

**M42 Junction 6 Improvement
Scheme Number TR010027
Volume 6**

6.3 Environmental Statement
Appendix 9.15 Legislation and Planning
Policy

Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

January 2019

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009**

**M42 Junction 6 Improvement
Development Consent Order 202[]**

**6.3 Environmental Statement
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Appendix 9.15 – Legislation and Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this appendix is to provide further detail to that contained in Chapter 9 Biodiversity of the Environmental Statement [TR010027/APP/6.1] on the nature conservation legislation and planning policy that is relevant to the Scheme.

2 Legislation

The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017

- 2.1.1 The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 [REF 1] provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.
- 2.1.2 Under the Regulations, competent authorities i.e. any Minister, Government department, public body, or person holding public office, have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive.
- 2.1.3 The Regulations place a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for either habitats or species (listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive respectively) to the European Commission. Once the Commission and EU Member States have agreed that the sites submitted are worthy of designation, they are identified as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). The EU Member States must then designate these sites as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within six years. They also require the compilation and maintenance of a register of European sites, to include SACs and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive). These sites form a network termed Natura 2000.
- 2.1.4 The Regulations enable the country agencies to enter into management agreements on land within or adjacent to a European site, in order to secure its conservation. If the agency is unable to conclude such an agreement, or if an agreement is breached, it may acquire the interest in the land compulsorily. The agency may also use its powers to make byelaws to protect European sites. The Regulations also provide for the control of potentially damaging operations, whereby consent from the country agency may only be granted once it has been shown through Appropriate Assessment that the proposed operation will not adversely affect the integrity of the site. When considering potentially damaging operations, the country agencies apply the precautionary principle' i.e. consent cannot be given unless it is ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

- 2.1.5 In instances where damage could occur, the appropriate Minister may, if necessary, make special nature conservation orders, prohibiting any person from carrying out the operation. However, an operation may proceed where it is or forms part of a plan or project with no alternative solutions, which must be carried out for reasons of overriding public interest. In such instances the Secretary of State must secure compensation to ensure the overall integrity of the Natura 2000 system. The country agencies are required to review consents previously granted under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) [REF 2] for land within a European site, and may modify or withdraw those that are incompatible with the conservation objectives of the site.
- 2.1.6 The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities. Licenses may be granted for a number of purposes (such as science and education, conservation, preserving public health and safety), but only after the appropriate authority is satisfied that there are no satisfactory alternatives and that such actions will have no detrimental effect on the wild population of the species concerned.

Ramsar Convention

- 2.1.7 The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat or Ramsar Convention [REF 3] covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use. The Convention has three main 'pillars' of activity: the designation of wetlands of international importance as Ramsar sites; the promotion of the wise-use of all wetlands in the territory of each country; and international co-operation with other countries to further the wise-use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention's Contracting Parties have assumed a wide range of related obligations.
- 2.1.8 The UK ratified the Convention in 1976. In England the designation of its Ramsar sites are underpinned by prior notification of these areas as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Accordingly, these receive statutory protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981(as amended) [REF 2]. Government have issued policy statements relating to the special status of Ramsar sites. This extends the same protection at a policy level to listed Ramsar sites in respect of new development as that afforded to sites which have been designated under the Habitats and Specie Regulations 2017 [REF 1].

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

- 2.1.9 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) [REF 2] is the major domestic legal instrument for wildlife protection in the UK, and is the primary means by which the following are implemented:

- a. Natural Habitats ('the Bern Convention'); and
- b. Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

Wild birds

- 2.1.10 The Act makes it an offence (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) to intentionally:
- a. kill, injure, or take any wild bird,
 - b. take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built (also [take, damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird included in Schedule ZA1] under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006), or
 - c. take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

- 2.1.11 Special penalties are available for offences related to birds listed on Schedule 1, for which there are additional offences of disturbing these birds at their nests, or their dependent young. The Secretary of State may also designate Areas of Special Protection (subject to exceptions) to provide further protection to birds. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking birds, restricts the sale and possession of captive bred birds, and sets standards for keeping birds in captivity.

Other animals

- 2.1.12 The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal listed on Schedule 5, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals.

Flora, fungi and lichens

- 2.1.13 The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy:
- a. any wild plant listed in Schedule 8, or
 - b. unless an authorised person, to intentionally uproot any wild plant not included in Schedule 8,
 - c. to sell, offer or expose for sale, or possess (for the purposes of trade), any live or dead wild plant included in Schedule 8, or any part of, or anything derived from, such a plant.

