

Worksheet 1 Environment: Biodiversity - Plan Level

Scheme / option:

Area	Description of feature / attribute	Scale (at which attribute matters)	Importance (of attribute)	Trend (in relation to target)	Biodiversity and earth heritage value	Magnitude of impact	Assessment score
Amenity grassland.	Species poor and extensively managed.	Local.	Negligible. Grassland habitat type the most common in UK.	Habitat type abundant throughout UK. Not designated – no targets set.	Low plant diversity. Main use is aesthetics (residential lawns).	Neutral.	Neutral.
Broad-leaved plantation woodland.	A small established plantation set amongst residential properties occurred at the western end of the survey area. Dominated by mature sycamore approximately 20m tall. Several had ivy covered trunks.	Local.	Lower. A common habitat but includes some mature specimens and will provide bird nesting habitat.	Habitat common throughout UK.	Contains a mixture of mature and semi-mature trees but is an uncommon habitat in the local area. Ground flora was limited to ivy and common nettle.	Intermediate negative. Up to 2000 m ² of broadleaved woodland and 19 scattered broadleaved trees are to be permanently lost.	Slight adverse.
Scrub habitats	Species poor	Local	Negligible.	Scrub habitats abundant throughout UK. Not designated – no targets set.	Moderate plant diversity with potential for moderate faunal presence.	Neutral.	Neutral.
Hedgerow (species-poor)	Species poor and present at residential/commercial boundaries. Majority were 1.5m tall and dominated by garden privet. All were managed except those adjacent to derelict land.	Local	Negligible.	A common habitat throughout the UK.	Habitat dominated by non native species. Will also provide opportunities for nesting birds.	Minor negative. Hedge on Linby Road will be lost as a result of realignment of modified junction.	Slight adverse.
Hedgerow (species-rich)	Species rich hedgerow occurred along the top of the bank of the watercourse between Baths Lane and Ashgate Road. Approximately 1m tall and showed some signs of management. Dominated by hawthorn.	Local, regional and national.	Medium. Species rich hedgerows are a UK BAP Key Habitat and are locally important.	Species-rich hedgerows not designated – targeted for a halt in decline.	Moderate plant diversity.	Neutral.	Neutral.

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Baker Lane Brook (running water)	The brook is a tributary of the River Leen and flows from west to east through the survey area. It was moderately fast flowing and clear, less than 30cm deep and up to 1.5m wide.	Local	Lower. Provides an ecological corridor for a number of protected faunal species (water vole, white clawed crayfish). Its value is limited due to the nature of its surroundings, its lack of associated vegetation, artificial banks and culverting.	No targets set.	Aquatic macrophytic vegetation occurs occasionally. At its eastern end, where it runs between Baths lane and the industrial plot, the banks were between 1m and 5m tall and heavily vegetated with tall ruderal species and dense scrub.	Minor negative. Approximately 110m of running water and bankside habitat will be permanently lost following the proposed culverting of two sections of the watercourse. However the area of works is small and the method of construction has been designed to minimise the ecological impact.	Slight adverse
Semi-improved neutral grassland	Comprised of tall, unmanaged grassland located on the banks of the watercourse between Baths Lane and Ashgate Road, and dominated by broadleaved species.	Local	Lower.	Common throughout UK.	Contains common tall and herb species but some areas also included species indicative of a lesser improved sward including ox-eye daisy and a number of Nottinghamshire BAP species.	Neutral. Unlikely to be affected by works.	Neutral.
Tall ruderal	The habitat was present on an unused plot of land at the junction of Perlethorpe Drive and Albert Street. The vegetation was tall, unmanaged and dominated by grasses such as false oat-grass.	Local	Negligible. Common species-poor habitat.	Common throughout UK	Likely to support few faunal species, although provides potential foraging habitat for birds.	Minor negative	Slight adverse
Grey wagtail (Motacilla cinerea).	The grey wagtail is a small passerine in the wagtail family Motacillidae. The species is one of the most colourful of the wagtails with its bright yellow underparts contrasting boldly with its blue-grey back and	Local, regional and national.	Medium. Features on the RSBP Amber list of birds of conservation concern (RSPB 2002).	Because of harsher winters it has declined in numbers (41% decline between 1975 and 1999) and consequently it has been placed on the RSBP	N/A	Minor negative. The permanent loss of woodland, trees and bankside habitat will have a significant impact on bird nesting and foraging. The culverting of the brook at	Slight adverse

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	long black tail. The bird has a marked preference for being near water.			Amber list.		Perlethorpe Drive will result in a reduction of nesting habitat for the grey wagtail.	
Bats	Nocturnal mouse like mammal with forelimbs modified to form membranous wings and anatomical adaptations for echolocation by which they navigate.	Local, regional and national.	High.	Bat populations are declining at local and national levels and several bats are Priority Species on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	N/A	Neutral. Previous surveys carried out by EMEC Ecology found no evidence of bats in buildings due for demolition, but bats were recorded during a dawn survey so it is likely that a bat roost exists in the vicinity of survey area.	Neutral.
Water Vole	Semi-aquatic rodent occurring at low density in UK inland water features.	Local, regional and national.	Very high. Rare and becoming increasingly endangered throughout the UK.	Targets to maintain current abundance and distribution in UK to arrest the decline of the species, and to restore water voles to former widespread distributions.	Important component of aquatic habitat biodiversity.	Neutral. No water voles found within study area.	Neutral.
Crayfish	Freshwater crustaceans resembling small lobsters.	Local, regional and national.	High. The white clawed crayfish is classed as "globally threatened" by IUCN and is listed as a UK BAP priority species.	White-clawed crayfish has suffered depleting numbers over the last 30 years, and it is now a protected species.	N/A	Neutral.	Neutral.

Reference Source(s): **Preliminary Ecological Impact Assessment – EMEC Ecology. July 2007.**

Summary assessment score: **Neutral**

Qualitative comments: **Mitigation measures will hopefully more than compensate for any habitats lost to construction. The County Council will try to ensure that the scheme will leave a net increase in ecological value once the mitigation measures have been implemented.**