

## Sensitive habitats and protected species,



The site contains multiple sensitive habitats and protected species, including great crested newts and ancient woodland, and faces a high risk of significant ecological harm.

### Longer Version

The site contains multiple sensitive habitats and legally protected species, including great crested newts and areas of ancient woodland, placing it among the most ecologically constrained locations in the district. Development in such a context carries a high risk of significant and irreversible ecological harm. Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat protected by national policy, and great crested newts are a European Protected Species requiring strict avoidance, mitigation, and licensing. The applicant has not demonstrated that these sensitive receptors can be safeguarded, nor that habitat loss, fragmentation, and disturbance can be avoided. As a result, the proposal conflicts with the NPPF, the Environment Act 2021, and local biodiversity policies, all of which require the protection and enhancement of priority habitats and species.