

Proposed development at Old Yeavering, Northumberland

Ecological Assessment



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1 Introduction

Site Description

- 1.1 This report relates to a proposed development at Number 2 Old Yeavering (the 'Site'), which is near Kirknewton, Northumberland (Figure 1). The Site is one of two semi-detached cottages located in open countryside at central Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OSGR) NT92413027.
- 1.2 The Site consists of a two-storey stone construction dwelling adjacent to a farm track to the east with formal gardens (mainly lawn) extending to the west, east and north. The River Glen (which is part of the Tweed Catchment Rivers England: Till Catchment Site of Special Scientific Interest and River Tweed Special Area of Conservation) is 560 m to the north-east at its closest point.

Habitat description

- 1.3 The Site is located on the edge of pasture farmland to the south of the B6351. The habitats within the Site mostly consist of amenity grassland (lawn see Photograph 4, Section 6) with some formal flower beds and a small number of ornamental shrubs. The rear garden area (to the west) is enclosed by a fence. A short section of hedgerow is present on the eastern side of the Site alongside an access track (see Photograph 2, Section 6). A second hedgerow runs alongside the eastern side of the access track, with a stone wall running along the western side.
- 1.4 Outside and directly adjacent to the Site to the west is an area of poor semi-improved grassland (see Photograph 4, Section 6) that is bisected by a small unnamed watercourse that flows north under the B6351 eventually flowing into the River Glen at OSGR NT92623081 (approximately 1.1 km downstream). Beyond this is arable farmland.
- 1.5 To the east and north is arable and pasture farmland. Small scattered patches of scrub are present outside the Site to the north and south, and small areas of plantation woodland are present in the surrounding area.

Proposed Development

1.6 A planning application is to be submitted for the construction of a garden room and the installation of a new dormer window on the western side of the existing building.

Aims of Study

1.7 BSG Ecology was appointed by Dobsons Design, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Sismey-Durrant, to carry out surveys at the Site to determine the Site's importance for protected species. The aim of this study is to identify ecological constraints and to recommend measures to mitigate impacts on important ecological features. Impacts are considered for the different phases of the proposed development.

Personnel

- 1.8 The survey work and reporting was completed by Steven Betts CEcol CEnv MCIEEM. He is an experienced ecologist who has worked in the ecological sector for more than 27 years. He has held a bat licence for more than 15 years and has held various development licences. Further details of his experience and qualifications can be found at http://www.bsg-ecology.com/project/steve-betts/.
- 1.9 This report has been technically reviewed by Owain Gabb MCIEEM, Director at BSG Ecology. He has worked as in ecological consultancy since 2003 and has considerable experience gained in directing or managing the ecological inputs of a wide range of development projects. Further details of his experience and qualifications can be found at https://www.bsg-ecology.com/portfolio_page/owain-gabb/.

2 Methods

Desk Study

- 2.1 A desk study has been undertaken where a 1 km search area has been adopted centred on the Site. This distance defines the extent of a precautionary zone of influence based on the scope and nature of the proposed development.
- 2.2 Data were obtained from Defra's Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside internetbased database (http://www.magic.gov.uk, accessed 5 May 2021) to establish the location and nature of any statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest located within 1 km of the centre of the Site. This includes Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites. The desk study has also considered the location of the Site with respect to the Natural England Impact Risk Zones¹ (IRZ) for statutorily designed sites.
- 2.3 Records were requested from the Environmental Records and Information Centre North East (ERIC NE). These were received on 6 May 2021.
- 2.4 Reference has been made to species and habitats listed in accordance with the provisions of Sections 40 and 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (referred to in this report as S.41 species and S.41 habitats). The Northumberland Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) has also been consulted, which identifies species and habitats that are targets for conservation action at the county level.
- 2.5 Aerial photography of the Site and its surroundings was examined to further assist in understanding the context of the Site and to identify and assess possible habitat linkages with other habitats or sites of ecological importance within the local area (https://www.bing.com/mapspreview, accessed 5 May 2021).

Field Survey

Habitat assessment for bats

2.6 The building within the Site was assessed on 11 May 2021 by Steven Betts to determine its suitability for roosting bats with reference to industry guidance (Collins [Ed], 2016). During the survey the building was inspected externally and evaluated to determine its potential to provide roosting sites for bats. Any suitable features were recorded and described. Where possible any voids and gaps in walls and other building features were inspected using an endoscope and/or a powerful torch.

