

Appendix 2B Wildlife and Habitat improvement and mitigation summary Land East of Orchard Gardens Woodgate

Habitat/Species concerned	Potential impact/loss?	Mitigation During development	Potential ecological gain/positive enhancement measures and/or mitigation
Biodiversity on site	Loss of open space to roads,pavings and buildings.	Tree line and ditch to be retained intact together with openspace/wider ditch line so 30% of land area preserved as open space to provide biodiversity. With back gardens included up to 50% will provide habitat .	Enhanced planting to support wildlife and protection of openspace for the future by s106 .
Wildlife movement corridor	No loss of any wider direct migration routes from habitat to habitat for any identified species. This is because the site is isolated from the south by dwellings and the railway line and from the east by dwellings and roads.	Preservation of proposed green space and tree/ditch line as 'stepping stone' as part of the wider biodiversity corridor. Also general connectivity through northwest corner to woodland and chalk stream beyond.	Connectivity: at least 1m of chainlink fencing will be used in each individual plot's fencing along the site boundaries to retain connectivity to adjacent habitats and between gardens.
Habitats for general biodiversity	Much of the grassland on site will be lost in the development.	No mitigation or surveys required since the Tree line and ditch are to be retained intact together with openspace/wider ditch line so 30% of land area preserved to provide biodiversity and protected by s106 for the future. The proposed gardens will also provide a mosaic of habitats.	The proposed open space and other landscaping should include enhanced planting of native hedgerows, trees and wildflowers to increase the ecological value of the site. Wildflower areas should be included to create new habitat, encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity. Long grass and scrub boundaries around the site retain some of the original character.

Invertebrates	The grassland on site provide an expanse of invertebrate habitat which will be lost. Grassland had been largely overtaken by brambles.	No mitigation or surveys required since part of habitat being retained and improved.	Insect “hotels” can be installed to provide safe refuge for invertebrates. Wildflower areas will create foraging habitat. A buffer zone of long grassland around boundaries where possible will create further habitat. Dead wood piles half buried create breeding habitat for species such as stag beetles. Individual 'Bee bricks' can be incorporated in houses. These measures will improve invertebrate habitat on site and work towards encouraging more species thus increasing biodiversity.
Amphibians	No impact. There are no ponds within 500m to provide suitable breeding habitat therefore it is very unlikely that species such as great crested newts would use the terrestrial habitat on	No surveys or mitigation required.	

Badgers	There are no badger setts on or within 30m of the site therefore the development will not have any impact on badger setts. Badgers could be using the site for foraging and commuting.	No further surveys are required. However the following recommendations are given in order to mitigate against potential harm to badgers during the development works. • Any trenches dug should either be covered at night or have a rough sawn plank placed in them to act as a ramp for any wildlife which may fall in. • Security lighting to be directed away from the undergrowth. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.	Fruit trees and bushes bearing berries should be added to provide foraging sources for badgers.
Bats	It is likely that bats are using the site for foraging and commuting. The tree line is to stay in place but extra lighting could disrupt bat activity. One ash tree was noted for its bat roosting potential, as the plans are currently understood this is not to be removed.	Lighting needs to be controlled around the new development. Lighting on the tree line along the eastern boundary of the site must not exceed 0.3 LUX. General lighting on site should all be on downward facing deflectors to minimize lighting impact.	Bat boxes will be installed on new buildings and/or retained trees. Lighting should also be controlled around these. This will increase roosting opportunities for bats on site.

Barn Owl	The grassland and scrub on site provide potential barn owl foraging habitat which will be lost.	No further surveys	A buffer zone of long grass and scrub around site boundaries where possible will retain some small mammal habitat which barn owls could use for foraging. A barn owl box will be erected on a tree along the eastern tree line.
Breeding Bird	Nesting birds and eggs may be disturbed during tree and vegetation clearance.	Any works which affect the trees and shrubs on site could have an impact on nesting birds. Since all in-use bird's nests and their contents are protected from damage or destruction, any tree and shrub removal should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August. If this time frame cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the vegetation to be removed should be undertaken prior to clearance. Work should not be carried out within 5.0m of any in-use nest and with an Ecological Clerk of Works present	Bird boxes should be installed on new buildings or retained trees.

Other Terrestrial
Mammals

The eastern tree line provides potential habitat for dormice. As this tree line is to remain unaffected there should be no impact on this species.

The eastern tree line must remain undeveloped and unlit.

The eastern tree line will remain unaffected. This will allow dormice and other wildlife such as hedgehogs to continue to use this area as a green corridor. The proposed inclusion of some chainlink Fencing should allow free movement of terrestrial mammals in and out of the site and between gardens. This is particularly important along the northern and eastern boundaries.

Reptiles

This plan aims to provide ecological mitigation as a precautionary measure for reptile species that may be present around the site boundaries, to minimise the risk of killing and injury and ensure the survival of any population that may be present on site.

Although normally based on reptile surveys, for this site the baseline is assumed that there are low numbers of individual widespread reptiles given the known local reptile species, the scale of the site and marginal habitat features present

The remaining vegetation will be cleared (where necessary) in the following stages:

- First cut to 10cm above ground level then left for 48hrs giving reptiles a chance to disperse naturally. Work will be undertaken from south to north guiding any reptiles into the adjacent suitable habitat to the north.
- Any refugia will be deconstructed by hand by an ecologist or at least under the supervision of one. Any reptiles found will be moved to the adjacent habitat to the north.
- Second cut to ground level. Work will be undertaken from south to north guiding any reptiles into the adjacent suitable habitat to the north.
- Topsoil will be stripped with a toothed bucket.

All work must be carried out under ecological supervision.

After clearance, the site must be kept clear of vegetation so that the site remains unsuitable for reptiles.

Log and stone piles will be added along the eastern, western and southern boundary where these do not encroach on individual gardens. These will be permanent features and should not be removed or dismantled.

The landscaping plan will incorporate long vegetation around the southern and eastern boundaries to provide replacement reptile habitat. This will only be cut back once a year in the winter months. The boundary planting will be at least 1m wide.

Connectivity: at least 1m of chainlink fencing will be used in each individual plot's fencing along the site boundaries to retain connectivity to adjacent habitats and between gardens.

The public space along the eastern boundary will incorporate both amenity grassland and small areas of longer grasses/shrubs to provide more diversity of habitat. As a public space, this will need to be mown regularly, but longer areas of grass must be left.

Function of
Biodiversity
Corridor in
Aldingbourne
Neighbourhood
Plan

Low impact due to retention of the only
significant biodiversity feature on site ie the
tree and ditch line.

Biodiversity corridor designation does not carry
any positive obligation on a landowner to do
anything to protect or enhance biodiversity now
or in the future. It does not restrict the
Landowners lawful use of their land. Nor does
it provide any protection species or habitat
which are not otherwise protected by law

Planning permission for development supported
by planning conditions for landscape
management and s106 obligation relating to
open space gives protection AND enhancement
for biodiversity across at least 30% of the site.