

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

The Glenturret
2024-2025



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INTRODUCTION

Background

The Glenturret's Sustainable Strategy outlines eight focus areas for the business to achieve and sustain Net Zero by 2040.

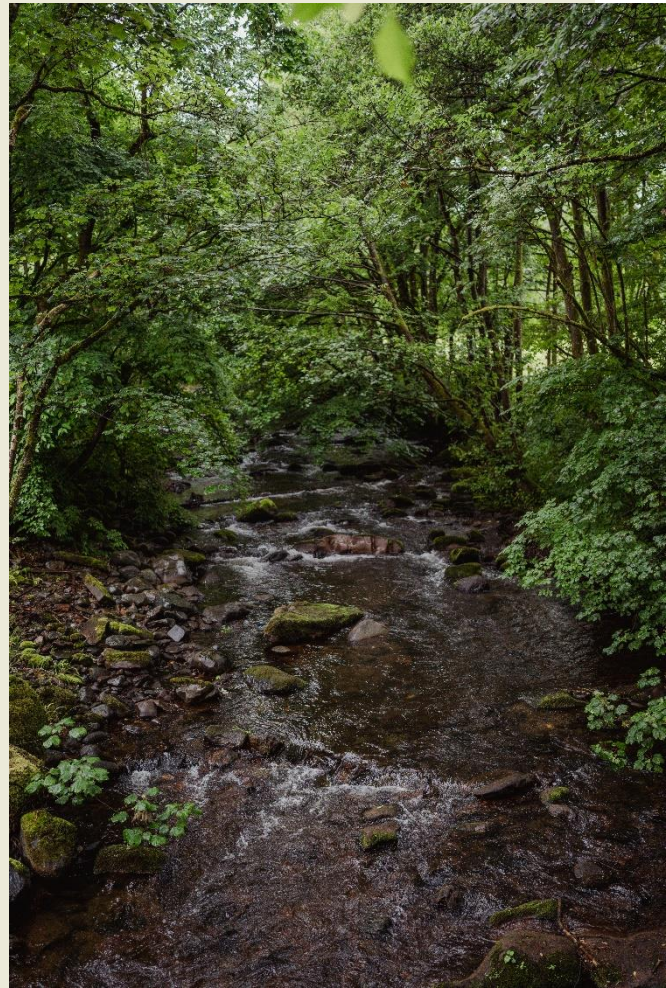
Encouraging Biodiversity has been identified as one of the key parts to our environmental protection plan.

Alongside our Environmental Management System aligned to an ISO 14001 standard, we have undertaken a materiality assessment that looks at the biodiversity dependencies in our supply chain and the ways in which we can avoid, mitigate, and offset biodiversity loss.

As the brand continues to grow, we understand the importance of protecting and nurturing the biodiversity that surrounds the land that we own in addition to supporting ecological community initiatives that allow our diverse ecosystem to thrive.

The Glenturret currently operates within an area known as the Hosh at the foot of the picturesque Turret Glen. The distillery and warehousing occupies 8 acres of land with the Turret Burn running alongside the distillery. In 2022 we purchased Aberturret House and Cottage (Aberturret Estate) which is situated across the Turret Burn on a further 3.5 acres of land. In 2019 we also purchased 2.7 acres of land on Muthill Road, Crieff for future warehousing development.

In order to manage and monitor the biodiversity and habitats within the acres of land that we own, we have developed this Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) that covers all 3 of our sites.



Ecological Context

Information on important habitats, flora, and fauna, including potential impacts and essential mitigation, are presented in the survey appendices accompanying the HMMP. The distillery is home to a wealth of wildlife including protected species such as Red Squirrels and a thriving Bat population. Although not in a conservation area, our sites comprise of a diverse mixture of broadleaved and coniferous species at around 30 to 150 years old.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this HMMP is to outline the existing ecology and the resulting management, monitoring and mitigation for habitat loss appropriate to the sites owned by Glenturret Ltd. The HMMP will also identify future restorative opportunities and highlight areas where further monitoring procedures should be considered.