Bat activity surveys

- 2.7 A dusk bat activity survey was carried out on 11 May 2021. During the survey two surveyors provided total coverage of the building: one surveyor was positioned on the south-western corner (by the extension) and one on the north-eastern corner of the building (near the access road).
- 2.8 The survey started at 20.49 and finished at 22.34: sunset was at 21.04. At the time of the survey the weather was dry with 0% cloud cover and a light breeze. The temperature was 9°C.
- 2.9 Surveys were carried out by Steven Betts and Paul Lowings, who are experienced bat ecologists who have previously carried out numerous bat surveys. Steven Betts holds Natural England Class survey licence 2015-12419-CLS-CLS Level 2, and Paul Lowings holds Natural England Class survey licence WML CL17 CLS 2452.

¹ The Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks posed by development proposals to: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites (GOV.UK website, 28 September 2020).



Habitat assessment for nesting birds

2.10 During the Site visit on 11 May 2021 any evidence of breeding bird activity was noted. All birds observed during the survey were recorded and a note made of their location. Any evidence of past nesting activity was noted, such as nests, broken eggs and faecal staining. The assessment was carried out during the breeding period for birds (whilst the survey timing was possibly too early for swifts *Apus apus*, the suitability of the building was assessed for this species).

Other species

2.11 During the Site visit on 11 May 2021 the habitats present were also assessed to determine their importance for other protected species and species of conservation importance (S.41 species as described in paragraph 2.4).

Survey Limitations

2.12 There were no limitations to the survey methods. Whilst an internal building inspection was not carried out, this is not considered to be a limitation as the building includes living space on the first floor level. The bat activity survey covered the exterior of the building and so any roost emergence will have been observed.



3 Results and Interpretation

Desk Study

Statutory Designated Sites

- 3.1 The following statutory designated sites are located within the desk study area:
 - Tweed Catchment Rivers England: Till Catchment SSSI (560 m to the north-east of the Site);
 - River Tweed SAC (560 m to the north-east of the Site).
- 3.2 The reasons for the notification of each designated site are summarised below. The locations of the statutory designated sites are shown on Figure 1 and the designated sites plan provided by ERIC NE (Section 7).

Tweed Catchment Rivers- England: Till Catchment SSSI

3.3 The citation for the Tweed Catchment Rivers - England: Till Catchment SSSI describes the site in the following terms: 'As part of the whole River Tweed system, the Till Catchment Rivers are clean rivers of high conservation and ecological value. The vegetation types show a natural succession from mineral-poor upland streams through to communities which are typical of mineral-rich lowland rivers. Floating beds of water crowfoot, Ranunculus, are of international significance and the blooming of a diatom Didymosphenia in the headwaters draining the Cheviot is unique in England. The fish fauna is particularly significant, the area supports one of the most important game fisheries in England, with large migrations of salmon and also supports the three British species of Lamprey. The Till catchment also contains important habitat for otters.'

River Tweed SAC

- 3.4 The River Tweed qualifies as an SAC as it supports the following Annex I habitat that is a primary reason for selection of this site:
 - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation.
- 3.5 The River Tweed also supports populations of the following Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:
 - Atlantic salmon Salmo salar;
 - Otter Lutra lutra.
- 3.6 The River Tweed also supports the following Annex II species, which are qualifying features but are not a primary reason for site selection:
 - Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus;
 - Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri;
 - River lamprey Lampetra fluviatiles.

Impact Risk Zones

3.7 The Site falls within the IRZ for the above SSSI and SAC; however, the proposed development falls below any of the stated development thresholds. An IRZ defines a zone around a designated site which reflects the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts. It therefore follows that the development is not of a type or scale that is considered likely to have an adverse impact on a statutorily designated site.



Non Statutory Designated Sites

- 3.8 ERIC NE provided information on non-statutory designated sites that shows that Fredden Hill, Preston Hill and Yeavering Bell Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is located 90 m to the south of the Site at its closest point. The LWS is open moorland consisting of acid grassland, heather and areas of gorse on ground that rises steeply to the south of the Site. No other LWSs are located within the search area.
- 3.9 A figure showing the locations of the designated sites is provided in Section 7.

