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Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Wood Green Common, Haringey

Site	Wood Green Common, Haringey
Project number	138323
Client name / Address	Hilary Bournas, Haringey Council

Version number	Date of issue	Revisions
1.0	31 January 2024	Original

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Declaration of compliance

This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has been undertaken in accordance with British Standard 42020:2013 “Biodiversity, Code of practice for planning and development”. The information which we have provided is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management’s (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.



MKA Ecology Ltd is a CIEEM Registered Practice. This means that MKA Ecology Ltd are formally recognised for high professional standards, working at the forefront of our profession.

Validity of data

Unless stated otherwise the information provided within this report is valid for a maximum period of 24 months from the date of survey. If works at the site have not progressed by this time an updated site visit may be required in order to determine any changes in site composition and ecological constraints.

CONTENTS

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2.	INTRODUCTION	5
2.1.	Aims and scope of Preliminary Ecological Appraisal	5
2.2.	Site description and context	5
2.3.	Proposed development.....	5
2.4.	Legislation and planning policy.....	5
3.	METHODOLOGIES.....	7
	!Unexpected End of Formula	
3.2.	UK Habitat Classification	7
3.3.	Protected and notable species scoping survey	8
3.4.	Surveyor, author and reviewer	9
3.5.	Date, time and weather conditions	9
3.6.	Constraints.....	10
4.	RESULTS	11
4.1.	Desktop study	11
4.2.	UK Habitat Classification	14
4.3.	Protected species scoping survey	17
5.	ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	21
6.	CONCLUSIONS	28
7.	REFERENCES	29
8.	APPENDICES	31
8.1.	Appendix 1: Relevant wildlife legislation and planning policy.....	31
8.2.	Appendix 2: UK Habitat Classification species list	41
8.3.	Appendix 3: Site photographs	43
8.4.	Appendix 4: Bird and bat box recommendations.....	48

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2023 MKA Ecology Limited was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of Wood Green Common, Haringey. The appraisal included a habitat survey, protected species scoping survey and desktop study of protected and notable sites and species in the area. A site visit was undertaken on 24 March 2023.

The Site is located in the Wood Green area in the Borough of Haringey and is comprised of a modified grassland urban park, with tarmac paths, a children's playground, a hawthorn hedgerow, introduced shrub planting, lines of trees and a few scattered trees. The Site is used mostly for sports and recreation. The proposed development is for the construction of a multi-use games area (MUGA) pitch, and associated soft landscaping.

The Site is 0.5km from the Alexandra Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and is directly adjacent to the New River Site of Important Nature Conservation (SINC).

The following ecological constraints were identified at the Site with recommendations made as follows;

- **Designated Sites:** The New River SINC is directly adjacent to the northern corner of the Site, this SINC supports a range of wildlife including important fish assemblages. Given the proximity pollutants and dust could potentially disperse into the river during construction. Mitigation measures to avoid pollution of the SINC should be documented within a Construction and Ecology Management Plan (CEMP).
- **Habitat:** The hawthorn hedgerow that lines the site boundary is a Habitat of Principal Importance under the NERC Act (2006). The hedgerow should be retained and protected throughout works and measures to protect the hedgerow should be documented in a CEMP.
- **Plants:** London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI) species green alkanet is present on site. This should be carefully removed from the site and disposed of as controlled waste. Measures for the careful removal and disposal of green alkanet should be included in a CEMP.
- **Invertebrates:** The deadwood features on site provide important habitat for invertebrates particularly stag beetles. Should any of the deadwood features require removal from Site this should be undertaken under ecological supervision and detailed within a CEMP.
- **Fish:** The adjacent New River SINC contains important fish assemblages. Given the proximity of the SINC any pollutants that could potentially disperse into the river during construction will negatively impact fish. Mitigation measures to avoid pollution of the SINC should be documented within a CEMP.
- **Breeding birds:** There is a high risk of breeding birds in the hedgerows, introduced shrub and trees onsite. Any vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird

season (September – February inclusive). Should these timings not be possible, a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist should take place prior to any clearance.

- **Bats:** Eight of the trees within the lines of trees were identified to have low potential for roosting bats. The trees and hedgerows onsite also provide suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats. A sensitive lighting strategy should be developed for the Site to ensure that the trees and hedgerows remain unlit.
- **Hedgehogs:** The hedgerow and introduced shrub offer foraging opportunities for hedgehogs. Should these habitats require clearance for development then this should be undertaken under ecological supervision and included within a CEMP.

A number of enhancements for biodiversity at the Site should be incorporated post development. This includes the enhancement of the hawthorn hedgerow to a species-rich native hedgerow, the implementation of rain gardens, native planting across the Site and the creation of deadwood features. A number of generalist bird boxes and bat boxes should also be included in the scheme post-development. Details on the creation and management of these habitats post-development and the location of the features should be outlined in a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP).

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Aims and scope of Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

In March, 2023 MKA Ecology Limited was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal at Wood Green Common, Haringey by Haringey Council in order to support a planning application for a new multi-use games area (MUGA) sports pitch.

The aims of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal were to:

- Undertake a desktop study to identify the extent of protected and notable species and habitats within close proximity of the Site;
- Prepare a habitat map for the Site;
- Identify evidence of protected species/species of conservation concern at the Site;
- Assess the potential impacts of the proposed development, using existing plans;
- Detail recommendations for further survey effort where required; and
- Detail recommendations for biodiversity enhancements.

2.2. Site description and context

The survey area is shown on the map in

Figure 1. Within this report this area is referred to as the Site or Wood Green Common. The site is located within the Wood Green area in North London (central grid reference TQ 30596 90282) and falls under the jurisdiction of Haringey Borough Council. The site is used as a park and is primarily used for sports and recreational use.

2.3. Proposed development

The proposed development involves the construction of a multi-use games area (MUGA) sports pitch along with soft landscaping within the common.

2.4. Legislation and planning policy

This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has been undertaken with reference to relevant wildlife legislation and planning policy.

Relevant legislation considered within the scope of this document includes the following:

- The Environment Act 2021;
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
- The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000;
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

Further information is provided in Appendix 1, including levels of protection granted to the species considered in Section 3.3.

In addition to obligations under wildlife legislation, the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) updated on 21 December 2023 requires planning decisions to contribute to conserving and enhancing the local environment. Further details are provided in Appendix 1.

Given that the Site is located within London, consideration of the London Plan 2021 has been given. The London Plan contains a number of policies relating to biodiversity, a brief summary of which are set out below:

- Policy G1 Green Infrastructure;
- Policy G5 Urban Greening;
- Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature;
- Policy G7 Trees and woodlands; and

- Policy G8 Food growing.

The London Borough of Haringey has produced an adopted Local Plan Strategic Policies 2013-2026 document which covers a number of policies relating to biodiversity and habitat conservation, including:

Policy SP13: Open Space and Biodiversity

“... All development shall protect and improve sites of biodiversity and nature conservation, including private gardens through its:

- *Contribution to wildlife and ecological habitats and, where possible, include green and brown roofs, rainwater harvesting, green walls, bird and bat nesting/roosting opportunities;*
- *Protection, management and maintenance of existing trees and the planting of new trees where appropriate; and*
- *Protection, enhancement and creation of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)*

A new Local Plan is currently in consultation and is proposed to run from 2022 to 2037.

