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Ecological Consultants – providing sustainable solutions.

Report for: Angela McDonald

Commissioned by: Gabriela Avendano

Ecological Impact Assessment



Site Plan

50 Station Road, Richmond, Greater London SW13 0LP

Report No: 3253

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SUMMARY

On the instructions of Gabriela Avendano, acting on behalf of Angela McDonald (the Client), Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants carried out an Ecological Impact Assessment for the site of 50 Station Road, Richmond, Greater London SW13 0LP.

Proposals for the site include for the demolition of the detached garage and the construction of a new residential dwelling in its place.

The desk study showed that legally protected areas of ecological importance would not be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

Overall, the study site provides nature conservation value in a local (parish) context, containing ecological features such as garden trees and shrubs. The mown lawn offered few opportunities.

The site provides negligible potential for bats, badgers and herpetofauna, however, should any of these protected species be found on site during works, then all works must stop and advice from an ecologist sought.

The trees and shrubs provide moderate potential for breeding birds, and it is recommended that the works be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season.

Further recommendations for the site can be found in Section 6.

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Document Title:	Ecological Impact Assessment
	50 Station Road, Richmond, Greater London SW13 0LP
The Client:	
	Angela McDonald

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Report Number 3253	Status FINAL	Date of issue 11/10/2024
Prepared by	Clifford Stuckey BSc (Hon's) PhD MCIEEM CEnv Ecologist	E motal
Reviewed by		
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Species identified during this survey, including the date, the location, as well as a brief description of the circumstances of their identification, may be passed on to Biological Records Centre's, local wildlife groups, the Wildlife Trust, Natural England and any other interested parties unless written instructions not to do so are received within 30 days of receipt of this report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instructions and Objectives

On the instructions of Gabriela Avendano acting on behalf of Angela McDonald Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants carried out an Ecological Impact Assessment for the site of 50 Station Road, Richmond, Greater London SW13 0LP.

Proposals for the site include for the demolition of the detached garage and the construction of a new residential dwelling in its place.

The desk study, field survey (carried out on 17/09/2024) and evaluation are intended to provide information on the general habitat characteristics of the site and its surroundings including the likely presence of legally protected species and habitats encountered within the study area.

2 METHOD

2.1 DESK STUDY

A desk study was carried out to identify the presence of any statutory or nonstatutory sites within 2,000m of the centre of the study area together with records of any known legally protected, rare, or notable species.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) was consulted to find records of Natural England Protected Species (NEPS) and statutory sites within the search area.

The Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL) were asked to provide records of legally protected species, Biodiversity Action Plan species and locally rare and notable species within the search area. Details of any designated sites of importance for nature conservation (both statutory and non-statutory) within the search area were also requested.

2.2 FIELD SURVEY

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the study area was undertaken, broadly following the 'Extended Phase 1' methodology as set out in Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment (Institute of Environmental Assessment 1995) amended where necessary to meet the revisions contained in the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (GPEA) (CIEEM 2017). The PEA provides information on the habitats in the study area and assesses the potential for notable fauna to occur in or adjacent to the study area. Plant names follow New Flora of the British Isles (4th edition, Stace 2019) and the frequency of species presence is represented by the DAFOR scale, where D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional and R = Rare.

Preliminary investigations were undertaken where appropriate, to assess whether the site is supporting, or capable of supporting legally protected species by:

- Searching for suitable habitats for breeding populations of great crested newts within 500m of the study area.
- Searching for suitable habitat for reptiles by searching under suitable refugia and paying particular attention to potential basking sites.
- Searching for evidence of water vole activity such as the presence of burrows, feeding stations, faeces and latrines along the drainage ditches and streams and ponds where present within the study area.
- Searching for evidence of otter activity such as spraints, feeding remains, holts and laying up areas along the drainage ditches and streams where present within the study area, along with hedge banks, which can be used as holt sites by otter.
- Searching for suitable habitats for white-clawed crayfish in watercourses where present within and around the study area.
- Searching for signs of badger activity including setts, tracks, snuffle holes and latrines (both within the study area and within a zone of 30m around the study area).
- Searching for signs of potential roosting sites for bats, including urine stains, grease marks, droppings and feeding remains, in structures and

- Searching for suitable habitats for dormice and undertaking a 'nut search' where appropriate.
- Searching for signs of bird nests and identifying suitable nesting habitats.
 No bird surveys have been undertaken but all birds observed during study area visits have been noted.