Report Structure

The structure of this report is presented as follows:

- 📄 Outline of the HMMP specific to each area of concern
- 📄 Arboriculture Surveys
- 📄 Ecological Surveys

SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Scope

The Glenturret will seek independent consultants to accurately produce and advise on the ecological findings at all Glenturret Ltd owned sites. The detailed baseline information will also consider future preservation and potential for restoration as part of the distillery's longer term sustainable strategy.

The HMMP will describe management objectives for each vegetation type that will be agreed in consultation with the identified independent bodies in order to establish success criteria for habitat management and restoration.

This report will function as a live document where success, criteria and management prescriptions may be subject to revision based on monitoring findings. The Sustainability Project Manager will hold responsibility to make adaptations where required upon review.



Steering Group

A Steering Group will be established to comment and advise on the content of the HMMP and to oversee its implementation. The scope of a Steering Group would include meetings and document review on an annual basis to:

- (i) Agree objectives and management prescription;
- (ii) review and evaluate monitoring results; and
- (iii) adapt management prescriptions.

An effective Steering Group should seek representation from the following stakeholders:

- † Project Ecologist
- † Project Arboriculturist
- † Project Site Investigation Team
- † Perth and Kinross Council (PKC)
- † Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- † Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- † Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- † Earthwatch

In due course, the Steering Group may include representation from other interest groups as required.

OUTLINE OF THE MANGEMENT PLAN

The Glenturret Distillery and Aberturret Estate

Designated Sites

The site does not lie within or adjacent to any designated site.

The nearest designated sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are Ben Chonzie 1641.76 ha and Monzie Wood 44.47 ha. Monzie Wood is located 2.1 miles Northeast of the distillery and was last designated in 1984 to protect its woodland habitat. Ben Chonzie is located 20 miles Northwest of the distillery and was last designated in 1983 to protect its breeding bird, upland habitat, and vascular plant assemblage.

There are several areas of ancient woodland within a mile of the distillery which includes an area next to the distillery that features slow growing tree species such as Yew trees. The overall plantation surrounding the distillery and Aberturret is long-established with tree cover ranging from around 30 to 150 years.

Biological Records and Previous Survey Findings

During the last survey of the distillery restaurant and kitchen area, three types of bats were observed on the site: Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), and Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*).

Further to these three protected species have been recorded within 1km of the site: The European Pine Marten (*Martes martes*), West European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), and Eurasian Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*).

Records of bird species within 1km of the site, include, Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*), Swift (*Apus apus*), Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), and Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).

Surrounding Habitat

The immediate habitat includes a patch of ancient and mixed woodland. The tree and shrub cover around the distillery and Aberturret Estate comprises of a diverse mixture of broadleaved and coniferous species. This tends to be concentrated throughout the site in a broad band of planting adjacent to Aberturret House and smaller tracks to the north and east. This is well-established along the length of the western, and northern boundary, and this provides a buffer between adjacent residential development. Scattered individual specimens and large groups of shrubs are scattered throughout the main body of the site on landscaped areas.

The tree cover is very mixed at around 30 to 150 years. It was clearly planted at the same time as part of the landscaping for Aberturret House with new planting mixed in between. Consequently, most trees are relatively varied in age and of assorted stature.

Habitats are connected by tree lines, providing good connectivity for protected species, such as red squirrel through the landscape. Buildings and houses in the area may provide roosting opportunities for crevice-roosting species such as Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, and attic-roosting species such as Brown long-eared bats and Natterer's bats.

Patches of ancient mixed woodland lie within 1km of the site and are likely to provide foraging and roosting opportunities for woodland specialists such as Natterer's and Brown long-eared bats, as well as red squirrels. Treelines and hedgerows provide potential foraging and commuting opportunities for generalist species such as Common and Soprano Pipistrelles.