Where relevant these are discussed in further detail in Section 5.

3. METHODOLOGIES

This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has been undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition (CIEEM, 2017).

3.1. Desktop study

A data search was conducted for the Site and the surrounding area within 2km. Data was retrieved from the sources listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Sources of data for desktop study

Organisation	Data collected	Date collected
Multi-agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) www.magic.gov.uk	Information on local, national and international statutory protected areas.	30/01/2024
Greenspace Information Greater London (GIGL)	Information on protected and notable sites and species within 2km of the Site (TQ 30596 90282).	13/04/2023

Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photography	Information on habitats and connectivity between the Site and the surrounding landscape	30/01/2024
Plantlife Important Plant Areas	Information on important plant areas within 2km of the Site	30/01/2024
Buglife Important Invertebrate Areas	Information on important invertebrate areas within 2km of the Site	30/01/2024

Haringey Borough Council planning portal was also referred to in order to understand the scope of further development surrounding the Site.

3.2. UK Habitat Classification

Habitats were surveyed using the standardised UK Habitat classification and mapping methodology (UK Habs) (Butcher et al, 2020). Data were recorded onto a Samsung Tablet in a Geographic Information System (GIS), in this instance QField, following a modified UK Habs Colour Mapping Pallet. Dominant plant species were observed and recorded within each habitat type. The plant species nomenclature follows that of Stace (2019).

The DAFOR scale is used to describe the relative abundance of species. The scale is shown in Table 2. It is important to note that where a species is described as rare this description refers to its relative abundance within the Site and is not a description of its abundance within the wider landscape. Therefore, a species with a rare relative abundance within the Site may be common within the wider landscape.

Table 2: DAFOR scale

DAFOR code	Relative abundance
D	Dominant
A	Abundant
F	Frequent
O	Occasional
R	Rare

3.3. Protected and notable species scoping survey

As part of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, an assessment of the potential for the habitats on site, or within the zone of influence of the proposed development, to support protected or notable species was made. This assessment was based on the quality, extent and interconnectivity of suitable habitats,

along with the results of the desktop study detailed in Section 3.1. This includes Species of Principal Importance as listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006), and Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) as per Stanbury *et al.*, 2021 (see Appendix 1).

Protected and notable species considered within the protected species scoping survey for Wood Green Common, Haringey include the following:

- Plants and fungi: bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and juniper *Juniperus communis*
- Invertebrates: grey dagger *Acronicta psi*, small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* and stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*
- Fish: European eel *Anguilla anguilla*, river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, brown trout *Salmo trutta* subsp. *fario*.
- Amphibians: Natterjack toad *Epidalea calamita*, great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* and common toad *Bufo bufo*.
- Reptiles: Adder *Vipera berus*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, grass snake *Natrix helvetica helvetica*.
- Birds: With special reference to species listed under Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Species of Principal Importance.
- Mammals: Badger *Meles meles*, bats (all species), water vole *Arvicola amphibius*, otter *Lutra lutra*, hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, harvest mouse *Micromys minutus*, polecat *Mustela putorius* and European beaver *Castor fiber*.

In each case the likelihood of presence of these protected species in the zone of influence of the proposed development was classified as being either confirmed, high, moderate, low or negligible.

- **Confirmed:** The species is confirmed during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, previous survey effort or recent records.
- **High:** Habitats are available which are highly suitable for this species and there are records within the desktop study. The surrounding areas also provide widespread opportunities for the species which are well connected to the Site.
- **Moderate:** Some suitable habitat available for the species although not of optimum quality. Species is present with the desktop study.
- **Low:** Some suitable habitat available for the species but this is low value and possibly of small scale or with poor connectivity. No, or very few, records returned in the desktop study.
- **Negligible:** No suitable habitat available for the species, or very little poor-quality habitat.

This protected species scoping survey is designed to assess the *potential* for presence or absence of a particular species or species group, and does not constitute a full survey for these species.

3.4. Surveyor, author and reviewer

The survey was undertaken by Henry Wyn Jones Graduate Ecologist and Rory Roche ACIEEM Senior Ecologist at MKA Ecology Limited, the report was written, by Eleanor Richards, Graduate Ecologist at MKA Ecology Limited. Henry has one years' experience undertaken Preliminary Ecological Appraisals; Eleanor has a year's experience writing Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Reports. The report has been reviewed by Rory Roche ACIEEM, Senior Ecologist at MKA Ecology Ltd. Rory has 6 years' experience as a consultant ecologist.

3.5. Date, time and weather conditions

See Table 3 below for details of the date, time and prevailing weather conditions recorded during the site visit for the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

Table 3: Date, time and weather conditions of survey visit

Date	Time of survey	Weather conditions*
24/03/2023	9:00am	Wind: 4 Cloud: 80% Temp: 9°C Rain: light rain

*Wind as per Beaufort Scale / Cloud cover given in Oktas.

3.6. Constraints

A single visit cannot always ascertain the presence or absence of a protected species. However, an assessment is made of the likelihood for protected species to occur based on habitat characteristics and the ecology of each species. Where there is potential for protected species, additional survey work may be required to ascertain their presence or absence.

Data on species records obtained from local biological records centres are sometimes only available at low spatial resolutions and are constrained by the voluntary nature of the contributions and what has been chosen to be submitted as records. While these records provide a useful indication of species recorded in the local area, in particular protected or notable species, the data is not necessarily an accurate reflection of species assemblages or abundance in the vicinity.

The assessment was undertaken outside the optimum period of April to the end of September. However, within the scope of the study it was possible to identify key habitats present and assess their likelihood of supporting a greater range of species.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Desktop study

An ecological desktop study was completed for the site and the surrounding 10km for internationally designated sites, and the surrounding 2km for nationally designated sites and species records. Data provided by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) identified some UK and European protected species, Species and Habitats of Principal Importance (as listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006), and species of conservation concern within 2km of the Site. It should be noted that this is not a comprehensive list of the distribution or extent of the local flora and fauna of conservation importance. These species records are discussed in greater detail in the protected species scoping survey section (Section 4.3 below).

Details of internationally designated sites identified within this search are displayed in Table 4 below. These consist of one Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and one Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.

Table 4: International designated sites within 10km of Wood Green Common

Site name	Area (ha)	Distance and direction	Reasons for selection
Epping Forest SAC and SSSI	1,628.87	8.5km E	An extensive area of Atlantic acidophilous beech forest in the north-eastern part of the habitat's UK range. Important for bryophytes, including rare species. The long history of pollarding, and resultant large number of veteran trees, ensures that the site is also rich in fungi and dead-wood invertebrates. Supports many Red Data Book and Nationally Scarce invertebrate species. Widespread and frequent presence of stag beetle contributes to its designation.
Lee Valley SPA and Ramsar	451.30	4.3km E	Designated for internationally important numbers of breeding and wintering wildfowl, especially gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> and shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> , and for wintering bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> .