In addition, the presence of any invasive species listed in Schedule 9 Part II of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (such as Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed) was recorded.

2.2.1 HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

Habitats on site have been converted to the UK Habitat Classifications and, those which require a habitat condition assessment within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, have been condition assessed accordingly. Full details of the condition assessments can be found within the separate 'Statutory biodiversity metric condition assessments' spreadsheet.

2.2.2 EVALUATION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT

Ecological features are evaluated for their nature conservation value using the following criteria:

- International importance: Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites.
- National importance: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves.
- Regional/County importance: Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, ancient woodlands, large area of priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitat.
- Local (parish) importance: Significant ecological features such as old hedges, woodlands, ponds.
- Negligible importance: Would usually be applied to areas of built development, active mineral extraction, or intensive agricultural land.

The significance of an adverse/beneficial impact is the product of the magnitude of the impact and the value or sensitivity of the nature conservation resources affected. There is no agreed absolute method for assessing the significance of adverse/beneficial impacts on nature conservation receptors/features. Nevertheless, high levels of significance will generally be ascribed to large impacts on receptors/features of high nature conservation value. Low levels of significance will generally be ascribed to small impacts on receptors/features of high nature conservation value or large impacts on receptors/features of low nature conservation value.

The assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed development needs to consider both on-site impacts as well as those which may occur to adjacent areas of ecological value. Impacts can be permanent or temporary, direct, or indirect and can include:

Adverse

- Direct loss of wildlife habitats.
- Fragmentation and isolation of habitats.
- Disturbance to species from noise, light or other visual stimuli.

Beneficial

- Ecological enhancement
 - Habitat management
 - Habitat enhancement

2.3 LIMITATIONS

Ecological surveys are limited by factors which affect the presence of plants and animals such as the time of year, migration patterns and behaviour and the ecological survey of this site has not produced a complete list of plants and animals. Nevertheless, the results of the ecological survey allow evaluation of nature conservation value, assessment of the significance of potential impacts that may arise from the proposals and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures.

RESULTS

SITE LOCATION AND SETTINGS

The site is centred on OS NGR TQ 21849 76235, post code SW13 0LP, in the London Borough of Richmond.

The site is surrounded by high density residential housing, with occasional recreational grounds and urban infrastructure.

The River Thames is located ~370m northwest at its closest point and Beverley Brook is located ~170m to the southeast at its closest point.

Barnes pond is located ~100m to the northeast, located within the Barnes Green community green space. A further small pond is located ~350m to the east, on the far side of Beverley Brook.

A railway line is found ~230m to the west, which also runs through the Barnes Common Nature Reserve found ~380m to the south.

The WWT London Wetland Centre is found ~860m to the northeast and a golf course is located ~980m to the south.

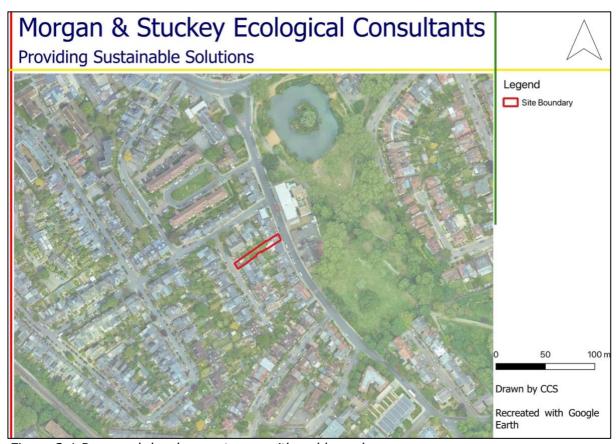


Figure 3-1 Proposed development area with red boundary.

3.2 **DESK STUDY**

3.2.1 MAGIC

Interrogation of the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) showed that Barn Elms Wetland Centre SSSI is located ~1km north-east and the site falls into the SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Richmond Park (SSSI) ~2km south-west, Wimbledon Common (SSSI) ~3.1km south-east & Syon Park (SSSI) ~4km west.

