

LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY



ECOLOGY MATTERS

The site is greenfield but is not a protected ecological site nationally or locally. Extensive surveys have been conducted including for a range of protected species and review of existing records, leading to scoping out of a number of species including reptiles, badgers and otter.

Surveys for great crested newts did not identify presence on site or in two nearby ponds. Bat surveys recorded a low number of common pipistrelle bats passing along hedgerows and trees at the site boundaries. Eight boundary trees were assessed to have potential for roosting bats, but no evidence of current use found. A low to moderate number of protected bird species were identified from field surveys in or around the site. Some species are noted to have been attracted by current lack of grazing and turned soil.

Biodiversity mitigation measures will include:

- Retention all except one tree on the site boundary
- Planting of 15 native trees within the site
- Planting of 264m of native / non-ornamental hedgerow (compensate for 162m length lost)
- Bird and bat boxes throughout site
- Green roofs to selected units
- Offsite pond formation to replace one onsite pond
- Treatment and eradication of invasive species on site
- Biodiversity Net Gain of 10% over existing baseline to be achieved overall