

Barons Place Farm  
Ecology Report  
DLA1347/ECO/pt. 1/8/11

#### 17.0 Summary and Conclusions

- 17.1 In order to build up an accurate picture of the habitats and faunal use of the application site, the ecological information contained within this report has been drawn from several ecology reports.

##### *Statutory Sites*

- 17.2 There are no statutory designated nature conservation sites, such as Special Protected Areas, Special Conservation Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Local Nature Reserves, within the development site.

##### *Non- Statutory Sites*

- 17.3 There are no non-statutory designated nature conservation sites within the application site itself.

##### *Habitats*

- 17.4 The application site is comprised of an arable farm with field headlands bordered by hedgerows with some blocks of Ancient Woodland. The habitats and features present within the development site are of limited Nature Conservation value.

##### *Protected Species*

- 17.5 The development site provides habitat for a range of widespread and familiar species with surveys providing evidence for the presence of badgers and use by common bird species.
- 17.6 The habitats do not present, and the records from the surrounding area do not provide, any evidence for the presence of protected species other than noted within the report.

##### *Key impacts*

- 17.11 Overall, it is considered that after the construction phase and during operation there will be no impact on habitats or species of significance and that there will be no net loss of features of ecological importance. Without mitigation the magnitude of impact is **Medium Beneficial** as the tunnels will improve foraging areas for badgers, bats, birds and amphibians.

##### *Key Mitigation Measures*

- 17.12 The key mitigation measures are enhancement of the hay meadows, headlands and hedgerow bases to form a floristically diverse sward and enhancement of the hedgerows that will provide habitat for breeding birds and foraging lines for bats. Installation of bat boxes will also provide further roosting places. Following mitigation and enhancements, the overall impacts are considered to be of long term, minor - moderate beneficial significance and positive at the local - regional level. These measures will ensure no net loss in terms of biodiversity.

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*Further Work*

- 17.13 A bat survey is required to ascertain the foraging lines used by bats and also which bat species are using the area.
- 17.14 A breeding bird survey to BTO guidelines is required to develop a baseline for the monitoring measures.
- 17.15 Monitoring of mitigation measures will be undertaken for approximately five years into the operational phase.

*Conclusions*

- 17.16 In conclusion, on the evidence of the ecological surveys undertaken to date, the proposals are considered to conform with planning policy guidance at all levels. With the use of precautionary safeguards and the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in this report, there is no evidence to suggest that there are any overriding ecological constraints to the development of the site. Further, with the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in this report it is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a net gain for Nature Conservation.
- 17.18 The application site supports habitats and features of limited Nature Conservation value. The proposed development utilises a site with no merit in ecological terms. The development proposal seeks to retain and enhance all existing semi-natural habitats, wildlife corridors and protected species, which should lead to an overall increase in Biodiversity terms. As such the proposals are fully compliant with both National County and Local Plan Policy in terms of Nature Conservation.