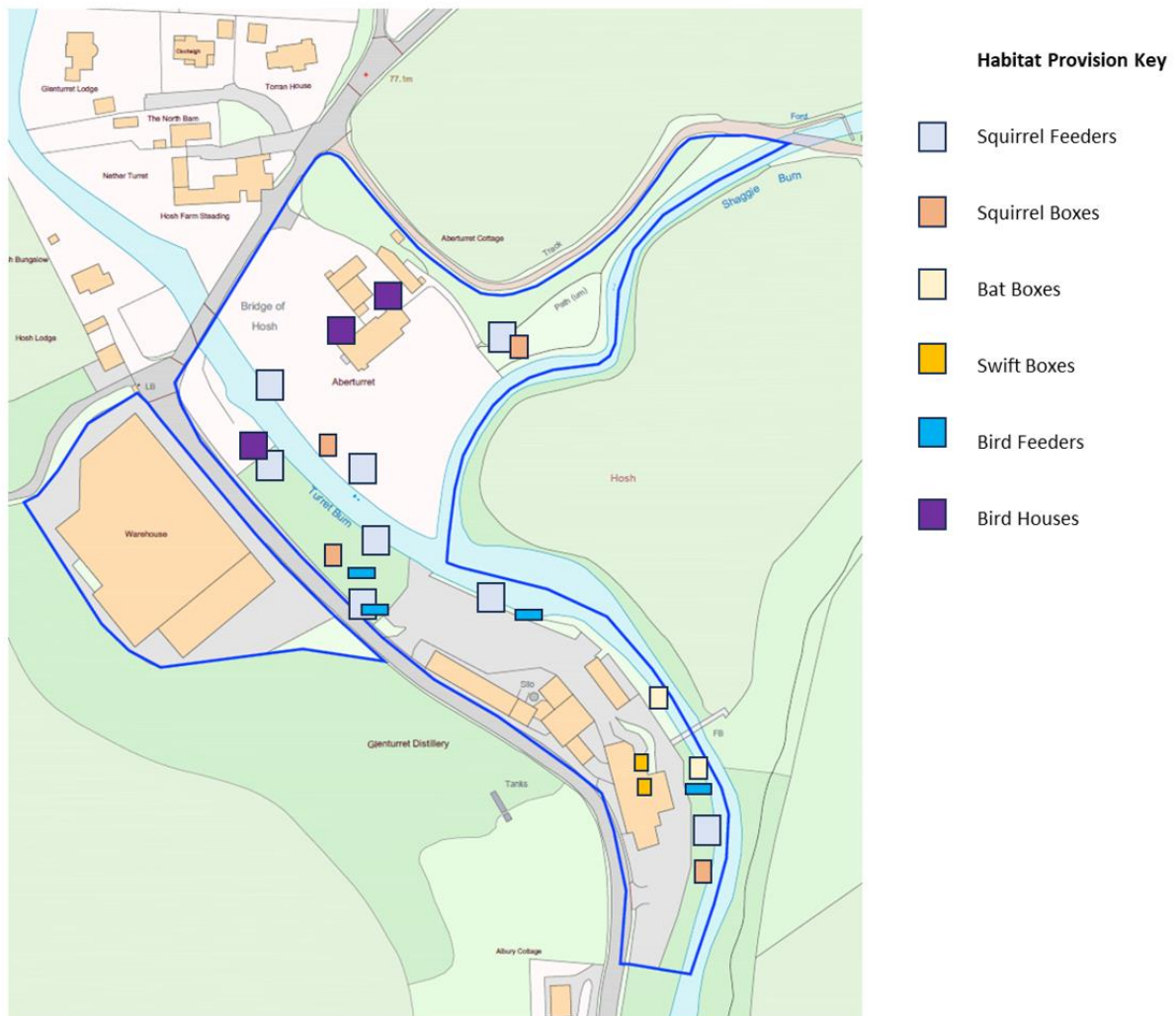
Nearby fields and woodland have the potential to be used by red squirrels and Pine marten. Riparian features, namely River Turret lies between the distillery and Aberturret and is likely to offer foraging opportunities suitable for riparian specialists Daubenton's bats and water voles.

