

Technical Note

Project:	Bugle Nurseries	Job Number:	17-0684
Subject:	Technical response to planning consultation	Date:	15/05/2023

This Note has been prepared by Delta-Simons (DS) in response to the planning consultation comments received from Surrey Wildlife Trust, dated 10th February 2023.

Set out below are the comments received, with Delta-Simons responses to each point below. Subheadings have been included to aid with themes.

Bats

SWT comment We had also recommended that the bat potential of trees T20 and the unidentified tree with a split should be clarified prior to determination; this is still not apparent. The Technical Note does recommend that trees to be impacted with low bat potential should be soft felled, this recommendation is in line with best practice. Are the two trees we are querying assessed as having low bat roosting potential?

DS Response All trees at the Site identified as having Bat Roost Potential (BRP) were assessed as Low suitability. This includes T20 due to the location and nature of the split. It is unclear from the consultation which "unidentified tree with a split" is being referenced, however, all trees were assessed as Low and the specified mitigation will be applied.

Hazel Dormouse

SWT comment We advise the LPA to seek clarification of the extent of retention of habitats in the western side of the site to inform whether further assessment for hazel dormouse is necessary.

DS Response The railway corridor to the west of the Site, whilst providing landscape connectivity for some species, has little connectivity to optimal dormouse habitat in the wider landscape, with few scattered areas of relatively small woodland blocks, otherwise isolated by urban development. Furthermore, the rail corridor does not feature continuous structural vegetation, such that in itself it is considered unlikely to provide the resources to sustain a dormouse population, and since dormice rarely descend to the ground and are reluctant to cross open spaces¹ connectivity for dispersal between other habitats and the Site is also considered sub-optimal.

The majority of the central and eastern areas of the Site can be considered isolated by open spaces and non-continuous cover, and therefore are highly unlikely to support this species.

Scrub vegetation within the west of the Site has colonised the earth bund and is, by character, relatively low growing, and lacks the arboreal opportunities for dormice. A total 0.3 hectares of scrub along the western boundary is to be retained as part of the proposals. Whilst it is Delta-Simons professional opinion that the likelihood of this species occurring is extremely low, the mitigation proposed for the clearance any scrub in relation to reptiles, would also allow for

¹ English Nature (2006) The dormouse conservation handbook. Second edition

Technical Note

consideration of dormice, and appropriate mitigation would be applied if any evidence of this.

Reptiles

SWT comment Prior to determination, we would advise that a reptile mitigation strategy should be provided to the LPA. If the reptile mitigation strategy provides a good level of confidence that if reptiles are present then none will be killed/injured and that the development site has the carrying capacity to support a population of reptiles in perpetuity, then this may be a suitable approach.

DS Response A Reptile Mitigation Strategy has been produced and issued under separate cover.

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