Protected Species

- 3.10 Examination of the MAGIC internet-based database (http://www.magic.gov.uk, accessed 5 May 2021) revealed that there are no European protected species licences for bats within the search area. The nearest licence that has been issued in the area relates to work carried out Crookhouse, which is 2.3 km to the north-west (licence EPSM2010-2277, and covered works impacting on brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus* and common pipistrelle bats *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*).
- 3.11 ERIC NE returned records of S.41 species that are present in the study area but none of these relate to the Site. A total of four records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* were returned but three of these relate to locations in Kirknewton village, which is approximately 850 m to the west. The fourth record is a dead animal seen on the road 340 m to the north-east of the Site. The habitats within the Site (predominantly amenity grassland) may occasionally be used by foraging hedgehog, but there are few sheltering opportunities. For this reason hedgehog is considered unlikely to be present and is not considered further as the proposed scope of work is unlikely to impact on this species.
- 3.12 A total of ten records of red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* were returned for the study area, the records either being located at Kirknewton village to the west of the Site or in an area of woodland near Yeavering, approximately 680 m to the east of the Site. The most recent record was from 2014. A total of five records have been returned for grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* none of which relate to the Site. The most recent record dates from 2011. No suitable habitats for squirrels are present within the Site and so these species are considered unlikely to be present and are not considered further.
- 3.13 ERIC NE returned four records of adder *Vipera berus* and three records of common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* for the search area, but these are all from moorland habitats more than 700 m to the south of the Site. No suitable habitats for reptiles are present within the Site and so these species are considered unlikely to be present and are not considered further.

Field Survey

Building assessment for bats

- 3.14 ERIC provided 25 records of bats for the study area but none of these relate to the Site. The majority of the records come from locations in the village of Kirknewton, which is approximately 850 m to the west of the Site. A total of eight records were returned for both common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, with a further five records being attributed to *Pipistrellus* sp. Four records are just described as 'bats'.
- 3.15 Photographs of the building are provided in Section 6. The Site comprises a two-storey stone construction building that has been extended to the rear (west). Examination of historical aerial photographs on Google Earth Pro indicate that the extension was constructed between 2004 and 2007. The building is used as a dwelling and the walls have no obvious gaps that have suitability for roosting bats (Photographs 3, 5 and 6, Section 6).
- 3.16 The building has a pitched roof that is covered with slates with dormer windows on the eastern elevation. The internal roof space in the building is living space and therefore is not accessible to bats. The roof of the building appears to be in good order with no missing or slipped tiles; however, there are a few gaps at the eaves where the slates cover the wall heads (see Photograph 3, Section 6). Whilst these gaps may provide access to Potential Roost Features (PRFs), inspection of the wall heads indicates that there are few holes with suitability for roosting bats. No bat droppings were found on the exterior walls below the eaves.



- 3.17 There are two chimneys on the roof of the building, one at the northern gable end and one at the point where with the roof neighbouring cottage (see Photograph 3, Section 6).
- 3.18 The window openings all have intact glass panes present with no gaps around any of the frames or in the surrounding wall. The door openings on the eastern and western sides of the building are all intact with no gaps around the frames or in the surrounding wall.
- 3.19 Whilst bats could potentially access gaps at the eaves, there are few features that have suitability for bats: those gaps that are present were checked using a high-powered torch and endoscope. No bats were present and no signs of bat presence were noted.
- 3.20 Overall, the building is considered to have low potential to support roosting bats (Collins [Ed], 2016). This assessment is based on the presence of some gaps at the eaves and takes into account the building's location near suitable bat foraging habitat (areas of scrub and a small watercourse).

Bat activity surveys

- 3.21 During the dusk bat activity survey carried out on 11 May 2021 three bats were seen to emerge from the western side of the building. At 21.16, which was ten minutes after sunset, a common pipistrelle bat emerged from the eaves below the valley gutter between the original cottage and the extension (see Photograph 3 in Section 6). The bat flew off to the north.
- 3.22 At 21.22, sixteen minutes after sunset, a bat emerged from the lead flashing around the most southerly of the two chimneys (see Photograph 3 in Section 6). The bat flew off to the south. A second bat emerged at 21.23 and then flew north after which it started feeding along the adjacent lane to the east.
- 3.23 Both roosts are considered to be day roosts and are in locations that will not be directly affected by the proposed works.

