DETAILED ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS SUMMARY REPORT

United Utilities

Project Number:	80007767.305	***File Ref:***	1480
Project Title:	uUIDs - Princess Parkway - MAN0020	***Project Type:***	Unfunded UIDs
Site:	Princess Parkway		
Project Drawing Number:	**90018043/00/97/L2004**		
Ecology Contact:	Stuart Shaw	***Date of Most Recent Survey:***	21/02/2008
Ecology Drawing Number:	D/PVE/1480/001	***Report Version:***	**A**

This report summarises the ecological survey works carried out to date by United Utilities Water in respect of the works/activities illustrated on the specific Project Drawing Number(s) above. The report is presented by UU ecology for the purpose of identifying ecological constraints associated with the proposed work and the mitigations or actions to be adopted by the project. All surveys have been undertaken by appropriately qualified or competent ecologists using where relevant standardised survey methodologies.

Executive Summary:

Extended phase 1 habitat surveys of the proposed development were undertaken by UU Ecology in February 2003 , October 2007 and February 2008. Surveys were conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment (IEA, 1995).
A five hole disused badger sett was identified to the south east of the proposed working area, as shown on ecology drawing number D/PVE/1480/001. During the 2003 site survey (attended with GMEU) and all subsequent surveys, the holes and tunnels showed obvious signs of collapse and general disuse. At no stage since the initial survey has any fresh evidence of badger activity been identified within the site. There are therefore not considered to be any issues including any licensing constraints in respect of badgers.
Two ivy clad mature oak trees situated to the north west of the proposed working area appear to provide potential bat roosting habitat. In order to protect the trees and any potential roosting habitat, the contractor must install appropriate tree protective fencing around the edge of both tree canopies in accordance with BS5837.
Although individually not considered to be of significant ecological value, the area of trees, tall ruderal herbs and scrub habitat affected by the proposed development are considered to provide potential bird breeding habitat. No works affecting these habitats is permitted during the breeding season (March to Aug inclusive) unless approved by a suitably qualified ecologist/ornithologist or appropriate bird nesting deterrent measures are installed/undertaken the previous winter.
No other protected species, invasive or LBAP species or habitat issues were identified within the survey area or the proposed development site.

General Habitat Description:

The proposed working area is located on a piece of remnant farmland habitat cut in two by the M60 and surrounded by two slip roads and Princess Parkway. Both halves are in effect 'island' habitats.

The proposed development footprint is situated within the SE 'half' of the site (S of the M60) within an area of broadleaved trees and scattered bramble scrub. The trees, dominated by mature plum sp. (possibly part of a former orchard) also include regen. hazel, oak and birch sp.

Land immediately to the W of the footprint (outside the working area) includes a line of mature broadleaved trees which appear to form a remnant field boundary. Dominated by oak, other species present include lime, poplar and beech. Two notable/mature ivy clad oaks were identified at the N end of the line of trees, adjacent to the access track. An area of low lying/possibly former ditch habitat was identified immediately adjacent to line of trees. Although this habitat appeared predominately dry on all site visits it is considered to be ephemeral in nature. No evidence of any aquatic flora was identified.

Land further to the W of the proposed development footprint (potential temporary spoil storage area) comprises an area of coarse grassland with patches of bramble, tall ruderal herbs and a band of regen alder, birch and oak.

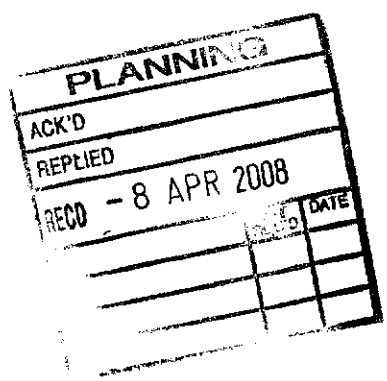
The area of embankment along the slip road to the S of the proposed working area was dominated by dense bramble, scattered tall ruderal herbs and occasional trees.

Land to the N of the M60 includes an existing pumping station and associated hard standing ground with small stands of regen/plantation alder, oak and birch sp. to the N and E.

The embankments to the N and S of the M60 divide between the two halves are comprised of coarse grassland and recently planted whips.