Details of statutorily designated sites identified as part of the desktop study are displayed in Table 5 below. These consist of one Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Table 5: Statutorily designated sites within 2km of Wood Green Common, Haringey

Site name	Area (ha)	Distance and direction	Reasons for selection
Alexandra Palace and Park	62.66	500m W	- Diverse range of habitats for an urban area including grassland, scrub, mature woodland, lakes, hedgerows and mature trees. - Supports locally rare plant species including imperforate St John's-wort <i>Hypericum maculatum</i> - Supports a notable population of invertebrates particularly lepidoptera including white-letter hairstreak <i>Satyrrium w-album</i> - Supports important populations of reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals

Details of non-statutorily designated sites identified as part of the desktop study are displayed in Table 6 below. These consist of 23 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS), given the large number of SINCS within a 2km radius only the SINCS in close proximity to the Site have been listed in the Table below.

Table 6: Non-statutorily designated sites within 2km of Wood Green Common, Haringey

Site name	Area (ha)	Distance and direction	Reasons for selection
New River	30.41	32m NW	- Chalk springs that provide clean drinking water - Supports a range of wildlife from breeding Schedule 1 species such as kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> and locally important fish and invertebrate assemblages. - Supports rare flora including lesser water-parsnip <i>Berula erecta</i>, bur-reed <i>Sparganium emersum</i>, stream water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i> and river water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe fluviatile</i>

Site name	Area (ha)	Distance and direction	Reasons for selection
Wood Green Reservoirs	3.89	150m NE	- Reservoirs that have been colonised by wet willow woodland and ruderal vegetation - Support a diverse bird population and important feeding areas for bats
Alexandra Park	76.59	175m W	- Park that contains large areas of grassland, scrub, woodland and mature trees - Supports locally rare plants including imperforate St John's wort - Supports a notable population of invertebrates particularly lepidoptera including white-letter hairstreak
Nightingale Gardens and Avenue Gardens	2.47	270m N	Public garden which supports a number of mature trees and scrub layer
Palace Gardens	0.68	1.05km SW	Designated for supporting a range of habitats including woodland, scrub and grassland.

The Site is surrounded by a number of roads and residential housing. Alexandra Palace Local Nature Reserve (LNR), an area of greenspace that supports mature woodland, lakes and grassland lies 0.5km west of the Site. The New River Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is 30m north of the site; this SINC provides connectivity between Alexandra Park LNR and Wood Green Common. The Site has limited connectivity with other designated sites within the local area due to the extent of the urban infrastructure.

The Site lies within several Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zones (Natural England, 2019). Only aviation proposals, planning applications for quarries, large livestock and poultry units, general combustion processes in excess of 50MW, and proposals that would have a discharge of water or liquid waste greater than 20m³ per day require LPA consultation with Natural England. No consultation is therefore necessary for the proposed development.

The Site does not lie within any Important Plant Areas (IPA) or Important Invertebrate Areas (IIA) although it is close to the Thames Estuary North IIA. IPAs and IIAs are nationally or internationally significant places for the conservation of plants and invertebrates respectively, and the habitats upon which they rely, whilst more specific information regarding the importance of specific areas within an

IIA is not currently available, consideration of invertebrates will be given with regard to the proposed development of the Site.

4.2. UK Habitat Classification

The Site was found to comprise modified grassland, tarmac paths, introduced shrub, a children's playground, native hedgerow, scattered trees, lines of trees and areas of fencing. More detailed species lists, along with their relative abundance, can be found in Appendix 2. The UK habitat classification survey map is provided in

Figure 1, at the end of this section. Descriptions of the habitat types present along with dominant species compositions are provided below.

Developed land; sealed surface u1b

There are tarmacked paths throughout the Site (Photograph 1, Appendix 3) as well as a sealed surface pergola area (Photograph 2, Appendix 3).

Suburban/mosaic of developed/natural surface u1d

847 – *Introduced shrub*: Areas of introduced shrub are present within the eastern parcel of the Site (

- **Photograph 3**, Appendix 3). Species include rose *Rosa sp.*, ornamental privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium*, wisteria *Wisteria sp.*, pampas grass *Cortaderia selloana*, Mexican orange *Choisya x dewitteana* and Wilsons honeysuckle *Lonicera ligustrina var yunnanensis*.
- 823 – *Children’s playground*: A children’s play area is present in the western corner of the site comprising a mixture of safety play surface, bare ground and vegetated mounds (Photograph 4, Appendix 3).

Built linear features u1e

The playground area and boundaries of the park have fences surrounding them.

Modified grassland g4 (106 – mown, 806 – urban park)

The modified grassland at Wood Green Common is in poor condition with an average of less than six species per metre squared due to a lack of varied sward height and over 10% cover of bare ground (Photograph 5 and Photograph 6, Appendix 3). The dominant species are perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and annual meadow-grass *Poa annua*, along with wall barley *Hordeum murinum*, dandelion species *Taraxacum sp.*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*.

Native hedgerow h2a

A moderate condition monospecific hedge comprising hawthorn is present on all fenced boundaries of the eastern portion of the site. The hedgerow lacks a 1m buffer of undisturbed habitat along the length, as adjacent grassland is either impacted by high levels of disturbance or mown to a short sward. In addition, the hedgerow is thin and fragmented (Photograph 7, Appendix 3).

Scattered trees 32

Six scattered trees are present at the site of moderate and poor condition. Species consist of silver birch *Betula pendula* and non-native species. All of the scattered trees failed condition assessments of

having over half of trees in a group that are mature and supporting ecological niches such as deadwood or dense ivy.

Lines of trees

Two lines of trees are present at the site. For 0.56km along the edges of the north and east of the site wraps a line of mature London Plane *Platanus x hispanica* trees which represent an important ecological feature at the site (Photograph 8, Appendix 3). On the south western boundary is a line of young native trees comprised of species such as horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*.

Figure 1: UK Habitat Classification map of Wood Green Common, Haringey



Target Notes: TN1- Deadwood feature. Invasive Species: INV1- Green alkanet (Photograph 9, Appendix 3)

4.3. Protected species scoping survey

Plants and fungi

The data search returned records of two rare and notable plant species bluebell which is listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and juniper which is a priority species listed on Section 41 of the NERC Act (2005). The grassland on site is regularly managed and mown short, so the likelihood of the Site supporting protected or notable species is considered to be **negligible**.

The data search returned numerous records of invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the London Invasive Species Initiative, including, Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, butterfly bush *Buddleja davidii*, cotoneaster and green alkanet *Pentaglottis semperivens*. Green alkanet was identified (Photograph 9, Appendix 3) in the grassland in the north-eastern of the wider site boundary of the Common so the presence of invasive species being present within the wider site boundary is **confirmed**.

