 8: Target Note 2.** A view of the loft space. Note the new timbers and roof-lining, and the clean floor surfaces.





**Plate 9: Target Note 3.** A view looking north-west towards the timber barn. Note the overlapping timber planks forming the walls that provide potential roosting sites for crevice dwelling bat species.



**Plate 10: Target Note 3.** Most of the interior of the timber barn is open-sided with high levels of light.





**Plate 11: Target Note 3 (part).** A nest of a redstart under construction inside the southern entrance into the timber barn.



**Plate 12: Target Note 4 (part).** A view looking north-east across the garden of the stone cottage at Target Note 3. Note the fine example of an apple tree containing mistletoe.





Plate 13: Target Note 4 (part). A fine specimen of a mature hawthorn in the garden of the stone cottage at Target Note 3.



Plate 14: Target Note 5. Looking north-east along the species-rich hedgerow forming part of the northern site boundary.





**Plate 15: Target Note 6.** A view looking west towards a small group of apple trees near the western site boundary.



**Plate 16: Target Note 7.** A view looking south-west towards a group of apple trees at the centre of the site.





**Plate 17: Target Note 8.** A view looking west towards a group of developing trees and shrubs at the northern site boundary.

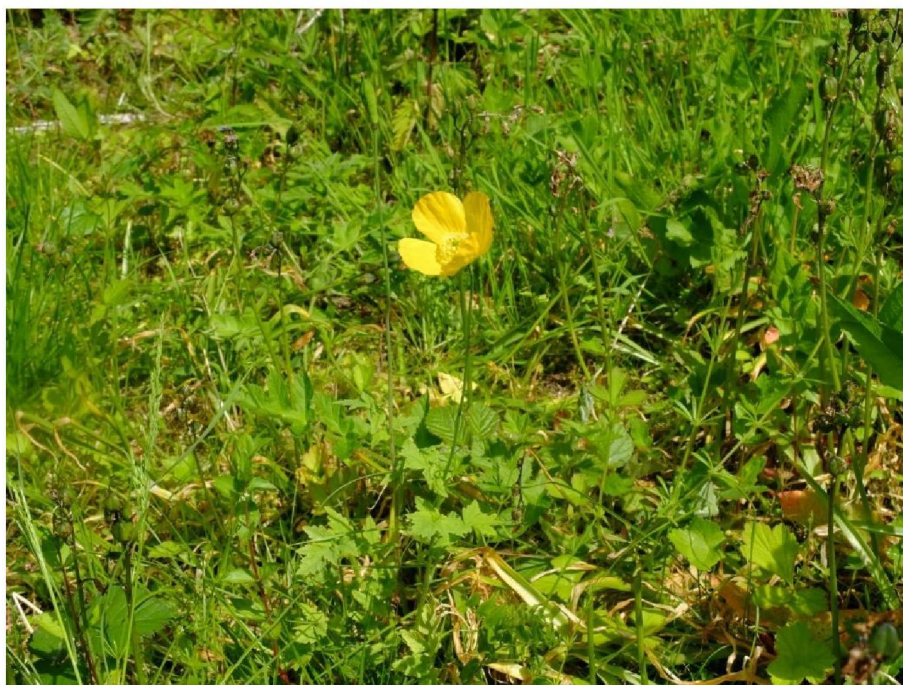


**Plate 18: Target Note 9.** A view looking west towards a group of damson trees towards the west of the site.





**Plate 19: Target Note 10.** Looking south-west towards all parts of the southern site boundary alongside a block of neighbouring woodland which has a community of native grasses and forbs conforming closely to NVC9.



**Plate 20:** A single specimen of the native form of Welsh poppy *Meconopsis cambrica* was found near the western site boundary.



### IMPORTANT

Please be aware that, because the natural environment is dynamic, ecological reports generally have a limited period of currency. Many statutory authorities now regard one year as the maximum time that should elapse before a report will need to be updated: occasionally it may be longer but it may also be less. Where a statutory wildlife licence is to be applied for, a walk-over of the site should be carried out **within three months** of an application being submitted to check that the habitats have not changed significantly since the survey was carried out.

Betts are a scientific practice. Any information relating to legal matters in this report is provided in good faith but does not purport in any way to give any advice on or interpretation of the law whatsoever. Professional legal advice should always be sought. Any designs, specifications, advice, suggestions, or comments written or verbal relating to construction or supervision of building-related work of any kind are provided for consideration only and under no circumstances are to be interpreted as provision of design, management or supervision *sensu* the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.

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Kevin is a life-long natural historian and holds a first class honours degree in countryside conservation from Aberystwyth University, where he was awarded the Aileen Smith Memorial Prize, as well as a masters with distinction in entomology from Harper Adams University. He has extensive experience and knowledge of botanical (including phytosociology) and entomological survey, recording, monitoring, identification and database compilation, plus expertise in fungi and vertebrate fauna. He has a strong understanding of habitats of all kinds, underlying geology and soil types, history of land use and environmental conditions, as well as planning and wildlife legislation and the protective site designation hierarchy in the UK and Europe. Kevin holds class licences for surveying great crested newts and bats. Kevin also worked for many years in illustration and graphic arts including Designer and Illustrator for Worcester Porcelain.

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*Please note that this report is a baseline ecological site audit of factors and features that may be significant for regulatory compliance and biodiversity policies relating to change of use or other disturbance. Such reports may not, on their own, contain sufficient information for a planning application and may require further more detailed study to assure compliance.*

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