

Project Title:	M5 Junction 11/A40 Eastbound Onslip Geotechnical Scheme		
Project No:	HE Pin: 570127C		
Coordinates (OSGB):	Start: 389889, 221333 End: 389927, 221345		
Surveyor:	[REDACTED]		
Date of survey:	16 th April 2019	Time:	13:00 – 13:15
Weather/Conditions:	Cloud cover 80%; temp 11°C; slight breeze; scattered showers.	Description of Survey Area:	See below.

Project Background and Scope of Proposed Works :

A defective section of carriageway has been identified on the Highways Agency Geotechnical Data Management System (HAGDMS) as Earthwork 63685 on the A40 East Bound embankment, adjacent to the M5 J11/A40 interchange EB on-slip.

Location Plan:



A ground investigation, topographic survey and CCTV drainage surveys are proposed to obtain information for design of remedial works.

The Environmental Alert Form for the scheme has identified that the scheme has potential to impact on ecological features on site. Therefore, Kier Highways DS Environmental Team have been commissioned to carry out an initial Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) to determine the impact of the scheme on existing habitats and species, identify potential ecological constraints, identify the need for any further surveys and advise the Design Team on mitigation and potential site enhancement.

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Brief Survey Methodology:*Desk Study*

Internet-based sources were consulted to obtain data on the site and its surroundings. The following sources were utilised: Multi-Agency Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC), Ordnance Survey (OS), and Google Maps.

The location of statutory and non-statutory sites within 2km was examined along with all available records of protected and ecologically important species within 2km of the site. Aerial photographs and OS maps were used to look for water bodies and other features within a 500m radius of the proposed scheme.

Site Visit

Kier Highways DS Environmental Specialist Tally Anderson (BSc PIEMA) carried out initial ecological walkover of the scheme extent on 16th April 2019 to inform the ground investigation stage of the scheme.

The land and habitats within and immediately surrounding the scheme extent were assessed for potential to support protected species, priority habitat, and invasive species presence. Any signs of protected or invasive species, or potential features were noted.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions – Implications for works:*Designated or Sensitive Sites*

There are no SSSI, SAC SPA Ramsar sites within 2km of the scheme extent. The scheme extent is not adjacent to any priority habitats.

Habitats

The scheme extent is predominantly broadleaved plantation and dense scrub comprising hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, holly *Ilex* sp., field maple *Acer campestre*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, bramble *Rubus* sp. with a ground cover of ivy *Hedera* sp.

Towards the end of the splitter island the verge becomes improved grassland containing occasional ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, dandelion *Taraxacum*, hybrid bluebell *H. x massartiana*, daffodil *Narcissus* sp., and cowslip *Primula veris*.

Protected Species

The wooded area is considered suitable for nesting birds. There was evidence of a mammal path along the length of the wooded area, however no further signs of badger were found. Although suitable for badger, badger presence is considered to be a lower risk due to the works being isolated to the splitter island. No other signs of species were found at the time of the walkover.

There are no trees present that are considered suitable for roosting bats.

The verge at this location is considered to have low suitability for other protected species.

Mitigation

For the ground investigation it is considered appropriate for an Ecological Clerk of Works to be present for vegetation clearance activities.

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Works are to be conducted under a precautionary method of works as detailed under 'Recommendations'.

Recommendations and Further Ecological Work Required:

Habitats

It is recommended that a species-rich woodland is created within the area affected by the vegetation clearance and geotechnical works. This should be carried out following remedial works.

Trees

Should any trees be retained within the ground investigation area, root protection zones should be observed. Please see the [SHEA Root Protection Zone Tool](#).

ECoW Presence

Due to the requirement for vegetation clearance, an ECoW will be required for vegetation clearance works March to September inclusive. A minimum of two weeks' notice is to be given for ECoW requests.

Enhancement Opportunities

The Highways England Biodiversity Plan states that by 2020 Highways England must deliver no net loss of biodiversity, and that by 2040 it must deliver a net gain in biodiversity, as such there are Mitigation and Enhancement recommendations to fall in line with the Biodiversity Plan.

It is recommended that a species-rich woodland is created within the area affected by the vegetation clearance and geotechnical works. This should be carried out following remedial works following advice from the Environment Team.

Signed:	<p>██████████</p> <p>████████████████████</p> <p>██████████</p>	<p>████</p>	<p>██ ██████</p>
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References

Collins, J. (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition, Bat Conservation Trust.

Highways England (2015), Our plan to protect and increase biodiversity.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) 2016. Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, CIEEM.