Habitats

Habitat provision for wildlife across the distillery and Aberturret is highlighted in the map below. At present the habitats are accessed for suitability monthly by the distillery maintenance team and monitoring of populations is undertaken annually.

There will be scope to include cameras across our habitat provision in order to improve monitoring in the future.

We are working with our Sustainability Partners to further develop our HMMP over the coming 12 months.



Aberturret Guineafowl

Aberturret House is currently home to five wild Guineafowl, who are fed and monitored by the distillery maintenance team. They live within the grounds of Aberturret Estate and have resided there for several years prior to the distillery's purchase of the land.

Protected Species

Bats

The distillery is home to a number of bat roost locations as highlighted in previous survey and monitoring plans.

No significant long- or short-term negative impacts are predicted to impact bat species at the site.

Other protected mammals

There is additional provision of habitat on site for protected species. Hares may commute across the site whilst using the wider habitat. It is unlikely that these will be impacted in the future.

Red squirrels and pine marten may use trees on and surrounding the site and given that the majority of the trees are to be retained, it is unlikely that these populations will be impacted in the future.

Observations of the riverbank are still ongoing. The river Turret may be used for commuting, foraging, and resting/burrowing for riparian species.

There is no suitable habitat on site for otters, beavers, or water voles, however these may use the adjacent River Earn for commuting, foraging, and resting/burrowing. The riverbank within the 30m buffer of the site was searched for signs of these and none were identified. Given that the riverbank and boundary will continue to be kept intact, it is unlikely that any riparian species will be impacted in the future.

There is no suitable habitat on site for great crested newts or any other amphibian or reptile species.

It is not anticipated that the distillery and Aberturret Estate will have any negative short- or long-term impacts on protected species listed above.

Nesting Birds

Vegetation and trees on and within habitats surrounding the site have suitability to be used by nesting bird species.

These habitats will continue to be monitored through the annual ecology reports.

No significant long- or short-term negative impacts are predicted to impact nesting birds at the site.

Invasive Species

No invasive plant or animal species were found on site or within the surrounding habitats bordering the site.

No short- or long-term negative impacts from invasive species are predicted.

Distillery Team Monitoring Notes

The following species have been observed by the distillery's monitoring team in the last 12 month period.

Nesting Birds		Other Species	
Common Wood Pigeon	European Robin	Common and Soprano Pipistrelles	European Honeybee
Crow	Swallow	Eurasian Red Squirrel	Bumblebee
Eurasian Blue Tit	House Sparrow	Roe and Red Deer	
Common Buzzard	Pied/White Wagtail	Vole	
Great Tit	Red Kite	Hedgehog	
Jackdaw	Common Chaffinch	Common Frog	
Magpie		Owl (Calls observed)	

Conclusions and Monitoring

The site does not lie within or adjacent to any designated site.

