

Dormouse surveys are underway and so far have found no evidence of dormouse. Surveys will be completed in 2026. A licence and compensatory planting will be required if dormice are present.

The Site is in a 'Zone C' consultation zone for Hestercombe House Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated for lesser horseshoe bats. Bat activity surveys are ongoing and will be completed in 2026.

Evidence is not conclusive which boundaries are more important for bats (including lesser horseshoes) at this stage. Surveys will inform appropriate mitigation, which may include retention of a north-south and east-west flyway with a dark buffer, as well as sensitive lighting measures.

The majority of the site is a crop field, small areas of grassland and bramble scrub and is of relatively low ecological value. No major ecological constraints. Hedgerows and trees on Site have higher ecological value and should be retained where possible. Compensation for any habitat loss will be required under Biodiversity Net Gain.

Opportunities to enhance the Site through habitat creation and new open space. Suitable habitats would include species-rich grassland, community orchard, scrub, hedgerows and tree planting. Bat/bird/insect boxes will also be built into new houses.

Biodiversity Net Gain will be required in line with policy and is considered to be achievable.

Trees/woodland in the east of the Site are of higher ecological value and should be retained/incorporated into Public Open Space.

Trees are expected to be retained. Advised that these are kept unlit to prevent impacts to Potential Roost Features.

Active badger sett. A Construction Exclusion Zone of 20m is advised. If this is not possible, then a licence will likely be required from Natural England.

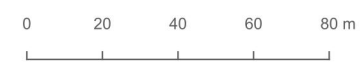
South-west boundary hedge and the ornamental hedge are of lower ecological value. Some compensation will be required under Biodiversity Net Gain, but this would be lower than for other, more valuable, hedges on Site.

Any clearance of woody vegetation will be timed to avoid the main bird nesting season (i.e. clearance September to February).

The off Site pond will be surveyed for great crested newts in the appropriate season (15th April-30th June), subject to access.

Key:

- Site Boundary
- c - Cropland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- Badger sett 20m buffer
- Line of Trees
- Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)
- Native Hedgerow
- Native Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch
- Ornamental Hedgerow
- Pond
- Badger Sett



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Figure 1:
Ecological Constraints and Opportunities Plan

Project:
Land at Staplegrove, Taunton

Client:
Abbey Manor Group

Date:
5/3/2026
Ref:
0614-ECOP-F1

Drawn:
AP
Revision:
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