Three Natural England Protected Species licences (NEPS) for bats were granted within the search area.

- Soprano Pipistrelle (S-PIP), ~1.05km south-west, 31/07/2011, License No. EPSM2009-1226
- S-PIP, ~1.9km west, 08/10/2024, License No. 2019-42630-EPS-MIT
- S-PIP, ~1.8km north-west, 24/03/2018, License No. 2017-28211-EPS-MIT

There are 4 Local Nature Reserves within the search area:

- Duke's Hollow ~549m west
- Leg of Mutton Reservoir ~737m north
- Chiswick Eyot ~1.6km north
- Barnes Common ~183m south-east

Richmond Park National Nature Reserve & Special Area of Conservation is located ~ 2km south-west.

Priority Habitats found within the search area include.

- Good quality semi-improved grassland ~844m north-east & ~422m east, within Barns Elm Wetlands –
- Lowland Fens & Reedbeds ~1.1km north-east.
- Deciduous Woodland found sparsely throughout the search area; the closest point located ~46m east.
- Small areas of Traditional Orchard, the closest located ~876m north and the most significant ~1.5km south.
- Large areas of Woodpasture and Parkland are found throughout, the closest located ~50m east.

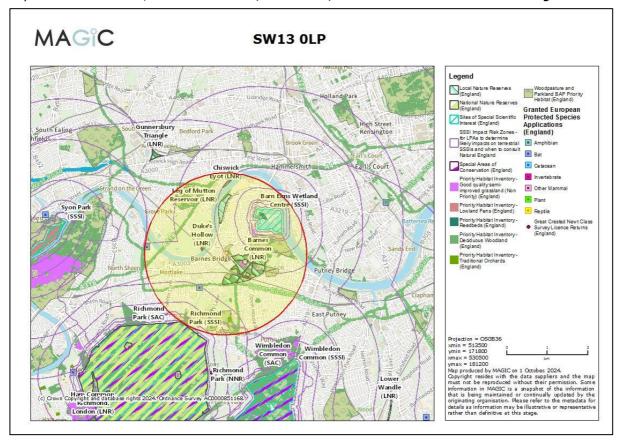


Figure 3-2 MAGIC Map

3.2.2 BIOLOGICAL RECORDS

There are twenty non-statutory sites within the search area, none of which fall within the boundaries of the proposed development site.

There are three tiers of sites:

- Sites of Metropolitan Importance
- Sites of Borough Importance (borough I and borough II)
- Sites of Local Importance

River Thames and tidal tributaries	Metropolitan
Richmond Park and associated areas	Metropolitan
Barnes Common	Metropolitan
London Wetland Centre	Metropolitan
Duke's Hollow	Metropolitan
Fulham Palace, Bishop's Park and All Saints Churchyard	Borough I
Chiswick House Grounds	Borough I
Leg o'Mutton	Borough I
Putney Lower Common	Borough I
Roehampton University	Borough I
Beverley Brook in Wandsworth	Borough I
Hounslow Loop Railsides	Borough II
Barn Elms Playing Fields	Borough II
Beverley Brook from Richmond Park to the River Thames	Borough II
Roehampton Club Golf Course	Borough II
Bank of England Sports Club Grounds	Borough II
Old Mortlake Burial Ground	Local
Barnes Green Pond	Local
North Sheen and Mortlake Cemeteries	Local
Putney Park Lane and The Pleasance	Local

The species records provided by the GiGL hold 1 record of GCN ~350m from the site dated May 2021.

There are several records for other amphibian species including common toad and common frog located ~144m from the site, dated from 2015 – 2022

Records for reptiles include, slow-worm, grass snake & common lizard. All located within a 1km radius of the site and dated between 2007 & 2022.

1 record of a harbour seal was returned, located ~767m north in 2021. There are several records for European water voles within a 1km radius of the site dated in 2009 and several records were returned for hedgehog with a 1.5km radius of the site most recently dated 2022.

Records returned for bat species include Serotine, Myotis Bat Species, Daubenton's Bat, Natterer's Bat, Nyctalus Bat species, Lesser Noctule, Noctule Bat, Pipistrelle Bat Species, Soprano Pipistrelle, Nathusius's Pipistrelle & Brown long eared. All of these were found within a 1km radius, the closest being ~108m east. Dated from 2014 – 2022.

