

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre

Tel: 01992 555220

Web address: <http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk>

The Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) based at County Hall provides an advisory service to the local authorities and public in Hertfordshire. The centre manages information on plants and animals across the county provided to HBRC from a variety of nature conservation organisations including: Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Herts & Middx Bat Group, Herts & Middx Badger Group, Amphibian and Reptile Group and Hertfordshire Natural History Society.

English Nature

Local Office (Essex, Hert, London) Tel: 01206 796666

Harbour House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex. CO2 8JF

National Office: Tel 01733 455000 www.english-nature.org.uk

English Nature is the Government funding body whose purpose is to promote conservation of England's wildlife and natural features.

National Organisations who may provide further leaflets and general guidance include:

Bat Conservation Trust 020 7627 2629,

National Federation of Badger Groups 020 7228 6444,

RSPB 01767 680551, **Froglife** (HGBI) 01986 873733.

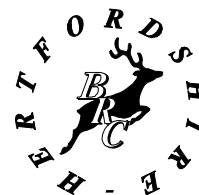
Legislation: the main instrument of wildlife protection in the UK is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the CROW Act 2000). This act provides the mechanism for the implementation of European legislation such as the Habitats Directive. The Habitats Directive is further implemented by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994. Other legislation protecting wildlife in the UK includes The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Deer Act 1991 and the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

PROTECTED WILDLIFE AND YOUR PLANNING APPLICATION

Things you need to know before submitting a planning application

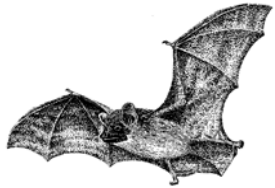
Some wildlife is protected by law

- The Local Planning Authority has a legal obligation to take account of protected species when determining a planning application.
- Before submitting an application it is important to consider the possibility of protected species being either on your land or on land nearby. You are advised to consult with the Herts Biological Records Centre (HBRC) to check for the existence of any protected wildlife in your area.
- **Where protected species are known/likely to be present; a survey of the application site will need to be submitted with the application.**
- Without an acceptable survey report, the application will not be determined.
- If the survey confirms the presence of protected species, mitigation proposals will also need to be included with the application. There may also be a requirement for applicants to obtain an appropriate licence for the work.



This leaflet contains information on some protected animals found in Hertfordshire

*** BATS**



Eleven species of bat have been recorded in Hertfordshire. Bats are commonly found in houses and old barns but can also be found in tree cavities, underground structures, bridges, churches and industrial buildings. Bats tend to be seasonal visitors to houses but will re-use the same roost year after year. Bats may roost in different parts of the building- under tiles, barge and soffit boards, in cavity walls, or in the roof apex. They can enter tiny crevices and their presence may not be obvious. Buildings are more likely to be used if they are properties close to woodland and/or water. Due to their drastic decline, the law protects bats and their roost sites whether or not bats are present at the time. A bat survey may be requested if it is thought likely that your property supports bats.

*** COMMON DORMOUSE**

Hertfordshire has a few sites where dormice have been recorded. A survey may be required where a development affects woodland or hedgerows in the vicinity of known dormouse habitat.



*** = Animals protected by European law in addition to UK legislation.**

Line drawings provided by English Nature

NESTING BIRDS

Roofing works, tree removal may affect nesting sites. Works may need to be timed to avoid the breeding season. It is illegal to damage the nests of wild birds whilst in use.



*** OTTERS**

WATER VOLES



Rivers, streams and waterbodies are key habitats for otters and water voles. If planning applications affect land alongside waterways, the welfare of these animals may be a consideration



BADGERS

Badgers can be found in a variety of habitats and will excavate holes (setts) along hedgerows, within scrub, on farmland and occasionally under outbuildings in peoples gardens. Badgers routinely use the same paths between their sett and foraging territory. In the UK badgers have been protected since 1992.

*** GREAT CRESTED NEWT**



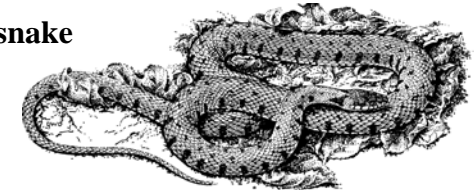
Development proposals within the vicinity of ponds may need to consider the possible presence of great crested newts.

Great crested newts spend their lives occupying suitable habitats within 200-500 metres of their breeding pond, with some venturing further in search of new ponds. Suitable terrestrial habitat may include areas of rough grassland, hedgerows, ditches, and woodland. Development areas with potential to support great crested newts may need to include an appropriate survey.

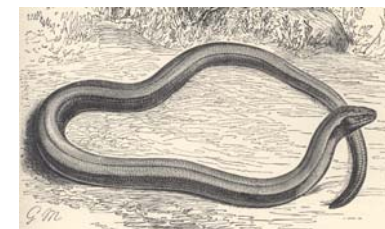
REPTILES

All native reptiles are protected from being intentionally killed or injured. In Hertfordshire this includes grass snakes, common lizard and slow worms. There has also been some possible adder sightings.

Grass snake



Slow worm: a legless lizard frequently found in gardens under rubble and compost heaps.



If an application affects a site where reptiles occur, the applicant would need to show how the development could proceed without injuring the animals. Reptile surveys can only be conducted in the summer months and may take several weeks.