Species Summary:

Amphibians	An area of low lying/possibly former ditch habitat was identified adjacent to line of trees located immediately to the W of the proposed development footprint. As the area is predominately dry it is not considered to offer favourable amphibian breeding habitat. In addition, due to the isolated nature of the site, migration of amphibians into the area is considered to be extremely unlikely. There are therefore not considered to be any issues in respect of amphibians including great crested newts.
Birds	Bird surveys were undertaken to identify presence/absence of notifiable/important species and to assess potential breeding and over-wintering habitat within both the proposed working and wider survey areas. The areas of coarse grassland, trees, tall ruderal herbs and bramble scrub within and adjacent to the proposed development footprint provides potential bird breeding habitat. No works affecting these habitats is permitted during the breeding season (March to Aug inclusive) unless approved by a suitably qualified ecologist/ornithologist or appropriate bird nesting deterrent measures are installed/undertaken the previous winter. No evidence of Schedule One or important over-wintering habitat was identified within the site or survey area.
Invertebrates	No aquatic or terrestrial invertebrate issues were identified within the site or survey area.
Badger	Badger surveys were undertaken as per Surveying Badgers (Harris, S., Cresswell,P. & Jefferies, D. 1989). A five hole disused badger sett was identified towards the SE corner of the site (S of M60) within the proposed development footprint. First observed during a site visit with GMEU in 2003, the sett has always appeared disused with the holes and tunnels partly collapsed. During all subsequent surveys no further evidence of badger activity such as latrines, paths or snuffle holes etc has been identified across the remainder of the site/survey area. There are there not considered to be any issues including any licensing constraints in respect of badgers.



Bat	An assessment of potential bat roosting habitat within both the survey and proposed working areas was undertaken in as per The Bat Workers' Manual (JNCC, 1999). The survey also examined habitat features within the proposed working area that may be of value to foraging or migratory bats. The line of mature trees situated immediately to the W of the proposed development footprint and in particular the two mature ivy clad oak trees are considered to provide potential bat roosting habitat. Although no evidence of any significant cavities or actual roost sites were identified, the ivy may provide transitory roosting opportunities. As the trees are situated outside the proposed working area, no direct disturbance is anticipated. However due to their proximity to construction & access activities, the contractor must establish RPZs (see tree section) using appropriate tree protective fencing in accordance with BS5837 in order to protect the trees and any potential roost sites. No works including storage of any materials is permitted beneath the spread of any mature tree. Although not directly affected by the present scheme, the existing PS station site situated to the N of the M60 was also inspected for evidence of roosting bats. The building was well sealed and contained no cracks or cavities that could be utilised by roosting bats. No evidence of any roosting bats or bat field signs was identified.
Otter	No watercourses or other suitable otter habitat situated within the site or survey area.
Water Vole	No watercourses or other suitable water vole habitat situated within the site or survey area.
Invasive Species	No non-native species were identified within the site or survey area
Reptiles	Reptile habitat suitability assessments including surveys of available refuges within the proposed site and adjacent environs was undertaken in accordance with the Herpetofauna Workers Manual (JNCC, 1998). No reptiles issues were identified within the site/survey area.
Fish	No watercourses or other suitable habitat were identified within the site/survey area.
Hedgerow	No hedgerows were identified within the site or proposed working area.
Tree Works	A stand of mature plum trees (possibly part of a former orchard) and a number of regen. hazel, oak and birch trees situated within the proposed development footprint will be affected by the proposed scheme. Although individually not considered to be of significant ecological value, the trees are considered to provide potential bird breeding habitat. No works affecting these habitats is permitted during the breeding season (March to Aug inclusive) unless approved by a suitably qualified ecologist/ornithologist or appropriate bird nesting deterrent measures are installed/undertaken the previous winter. A line of mature trees, possibly part of former field boundary is situated immediately to the W of the proposed development footprint. Two notable/mature oaks were identified at the N end of the line of trees, adjacent to the existing access track route. Due to the potential disturbance to these trees during both construction and trafficing activities, the contractor must establish Root Protection Zones (RPZs) around the edge of both tree canopies in accordance with BS5837. Although unaffected by the proposed works, is also recommended that the contractor installs appropriate tree protective fencing around the canopies of remaining mature trees along the former field boundary in accordance with BS5837. No works including storage of any materials is permitted beneath the spread of any mature tree.

NO ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNATION DATA

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