Non-native species

- 2.1.14 The Act contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9 in England and Wales. It also provides a mechanism making any of the above offences legal through the granting of licences by the appropriate authorities.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

- 2.1.15 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 [REF 4] applies to England and Wales only. Part III of the Act deals specifically with wildlife protection and nature conservation.

- 2.1.16 The Act places a duty on Government Departments and the National Assembly for Wales to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintain lists of species and habitats for which conservation steps should be taken or promoted, in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 2.1.17 Schedule 9 of the Act amends the SSSI provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 [REF 2], including increased powers for their protection and management of SSSIs. The provisions extend powers for entering into management agreements; place a duty on public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs; increase penalties on conviction where the provisions are breached; and include an offence whereby third parties can be convicted for damaging SSSIs.
- 2.1.18 Schedule 12 of the Act amends the species provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 [REF 2], strengthening the legal protection for threatened species. The provisions make certain offences 'arrestable', include an offence of reckless disturbance, confer greater powers to police and wildlife inspectors for entering premises and obtaining wildlife tissue samples for DNA analysis, and enable heavier penalties on conviction of wildlife offences.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

- 2.1.19 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 [REF 5] came into force on 1 October 2006. Section 41 (s41) of the Act required the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list was drawn up in consultation with Natural England, as required by the Act.
- 2.1.20 The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.
- 2.1.21 Fifty-six habitats of principal importance are included on the S41 list. These are all the habitats in England that were identified as requiring action in the (now withdrawn) UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework [REF 6]. They include terrestrial habitats such as upland hay meadows to lowland mixed deciduous woodland, and freshwater and marine habitats such as ponds and subtidal sands and gravels.
- 2.1.22 There are 943 species of principal importance included on the s41 list. These are the species found in England which were identified as requiring action under the (now withdrawn) UK BAP and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework [REF 6]. In addition, the hen harrier has also been included on the list because without continued conservation action it is unlikely that the hen harrier population will increase from its current very low levels in England.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

- 2.1.23 The intention of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 [REF 7] is to protect important countryside hedges from destruction or damage. The Regulations do not apply

where planning permission has been granted. There are various other exemptions under the Regulations, including:

- a. to make a new opening in substitution for an existing one that gives access to land. For example, a gate. However, the old opening must be filled in within eight months;
- b. to obtain access to land where other means are not available or are only available at disproportionate cost; and
- c. for the proper management of the hedgerow. This means real management, such as coppicing. But if the hedgerow is deliberately 'over-managed' this might qualify as removal.

- 2.1.24 If the proposed works are not exempt or subject to a current planning permission then the landowner must serve a Hedgerow Removal Notice in writing on their local planning authority. The authority then has 42 days (which period can be extended if the applicant agrees) to determine whether or not the hedge is considered 'important' under the regulations, and if so, whether or not to issue a Hedgerow Retention Notice. The local authority does not have to issue a Retention Notice, even if the hedgerow counts as important. If they do not issue a notice for an important hedge this is often on condition that certain things are done, e.g. reinstatement or replanting to a certain standard, or creation of an equivalent boundary elsewhere.

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

- 2.1.25 It is an offence under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 [REF 8] to mutilate, crush or asphyxiate any wild mammal with the intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.
- 2.1.26 Without appropriate mitigation certain development activities, for example site clearance works, might have potential to result in offences under the Act. For example, where burrowing mammals such as badgers, foxes and rabbits are present in burrows collapsed by heavy machinery.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

- 2.1.27 Badgers and their setts (burrows) are protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 [REF 9]. This makes it an offence to kill or take a badger, to cruelly ill-treat a badger, or to interfere with a badger sett, including disturbing a badger while it is occupying a sett.
- 2.1.28 Licences to permit otherwise prohibited actions can be granted under s10 of the Act for various purposes. This includes licences to interfere with a badger sett for the purpose of development as defined by s55(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 [REF 10].
- 2.1.29 Licences may be granted in order to close down setts, or parts of setts, prior to development or to permit activities close to a badger sett that might result in disturbance. A licence will be required if a sett is likely to be damaged or destroyed in the course of development or if the badger(s) occupying the sett will be disturbed.

- 2.1.30 Licences can be applied for at any time, but a licence for development will not normally be issued unless full planning permission has been granted. The closure of setts under licence is normally only permitted during July to November, inclusive.

