

Bradbury Farm
Crick
Monmouthshire
NP26 5UW

A **Preliminary Ecological**
Appraisal By:



Just
MAMMALS
Limited
Ecological Consultancy

On **Behalf Of:**



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 A suitability assessment of various sites in Monmouthshire is being carried out by Monmouthshire County Council, for the possible creation of Gypsy Roma Traveller Sites, to be included within the Replacement Local Development Plan. An area of land within Bradbury Farm, just off Crick Road, Crick, forms part of the suitability assessment. To support the proposals, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the land was conducted in January 2024, by an ecologist and an assistant.
- 1.2 Bradbury Farm is situated approximately 2km north-east of Caldicot. The site subject to survey comprises a single agricultural field of approximately 1.5 ha. The field is bounded by roads on two sides; the M48 motorway to the north, and Crick Road to the west. At the north end of the site stretches a thin woodland band, somewhat connected to hedgerow boundaries which run along the western and southern sides of the field. The eastern field boundary comprises a newly planted hedgerow. The surrounding landscape is typically rural and primarily characterised by agricultural land. There is a solar farm to the east, separated from the site by Ballan Wood.
- 1.3 Protected species and their potential presence on site were considered as part of the assessment. If no impacts to the woodland, trees or hedgerow on site are anticipated, then no further survey is required at this time. It is recommended that these features on site are retained and safeguarded as part of the proposals, as this will help in retaining ecological value on site. If impacts to the features cannot be avoided, then further survey will be required, by way of assessment to determine suitability of trees for roosting bats, and likely absence/presence of dormice within the northern woodland and connecting hedgerow. Recommendations are provided in this report.
- 1.4 Breeding birds are likely to be present on site, due to the suitability of habitat. Breeding birds and all results of their breeding activities are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Although the majority of onsite hedgerows, woodland and tree lines are to be retained, removal of a section of hedgerow may be required for access. Any removal of vegetation must be timed outside of the breeding season for birds, and likely under a method statement in order to account for the potential presence of hazel dormouse.
- 1.5 Enhancements for biodiversity and green infrastructure are required to meet the planning policy as indicated by Planning Policy Wales 11 and Future Wales, policy documents. This report makes recommendations to provide enhancements for biodiversity on site, including the installation of bird and bat boxes, as well as planting of hedgerows.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 A field at Bradbury Farm in Crick, Monmouthshire is being considered by Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) as part of their Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) Site Identification. To support the work, Just Mammals Limited was commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) of the site, as part of the suitability assessment. The site subject to survey comprises a single agricultural field centred on National Grid Reference ST 48988 89845, standing at an altitude of 15m Above Ordnance Datum. An initial assessment of the site was undertaken in 2020, this assessment was updated by a survey on the 12th January 2024.
- 2.2 This report makes recommendations concerning the ecological value of the site, as well as the need for further survey work as appropriate. The different types of habitat were assessed, and the potential presence of protected species, such as badger (*Meles meles*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), reptiles and amphibians, as well as bats and nesting birds was considered. Section 7 species such as hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) were also considered.

3 Survey Team Experience

- 3.1 Undertaking the assessment was Phoebe Williams. A Geography graduate from the University of Exeter, and a former trainee at Gwent Wildlife Trust she has completed a Natural Talent trainee programme, studying Hemiptera at the National Museum of Wales. Practical experience includes survey work for dormice, botany, newts, reptiles, and invertebrates. Phoebe has undertaken an MSc in Wildlife and Conservation Management at the University of South Wales. She is an ecologist with Just Mammals Limited. Phoebe holds a Great crested newt (NRW) S092295/1 (expiry 26th February 2025) and is an accredited agent on NRW bat licence S091842/2 (expiry 10th November 2024).

- 3.2 Assisting with the survey effort was Catherine Povey. After graduating from Swansea University and UCL Catherine worked in medical research and as a practitioner. Since the first year of her degree when she studied Zoology and Botany, she has retained a keen interest in the natural world and has worked with Bannau Brycheiniog National Park on a number of projects, including peat conservation. She is employed by Just Mammals Limited as a Trainee Ecologist and has conducted a variety of surveys with the company.

