# Protected species and planning in Bexley

## Protected species occurring in Bexley

Many plant and animal species receive some degree of protection under European Union and United Kingdom laws. Some species are fully protected; it is an offence to kill, injure, capture or disturb them or to damage their places of shelter. Others receive only partial protection.

**European protected species**
Full protection under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, implemented in the UK by the Habitats Regulations.

Bats (all species - at least 9 species are known to occur in Bexley)
Great crested newt

**Species fully protected under UK legislation**
Full protection under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Badger
Barn owl
Bearded tit
Black redstart
Cetti's Warbler
Firecrest
Hobby
Kingfisher
Little Ringed Plover
Stinking goosefoot
Water vole

In addition, all wild birds and their nests are protected against killing, injury or taking.

**Species protected only against killing and injury**
Common lizard
Grass snake
Slow worm

**Species protected only in relation to sale**
Common frog
Common toad
Palmate newt
Smooth newt
Stag beetle

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**Biodiversity information needed to assess planning applications in Bexley**

| Criteria | Requirement |
|---|---|
| All proposals on a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) | Ecological survey (habitats, plants, birds, invertebrates, other relevant species groups) of application site and surrounding parts of SINC, impact assessment, mitigation proposals |
| All proposals adjacent to a SINC | Ecological survey (habitats, plants, birds, invertebrates, other relevant species groups) of application site and adjacent parts of SINC, impact assessment, mitigation proposals if impacts identified |
| Proposed development including the modification, conversion, demolition of removal of buildings and structures (especially roof voids) involving the following:<br>• pre-1914 buildings with gable ends or slate roofs, regardless of location<br>• all buildings that are within 200m of woodland, water or large open spaces known to be important for feeding bats*;<br>• all tunnels, kilns, ice-houses, air raid shelters, cellars and similar underground ducts and structures;<br>• all bridge structures, aqueducts and viaducts. | Survey for bat roosts, detailed mitigation proposals if any sign of roosts found |
| Proposed tree work (felling or lopping) or development affecting:<br>• trees older than 100 years;<br>• trees with obvious holes, cracks or cavities;<br>• trees with a girth greater than 1m at chest height. | Survey for bat roosts, detailed mitigation proposals if any sign of roosts found |
| Proposals involving lighting of churches or listed buildings, or floodlighting of green space, within 50m of woodland, water or large open spaces known to be important for feeding bats*, or within 50m of hedgerows or tree lines with obvious connections to woodland, water or large open spaces known to be important for feeding bats | Bat surveys including roost and foraging surveys, assessment of impacts and mitigation proposals if bats are found |
| All proposals within 500m of a pond in the North Cray/Foots Cray area (see map overleaf) | Survey for great crested newts, assessment of impacts on newt habitat (terrestrial or aquatic), mitigation proposals |

| | |
|---|---|
| All proposals within 50m of a river or where application site includes or adjoins a river | Ecological survey including for water voles (and otters?), impact assessment, detailed mitigation proposals if water voles present, proposals for river enhancements. 8 metre vegetated buffer beside river |
| All proposals within 50m of a drainage ditch in Belvedere or Crayford | Water vole survey, detailed mitigation proposals if present. 8 metre vegetated buffer beside ditch |
| All proposals affecting greenspace (including gardens) in the North Cray/Foots Cray area (see map overleaf) | Survey for badgers, assessment of impacts and detailed mitigation proposals if setts or other signs of badger activity are found |
| All proposals affecting derelict land with or close to areas of sparse, open vegetation, where buildings or other structures are to be demolished | Survey for black redstarts with detailed mitigation proposals if found, mitigation proposals for habitat loss |
| All proposals for sites containing rough grassland, heathland, scrub, allotments or open vegetation mosaics, except for isolated brownfield sites with no connections to other areas of habitat | Survey for reptiles (mitigation schemes can be dealt with by condition) |
| Major proposals affecting brownfield land with open vegetation mosaics | Ecological survey including for black redstarts and reptiles, detailed mitigation for these species if found, mitigation proposals for habitat loss (eg brownfield green roofs) regardless of whether protected species are found |
| All proposals affecting any buildings, structures, feature or locations where protected species (other than occasional foraging bats with no evidence of roosts) are known to occur | Survey, impact assessment and mitigation proposals for the relevant protected species. |
| Major proposals with the potential for significant impact on water quality in the River Thames | Habitats Regulations Assessment of possible impacts on the Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area |
| Major proposals with the potential for significant adverse impacts on air quality | Habitats Regulations Assessment of possible impacts on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation |