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

- 2.1.31 The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 [REF 11] is a piece of legislation aimed at the protection of freshwater fish, with a focus on salmon and trout. There are many activities that could constitute an offence under the Act including direct mortality, barriers to migration, pollution and degradation of habitats.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

- 2.1.32 The Animal Welfare Act 2006 [REF 12] protects (vertebrate) animals from harm, and extends to domesticated animals and those under the control of people.

3 Policy

National Policy Statement for National Networks

- 3.1.1 The National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) [REF 13] paragraph 5.20 - 5.38 specifically apply to ecology and biodiversity and includes how such impacts can influence the decision making process.
- 3.1.2 Paragraph 5.25 of the NPSNN states:
- ‘As a general principle, and subject to the specific policies below, development should avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through mitigation and consideration of reasonable alternatives. The applicant may also wish to make use of biodiversity offsetting 75 in devising compensation proposals to counteract any impacts on biodiversity which cannot be avoided or mitigated. Where significant harm cannot be avoided or mitigated, as a last resort, appropriate compensation measures should be sought.’*
- 3.1.3 The NPSNN outlines the specific policies for how development should avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through mitigation and consideration of reasonable alternatives.
- 3.1.4 In relation to SSSIs Paragraphs 5.28 and 5.29 of the NPSNN states:
- ‘Many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are also designated a sites of international importance and will be protected accordingly. Those that are not, or those features of SSSIs not covered by an international designation, should be given a high degree of protection. All National Nature Reserves are notified as SSSIs.*
- ‘Where a proposed development on land within or outside a SSSI is likely to have an adverse effect on an SSSI (either individually or in combination with other developments), development consent should not normally be granted. Where an adverse effect on the site’s notified special interest features is likely, an exception should be made only where the benefits of the development at this site clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that*

make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs. The Secretary of State should ensure that the applicant's proposals to mitigate the harmful aspects of the development and, where possible, to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the site's biodiversity or geological interest, are acceptable. Where necessary, requirements and/or planning obligations should be used to ensure these proposals are delivered.'

- 3.1.5 In relation to ancient woodland and irreplaceable habitat Paragraphs 5.28 and 5.29 of the NPSNN states:

'Ancient woodland is a valuable biodiversity resource both for its diversity of species and for its longevity as woodland. Once lost it cannot be recreated. The Secretary of State should not grant development consent for any development that would result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the national need for and benefits of the development, in that location, clearly outweigh the loss. Aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland are also particularly valuable for biodiversity and their loss should be avoided. Where such trees would be affected by development proposals, the applicant should set out proposals for their conservation or, where their loss is unavoidable, the reasons for this.'

National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.1.6 Relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [REF 14] are as follows.

- 3.1.7 Section 15 of the NPPF relates specifically to 'Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment'. Paragraph 170 states that 'Planning policies and decision should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- b. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- c. maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- d. minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- e. preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and

- f. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.'

3.1.8 Paragraph 171 states that 'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries. '

3.1.9 Paragraph 174 states that 'To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- a. identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
- b. promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity. '

3.1.10 Paragraph 175 states that 'When determining planning application, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a. if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- b. development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- c. development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
- d. development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.'

3.1.11 Paragraph 176 states that 'The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- a. potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- b. listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
- c. sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.'

3.1.12 Paragraph 177 states that 'The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment because of its potential impact on a habitats site is being planned or determined.'

National Planning Practice Guidance

3.1.13 The National Planning Practice Guidance for the Natural Environment [REF 15] provides context to the NPPF [REF 14] and advises on how the consideration of biodiversity can inform planning decisions.

3.1.14 The advice of the Planning Practice Guidance covers the statutory basis for the consideration of biodiversity, designated sites and protected species. Advice is also provided for local authorities on the strategic approaches to considering biodiversity, for example, how to identify ecological networks, and how biodiversity should be considered during the planning process. The mitigation hierarchy is also explained and forms a central theme to the approach to biodiversity within the planning process.

UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework

3.1.15 In July 2012, the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework [REF 6] was published. This covers the period 2011 - 2020 and forms the UK Government's response to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya in 2010. Following publication of the Framework, most of the strategic biodiversity work previously enacted under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan was delegated to each of the four countries comprising the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3.1.16 The Framework shows how the work of the four UK countries joins up to achieve the international biodiversity targets agreed under the UN Convention, as well as those required under the European Union biodiversity strategy.

3.1.17 In England, the strategic approach to be taken in biodiversity planning over the period 2010 to 2020 is set out in 'Biodiversity 2020 [REF 16]. A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services'.