4 Survey Methodology

- 4.1 A PEA was conducted on 12th January 2024. Details of the survey and weather conditions are provided in Table 1. Prior to the site visit, a desktop study was undertaken, which involved a standard search area of a 2km radius from the site (using a central grid reference), using the MAGIC website. Details of statutory sites designated for nature conservation were obtained. A record search was also commissioned from South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc).
- 4.2 The assessment comprised a survey employing the Phase 1 habitat survey methodology. This is a standardised technique for classifying and mapping British habitats. All areas within the site were inspected and assessed for indicators of ecological value, including the presence and/or field signs of any protected or rare habitats and species. The site was walked over, recording all plant species and features onto a custom-made recording sheet. Habitats and notes were drawn onto a map of the survey site and photographs were taken. A coloured Phase 1 habitat map was produced (Appendix III).
- 4.3 Assessment for the presence or potential absence of other protected species, including hazel dormouse, badger, reptiles and amphibians, was undertaken by considering the features of the site. Such features include grassland and dense vegetation. The potential suitability of the site for nesting birds was also considered.

5 Site Description

- 5.1 Bradbury Farm is situated approximately 2km north-east of Caldicot. The site subject to survey comprises a single pastoral field of approximately 1.5 ha. The field is bounded by roads on two sides; the M48 motorway to the north, and Crick Road to the west. To the north of the site stretches a thin woodland band, somewhat connected to hedgerow boundaries which run along the western and southern sides of the field. The eastern field boundary comprises a newly planted hedgerow. The surrounding landscape is typically rural and primarily characterised by agricultural land. There is a solar farm present to the east, separated from the site by Ballan Wood.

6 Desktop Study

- 6.1 A record search was commissioned from South East Wales Biological Records Centre (SEWBRc) (unique reference 0234-699) to ascertain whether protected species have been recorded at or close to the site. The search revealed no records of priority species at the site.
- 6.2 The data set revealed protected species records within 2km of the site. The record search is summarised below:
- Mammals (terrestrial) accounted for 85 records, species include; hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) approximately 250m and 300m away, harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*) approximately 270m away, stoat (*Mustela erminea*) and brown hare (*Lepus europeus*) approximately 280m away and badger (*Meles meles*) approximately 300m and 350m away. Within 500m of the site are records for common and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* respectively), noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) and brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*). Within 500m of the site on the M48 there are records of road mortalities - five for badger, one each for otter (*Lutra lutra*) and polecat (*Mustela putorius*);
 - Within 2km of the site birds accounted for 329 records including birds on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List. Many of these were recorded at Nedern Brook Wetlands SSSI. Outside of the SSSI and within 500m of the site, species of note include; hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*), lesser spotted woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*), swift (*Apus apus*), grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) and kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*);

- Reptiles and amphibians accounted for 9 records, the closest reptile record to the site being grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) within 200m. Species recorded within 2km include adder (*Vipera berus*), common toad (*Bufo bufo*), common frog (*Rana temporaria*);
 - Invertebrates accounted for 69 records within 2km of the site. Within 250m are records for long-winged conehead (*Conocephalus fuscus*) and brindled beauty (*Lycia hirtaria*). All other records are over 500m away from the site;
 - Vascular plants include 180 records, There are records for wood spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*) and spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*) within 250m. A stand of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is recorded less than 500m north-east of the site. All other records are more than 500m away.
- 6.3 By consulting Magic Map, it was determined that no part of the site contains, or is within, any statutory sites of nature conservation interest, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Concern (SAC), National Nature Reserve (NNR) or Local Nature Reserves (LNR) etc. Nedern Brook Wetlands, Caldicot SSSI is less than 300m away and is the only statutory site with 2km of the site.
- 6.4 The record search also revealed Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within 1km of the site under survey. These are listed below with significance of the sites also included, where information is available:
- Priest Wood – Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) approximately 1km north-east of the site;
 - Little Wood – ASNW approximately 800m north-west of the site;
 - Sunny Bank – ASNW approximately 500m north-east of the site;
 - Ballan Wood – a combination of ASNW and a Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS) less than 100m east of the site;
 - A National Resources Wales (NRW) Heathland and Grassland Priority Area approximately 1 km north of the site;
 - The site falls within the B-Lines network for Wales, a non-statutory designation concerned with the impact of development on pollinators.
- 6.5 Given the scale of the development and the distance of sites of conservation interest from the site subject to assessment, it is considered unlikely that proposals will impact designated sites within the surrounding area at this time.

7 Survey Constraints

- 7.1 The comprehensiveness of any ecological assessment may be limited by the nature of the site visit, it being a single snapshot of the site at any point in time. This report cannot therefore be considered to provide a fully comprehensive analysis of the ecological interest of the site. However, it does provide an ecological assessment of the site for supporting habitats and species on the day of the visit and highlights areas where further survey work may be required.

8 Survey Results

- 8.1 Details of the conditions under which survey was conducted is given in Table 1. Wind speeds given employ the Beaufort scale.