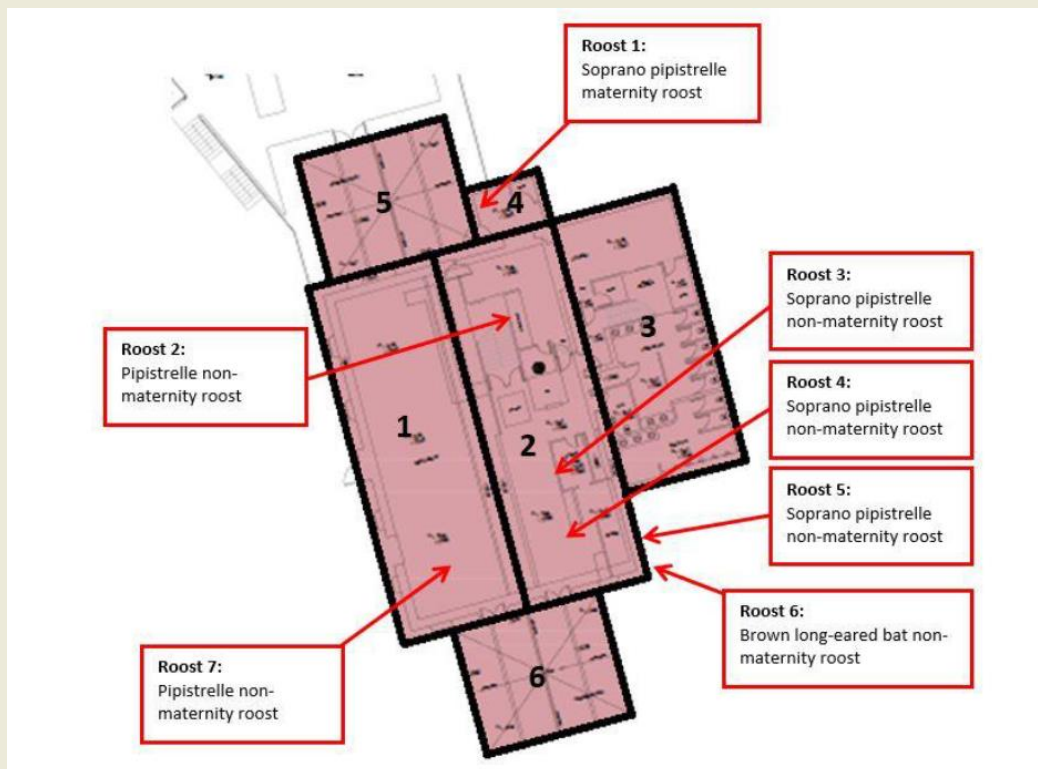
There have been records of three bat species within 5km of the site: Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), and Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*). As well as three other protected or notable species within 1km of the site: The European Pine Marten (*Martes martes*), West European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), and Eurasian Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*).

The site comprises a total area of approximately 4.65 hectares within the site boundary and borders the Hosh Road to the West, the Hosh Bridge to the North and fields and residential properties to the East and South.

Bats

The area surrounding the site has suitability to be used by a range of bat species for roosting, foraging, and commuting.

Evidence of bats were found within the roof structures above the main building housing the shop, café and restaurant areas of the distillery. This area of the site has several suitable roost features that could be and are used by bats. During the recent renovations in the restaurant area of the site, the below diagram highlights the identified roost sites present at the distillery.



Nesting Birds

The surrounding trees and vegetation on site are suitable to be used by nesting birds. There are also internal areas of the distillery that have suitability including the Spirit Store and Still House areas of production.

Other protected species

The site and surrounding habitat have limited suitability to be used by badgers and hares for commuting and foraging. No evidence of badgers or hares was found on or within a 30m buffer and the site is largely unsuitable for sett building and nesting. Trees on and bordering the site may be used by red squirrels and pine martens, however as trees are to be retained, and no signs of them were identified, these are unlikely to be impacted in the future.

Muthill Road

Designated Sites

The site does not lie within or adjacent to any designated site.

The nearest designated site is Drummond Lochs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which lies approximately 1.4km south of the site and was last designated in 1985 to protect its woodland habitat, lichen assemblage, and non-breeding bird populations.

The Pond of Drummond and Bennybeg Pond were later designated a RAMSAR site and Special Protection Area (SPA) in 1993, known as the South Tayside Goose Roosts. This was to protect their non-breeding and breeding bird populations, including the Wigeon (*Anas penelope*).

Drummond Wood was designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) known as Upper Strathearn Oakwoods in 2008. The site was designated to protect its unique western acidic oak woodland.

