



TACP are an ecology and environmental consultancy.

We were appointed by West Oxfordshire Council in September 2018 to carry out ecological surveys of the garden village site and West Eynsham, to assess the potential impacts of the scheme proposal and to identify opportunities for ecological mitigation and enhancement.

Sam Shove, a highly experienced ecologist, undertook a desk study followed by an Extended Phase 1 field survey in October. This is a process to record existing habitats and identify the potential presence of protected and other species.

Thirteen statutory designated sites were recorded within 5km of the sites with nine locally designated sites and three Conservation Target Areas within 2km (see the draft figure below on the left). Numerous rare and protected species records were also identified as part of the desk study.

The site surveys identified a number of actual and potential ecological features as well as confirming the presence and potential presence of various protected species including some arable and bird species. Habitat types were surveyed and are illustrated on the draft figure on the right below.

Bats are likely to be commuting and foraging within the sites, with a number of species potentially represented. Amphibians including Common Frog, Common Toad and Great Crested Newts are likely to be present, as is at least small breeding populations of reptiles. The sites also show potential for the presence of a number of species, including hedgehogs, polecats, badgers, otters, water voles, Harvest Mouse and fish such as Bullhead.

The preliminary impact assessment identified a range of potential direct and indirect impacts that may occur during construction or operation along with a variety of potential mitigation and enhancement measures, as summarised below:

- Reduction in habitat loss through appropriate and sensitive scheme design;
- Retention of key areas of ecological value;
- Implementation of ecologically friendly management regimes within retained habitats;
- Implementation of ecological enhancement measures within low ecological value areas;
- Implementation of ecological enhancement measures along retained watercourses;
- Creation of new replacement habitats of a greater ecological value than those lost;
- Translocation of existing ecological features wherever possible;
- Management of works and scheme design to reduce indirect construction and operation impacts;
- Installation/creation of species-specific mitigation and enhancement measures;
- Implementation of appropriate exclusion and translocation works for affected species;
- Implementation of ecologically friendly management regimes across new habitats including those used for amenity and public purposes.

The ecological constraints and opportunities are summarised on the lower draft figure below, and these will inform design development.



Red Kite



Great Crested
Newt



Brown Long
Eared Bat



Otter



Water Vole



Badger



Hedgehog