Invertebrates

The data search returned a number of records for protected invertebrate species including white-letter hairstreak, small heath and stag beetles. There are a number of deadwood features present (Photograph 10, Appendix 3) within the wider site boundary that provide important habitat features for invertebrates, particularly stag beetles. Stag beetles are a London Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species and have been recorded 0.35km from the Site. Stag beetle larvae live in deadwood for up to seven years and use it as their primary food source. Given the proximity of the records of stag beetles in the data search and the provision of suitable habitat on site for them it is considered that there is **moderate** likelihood of stag beetles being present on site.

Fish

The data search did not return any records of protected or notable fish species, and there is no aquatic habitat present on site. However, the Site is in close proximity to the New River SINC which contains a locally important population of fish. The likelihood of fish being impacted from development at the site is considered to be **moderate**.

Amphibians

Numerous records of amphibians were returned in the data search most of these records were historic from 1999, there were two records of great crested newt returned in the data search the most recent of which was returned in 2010 1.4km north-west of the site. A search of Defra's MAGIC website returned no European Protected Species Licences granted for great crested newt within 2km of the Site (licence period June 2015-May 2020).

There are no waterbodies on site and the grassland is regularly managed so would not be suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. There is one waterbody within 250m of the site in the Alexandra Palace LNR, this has no connectivity to the Site due to the roads and railway line creating physical barriers to dispersal. The likelihood that the site supports amphibians is therefore **negligible**, as such this species group is not considered further in this report.

Reptiles

The data search returned five records of slow worm, one record of grass snake and one record of common lizard all of these records are historic with the most recent record from 2009. The grassland on site is regularly mown and so does not provide suitable habitat for reptiles. The Site has no connectivity to other greenspace due to the roads creating a physical barrier to dispersal. The likelihood of the site supporting reptiles is therefore **negligible**, as such this species group is not considered further.

Birds

Eleven species were recorded during the site visit. These species are shown in Table together with their conservation status. It is important to note that this is not a full inventory of species for the site.

Table 7: Bird species recorded during site visit at Wood Green Common, Haringey

Common name	Systematic name	S1 W&CA ¹	BoCC ² Status	S41 SPI ³	Local PrSp ⁴
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	-	Green	-	-
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	-	Amber	-	-
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	-	Amber	-	-
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	-	Red	-	Yes
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	-	Red	-	Yes
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	-	Green	-	-
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	-	Green	-	-
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	-	Amber	Yes	Yes
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	-	Green	-	-
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	-	Green	-	-

¹ Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (see Appendix 1)

² Birds of Conservation Concern (see Appendix 1)

³ Section 41 (NERC Act 2006) 'Species of Principal Importance' (see Appendix 1)

⁴ Local Priority Species

The data search returned records of a large number of bird species, many of which are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Section 41 Species of Principal Importance of the NERC Act (2006), and birds that are red-listed on the birds of conservation concern list. These records included redwing *Turdus iliacus*, brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, and starling which was recorded on site.

The hedgerows, lines of trees and introduced shrub within the wider site boundary of the Common provides suitable nesting habitat for common nesting bird species. It is unlikely that these would provide suitable habitat for notable assemblages of protected species, and so the likelihood of notable assemblages of protected species being present on site is **negligible**. However, the likelihood of the Site supporting breeding passerine birds is **high**.

Bats

The data search returned numerous records of 10 bat species within 2km of the Site. A search of Defra's MAGIC website returned one European Protected Species Licence granted for bats (licence period October 2018 - November 2018) within 2km of the Site. The licence was granted 1.1km north of the Site.

Eight of the trees within the wider site boundary of the Common were noted to support features of low bat roost potential. There is no appropriate habitat on site for roosting bats, the likelihood of roosting bats being present on site is **negligible**. However, the likelihood of roosting bats being present within the wider ownership boundary is considered to be **low**.

The lines of trees and hedgerows within the wider ownership boundary form potential foraging and commuting habitat for local bat populations and the Site and wider site boundary is well connected to suitable foraging habitat in the wider landscape through The New River SINC and Alexandra Park LNR. The likelihood of foraging and commuting bats being present on site is considered to be **high**.

Badgers

No records of badgers were returned in the data search, there is no suitable habitat for badgers present on site or within the wider site boundary. The likelihood of badgers being present on site is considered to be **negligible**.

Other mammals

The data search returned a number of records for hedgehog within 2km of the site, with the most recent record from 1.5km north-west in 2021. The closest record is from 0.1km east of the site in 2000. The hedgerows and introduced shrub within the wider site boundary of the site offer some foraging opportunities for hedgehogs however, the grassland on site does not offer any suitable habitat for hedgehogs. The likelihood of hedgehogs being present onsite is considered to be **low**.

A single record of water vole was returned in the data search 0.9km south-west of the Site. There are no suitable habitats for this species on site and so the likelihood of water voles being present is considered to be **negligible**.

5. ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section outlines key ecological issues for consideration, recommendations for further work and ecological enhancements where appropriate.

Off-site habitats

The northern corner of Wood Green Common borders a section of the Metropolitan grade New River SINC which supports a range of wildlife as well as rare flora, and locally important fish and invertebrate assemblages. Given the proximity of the New River to the wider site boundary, pollutants and dust associated with construction works could potentially disperse into and impact the SINC. It is recommended that a Construction and Ecology Management Plan (CEMP) be produced, detailing mitigatory measures to be implemented in order to avoid impacts on the nearby SINC during the proposed works. The contents of the CEMP should include:

- Measures to minimise dust arising, when necessary, including the use of dust control machinery and wet machinery; and
- Measures to prevent pollution/contamination events through surface run-off

Recommendation 1

Produce a Construction and Ecology Management Plan (CEMP) detailing measures by which the proposed works will minimise disturbance to the nearby SINC.

On-site habitats

The hawthorn hedgerow that lines the eastern boundary of the wider site is classified as a Habitat of Principal Importance under the NERC Act (2006). This hedgerow should be retained and protected within any development works planned and should be enhanced following development. It is recommended that measures to protect this hedgerow during development are documented and outlined within a CEMP.

Recommendation 2

Produce a CEMP detailing measures by which the hedgerow will be protected during works. The hedgerow should also be enhanced post development.

Plants

Green alkanet was identified within the grassland in the north-eastern corner of the wider site. Green alkanet is listed on London's Invasive Species Initiative (LISI). All instances of this invasive species should be removed from the site, with arisings treated as controlled waste and disposed of appropriately

in order to avoid their spread into the wild. It is recommended that measures to remove this species be documented and outlined in a CEMP.

Recommendation 3

Produce a CEMP detailing measures for the controlled removal and disposal of the invasive green alkanet.

Invertebrates

A number of records of stag beetles were returned in the data search and the dead wood features present within the wider site boundary provide important habitat features for this invertebrate. It is recommended that these dead wood features be retained at the site. Should the removal of any deadwood features be required in order to facilitate development, this should be undertaken under ecological supervision and detailed within a CEMP.

Recommendation 4

Retain all deadwood features at the Site. If deadwood features need to be removed to facilitate development, measures for their careful removal under ecological supervision will be outlined in a CEMP in order to minimise impacts on stag beetles.