* See the map below. Woodland is here defined as any group of trees covering more than 0.5 hectares; water includes rivers, streams, drainage ditches, lakes and ponds more than 10 metres in maximum dimension. The open spaces known to be important for bats are Erith Marshes, Crayford Marshes, Franks Park, Danson Park, Foots Cray Meadows, Lesnes Abbey (including all open space and the ornamental gardens), The Glade, East Wickham Open Space, The Warren and Hall Place.




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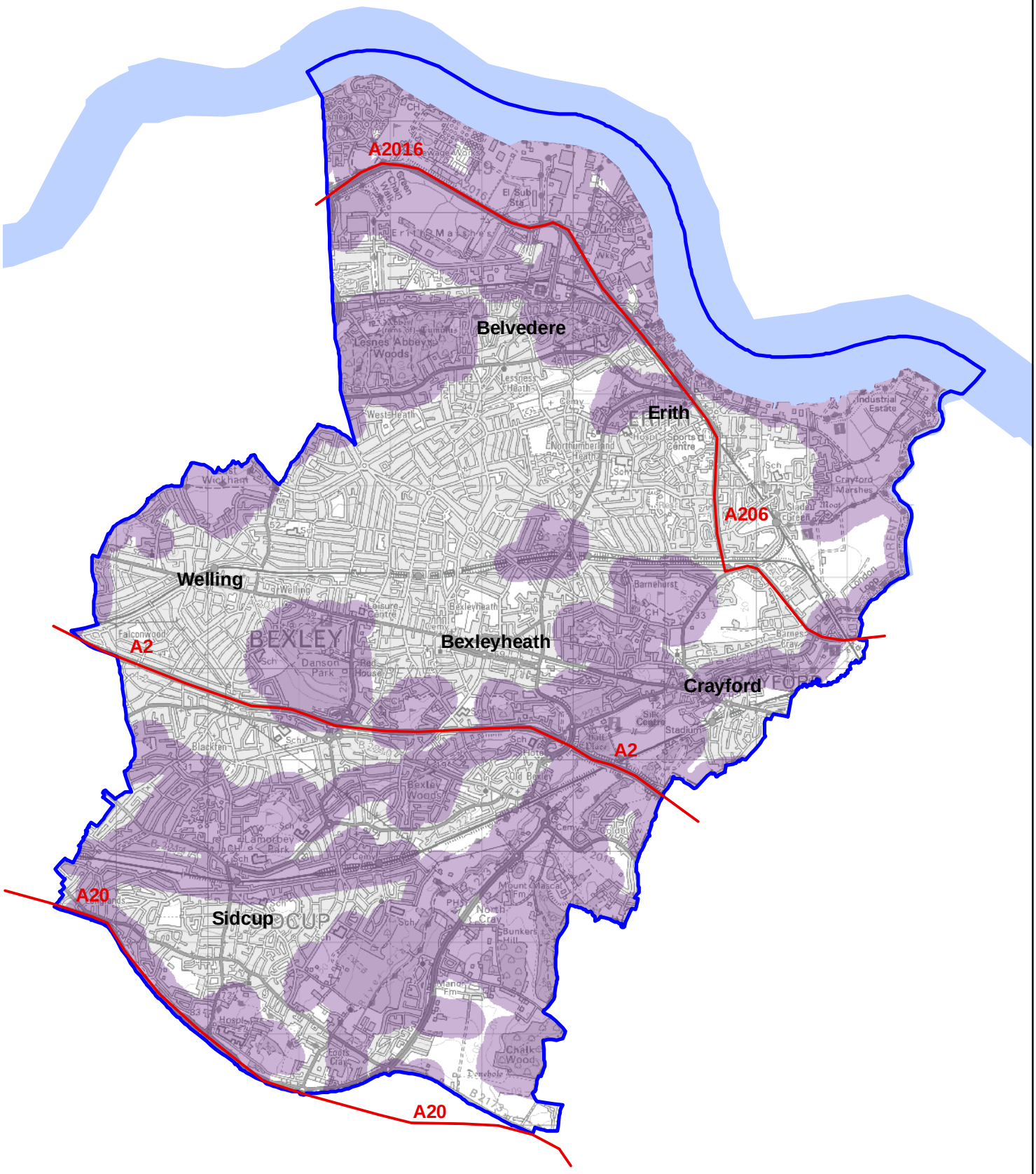
Area where badgers and great crested newts should be considered in assessing planning applications