There are several records of badgers dated between 1999 and 2016.

3.3 SURVEY - PEA

3.3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site consists of a high street property built around a ground floor commercial unit/shop with a residential ground and first floor (B1). A residential garden stretches to the rear, with a detached garage (B2) at the far end of the garden.

The main building (B1) will not be impacted by the development.



Figure 3-3 Site Plan

3.3.2 Habitats

3.3.2.1 BUILDINGS

The main building, (B1) faces the high street and has a part commercial and residential ground and first floor, with an assortment of extensions extending to the rear. This building will not be impacted by the development.

The garage (B2) is proposed for demolition. This is constructed from breezeblock with exterior rendering, it features a single up and over door and has a flat roof covered in bitumen felt. Within, there is no loft void, and the ceiling is lined with chipboard.





Figure 3-4 Exterior and interior of B2

3.3.2.2 HARDSTANDING

Hardstanding in the form of two car parking spaces is present in front of the garage (B2) and an area of patio is found to the rear of B1.

3.3.2.3 VEGETATED GARDEN

The garden area on site is laid to lawn with occasional introduced shrub beds and small ornamental trees (with a DBH of less than 30cm).





Figure 3-5 Example of vegetated garden present

3.3.3 Habitat Condition Assessment

The table below provides a summary of the results of the habitat condition assessments carried out on the above habitats. For full details please see the separate excel spreadsheet.

Table 3.2 Habitat Condition Assessments

Habitat	Condition
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	Set Score
Vegetated Garden	Set Score

3.3.4 EVIDENCE OF PROTECTED SPECIES

3.3.4.1 MAMMALS

B1 will not be impacted by the development and was not inspected internally. No evidence of bats was found within B2, and no evidence of any other mammals was found within the gardens.

3.3.4.2 BIRDS

No active or disused nests were found on site.

3.3.4.3 HERPETOFAUNA

No herpetofauna were found during the survey.

3.3.4.4 INVERTEBRATES

No invertebrate surveys were undertaken.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 **HABITATS**

4.1.1 BAP PRIORITY HABITATS AND LEGALLY PROTECTED SITES OF CONSERVATION VALUE

The proposed development site contains no priority habitat. There will be no impact on any designated sites of conservation value resulting from the proposed development.

4.2 PROTECTED SPECIES

4.2.1 **MAMMALS**

The garage (B2) has no suitable roosting features observed on the exterior and no suitable access points to the interior.

The trees on site are all small ornamental garden trees, however, these were assessed from ground level and no potential roosting features were noted.

The garden is walled on both sides, this was checked and no suitable crevices or cracks that bats could utilise were noted.

The brick wall features a 'hedgehog highway' but otherwise there is no suitable habitat on site for terrestrial mammals with little connectivity to other more suitable habitats. The garden is fenced and walled on all sites reducing the accessibility of the site for terrestrial mammals and there is little connectivity to other more suitable habitats.



Figure 4-1 Hedgehog highway in boundary wall

4.2.2 **BIRDS**

The shrubs and trees on site provide suitable habitat for nesting birds.

4.2.3 HERPETOFAUNA

There is no suitable terrestrial habitat on site for this group and little connectivity to other more suitable habitats. The nearest waterbody is ~100m to the northeast, however, this is used by many waterfowl, reducing the suitability of this pond for GCN.

4.2.4 **INVERTEBRATES**

The garden shrubs provide foraging opportunities and shelter for invertebrates.

5 CONCLUSION

The desk study showed that legally protected areas of ecological importance would not be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

Overall, the study site provides nature conservation value in a local (parish) context, containing ecological features such as garden trees and shrubs. The mown lawn offered few opportunities.

The site provides negligible potential for bats, badgers and herpetofauna due to a lack of suitable habitat on site a lack of connectivity to other more suitable habitats.

The trees and shrubs provide moderate potential for breeding birds.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 MITIGATION

6.1.1 BIRDS

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Damaging or destroying the nest of any wild bird (whilst being built or in use) is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Therefore, any vegetation clearance or demolition of structures, in which birds are nesting, should be undertaken outside the breeding season. The bird breeding season can be taken to run between the 1 February and 31 August (in practice, it is usually March to July and is subject to geographical and seasonal factors).