Fish

Although there is no aquatic habitat on site, a locally important fish assemblage is present within the adjacent New River SINC. Given the proximity of the New River to the wider site boundary, pollutants and dust associated with construction works could potentially disperse into and impact fish population within the SINC. It is recommended that a Construction and Ecology Management Plan (CEMP) be produced, detailing mitigatory measures to be implemented in order to avoid impacts on the nearby SINC, and by extension on the fish population, during the proposed works. The contents of the CEMP should include:

- Measures to minimise dust arising, when necessary, including the use of dust control machinery and wet machinery; and
- Measures to prevent pollution/contamination events through surface run-off

Recommendation 5

Produce a CEMP detailing measures by which the proposed works will minimise impacts on the fish population within the SINC.

Birds

The hedgerows, lines of trees and introduced shrub at the wider site offer breeding habitat for common nesting bird species.

All wild birds, their active nests and eggs are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence deliberately, or recklessly, to kill or injure any wild bird or damage or destroy any active birds' nest or eggs.

Scheduling vegetation removal works between the months of September and February inclusive (i.e. outside of the bird season) would avoid impacts on breeding birds.

Where vegetation clearance works are required during the breeding bird season (between the months of March and August inclusive), such works can only proceed following the completion of a nesting bird check undertaken by an experienced ornithologist. Any active birds' nest identified during this check must be protected from harm until the nesting attempt is complete. This will require a buffer to be left around the nest, the size of which will depend upon the species involved (as a general rule, this will be 10m in all directions around the nest). Any buffers established as a result of the initial nesting bird check must be subjected to a second check after the original nesting attempt is completed, before such areas can be removed during the breeding bird season.

Recommendation 6

Schedule vegetation clearance works between the months of September and February inclusive to avoid impacts on breeding birds. Where this timing is not feasible works should be preceded by a nesting bird check.

It is strongly recommended that any potential nesting bird habitat is cleared outside the breeding bird season in order to avoid potentially lengthy delays if nests are found during nesting bird checks.

Bats

Eight trees within the lines of trees at the edges of the wider site were noted to have low bat roost potential. All bat species are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Schedule 2 of Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Bats are also Species of Principal Importance listed on Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006). It is an offence to deliberately disturb a bat, damage or destroy a bat roost, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat at a roost, or obstruct access to a roost.

The lines of trees and hedgerow form potential foraging and commuting routes for local bat populations, and there is good connectivity to habitat in the wider landscape through the New River SINC and Alexandra Park LNR.

Bat roosting behaviour, commuting and foraging activity can additionally be dramatically affected by artificial lighting (BCT, 2018). It is strongly recommended that any proposed exterior lighting around the

multi-use games area is designed and managed appropriately to ensure that the area remains suitable for foraging bats. A sensitive lighting scheme should be developed to allow suitable roosting and foraging areas for bats. No additional lighting should illuminate the trees and hedgerows on site. The sensitive lighting strategy should be developed following the guidelines set out in the BCT Guidance Note 08/18 (BCT, 2018). These measures should be secured through a planning condition.

Recommendation 7

Light pollution from any lighting should be minimised both during and after the construction phase. A sensitive lighting scheme should be developed and secured through a planning condition to allow for suitable roosting and foraging areas for bats within the site.

Other mammals

The hedgerows and introduced shrubs in the wider site offer some foraging opportunities for hedgehog. Should the removal of these habitats be required in order to facilitate the proposed development, this should be undertaken under ecological supervision and detailed within a CEMP.

Recommendation 8

If the hedgerow and introduced shrub need to be cleared to facilitate development, measures for their clearance under ecological supervision will be outlined in a CEMP in order to minimise impacts on hedgehogs.

Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement

Following the issue of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; see Appendix 1), all planning decisions should aim to maintain and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. Ecological enhancements should aim to deliver biodiversity gains for the proposed development site. Policy SP13 (Open space and biodiversity) of Haringey Borough Council Local Plan sets out a prerogative for developments to enhance biodiversity at the site.

There are a number of opportunities to enhance the biodiversity through habitat creation at the Site, these include:

- Enhancing the hawthorn hedgerow through infilling the gaps using four or more species to create a species-rich hedgerow that would provide increased ecological value to birds, bats and invertebrates.
- The development proposals include the creation of rain gardens. Rain gardens are standing water features and Sustainable Urban Development Systems (SUDS) that offer the opportunity to manage rainwater from hard surfaces. They have the potential to be extremely beneficial to wildlife such as pollinating invertebrates. The rain gardens should be planted with a range of native aquatic species that can tolerate occasional temporary flooding. It is recommended that

MKA Ecology Ltd review the planting plans for the rain gardens in order to maximise their potential to attract wildlife.

- The planting of native pollinator species is recommended to be included across the Site within the landscape proposals. This will help to increase native plant species diversity, provide more ecologically valuable habitats, and result in a greater diversity of other taxonomic groups.
- The creation of new deadwood features at the Site will be particularly valuable for invertebrates as a foraging resource, which in turn benefits a range of other species such as hedgehogs. This could include rotting roots or tree stumps spread around various locations. The drilling of holes or cutting of notches can add even more value for invertebrates.

Details on creating and maintaining these habitats post-development should be detailed within a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP).

Recommendation 9

Enhance the hawthorn hedge into a species-rich hedge and incorporate rain gardens, other native planting and deadwood into the design for Wood Green Common, Haringey. Details on creating and maintaining these habitats and features post-development should be detailed within a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP).

Enhanced opportunities for breeding birds should be incorporated into the design scheme. Bird boxes should be mounted on trees and fences at the site. It is recommended that there is focus on a variety of generalist woodland bird species such as blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, great tit *Parus major* and robin *Erithacus rubecula*, through the provision of generalist bird boxes. Examples of suitable boxes are shown in Appendix 4 together with information concerning the correct siting of these enhancement features.

Recommendation 10

A minimum of ten generalist bird boxes should be installed at the site.

The Site and wider landscape has the potential for use by foraging bats. With this in mind, enhanced opportunities for roosting bats should also be provided at the site through installation of bat boxes. Examples of suitable boxes are shown in Appendix 4 together with information concerning the correct siting of these enhancement features.

Recommendation 11

Provisions should be made for roosting bats at the site post-development, to include a minimum of five bat boxes mounted in trees at the site.