Table 1: Summary of Survey Activity and Weather Conditions

Survey Type and Location	Dates	Timing	Weather Conditions
Day time visual inspection, botanical survey and habitat assessment, including protected species assessment	12/01/2024	12.30 – 13.00 hours Greenwich Mean Time	Air temperature: 5°C Cloud cover: 8/8 oktas Wind speed: F3, gentle breeze Conditions: Dry
Surveyors	Phoebe Williams and Catherine Povey		

- 8.2 The site was divided into six different types of habitat for recording purposes. Table 2 below provides details of the various habitats and the dominant species for each of them.

Table 2: Summary of Phase 1 Habitat Notes

Habitat	Phase 1 Classification	Description of Area and Typical Species
Type 1	B6 Poor semi-improved grassland	The majority of the land is made up of this habitat and comprises a low diversity of forb species. Grassland sward is short and grazed by sheep.

		Species present include annual meadow grass (<i>Poa annua</i>), creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), and clover (<i>Trefoil sp.</i>).
Type 2	A1.1.1 Broadleaved woodland	The habitat to the north of the site is a small strip of woodland, immediately north of which stretches the M48 motorway. Species present include sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), hard fern (<i>Blechnum spicant</i>), ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>), ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>).
Type 3	A3.1 Scattered trees	A small number of mature trees stand at the site boundaries. Species include pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>). Target note 1: Pedunculate oak with potential roost feature
Type 4	J2.1.2 Intact hedgerow, species poor	This habitat stretches along the eastern field edge. The hedgerow is <2m wide and <2m in height. It is a newly planted hedgerow. Species include; rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i>), blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) and hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>).
Type 5	J2.2.2 Defunct hedgerow	The land is bounded on the southern and western sides by this habitat. The hedgerow is gappy and defunct, generally <1m wide and <2m in height. Species include hawthorn, hazel and holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>).
Type 6	J2.4 Fence	Post and barbed wire fencing runs along the easterly and southerly boundaries with timber fencing bounding the northerly and westerly sides.

- 8.3 A coloured Phase 1 habitat map was produced (see Appendix III). A total of 28 species of plants were recorded during the survey, these are listed in Appendix IV.
- 8.4 Ecological assessment included identification of the potential for protected species to be present on site. Reptiles make use of open, rank habitats which provide a mixture of open areas and cover. Habitat on site comprises short sward grassland that is grazed by sheep.
- 8.5 During the terrestrial part of their lifecycle, amphibians have similar habitat requirements to reptiles, with both species' groups favouring unmanaged, rank grassland, scrubby vegetation and variation in vegetative architecture. No amphibians were noted during the survey. No ponds are present, ruling out the possibility for them to breed on site. Since great crested newts are known to use terrestrial habitat up to 500m from their breeding ponds, the wider landscape must also be taken into consideration. Review of aerial maps show a single pond approximately 450m to the south-west of the site. No other ponds are present within 500m of the site.
- 8.6 Bats use trees as well as buildings for roosting, where they will exploit gaps, cracks and crevices in the bark. An extensive survey of trees and their suitability for bats was not undertaken, as this is beyond the scope of this preliminary assessment. However, a single tree (Target Note 1) was noted as having Potential Roost Features (PRF). Features include thick ivy stems. Features were not inspected during the PEA.
- 8.7 Hazel dormice are associated with well-defined, connected hedgerows that link to further suitable habitat elsewhere in the landscape. No evidence of dormice was recorded during the survey. Most of the hedgerow on site is gappy and species poor. On site hedgerows and the woodland to the north are connected to Ballan Wood, situated just east of the site.
- 8.8 No evidence of badger was noted during the survey, such as setts, footprints, hairs, latrines or other indicators of their presence. Badgers are highly mobile and can range great distances, favouring sloping ground in wooded areas where they can dig their setts and forage away from disturbance. No dense areas of woodland are present on site. Ballan Wood is present to the east of the site, less than 100m away.
- 8.9 Survey was undertaken outside of the nesting season, as such, no nesting activity was observed. Habitats on site, namely hedgerow and scattered trees are suitable for nesting birds.
- 8.10 Species such as otter, white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) and water vole are highly reliant on water bodies. No water bodies are present on, or immediately adjacent to the site. The site is not considered suitable for any of these species.

