



Key facts about Wildlife and the PDO.

A group of local residents has been working together to try and find some information that might be useful when you are responding to the Council's Consultation on their Preferred Development Option (PDO).

You don't have to use all of these points, or any of them at all if you don't want to, but we hope they help you decide what you want to say, or the questions you want to ask.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is the primary legislation which protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK.

It is a criminal offence to disturb or kill many species present within the green belt land that Warrington Borough Council has put forward for urbanisation in the Preferred Development Option. New roads and building developments also disturb nearby wildlife outside of the earmarked area.

Some of the species the PDO will affect include but are not limited to: bats, badgers, dragonflies and damselflies, water voles, all wild birds - their nests and eggs, moths, butterflies, bumblebees, honey bees, hedgehogs, shrews, dormice, pine martins, ducks, frogs, herons, lizards, newts and toads.

Game birds are not included in the act, they are covered by the Game Acts, which fully protect them during the close season. Brown Hares are also protected in the close season.

Woodland, meadows, verges, ponds, streams, hedgerows and trees provide vital resources for mammals, fish, birds, and insect species. The development of green belt land destroys entire habitats for our native wildlife and puts some species at further risk of extinction.

Biodiversity is key to the survival of life on Earth. Its loss deprives future generations of irreplaceable genetic information and compromises sustainability including pollination of crops and wild flowers.

The groundbreaking UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) published in June 2011 provides a comprehensive account of how the natural world, including its biodiversity, provides us with services that are critical to our wellbeing and economic prosperity. However, the NEA also showed that nature is consistently undervalued in decision-making and that many of the services we get from nature are in decline. Over 40% of priority habitats and 30% of priority species were declining in the most recent analysis.

You can find other useful information on these websites by following the links

[The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#)

[RSPB](#)

[Bats.org.uk](#)

[Hedgerow Information](#)

[Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services](#)

[Bumblebee Conservation](#)

[UK National Ecosystem Assessment](#)

What else matters to you? Write to the Borough council telling them what you think of the plan.

You can do that by email or post.

Email: ldf@warrington.gov.uk.

Write to: Warrington Borough Council, Planning Policy and Programmes, New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 2NH

It doesn't matter how long or short your response is. The important thing is to let the council know the strength of feeling.

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT – THE NEW DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS IS
5 pm 29TH SEPTEMBER**