Summary of recommendations

Table 8 below summarises the recommendations made within this report, and specifies the stage of the development at which action is required. Colour coding of cells within the table is as follows:

Key:

	No action required for this species group at this stage
	Action required (see notes for details)
	Level of action required will be determined following the further survey work

Table 8: Summary of recommendations at Wood Green Common, Haringey

Species	Pre-planning action required?	Pre-construction action required?	Construction phase mitigation required?	Enhancements proposed?
Designated Sites	CEMP for adjacent SINC	Follow measures in CEMP	Follow measures in CEMP	No
Habitats	Retain hedgerows and CEMP for hedgerows	Protect retained hedgerows follow measures in CEMP	Protect retained hedgerows follow measures in CEMP	Native planting and habitat creation and enhancement
Plants	CEMP for controlled removal of green alkanet	Follow measures in CEMP to remove green alkanet	Follow measures in CEMP to remove green alkanet	No
Invertebrates	Retain deadwood or CEMP for careful removal of deadwood	If deadwood is to be removed follow measures in CEMP for the removal under ecologist supervision	If deadwood is to be removed follow measures in CEMP for the removal under ecologist supervision	Creation of additional deadwood features

Species	Pre-planning action required?	Pre-construction action required?	Construction phase mitigation required?	Enhancements proposed?
Fish	CEMP for adjacent SINC	Follow measures in CEMP	Follow measures in CEMP	No
Bats	Bat boxes and native planting, and sensitive lighting scheme	Incorporate sensitive lighting scheme	Sensitive lighting strategy	Bat boxes and native planting
Birds	Bird boxes and native planting	No	Timing of works for vegetation removal OR further survey work	Bird boxes and native planting
Hedgehogs	Retain hedgerow and introduced shrub, if these are to be removed CEMP for supervised clearance of these habitats	Follow measures in CEMP for supervised clearance of hedgerows and introduced shrub	Follow measures in CEMP for supervised clearance of hedgerows and introduced shrub	Deadwood features and native planting

6. CONCLUSIONS

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken at Wood Green Common, Haringey in order to support a planning application for the construction of a multi-use games area pitch and associated soft landscaping. The site currently comprises of hardstanding paths, a children's playground, areas of introduced shrub planting, modified grassland, hedgerows, lines of trees and a few scattered trees.

The main ecological constraints at the Site are possible impacts on the adjacent New River SINC, and the fish population found in the SINC, the onsite hedgerows and the presence of the invasive non-native green alkanet. A Construction and Ecology Management Plan (CEMP) is required to outline mitigation measures to ensure that the SINC and associated fish population is protected from pollutants and dust during development, that the hedgerows are retained and protected during development, and that the green alkanet is removed carefully from the Site.

Ecological constraints on invertebrates and hedgehogs will only be a concern should the hedgerows, introduced shrub, and deadwood features need to be cleared in order to facilitate development. Should any of these features require clearance, it should be done under the supervision of an ecologist and outlined in the CEMP.

Measures should also be taken to avoid impacts on breeding birds by ensuring that any vegetation clearance is carried out outside of the breeding bird season or by completing a nesting bird check prior to works commencing. A sensitive lighting scheme should be developed to allow the Site to continue to be used by foraging, commuting and roosting bats.

A number of enhancements for biodiversity at the Site should be incorporated post development. This includes the enhancement of the hawthorn hedgerow to a species-rich native hedgerow, the implementation of rain gardens, native planting across the Site and the creation of deadwood features. A number of generalist bird boxes and bat boxes should also be included in the scheme post-development. Details on the creation and management of these habitats post-development and the location of the features should be outlined in a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP).

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8. APPENDICES

8.1. Appendix 1: Relevant wildlife legislation and planning policy

Please note that the following is not an exhaustive list, and is solely intended to cover the most relevant legislation pertaining to species commonly associated with development sites.

Subject	Legislation (England)	Relevant prohibited actions
Amphibians		
Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Natterjack toad <i>Epidalea calamita</i>	Schedule 2 of Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)	- Deliberately capture or kill, or intentionally injure; - Deliberately disturb or recklessly disturb them in a place used for shelter or protection; - Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place; - Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a place used for shelter or protection; and - Possess an individual, or any part of it, unless acquired lawfully.
	Schedule 5 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	
Reptiles		
Common lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> Adder <i>Vipera berus</i> Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i> Grass snake <i>Natrix helvetica helvetica</i>	Part of Sub-section 9(1) of Schedule 5 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Intentionally kill or injure individuals of these species (Section 9(1)).

Subject	Legislation (England)	Relevant prohibited actions
Sand lizard <i>Lacerta agilis</i> Smooth snake <i>Coronella austriaca</i>	Full protection under Section 9 of Schedule 5 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	• Deliberately or intentionally kill, capture (take) or intentionally injure; • Deliberately disturb; • Deliberately take or destroy eggs; • Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place or intentionally damage a place used for shelter; or • Intentionally obstruct access to a place used for shelter.
<i>Birds</i>		
All wild birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	• Intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests.
'Schedule 1' birds	Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	• Disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 whilst it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or • Disturb the dependent young of any wild bird listed on Schedule 1.
<i>Mammals</i>		
Bats (all UK species)	Schedule 2 of Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)	• Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat; • Deliberately disturb a bat (disturbance is defined as an action which is likely to: (i) Impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; (ii) Impair their ability to hibernate or migrate; or (iii) Affect significantly the local

Subject	Legislation (England)	Relevant prohibited actions
	Schedule 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	distribution or abundance of the species); • Damage or destroy a bat roost; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat at a roost; or • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a roost. In this interpretation, a bat roost is "<i>any structure or place which any wild [bat]...uses for shelter or protection</i>". Legal opinion is that the roost is protected whether or not the bats are present at the time.
Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Under Section 3 of the Act: • Damage a sett or any part of it; • Destroy a sett; • Obstruct access to, or any entrance of, a sett; or • Disturb a badger when it is occupying a sett. A sett is defined legally as any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger (Natural England 2007).
Hazel dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Schedule 2 of Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)	• Intentionally or deliberately capture or kill, or intentionally injure;

Subject	Legislation (England)	Relevant prohibited actions
	Schedule 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	- Deliberately disturb or intentionally or recklessly disturb them in a place used for shelter or protection; - Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place; - Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a place used for shelter or protection; and - Possess an individual, or any part of it, unless acquired lawfully.
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	Schedule 2 of Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)	- Deliberately capture, injure or kill an otter; - Deliberately disturb an otter in such a way as to be likely to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of otters or the ability of any significant group of otters to survive, breed, rear or nurture their young; - Intentionally or recklessly disturb any otter whilst it is occupying a holt; - Damage or destroy or intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to an otter holt.
	Section 9(4)(b) and (c) of Schedule 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	
Water vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	Section 9 of Schedule 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	- Intentionally kill, injure or take water voles; - Possess or control live or dead water voles or derivatives; - Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection; or - Intentionally or recklessly disturb water voles whilst occupying a structure or place used for that purpose.

Subject	Legislation (England)	Relevant prohibited actions
<i>Crustaceans</i>		
White-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Section 9(1) of Schedule 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Intentionally kill, injure or take white-clawed crayfish by any method.

The Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act 2021, sets out key legislation after the UK's exit from the European Union. With the largest changes to green regulations in decades, the Act includes the establishment of an Office for Environmental Protection, targets on air pollution, water quality and biodiversity, and the enshrinement of the 25 Year Environment Plan in law. The Act also makes provisions for a mandatory 10% net gain in biodiversity for all developments covered by the Town and Country Planning Act and it also introduces a statutory requirement for Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Full legislation text available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

Full legislation text available at: [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(as amended\) \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1003/contents/made)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Full legislation text available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents).