9 Discussion and Conclusions

- 9.1 An area of land that makes up part of Bradbury Farm is being included in a suitability assessment as a potential GRT Site. The land subject to survey currently comprises semi-improved, species-poor grassland. Boundary features include species-poor hedgerow, few scattered trees and a small strip of broadleaf woodland to the north. Overall, the site subject to survey is assessed as having a moderate level of ecological value, due to the presence of hedgerow, woodland and trees.
- 9.2 Habitat on site is not considered suitable for reptiles or amphibians, given the lack of shelter and foraging opportunities provided by the short sward, grazed grassland. There is a pond present approximately 450m to the south-west, however this is not well connected to the site due to the presence of surrounding open, agricultural fields and the lack of connecting features. Amphibian records in the area are around 450m from the site, there include common toad and common frog. No great crested newt records were returned from the data search. The closest reptile record returned from the record search was of a grass snake, within 200m of the site. However, this was recorded at the northern side of the M48, and not well connected to the site. It is therefore considered unlikely that the site is used by amphibians and reptiles at this time.
- 9.3 Detailed assessment of the trees on site was not undertaken. A single tree were noted during the survey as having features that may be suitable for roosting bats, although depth and suitability of features were not thoroughly inspected. If any trees are earmarked for removal, further assessment is required. Recommendations are made below.
- 9.4 Evidence to suggest the presence of dormice has been found within Ballan Wood, to the east of the site. There are hedgerows present on site which are connected to Ballan Wood, although these are mostly gappy. The presence of dormice within the hedgerows cannot be ruled out. It is recommended that hedgerow on site is retained and enhanced, recommendations for which are made below. If a small section of hedgerow is to be removed to provide access for example, then works must be carried out under an ecological method statement, to outline precautionary working measures to ensure no impacts to dormouse. If larger areas of hedgerow and any impacts to the northern woodland are proposed, then further targeted survey will be required.
- 9.5 No live badgers were recorded during the survey and no features of interest are present on site for this species. However, badger records have been returned from Ballan Wood to the east, and road mortalities on the M48 to the north have been recorded suggesting that occasional passage through the site by badgers is possible. Appropriate precautionary measures must be taken to ensure mammals are protected during construction works.
- 9.6 Habitats such as trees and hedgerow provides suitable habitat for birds to nest. All nesting birds, their chicks, eggs and nests whilst in use are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Recommendations for best practices regarding nesting birds are made below.
- 9.7 The site falls within the B-Lines network for Wales, a non-statutory designation concerned with the impact of development on pollinators. The site features no habitat that is of significance to invertebrates, due to the heavily grazed grassland. Therefore further survey for invertebrates is not recommended at this time. Recommendations to enhance the site for pollinators are made below.

10 Recommendations

- 10.1 If no impacts are proposed to the woodland, trees and hedgerow on site, no further survey is required at this time. Impacts include lighting and protection of hedgerow, tree and woodland root zones. It is highly recommended that all trees, hedgerow and woodland on site are retained and safeguarded as part of the proposals, as this will help in retaining some ecological value on site. If any trees and/or hedgerows are proposed to be removed, further survey will be required, by way of an assessment to determine suitability for roosting bats, and likely presence/absence of dormouse. If, as mentioned above, only a small section of hedgerow is to be removed, for reasons such access at the site entrance, then such works can be carried out under an ecological method statement. This will outline a procedure of works to safely remove a small section of hedgerow without impacting dormouse.
- 10.2 Recommendations below include enhancing the existing hedgerow on site, through planting. If any vegetation is to be cut down, it must be removed outside of the bird nesting season, which runs between March and August, inclusive. If, whilst the vegetation is being removed an active nest is discovered, all works within a 2m radius of the nest must be immediately stopped, and not recommenced until all chicks have fledged.

- 10.3 To protect any mammals that may pass through the site, any trenches dug forming part of the groundworks must be covered overnight or left with a 45° sloping side to prevent any animal from becoming trapped. Similarly, any unconnected pipes must be capped overnight to prevent any animal from becoming stuck.
- 10.4 Potential presence of nocturnal animals, such as foraging bats on site requires considerate design of a sensitive lighting scheme. Any new lighting columns must not exceed 4m in height, and must be affixed with cowls, hoods or shrouds to minimise upward light spill. Luminosity will be limited to the absolute minimum required by Health and Safety standards and will ideally be timed to be extinguished for as long a period as possible during the night. All lights must face downwards and must not point directly at any natural features. This is also important for any temporary lighting installed for use during construction. Any external lighting affixed to the exterior of the proposed houses must be motion-activated and pointed in a downward facing direction, away from natural features. Any new lighting installed must adhere to the ILP (2023) guidelines for artificial lighting.
- 10.5 Works provide the opportunity to enhance the biodiversity of the site, and to comply with Planning Policy Wales 11 (PPW11). An area of the site must be set aside as an enhancement for wildlife. This area would benefit from the creation of a small pond, the margins of which must be left to grow. Additionally, hedgerow planting is recommended around the field to enhance existing defunct hedgerows. Table 3 below includes a list of suitable native tree and hedgerow species, which can be planted as part of the proposals. Species used must be native, with a mix of at least five different species per 25m. It is essential that such plants are sourced locally in order to reduce likelihood of importing diseases. It is recommended that a strip of vegetation alongside the hedgerows is left to grow rank (at least 1m wide), this will provide additional shelter and add to the mix of habitats to be created at the site.

