

# Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)

## Background

SRL have been appointed to do Preliminary Ecological Appraisals on a wide variety of sites. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) is the initial ecological survey on a site and informs the client of any ecological constraints and further surveys needed.

## Challenge

Each site is individual and presents different conditions and ecological constraints. It is essential to fully understand the implications of a development on the local ecology and biodiversity. SRL must understand and investigate the potential presence of any protected species and habitats which vary widely between urban and rural areas.

## Solution

SRL's experienced ecology team carefully surveys and assesses each habitat within the site for the potential to support protected species. Any recommendations for further surveys or mitigation are based on this detailed assessment. SRL recommends cost-effective surveys, which we make as practical as possible. For example, where existing buildings are to be demolished, we have recommended initial building inspections for bats before doing any activity surveys. The building inspections determine the likelihood of a building supporting roosting bats, and subsequently, provide a more detailed assessment of where further activity surveys are needed. This saves time and money by focusing on a particular building or area which may have a higher potential for supporting roosting bats. Where possible, we will do preliminary Habitat Suitability Index assessments for any on-site waterbodies to determine the likely presence of great crested newts. This approach ensures that our clients are informed of any further surveys or potential constraints as soon as possible, minimising the impact on construction schedules and budgets.



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