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Full legislation text available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents)

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Full legislation text available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents)

Section 41 of Natural Environments and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

Full legislation text available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/41](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/41)

Many of the species above, along with a host of others not afforded additional protection, are listed on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC Act 2006) requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list (including 56 habitats and 943 species) has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England and draws upon the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) List of Priority Species and Habitats.

The S41 list should be used to guide decision-makers such as local and regional authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercise of their normal functions – as required under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006. The duty applies to all local authorities and extends beyond just conserving what is already there, to carrying out, supporting and requiring actions that may also restore or enhance biodiversity.

Schedule 9 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

In addition to affording protection to some species, The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) also names species which are considered invasive and require control. Section 14 of the Act prohibits the introduction into the wild of any animal of a kind which is not ordinarily resident in, and is not a regular visitor to, Great Britain in a wild state, or any species of animal or plant listed in Schedule 9 to the Act. In the main, Schedule 9 lists non-native species that are already established in the wild, but which continue to pose a conservation threat to native biodiversity and habitats, such that further releases should be regulated.

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

Full legislation text is available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/3/contents>

Under this legislation it is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to wild mammals, including by crushing and asphyxiation. It largely deals with issues of animal welfare, and covers all non-domestic mammals including commonly encountered mammals on development sites such as rabbits, foxes and field voles.

Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)

This is a quantitative assessment of the status of populations of bird species which regularly occur in the UK, undertaken by the UK's leading bird conservation organisations. It assesses a total of 245 species against a set of objective criteria to place each on one of three lists – Green, Amber and Red – indicating an increasing level of conservation concern. There are currently 70 species on the Red list, 103 on the Amber list and 72 on the Green list. The classifications described have no statutory implications, and are used merely as a tool for assessing scarcity and conservation value of a given species.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Full text is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>.

The revised NPPF was updated on 21 December 2023 setting out the Government's planning policies for England and the process by which these should be applied. The policies within the NPPF are a material consideration in the planning process. The key principle of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, with sustainable development defined as a balance between economic, social and environmental needs.

Policies 174 to 188 of the NPPF address conserving and enhancing the natural environment, stating that the planning system should:

- Contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes;
- Recognise the wider benefits of ecosystem services; and
- Minimise impacts on and provide net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

Furthermore, there is a focus on re-use of existing brownfield sites or sites of low environmental value as a priority, and discouraging development in National Parks, Sites of Specific Scientific Interest, the Broads or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty other than in exceptional circumstances.

Where possible, planning policies should also:

- Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
- Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Local Planning Policy

Given that the Site is located within London, consideration of the policies relating to biodiversity within the London Plan 2021 has been given. These include policies G1 and G5 to G8, as detailed below:

- Policy G1 Green infrastructure
 - a) *London's network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment, should be protected and enhanced. Green infrastructure should be planned, designed and managed in an integrated way to achieve multiple benefits.*

- b) *Boroughs should prepare green infrastructure strategies that identify opportunities for cross-borough collaboration, ensure green infrastructure is optimised and consider green infrastructure in an integrated way.*
 - c) *Development Plans and area-based strategies should use evidence, including green infrastructure strategies, to:*
 - 1. *identify key green infrastructure assets, their function and their potential function*
 - 2. *identify opportunities for addressing environmental and social challenges through strategic green infrastructure interventions.*
 - d) *Development proposals should incorporate appropriate elements of green infrastructure that are integrated into London's wider green infrastructure network.*
- **Policy G5 Urban greening**
 - a) *Major development proposals should contribute to the greening of London by including urban greening as a fundamental element of site and building design, and by incorporating measures such as high-quality landscaping (including trees), green roofs, green walls and nature-based sustainable drainage.*
 - b) *Boroughs should develop an Urban Greening Factor (UGF) to identify the appropriate amount of urban greening required in new developments. The UGF should be based on the factors set out in within the London Plan, but tailored to local circumstances. In the interim, the Mayor recommends a target score of 0.4 for developments that are predominately residential, and a target score of 0.3 for predominately commercial development (excluding B2 and B8 uses).*
 - c) *Existing green cover retained on site should count towards developments meeting the interim target scores set out in (B) based on the factors set out in the London Plan*
- **Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature**
 - a) *Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) should be protected.*
 - b) *Boroughs, in developing Development Plans, should:*
 - 1. *use up-to-date information about the natural environment and the relevant procedures to identify SINCs and ecological corridors to identify coherent ecological networks*
 - 2. *identify areas of deficiency in access to nature (i.e. areas that are more than 1km walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough SINC) and seek opportunities to address them*
 - 3. *support the protection and conservation of priority species and habitats that sit outside the SINC network, and promote opportunities for enhancing them using Biodiversity Action Plans*
 - 4. *seek opportunities to create other habitats, or features such as artificial nest sites, that are of particular relevance and benefit in an urban context*

5. *ensure designated sites of European or national nature conservation importance are clearly identified and impacts assessed in accordance with legislative requirements.*
- c) *Where harm to a SINC is unavoidable, and where the benefits of the development proposal clearly outweigh the impacts on biodiversity, the following mitigation hierarchy should be applied to minimise development impacts:*
 1. *avoid damaging the significant ecological features of the site*
 2. *minimise the overall spatial impact and mitigate it by improving the quality or management of the rest of the site*
 3. *deliver off-site compensation of better biodiversity value.*
 - d) *Development proposals should manage impacts on biodiversity and aim to secure net biodiversity gain. This should be informed by the best available ecological information and addressed from the start of the development process.*
 - e) *Proposals which reduce deficiencies in access to nature should be considered positively.*
- **Policy G7 Trees and woodlands**
 - a) *London's urban forest and woodlands should be protected and maintained, and new trees and woodlands should be planted in appropriate locations in order to increase the extent of London's urban forest – the area of London under the canopy of trees.*
 - b) *In their Development Plans, boroughs should:*
 1. *protect 'veteran' trees and ancient woodland where these are not already part of a protected site*
 2. *identify opportunities for tree planting in strategic locations.*
 - c) *Development proposals should ensure that, wherever possible, existing trees of value are retained. If planning permission is granted that necessitates the removal of trees there should be adequate replacement based on the existing value of the benefits of the trees removed, determined by, for example, i-tree or CAVAT or another appropriate valuation system. The planting of additional trees should generally be included in new developments – particularly large-canopied species which provide a wider range of benefits because of the larger surface area of their canopy.*
 - **Policy G8 Food growing**
 - a) *In Development Plans, boroughs should:*
 1. *protect existing allotments and encourage provision of space for urban agriculture, including community gardening, and food growing within new developments and as a meanwhile use on vacant or under-utilised sites*
 2. *identify potential sites that could be used for food production.*

The London Borough of Haringey has produced an adopted Local Plan Strategic Policies 2013-2026 document which covers the policies relating to biodiversity and habitat conservation. In particular Policy SP13: Open Space and Biodiversity states:

“... All development shall protect and improve sites of biodiversity and nature conservation, including private gardens through its:

- *Contribution to wildlife and ecological habitats and, where possible, include green and brown roofs, rainwater harvesting, green walls, bird and bat nesting/roosting opportunities;*
- *Protection, management and maintenance of existing trees and the planting of new trees where appropriate; and*
- *Protection, enhancement and creation of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).*

A new Local Plan is currently consultation and is proposed to run from 2022 to 2037.