Table 3: Recommended Native Tree and Shrub Species

Common Name	Scientific Name
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Downy birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Common hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Sessile oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>

- 10.6 The site falls within the B-Lines network for Wales which aims to enhance and protect connectivity across the country for pollinators. To expand the pollinating season and encourage pollinators to visit the site, wildflower planting is recommended. Table 4 below includes a list of native flowering plants.

Table 4: Recommended Native Flowering Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name
Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Kidney vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>
Greater knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>
Rough chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>
Smooth hawksbeard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Musk mallow	<i>Malva moschata</i>
Wild marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>
Meadow crane's-bill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>

- 10.6 Bird boxes and bat boxes are an effective way of attracting species to the site. At least four woodcrete/woodstone bird boxes are recommended to be installed at the site. Bird boxes are proposed to be of different designs, including; Vivara Pro Serville 32mm Woodstone nest boxes, and Vivara Pro Barcelona Woodstone Open nest boxes (or similar). Bird boxes must be approximately 3m above the ground, with a clear flight path. Boxes must be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Bird boxes must not be positioned too close together, and can be attached to the trees on site.

- 10.7 With regard to enhancement bat boxes, it is recommended to install three bat boxes (1FF Schwegler bat boxes, or equivalent), on trees at the site. These are to be installed close to natural linear features such as a woodland/trees, and away from any artificial light source. Boxes must be at least 4m above the ground and sheltered from strong winds (usually south, south-east or south-west elevations).
- 10.8 It is important to implement good horticultural practice in any landscaping scheme, including the use of peat-free composts, mulches and soil conditioners. The use of pesticides (i.e. herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and slug pellets etc) must be discouraged to prevent cumulative fatal effects to animals via the food chain, particularly invertebrates, birds and/or mammals. Any pesticides used must be non-residual.
- 10.9 Any fencing must have a continuous gap of 20cm beneath it to ensure wildlife can continue to move across the site.

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Appendix I: Site Location Plan

Figure 1: Site location plan



Appendix II: Site Photographs

Plate 1: Looking north-east towards Ballan Wood



Plate 2: Looking north along the western boundary



Plate 3: Looking north-east along the boundary



Plate 4: Looking south-east towards Ballan Wood



Plate 5: Looking along the boundary to the south-east



Plate 6: Looking to the south-west



Plate 7: Looking north-west towards the M48



Plate 8: Pedunculate oak on the southern boundary



Appendix III: Phase 1 Habitat Map

Figure 2: Phase 1 habitat survey map



Appendix IV: List of Recorded Species

Table 5: List of Recorded Species

Plant Species		JNCC Broad Habitat Types				
Common Name	Scientific Name	B4	A3.1	A1.1.1	J2.1.2	J2.2.2
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>			x		
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>			x		
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>			x		
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>			x		
Buttercup, creeping	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	x				
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	x				
Clover, A	<i>Trefoil sp.</i>	x				
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	x				
Dead-nettle, Red	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	x				
Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>					
Hard fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>					
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>					x
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>			x		x
Hedge parsley	<i>Torilis arvensis</i>					
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>					
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>			x		x
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>			x		
Meadow grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	x				
Mouse Ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	x				
Oak, pedunculate	<i>Quercus robur</i>		x			
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>					
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>					
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>					
Rose, A	<i>Rosa sp</i>					
Shepherd's purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>					
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>					
Thistle, Creeping	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>					
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	x				

Appendix V: Relevant Legislation

Wild birds

All wild birds, their eggs and nests are protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;
- sell wild birds or put them on display for sale;
- use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds; and
- intentionally, or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Penalties that can be imposed for criminal offences in respect of a single bird, nest or egg contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is an unlimited fine, up to six months imprisonment or both. In exceptional cases NRW and Natural England issues licences for specific purposes, so that legitimate work may be undertaken without breaking the law.

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Clients include government departments, local and regional authorities, development agencies, commercial and industrial enterprises as well as statutory nature conservation organisations, wildlife trusts and other charitable bodies.

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Natural Problem Solvers

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