There are several areas of ancient woodland within 1km of the site including, adjacent to the site across Muthill Road. This patch of ancient woodland covers 4.96 hectares. There are six further areas of ancient woodland within 1km of the site all of which cover at least 4 hectares of land. There are also several areas of long-established plantation woodland within 1km of the site.

Biological Records

A search of DDAL biological records found three bat species have been recorded within 5km of the site: Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), and Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*).

Further to these three protected species have been recorded within 1km of the site: Beaver (*Castor fiber*), West European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), and Eurasian Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*).

Records of bird species within 1km of the site, include Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*): Swift (*Apus apus*), Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), and Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).

No records of notable plant species within 1km of the site were found. Plant records are limited but include Common Spike Rush (*Eleocharis palustris*), Tufted Forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa*), Broad-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*) and Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*).

Surrounding Habitat

The immediate habitat includes a patch of ancient and mixed woodland, some acid grassland, and adjacent industrial buildings, however, is dominated by pasture and crop fields. Habitats are connected by hedgerows and tree lines, providing good connectivity for protected species, such as badger, through the landscape. Buildings and houses in the area may provide roosting opportunities for crevice-roosting species such as Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, and attic-roosting species such as Brown long-eared bats and Natterer's bats.

Patches of ancient mixed woodland lie within 1km of the site and are likely to provide foraging and roosting opportunities for woodland specialists such as Natterer's and Brown long-eared bats, as well as red squirrels. Treelines and hedgerows provide potential foraging and commuting opportunities for generalist species such as Common and Soprano Pipistrelles.

Nearby fields and woodland have the potential to be used by badger, red squirrels and Pine marten. Riparian features, namely River Earn lies less than 50m west of the site and is likely to offer foraging opportunities suitable for riparian specialists Daubenton's bats, Otters and Beavers.

Habitats

Temporary impacts to natural resources from clearing activities, and preventative may include pollution from construction equipment and noise.

The retained vegetation and trees are vulnerable to damage during the construction phase, such as through ground compaction, damage to roots and limbs, however this is a short-term impact that is not deemed significant.

These activities and related impacts are not expected to disturb any designated sites.

No significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts are predicted on the habitats found on site.

Protected Species

Bats

There may be a small loss of habitat that is unlikely to have an impact on foraging bat species. There is a single tree within the survey boundary that contains potential roosting features (PRFs), however all trees on site are set to be retained. If the tree is retained, then no significant impacts to bats are predicted. No other trees containing PRFs were identified within the additional 30m survey boundary.

The buildings on site do not have suitable PRFs and are therefore unlikely to be used by bats. The loss of these buildings is therefore unlikely to have an impact on bat species potentially using the site.

No significant long- or short-term negative impacts are predicted to impact bat species.

Other protected mammals

There is limited habitat on site for protected species. Badgers and hares may commute across the site whilst using the wider habitat, however no evidence of these was identified on or within 30m buffer of the site. It is therefore unlikely that these will be impacted.

Red squirrels and pine marten may use trees on and surrounding the site, however given that the trees are to be retained, it is unlikely that the proposed development will have an impact on these.

There is no suitable habitat on site for otters, beavers or water voles, however these may use the adjacent River Earn for commuting, foraging and resting/burrowing. The riverbank within the 30m buffer of the site was searched for signs of these and none were identified. Given that the riverbank and boundary will be kept intact, it is unlikely that the development will have an impact on otters, beavers or water voles.

There is no suitable habitat on site for great crested newts or any other amphibian or reptile species.

It is not anticipated that the development will have any negative short- or long-term impacts on protected species listed above.

Nesting Birds

Vegetation and trees on and within habitats surrounding the site have suitability to be used by nesting bird species. If the development takes place during the primary nesting bird season (1st March – 31st August) then there is the risk of killing and injuring nesting birds, damaging their nests or eggs.

Provided any clearance of vegetation takes place out with the primary nesting bird season (1st March – 31st August), no short- or long-term negative impacts are predicted to nesting bird species.

Invasive Species

No invasive plant or animal species were found on site or within the surrounding habitats bordering the site.