If vegetation clearance outside the breeding season is not possible, further surveys for breeding birds should be carried out prior to any works being undertaken. A minimum of a survey 24 hours prior to commencement of works would be required to minimise opportunities for nest building between the survey and the start of works. Any nest in use or being built during this survey may need to be left undamaged for the entire nesting period and alternative approaches to the works proposed.

To avoid disturbance of birds listed under Schedule 1, it is recommended that no work should be undertaken within 'line of sight' of the nest.

6.1.2 GENERAL

The habitats on site should continue to be managed as they currently are until development begins.

Should any protected species be unexpectedly found on site during works, all works must stop, and an ecologist consulted.

Any excavations that need to be left overnight should be covered or fitted with mammal ramps to ensure that any animals that enter can safely escape. Any open pipework with an outside diameter of greater than 120 mm must be covered at the end of each workday to prevent animals entering/becoming trapped.

6.1.3 LIGHTING

Any lighting on site should be in accordance with the <u>BCT lighting guidelines</u> (Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting (Bat Conservation Trust, 2023)) to ensure that any commuting routes or foraging areas are unimpacted.

6.2 ENHANCEMENTS

6.2.1 BATS

It is recommended that two integrated bat boxes be installed within the new building.

Ideally, these should face north or south and be no less than 3m above ground level. These require no maintenance and can be faced in any material for aesthetic purposes.

If the building does not allow for integrated bat boxes, then external boxes can be installed instead. These should be hung on the building or suitable trees within the grounds, face south/southwest, be no less than 3m above ground level and be placed away from any neighbouring ledge to avoid opportunities for predators to access the box.

Integrated bat boxes do not require any maintenance. External boxes should be checked annually for damage in the winter by observation from a distance. If the boxes are damaged and require replacement, an ecologist must be present.

Monitoring of bat boxes is considered unnecessary, but monitoring could be undertaken by a local bat group providing they hold the appropriate licences. This could include activity surveys to ascertain whether the bat boxes are being used, but we do not recommend direct inspection of bat boxes.



Example of built in bat box (Bird Brick Houses)

6.2.2 Breeding Birds

It is recommended that a combination of open fronted and songbird boxes be used to provide nesting opportunities for common garden birds. One of each box type can be installed, these should be placed between 2-4m above ground level and face between the north and east (or in a shaded & sheltered area) to avoid strong sunlight and prevailing winds/rain. The front of the nest box should be angled vertically or slightly downwards to prevent rain from entering the nest box. There should be a clear flight path to and from the box and it should be located away from any neighbouring ledge to avoid opportunities for predators to access the box.

Check the boxes annually, outside of the breeding season (March-August) for any damage and remove nest debris.

6.2.3 SMALL MAMMALS & HERPETOFAUNA

The existing 'hedgehog highway' should be maintained to allow small mammals such as hedgehogs and herpetofauna species a continuous corridor between the neighbouring residential gardens and green spaces in the area.

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7.1 ANIMALS (EXCEPT BADGERS)

Wild animals listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and/or Schedules 2 and 4 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

	Sections of the Act applicable
Bats and GCN	9 (1), (2) (4 a & b) of the WCA and Regulation 39 (1 a-c) of
	the Habitats Regulation

Species listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are afforded protection subject to the provisions of Section 9. A person will be guilty of an offence if they:

- 1. intentionally kill, injurer or take any wild animal included in Schedule 5,
- 2. have in their possession or control any live or dead wild animal included in Schedule 5 or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal,

3.

- 4. intentionally or recklessly
 - a. damage or destroy any structure or place which any wild animal specified in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection.
 - b. disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or
 - c. obstruct access to any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection.
- 5. Subject to the provisions of this Part,
 - sell, offer, or expose for sale, or have in his possession or transports for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild animal included in Schedule 5, or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal; or
 - publish or cause to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that they buy or sell, or intends to buy or sell, any of those things,
- 6. In any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1), (2) or (5)(a) relating to an act which is mentioned in subsection (1), (2) or (5)(a), the animal in question shall be presumed to have been a wild animal unless the contrary is shown.