Building assessment for birds

- 3.24 No evidence of bird nesting activity was recorded in the building. No Red Listed Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton *et al*, 2015) were observed during the Site visit. The building is not considered to provide suitable opportunities for nesting swifts and no evidence was found to indicate that swallow *Hirundo rustica* or house martin *Delichon urbica* have nested there.
- 3.25 Nesting opportunities are limited to the hedgerows and shrubs on the eastern side of the building, and to scrub located outside the Site to the east.

Constraints on Study Information

3.26 The survey work has been carried out by competent experienced ecologists and with reference to published guidance. A thorough assessment has been possible.



4 Impacts and Recommendations

Impact Assessment

Designated Sites

- 4.1 The Site is located 560 m to the south of the River Tweed SAC (and Tweed Catchment Rivers -England: Till Catchment SSSI) but is separated from the designated sites by a road, farmland and small areas of plantation woodland and scrub. The nearest watercourse to the Site is a small unnamed stream 26 m to the west, which is sufficiently distant that it is unlikely to be adversely affected by the proposed development taking into account its scope and extent. Impacts on the designated sites are also unlikely as these are approximately 1.1 km downstream of the Site.
- 4.2 Given the small-scale nature of the development and the separation distance between the Site and the designated sites, no significant impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is considered necessary.

Habitats

- 4.3 The proposed development will not impact on any habitats of conservation importance. The only habitat present that may be affected by the proposed works is an area of amenity grassland (lawn) adjacent to the building, which may be subject to some temporary disturbance during the construction phase of the development. No mitigation measures are proposed as any damage or disturbance of this habitat that may occur during the construction phase of the development will be restored following completion of the works.
- 4.4 Shrubs are present immediately to the east of the building, but this side of the Site will not be affected by the proposed works.

Protected Species

Bats and buildings

- 4.5 Information relating to the legal protection of bats and their roosts is presented in Appendix 2.
- 4.6 The bat activity survey completed on 12 May 2021 identified two bat roosts, one supporting two common pipistrelle bats and one supporting a single common pipistrelle bat. Both roosts are considered to be day roosts and are therefore assessed as being of low conservation importance (with reference to Figure 4 in Mitchell-Jones, 2004).
- 4.7 A roost supporting two bats is located under lead flashing at the base of the most southerly chimney on the roof. This roost will be unaffected by the proposed development: direct impacts are unlikely as the proposed dormer window is located at the northern end of the roof; indirect impacts are unlikely as the separation distance means that noise and vibration-related effects are unlikely to be significant (the work affecting the roof of the cottage to accommodate the dormer window are likely to be short duration and relatively low impact in terms of noise and vibration).
- 4.8 A roost supporting one bat is located at the eaves below the valley gutter between the original cottage and the extension. This roost will not be directly affected by the proposed works as the proposed garden room is a single-storey structure and the roof will join the external wall of the building approximately 0.5 m below the roost entrance (the roof of an existing single-storey extension already joins the external wall at this point – see Photograph 3 in Section 6). As the roof of the garden room will slope away from the roost entrance, the roost will remain accessible to bats at all times. Indirect impacts cannot be ruled out as there will be work that will take place near the roost, i.e., to key in the new roof to the external wall of the cottage. As a result noise and vibration-related effects may occur and therefore a development licence will need to be secured from Natural England. As survey has identified two roosts for common pipistrelle, a commonly occurring species, the site will be registered under the Bat Mitigation Class Licence.



Breeding Birds

- 4.9 Information relating to the legal protection of nesting birds is presented in Appendix 2.
- 4.10 No signs of breeding bird presence were noted during the survey and no nesting opportunities for birds are present in those areas that will be affected by the works. Consequently no measures are necessary to mitigate impacts on birds.
- 4.11 Construction access will be via the access road on the eastern side of the Site. If it is necessary to remove or trim some shrubs to gain access to the construction area, the proposed works could have an adverse impact on active nests (if present in the shrubs) if carried out during the breeding bird season (which is generally between late February and August inclusive). In order to avoid committing an offence, it is recommended that work affecting bird nesting habitat is carried out between late August and mid-February, which would avoid the bird breeding season. If work affecting bird nesting habitat has to take place during the bird breeding season, then it is recommended that the area is surveyed for active bird nests by a suitably qualified ecologist before the proposed work is carried out. If active bird nests are present, then work would have to be delayed in that area until nesting activity ceases. It should be noted that this can be a period of up to 6 weeks and that some species can have two broods.