No short- or long-term negative impacts from invasive species are predicted.

Conclusions and Monitoring

The site does not lie within or adjacent to any designated site.

The desk study revealed biological records of three bat species within 5km of the site: Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), and Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*). As well as three other protected or notable species within 1km of the site: Beaver (*Castor fiber*), West European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), and Eurasian Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*).

The subject site comprises an area of approximately 0.87 hectares with three buildings within the site boundary. The site borders the A822 to the west, the River Earn to the east, buildings to the north, and fields to the south.

Bats

The area surrounding the site has moderate suitability to be used by a range of bat species for roosting, foraging, and commuting.

No evidence of bats was found within the structure of the buildings during the stage 1 preliminary roost assessment. The old Stuart crystal shop does have a limited number of potential roost features such as raised flashing; however, the building is rotting from water damage with the ceilings sagging from being waterlogged, making these features unsuitable to be used by bats. The outbuildings are similarly rotting and derelict, however, do not have potential roost features that could be used by bats.

All three buildings have been assessed as having negligible suitability for bats. Therefore, no further survey work is required for bats at this time.

Nesting Birds

An old swallow's nest was identified within the old Stuart crystal shop, as well as remnants of birds' nests and droppings being found within outbuilding 2. Both buildings are suitable to be used by nesting birds internally and externally. Trees and vegetation on site have further suitability to be used by them.

Outbuilding 1 does not have suitability to be used by nesting birds and therefore does not require further survey work for birds at this time.

If works take place during the primary nesting bird season (1st March – 31st August) then there is the risk of killing and injuring nesting birds, damaging their nests or eggs.

Recommendations are given below regarding actions to be taken regarding this.

Other protected species

The site and surrounding habitat have limited suitability to be used by badgers and hares for commuting and foraging. No evidence of badgers or hares was found on or within a 30m buffer and the site is largely unsuitable for sett building and nesting. Trees on and bordering the site may be used by red squirrels and pine martens, however as trees are to be retained, and no signs of them were identified, these are unlikely to be impacted by the development.

There is no suitable habitat on site to be used by otters, water voles, or beavers, however the adjacent River Earn is likely to be used by them for commuting and foraging. The riverbank was searched within the 30m buffer and no signs of these were identified. It is therefore unlikely that these would be impacted by the proposed development.

There is no suitable habitat on site for great crested newts any other amphibians and reptiles.

No signs of protected species, with the exception of nesting birds, were identified on site or within a 30m buffer of the site.

Recommendations (When Build Commences)

Nesting Birds

If work takes place during the primary nesting season (1st March – 31st August), it has the potential to disturb or destroy active bird nests. This would be likely to constitute a criminal offence. It is therefore recommended that a pre-works nesting bird check be carried out immediately beforehand, to identify and protect any active nests, until the young fledge.

If applicable all plant and equipment should be used with noise suppression which will reduce the noise impact of the surrounding area. Active nesting sites should be inspected only by a suitably qualified ecologist. Natural buffer areas should be preserved as much as possible.

If works are carried out outside these dates, no further survey effort is required.

Other Protected Species

The site and surrounding habitat are suitable to be used by badgers, and a limited number of other protected and notable species for commuting and foraging. It is recommended that precautions are taken to minimize the risk of badgers or other animals being impacted during development.

To minimise the impact on wildlife, if applicable, the following best practice measures are recommended:

- Open excavations should be kept to a minimum across the whole site and covered overnight or fitted with a means of escape to prevent animals becoming trapped. This should be in the form of mammal ramps, i.e., a plank of wood sturdy enough to be used by badgers should they fall into any open excavations.
- All pipes should be capped to prevent wildlife from gaining access and becoming trapped.
- If work takes place during winter months, prior to vegetation clearing works, vegetation should be checked carefully for hedgehog nests/hibernation sites.
- Clearing procedures should specify that only vegetation designated for removal shall be removed.