

Appendix 6: Ground nesting birds, flora and fauna, amphibians and bats

Condition 8 from previous application 05/00948/FUL

“Prior to any commencement of works, a detailed survey shall be undertaken to check for ground nesting birds. Where nests are found in any land to be developed, a 4 m exclusion zone is left around the nest until breeding is complete.”

Condition 9 from previous application 05/00948/FUL

“Prior to the commencement of any development hereby approved a report compiled by a suitably qualified person shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. That report shall include a detailed survey of the development on those species and phasing of development in the interests of the conservation of species as required. The development shall be carried out in full accordance with those detail and mitigation measures.”

Condition 12 from previous application 05/00948/FUL

“No development approved by this permission shall be commenced until the ponds contained within this site have been surveyed for amphibians and the findings submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority, If amphibians are found, a scheme for the conservation of the species and mitigation against the effect of the development must be agreed with the Local Planning Authority. Such details as agreed shall be implemented in full.”

Condition 14 from previous application 05/00948/FUL

“No development approved by this permission shall take place until all structures on the site have been surveyed for evidence of use by Bats, and the results of this survey submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Should bats be discovered, no development shall be commenced until a scheme for the conservation of this species and mitigation against the impacts of the development has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such details as are agreed shall be implemented in full.”

A number of ecology surveys were undertaken in order to satisfy the above conditions within the previously submitted application. The revised Landscape Masterplan, drawing D1058.08.001C, submitted for this application, has been reviewed in light of a series of ecological surveys and impact assessments which were carried out in 2005 and 2006 (AMEC E&E 2005a, 2005b, 2006a, 2006b). The reappraisal has indicated that the findings of these reports are still valid and that there are no changes to the identified ecological impacts, their appraisal or the recommendations made therein.

AMEC’s response to the Environment Agency, with regard to the survey methodology for amphibians, particularly great crested newts (GCN), is still valid and they are confident that the negative results found during the GCN surveys (ie no crested newts were found) is still applicable.

Outstanding ecological mitigation which will still need to be implemented includes (a) the survey of the site for ground breeding birds immediately before the start of site preparation works, should those works be carried out during the bird breeding season

(March to August), (b) the internal inspection of existing buildings on site for bats and barn owl. Land ownership and access issues have prevented these surveys being undertaken. If the demolition of these buildings is proposed during the bird breeding season, they should also be inspected before the start of works for swallow and house martin which are known to nest in the area.

The information relating to the above conditions is contained within the following reports which are provided within this Appendix.

AMEC E&E (2005a) Ecological Survey, Ditton Freight Terminal. July 2005.

AMEC E&E (2005b) Ditton Strategic Rail Freight Park. Supporting Environmental Information – Ecological Assessment. December 2005.

AMEC E&E (2006a) Land off Halebank Road and Hale Road, Halebank, Widnes Cheshire. Ecological Surveys to Discharge Planning Conditions.

AMEC E&E (2006b) Bat Survey Report on Land at Ditton, nr Widnes, July 2006.