Biodiversity 2020, A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services

3.1.18 Biodiversity 2020, A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [REF 16] is a national strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services; it was published in summer 2011. It sets out the government's ambition to halt overall loss of England's biodiversity by 2020, support healthy well functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people

3.1.19 These country strategies replace the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, with the associated lists of Priority Habitats and Species carried over into the newly

defined lists of habitats and species of principal importance for nature conservation in England contained within Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 [REF 5]. This latter list includes 56 habitats and 943 species.

Solihull Local Plan: Shaping a Sustainable Future

- 3.1.20 The Solihull Local Plan: Shaping a Sustainable future [REF 17] contains policies, designations and allocations which will be used to shape development and to determine planning applications in Solihull over the period 2011-2028. The green environment policy applicable to biodiversity is 'P10 - Natural Environment'.
- 3.1.21 The plan requires the protection of ancient woodland, designated sites and priority habitats with buffers to any new development.
- 3.1.22 Development likely to have an adverse effect on a designated site will be permitted only if the reasons for the development clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site, and should development incorporate measures to enhance the site.
- 3.1.23 Developers will be expected to take full account of the nature conservation value, Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) [REF 18] habitats or species, priorities in the Green Spaces Strategy and to deliver a net gain in biodiversity and habitat creation.
- 3.1.24 Where permitted development is likely to have significant harmful effects, appropriate mitigation and compensation will be required to deliver a net gain in biodiversity, habitat creation, landscape character and local distinctiveness. Enhancements should be undertaken on the site, or in its vicinity, but where this is not possible, biodiversity offsetting may be considered.

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- 3.1.25 The national strategy for biodiversity is delivered at a local level via the LBAPs [REF 18]. The LBAP which covers the Scheme is the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull LBAP. This document provides 54 action plans that define conservation objectives for local priority habitats and species.

Nature Conservation in Solihull

- 3.1.26 The Nature Conservation Strategy 'Nature Conservation in Solihull' (first reviewed February 2010) [REF 19] sets out the strategic objectives for biodiversity conservation and provides guidance on how the authority expects nature conservation to be taken into account in the development control process.

Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Sub-regional Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 3.1.27 The council's approach to biodiversity offsetting is also set out in the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy [REF 20].
- 3.1.28 The strategy provides evidence for the preparation of plans, policies and strategies relating to Green Infrastructure (GI) at a sub-regional level. It is to be available for adopting as a strategic mechanism to deliver GI enhancements across the partner authorities to meet national, sub-regional and local GI needs.

However, it can be applied at a local, parish and field level through partnership and landowner assistance.

- 3.1.29 The Strategy details how Landscape, Biodiversity and Accessibility to the countryside GI assets have been identified and recommendations for their protection and enhancement. These GI assets are important to strategic spatial planning and Neighbourhood Planning policies and subsequent development proposals. However, as importantly, the Strategy is to help landowners integrate biodiversity, accessibility and landscape into their businesses.

Highways England Road Investment Strategy

- 3.1.30 The Road investment Strategy (RIS) [REF21] outlines the long-term programme for improvements and alterations to the strategic road network (comprising motorway and major roads) with the aim of reducing congestion and improving journey times and safety for users of the network. The RIS identifies routes along the Strategic Road Network for improvement for improvement and for which funding will be provided to implement the improvements. The RIS comprises a long-term vision for England's motorways and major roads, outlining how smooth, smart and sustainable roads will be created. It provides a multi-year investment plan that will be used to improve the network and create better roads for users and high-level objectives for the roads period 2015 - 2020. The ultimate purpose of the RIS is to provide for the long term planning and stable funding necessary to provide improvements to the strategic road network.

Highways England Biodiversity Plan 2015

- 3.1.31 Highways England has set an aspiration that the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the Strategic Road Network should move to a position that delivers no net loss of biodiversity; and, in the long term, Highways England should deliver a net gain in biodiversity across its broader range of works.
- 3.1.32 The Highways England Biodiversity Action Plan [REF 22] was published with the aim to show how Highways England will work with service providers to halt overall biodiversity loss, and maintain and enhance habitats and ecological networks. The Plan provides a general plan to protect and increase biodiversity and supersedes the 2002 Highways Agency (now Highways England) Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which still carries some relevance as it lists specific species of conservation concern.
- 3.1.33 The Government requires Highways England to demonstrate progress against the 2015 Biodiversity Plan, to secure an ongoing annual reduction in the net loss of biodiversity due to its activities.

4 References

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