Enhancement

4.12 In order to provide additional nesting habitat, which will contribute to the enhancement requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF²), it is proposed to install a Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box or equivalent on the exterior wall of the detached garage building, which is located within the curtilage of the property. It is also proposed to install a Beaumaris WoodStone Bat Box or equivalent on the same building.

² NPPF (Paragraph 170) states that 'planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment'.



5 References

Collins [Ed] (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd Edition. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Defra's Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside internet-based database (http://www.magic.gov.uk).

Eaton, M.A., Aebischer, N.J., Brown, A.F., Hearn, R.D., Lock, L., Musgrove, A.J., Noble, D.G., Stroud, D.A. and Gregory, R.D. (2015). Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British Birds 108, 708–746.



6 Photographs



Photograph 3: North-eastern part of the dwelling where the proposed works will be located (roost locations shown by red arrows) Photograph 4: Lawn adjacent to the proposed works area





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7 Figures

Figure 1: Location plan

Designated sites plan (source: ERIC NE)





Site boundary



Tweed Catchment Rivers - England:

- Till Catchment SSSI
- River Tweed SAC



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JOB REF: P21-156

PROJECT TITLE Old Yeavering

DRAWING TITLE Figure 1: Loction plan

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ECOLOGICAL DATA SEARCH -STATUTORY & NON STATUTORY SITES

OLD YEAVERING

BSG ECOLOGY

PLOT PRODUCED: 05 May 2021



NT92413027

1000m Search Area

National Park

SSSI

Special Area of Conservation

Northumberland Local Wildlife Sites

Produced by



Environmental Records Information Centre North East

Great North Museum: Hancock Barras Bridge Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne & Wear NE2 4PT

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Appendix 1: Summaries of Relevant Legislation, Policy and Other Instruments

7.1 This section briefly summarises the relevant legislation, policy and related issues that are mentioned in the main text of the report. The following text does not constitute legal advice.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 7.1 The government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on 27th March 2012. The NPPF states that, "*the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by*:
 - a. Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;
 - b. Recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;
 - c. Minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity, where possible contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
 - d. Preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and
 - e. Remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate."

Planning applications and biodiversity

- 7.2 "When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles:
 - a. If significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
 - b. Proposed development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest likely to have an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (either individually or in combination with other developments) should not normally be permitted. Where an adverse effect on the site's notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made where the benefits of the development, at this site clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
 - c. Development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted;
 - d. Opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged;
- 7.3 In paragraph 125 the NPPF stipulates that 'by encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.'

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

7.1 The NPPF (paragraph 117) indicates that local authorities should take measures to "promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species" linking to national and local targets through local planning policies. Priority species are those species shown on the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Planning authorities have a duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act to have regard to priority species and habitats in exercising their functions including development control and planning.



Bats

- 7.2 Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) and under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Taken together, these make it an offence to:
 - Deliberately capture or intentionally take a bat.
 - Deliberately or intentionally kill or injure a bat.
 - To be in possession or control of any live or dead wild bat or any part of, or anything derived from a wild bat.
 - Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal or intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a wild bat uses for shelter or protection.
 - Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bat while it is occupying a structure or place that it
 uses for shelter or protection.
 - Deliberately disturb any bat in such a way as to be likely significantly to affect;
 - the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed or rear or nurture their young; or
 - the local distribution or abundance of that species.
- 7.3 A bat roost may be any structure a bat uses for breeding, resting, shelter or protection. It is important to note that since bats tend to re-use the same roost sites, legal opinion is that a bat roost is protected whether or not the bats are present at the time. However, this has yet to be tested in law.
- 7.4 Although the law provides strict protection to bats, it also allows this protection to be set aside (derogation) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 through the issuing of licences. In England these licences are currently determined by Natural England (NE) for development works.

Breeding Birds

- 7.5 All birds are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take any wild bird or take damage or destroy the nest while in use or being built or take or destroy an egg. Certain species of bird that are listed in Schedule 1 of the Act receive additional protection. F or these species it is an offence to recklessly disturb the bird while it is on its nest or to disturb the dependant young of such a species.
- 7.6 In addition, the EU Birds Directive, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 all provide protection to certain bird species and their habitats in the UK.
- 7.7 A number of birds of particular conservation concern have also been assigned priority status under the UK BAP. These are generally species which occur on the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List (Gregory et al, 2002) and usually belong to groups that are particularly influenced by unfavourable land management. Some species are also given priority within the local BAP, and these require action at the local level.