



CROSSRAIL INFORMATION PAPER

D17 – ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

This paper sets out how ecological impacts have been assessed and how they will be mitigated during Crossrail construction.

It will be of particular relevance to those in the vicinity of the proposed Crossrail works.

This is not intended to replace or alter the text of the paper itself and it is important that you read the paper in order to have a full understanding of the subject. If you have any queries about this paper, please contact either your regular Petition Negotiator at CLRL or the Crossrail helpdesk, who will be able to direct your query to the relevant person at CLRL. The helpdesk can be reached at:

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D17 – ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

1. Introduction

1.1 The Crossrail proposals will temporarily and/or permanently affect a wide range of ecological habitats. A large number of ecological surveys were carried out to provide information for the assessment of impacts identified in the Crossrail Environmental Statement (ES)¹. These included detailed surveys for plants, reptiles, birds, fish, bats, badgers, otters, water voles, great crested newts, and terrestrial and benthic invertebrates.

2. Designated Sites and Potential Species

2.1 The Crossrail proposals will not affect any statutorily designated ecological sites, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It is predicted that 21 non-statutorily designated ecological sites will be directly affected.

2.2 There will be minor impacts on most of these sites but significant cumulative impacts are predicted for habitat loss along the north-east and south-east surface railway corridors, and individual significant ecological impacts identified at a further seven locations.

3. Impact Assessment

3.1 The Crossrail Construction Code (see Information Paper D1, Crossrail Construction Code) will require the nominated undertaker to ensure that procedures are implemented to control and limit disturbance to areas of nature conservation interest and protected species in accordance with relevant legislative requirements and accepted industry practice.

3.2 The nominated undertaker will ensure compliance with the relevant statutory provisions in respect of the protection of areas of nature conservation interest and of protected species. Relevant provisions include the following:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended;
- Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994, as amended;
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

3.3 In addition, the nominated undertaker will ensure compliance, where appropriate, with other relevant nature conservation policy.

¹ The term 'Environmental Statement' refers to the Environmental Statement deposited with the Crossrail Bill in February 2005, the four Environmental Statements accompanying the Additional Provisions, the four Supplementary Environmental Statements submitted during the passage of the Bill, and their Non-Technical Summaries and errata, which together comprise the Crossrail Environmental Statement. The term 'the Main ES' refers specifically to the Environmental Statement produced (with its Non-Technical Summary) in February 2005. See <http://billdocuments.crossrail.co.uk/>.

- 3.4 Sufficient time will be allowed to obtain guidance and licences where species are protected by specific legislation.
- 3.5 The nominated undertaker will ensure that on sites where they are required, ecological management plans are prepared (for more information on these plans please see the Environmental Memorandum). The plans will include a programme for any outstanding surveys, methods for watching briefs, measures to be adopted in the event of the discovery of protected species and measures for the relocation of certain species.
- 3.6 Subject to any relevant approvals, or agreements required to any restoration or mitigation schemes under Schedule 5 or 7 to the Bill, land which is temporarily acquired or required in connection with the project will normally be restored to its former nature conservation value.
- 3.7 Where a site identified as being of importance to nature conservation is permanently destroyed, reduced or fragmented, the nominated undertaker will seek to replace the habitat lost within the limits of land to be acquired or used (LLAU).
- 3.8 In the event that an appropriate area cannot be identified within the LLAU, the nominated undertaker will use reasonable endeavours to identify such an area outside the LLAU. This will be by agreement with the landowner. The management or creation of such habitat should be in consultation with the relevant nature conservation bodies and timed, where practicable, to allow use of donor material removed from affected sites.
- 3.9 The nominated undertaker will discharge obligations imposed by the local planning authority relating to the maintenance of a new or managed habitat.