Date: September 2011 Scale 1:58,000



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Areas within 200m of woodland, water or known bat feeding areas

Date: September 2011 Scale 1:58,000

## Survey requirements for protected species

These are guidelines on the types of surveys required when protected species may be affected by development proposals. The circumstances in which surveys are likely to be required are set out in the table above. All surveys should be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist. For details of appropriately qualified commercial ecologists, see http://www.ieem.net/ieemdirectory.asp

**Great crested newts**
see http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Newts%20DRAFT_tcm6-21705.pdf
Ponds
Method: any 3 of netting, torch surveys, bottle trapping, egg searches
Effort: 4 visits in suitable weather conditions
Timing: February to mid-June (visits spread throughout this period), at least 2 visits mid-April to mid-May

Terrestrial habitat
Method: Pitfall-trapping with drift fence (preferably plus refuges)
Effort: 60 trapping nights (NB this means 60 nights with suitable weather conditions)
Timing: March – October

**Bats**
see http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Bats_tcm6-21717.pdf
Roost surveys
Method: detailed examination of building/structure/trees for signs of use by bats
Effort: need to be able to examine all possible locations within a building (otherwise emergence/re-entry surveys also required)
Timing: any time of year

Emergence/re-entry surveys
Method: looking for emerging bats 15 minutes before sunset to 2 hours after sunset, and/or 2 hours before sunrise to sunrise
Effort: 2-3 survey visits (dusk then the following dawn counts as 1 visit), may need more than 1 surveyor to watch all sides of building
Timing: May to mid-October (preferably May to August)

Activity surveys
Method: transects covering the whole site, from sunset for 2-3 hours
Effort: 2-3 visits
Timing: May to September (preferably June to August)

**Water voles**
See http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Water%20Voles%20DRAFT_tcm6-21714.pdf
Method: close examination of all waterway and pond edges, up to 2 metres from the water, and detailed mapping of signs, including faeces, latrines, feeding stations, burrows, footprints
Timing: April to October

**Badgers**
see http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/badger_tcm6-21692.pdf
Method: searching for setts and other signs of use by badgers
Timing: any time, but determining if a sett is active best in spring or early winter

**Black redstarts**
See http://www.blackredstarts.org.uk/pages/sitesurvey.html
Surveys for singing males
Method: early morning visits (starting 1 hour before dawn) to listen for singing males
Effort: 1 visit per week in suitable weather conditions
Timing: May to August

**Reptiles**
See http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Reptile%20feb11_tcm6-21712.pdf and http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/TIN102
Method: walkover searches and using artificial refugia at a density of at least 10 per hectare
Effort: at least 7 visits in suitable weather to determine presence/absence
Timing: mid-March to late June and late August to late September