Species listed on Annex II and Annex IV of The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (the Habitats Regulations) which transpose into UK law Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21st May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (often referred to as the 'Habitats [and Species] Directive.') are afforded further protection. The former Annex relates to the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for some species.

Inclusion on Annex IV ('European protected species') means that member states are required to put in place a system of strict protection as outlined in Article 12, and this is done through inclusion on Schedule 2 of the Regulations. Regulation 39 makes it an offence to:

Deliberately capture or kill an animal listed on Schedule 2 [Regulation 39(1)(a)]

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Deliberately disturb an animal listed on Schedule 2[Regulation 39(1)(b)]

Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of an animal listed on Schedule 2 [Regulation 39(1)(c)]

Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of an animal listed on Schedule 2 [Regulation 39(1)(d)]

Where applicable legislation applies to all life stages of a species.

7.2 BADGERS

Species	Sections of the Act applicable
Badgers & their Setts	All

Badgers were initially protected by inclusion on Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The protection has subsequently been strengthened by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The purpose of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 is to protect badgers from the incidental effects of lawful activities and deliberate attempts to inflict injury or kill badgers.

Under the Protection of Badger Act 1992:

- 1. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he willfully kills, injures, or takes, or attempts to kill, injure, or take, a badger.
- 2. If, in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) above consisting of attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, there is evidence from which it could reasonably be concluded that at the material time the accused was attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, he shall be presumed to have been attempting to kill, injure or take a badger unless the contrary is shown.
- 3. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he has in his possession or under his control any dead badger or any part of, or anything derived from, a dead badger.
- 4. A person is not guilty of an offence under subsection (3) above if he shows that—
- a. the badger had not been killed, or had been killed otherwise than in contravention of the provisions of this Act or of the Badgers Act 1973; or
- b. the badger or other thing in his possession or control had been sold (whether to him or any other person) and, at the time of the purchase, the purchaser had had no reason to believe that the badger had been killed in contravention of any of those provisions.
- c. If a person is found committing an offence under this section on any land it shall be lawful for the owner or occupier of the land, or any servant of the owner or occupier, or any constable, to require that person forthwith to quit the land and also to give his name and address; and if that person on being so required willfully remains on the land or refuses to give his full name or address he is guilty of an offence.

Cruelty.

- 1. A person is guilty of an offence if—
- a. he cruelly ill-treats a badger.

- b. he uses any badger tongs in the course of killing or taking, or attempting to kill or take, a badger.
- c. except as permitted by or under this Act, he digs for a badger; or
- d. he uses for the purpose of killing or taking a badger any firearm other than a smooth bore weapon of not less than 20 bore or a rifle using ammunition having a muzzle energy not less than 160 foot-pounds and a bullet weighing not less than 38 grains.
- 2.2 If in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1)(c) above there is evidence from which it could reasonably be concluded that at the material time the accused was digging for a badger he shall be presumed to have been digging for a badger unless the contrary is shown.

Interfering with badger setts.

- A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he interferes with a badger sett by doing any of the following things—
 - (a)damaging a badger sett or any part of it.
 - (b)destroying a badger sett.
 - (c)obstructing access to, or any entrance of, a badger sett.
 - (d)causing a dog to enter a badger sett; or
 - (e)disturbing a badger when it is occupying a badger sett,

intending to do any of those things or being reckless as to whether his actions would have any of those consequences.

Selling and possession of live badgers.

4. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he sells a live badger or offers one for sale or has a live badger in his possession or under his control.

Marking and ringing.

5. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as authorized by a license under section 10 below, he marks, or attaches any ring, tag, or other marking device to, a badger other than one which is lawfully in his possession by virtue of such a license.

7.3 **BIRDS**

Species All species of wild birds

All wild birds, with certain exceptions, are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

It is an offence for any person to:

Intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird.

Intentionally take damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built.

Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

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.

The penalty for each offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act - in respect of a single bird, nest, or egg - is a fine of up to £5,000, and/or six months' imprisonment.

Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are further protected from intentional or reckless disturbance whilst nest building or at (or near) a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

To avoid disturbance, recommend that no work should be undertaken within 'line of sight' of the nest. Note Certain activities e.g., pile driving, pneumatic drilling and borehole drilling will require a wider buffer zone.