Local Priority Habitats and Species

The London Biodiversity Action Plan, led by the London Biodiversity Partnership, identified a total of 214 priority species that are under particular threat in London. The full text is available here: <https://www.gigl.org.uk/london-bap-priority-species/>

8.2. Appendix 2: UK Habitat Classification species list

Please note that these lists are intended to be incidental records and do not constitute a full botanical survey of the site. Relative abundance is given using the DAFOR scale. Please see Table 2 for details.

Modified Grassland

Common Name	Systematic Name	Relative abundance
Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	D
Annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	D
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	A
Wall barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	A
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>	F
White leaved clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	F
Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	F
Red dead nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	O
Dove's foot crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	O
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media agg.</i>	O
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	O
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	O
Daffodils	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	O
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	O
Lesser celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	O
Green alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	O

Introduced Shrub

Common Name	Systematic Name	Relative abundance
Mexican orange	<i>Choisya x dewitteana</i>	F
Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	F
Ornamental privet	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	F
Rose	<i>Rosa sp.</i>	F
Wilson's honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera ligustrina var yunnanensis</i>	F

Common Name	Systematic Name	Relative abundance
Wisteria	<i>Wisteria sp.</i>	F

Trees

Common Name	Systematic Name	Relative abundance
London Plane	<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	D
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	O
Cherry	<i>Prunus sp.</i>	O
Elm	<i>Ulmus sp.</i>	O
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	O
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	O

Native hedgerow

Common Name	Systematic Name	Relative abundance
Hawthorn	<i>Cretageous monogyna</i>	D

8.3. Appendix 3: Site photographs

Photograph 1: Tarmac paths through modified grassland



Photograph 2: Pergola area



Photograph 3: Introduced shrub



Photograph 4: Children's playground



Photograph 5: Modified grassland



Photograph 6: Modified grassland



Photograph 7: Hawthorn hedgerow



Photograph 8: Line of trees



Photograph 9: Green alkanet



Photograph 10: Deadwood features



8.4. Appendix 4: Bird and bat box recommendations

Bird box recommendations

A large number of bird boxes are available, designed for the specific needs of individual species. These are normally either designed to be mounted onto trees, external walls or integrated into a building. In general, bird boxes should be mounted out of direct sunlight and prevailing winds, out of reach of predators, with suitable foraging habitat for the subject species close by. Bird boxes should also be left up over winter as they can provide useful roosting sites for birds in bad weather.

Nest boxes should be cleaned at the end of each bird breeding season. All nesting material and other debris should be removed from the box. It should then be scrubbed clean with boiling water to kill any parasites (avoid using any chemicals). Once the box is clean, it should be left to dry out thoroughly. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to disturb breeding birds and therefore annual cleaning is best undertaken from October to January when there is no risk of disturbing breeding birds.

Generalist boxes

Boxes to attract garden birds and woodland breeding species such as tits, nuthatch, redstart and pied flycatcher can be placed in gardens, orchards, woodlands and a wide variety of other habitats. The species of birds attracted to the box will depend upon the size of the entrance hole (see table below).

Boxes should be fixed two to five metres up a tree or wall, out of the reach of predators such as domestic cats. Unless there are trees or buildings, which give permanent shelter, it is best facing between north and east.

General		
Example	Description	Picture
Schwegler No. 1B General Purpose Nest box	www.schwegler-nature.com Suitable for various garden and woodland birds, created with different sized entrance holes to avoid competition between species. Other variations (e.g. 2M) can be free hanging, to deter predators.	

Entrance Hole	Species
26 mm	Blue-, Marsh-, Coal- and Crested Tit, possibly Wren. All other species are prevented from using the nest box due to this smaller entrance hole
32 mm	Great-, Blue-, Marsh-, Coal- and Crested Tit, Redstart, Nuthatch, Pied Flycatcher, Tree and House Sparrows.
Oval	Redstart; also used by species that nest in the diameter 32 mm boxes. However, because more light enters the brood chamber, it is preferred by Redstarts.

Starling boxes

Starlings are often found in areas where there are established pasture fields close to their roosting site, with further foraging provided by hedges close by.

The nest box should be placed at soffit/eaves level, or at a similar height on a tree, and should not be situated closer than 3m to the ground. Although Starlings do not defend a territory, boxes should be spaced at least several metres apart.

The ideal nest box for starlings is approximately 400mm (h) x 180mm (w) x 180mm (d) with a hole approximately 45mm in diameter.

Starling		
Example	Example	Example
Woodstone starling nest	https://www.birdfood.co.uk/woodstone-starling-nest-box.html May also be attractive to woodpeckers but only as a roost site	

Schwegler Starling box 3S	www.schwegler-nature.com Can be mounted on buildings or trees, ideally out of direct sunlight.	
3SV Schwegler Nest Box with Predator Protection – 45mm	https://www.nhbs.com/3sv-schwegler-nest-box-with-predator-protection With a large, 45mm, entrance hole, this nest box is ideally suited to support starlings and can be mounted on buildings or trees. This box is made from a wood-concrete mix and has a removable front panel that aids cleaning.	

Bat box recommendations

A wide range of bat boxes are available to suit a variety of species and design requirements. Bat boxes can be mounted externally on buildings, built directly into the wall structure or mounted on trees (dependent on box design).

Boxes are more likely to be inhabited if they are located where bats feed and it may help to place the box close to features such as tree lines or hedgerows, which bats are known to use for navigation and can provide immediate cover for bats leaving the roost. Boxes should be placed in areas sheltered from strong winds and are exposed to the sun for part of the day. Access to any bat roosting features should not be lit and should also be at a reasonable height to avoid predation (at least 2m if possible, preferably 4-5m).

Example	Description	Picture
Schwegler General Purpose Bat Box 2F	www.schwegler-nature.com Height: 33 cm Weight: approx. 3.8 kg External diameter: 16 cm Installation: Hanging A general purpose box, suitable for all species.	
Schwegler General Purpose Bat Box 2F with Double Front Panel	www.schwegler-nature.com Height 33 cm Weight: approx. 4.1 kg External diameter: 16 cm Installation: Hanging This box is suitable for crevice dwellers, such as Nathusius' pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat and common pipistrelle.	
Schwegler 1FF	www.schwegler-nature.com Dimensions: 14(d) x 27(w) x 43(h) cm Weight: 9.9 kg Installation: Hanging This box is suitable for crevice dwellers, such as Nathusius' pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat and common pipistrelle. This box minimises temperature fluctuations in spring and autumn and is self-cleaning.	



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