

## 12.8 MAMMALS

### **Application (all mammal guidelines)**

Acceptable evidence of the presence of mammal species includes sightings of animals, their nests and in appropriate cases, faecal material. Sites may be considered for inclusion if they fulfil any of the following guidelines based on at least post 1987 records for the species concerned, but using up to date survey information where possible.

### **Mammal Selection Guidelines**

Sites that meet one or more of the following guidelines will be eligible for designation as a Local Wildlife Site.

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**Ma1a** Any hibernation site that regularly supports 2 or more species of bat and 30 or more individuals.

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**Ma1b** Any site which regularly supports roosts of 3 or more bat species or a roost of a species which is considered rare in the county

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**Ma1c** Any breeding roost site that regularly supports 100 or more individuals for *Pipistrellus* spp. and 50 or more individuals for all other species.

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### **Application (all bat selection guidelines)**

The bat guidelines will not be applied to domestic or industrial (including agricultural) buildings. Other artificial structures for example, mine shafts, tunnels, bridges, historic monuments, however, may be considered for designation.

For the purposes of the guidelines, a site may be any place used by bats for roosting. For summer and breeding roosts the site boundary may also include key feeding areas associated with the roost and flyways between them and the roost, where a discrete boundary can be identified. Key feeding areas are those locations that bats from the roost regularly use for feeding and ones where they can spend significant time feeding each night. Identifying key feeding areas for all species may not be possible or desirable, as some species feed over a wide area and in a variety of habitats.

The guidelines are intended to identify and protect the most important regularly used or 'traditional' sites. It is not intended to cover sites that support low numbers of bats and/or roost sites that are intermittently used. Currently there is only a single site, Elvaston Castle Country Park, which has been selected under these guidelines. Further work is necessary to identify locations where Local Wildlife Site designation will assist in the protection of bat populations.

### **Justification**

All species of British bat are protected under section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and section 39 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations. Many species have declined as a result of habitat loss, destruction of roosting and hibernation sites and through reduction in insect food supplies.

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**Ma2 Any site which regularly supports a native breeding population of a mammal species listed in Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive and/or in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).**

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### **Application**

Any site with a population of a mammal species in these categories should be included, except for those which are the result of recent deliberate introductions which do not form part of a recognised species recovery programme. Site selection is based primarily on regularly used breeding territories. However, consideration should be given to identifying areas utilised at other times of the year where these contribute to the essential habitat requirements of the species. Those species in Derbyshire to which this guideline applies may include:

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>      | Water Vole      |
| <i>Lutra lutra</i>              | Otter           |
| <i>Martes martes</i>            | Pine Marten     |
| <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> | Common Dormouse |

### **Justification**

These species are of restricted distribution, and have suffered drastic decline in abundance and range, both nationally and within Derbyshire. There is either a national or international obligation to secure the conservation of these species and their habitats.

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**Ma3 Any site which regularly supports a native breeding population of a mammal species which is recorded from 3 or fewer sites in Derbyshire.**

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### **Application**

Any site with a population of a mammal species in this category should be included, except for those that are the result of recent deliberate introductions which do not form part of a recognised species recovery programme. On the basis of the present knowledge, there are no species that this guideline applies to. However, it is possible that new species may expand their population ranges into Derbyshire at some stage in the future.

### **Justification**

There is a need to provide protection to new species colonising the County where these species are not protected species and are not protected by any other legislation or specific site designation.

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**Ma4 Sites which regularly support a native breeding population of a mammal species which is recorded from more than 3 sites in Derbyshire, but could be under threat because of small populations, recent rapid population declines or habitat deterioration or loss.**

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### **Application**

This guideline should be applied to sites supporting a breeding population of mammal species that has been recorded in more than 3 sites in Derbyshire but could be under threat. Current information suggests that species included in this category include: -

- **Harvest Mouse**
- **Water Shrew**

### **Justification**

Harvest Mice are listed as a local species in Lowland Derbyshire. Water Shrews are considered to be an under recorded species in the county but their status nationally is considered to be threatened.



Otter