



Reading West Station  
Design and Access Statement  
October 2020

v2.2

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## PROPOSAL

Oxford Architects were commissioned to provide proposals for alterations to Reading West Station to improve the following areas:

- Improved facilities from Oxford Road entrance to platform 1 and platform 2
- Provision of gate lines to enhance safety and security to the station access from Oxford Road to platform 1 and platform 2
- The provision of a new station building on Oxford Road to provide ticketing, gateline, staff mess area with WC, public WC and small retail area
- Provision of gate lines to enhance safety and security to the station access from Tilehurst Road to platform 1 [To be completed under Permitted Development Rights]
- Improvement to surfacing, lighting, fencing and vegetation clearance to path linking Tilehurst Road entrance to platform 1 [To be completed under Permitted Development Rights]
- Making decorative improvements to the existing station building on platform 2 currently used as a Ticket Office and equipment room containing important station operation equipment. [To be completed under Permitted Development Rights]

## CLIENT

The client is Great Western Railway. The project has been jointly developed by GWR in collaboration with Reading Borough Council, the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP and Network Rail.

## ARCHITECTS

The architects for the Project are Oxford Architects LLP, originally established in 1962. OA currently have offices in Oxford and Bristol.

The Practice provides the complete range of architectural services undertaking projects from brief formulation and the earliest stages of concept design, through the various stages of design development and visualisation to production information, construction and completion of projects.

## CONTEXT

### Historic:

A 1909 Railway Clearing House Diagram showing railways in the area of Reading West (shown here as WEST STA.)

The line through Reading West station opened on 21 December 1847, as part of the Great Western Railway backed Berks and Hants Railway's route from Reading to Newbury. On 1 November 1848, Berks and Hants Railway's second route to Basingstoke opened. The two lines merged at Southcote Junction, just south of the eventual station site, running together through that site to Reading station.

Reading West station itself did not open until 1 July 1906, by which time the Berks and Hants Railway had been subsumed into the Great Western Railway. The station was originally intended to serve trains between the north of England and the south coast which could thus avoid a reversal at Reading.



Waters, Laurence (1990). *Rail Centres: Reading*. [Ian Allan Ltd](#)

### Current:

Reading West Station serves West Reading, Berkshire, about 1 mile (1.6 km) West from the town's main retail and commercial areas. The station is served by local services operated by Great Western Railway. It is 36 miles 75 chains (59.4 km) down the line from London Paddington.

To the North of the Station the line crosses a railway bridge over the Oxford Road, followed by Oxford Road Junction, which is the southern apex of a triangle of tracks. The tracks to the West curve round to join the Great Western Main Line towards Bristol at Reading West Junction, and are largely used by freight trains between Southampton Docks and points to the North. The tracks to the East lead to Reading station and are mostly used by passenger services. To the South of the Station the line enters a cutting, crossed by high-level bridges carrying the Tilehurst Road and, further to the South, the Bath Road. Beyond the cutting is Southcote Junction, where the line to Basingstoke diverges from that to Newbury.

The Station has two platforms, which were linked by a footbridge until it was demolished as part of the electrification of the Reading to Newbury line. There is a ticket office on the up (Reading-bound) platform and canopies provide some shelter on each platform. There is separate pedestrian access to the Northern end of both platforms from Oxford Road, together with access to the Southern end of the down platform from Tilehurst Road.

Description taken from:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reading\\_West\\_railway\\_station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reading_West_railway_station)

West Reading has no formal boundaries, but the name is generally used to refer to the area to the west of Reading's commercial centre, merging into or to the north of the suburbs of Coley and Southcote, to the east of the suburb of Tilehurst and to the south of the Reading to Bristol railway line. As such it includes the relatively densely populated area along and surrounding the Oxford Road as far as the foot of Norcot Hill, which is a typical example of the town's rows of terraced houses, as well as the more affluent area between this road and the Bath Road and alongside Tilehurst Road as far as Prospect Park and its slopes.

West Reading is in the borough of Reading, comprising Battle ward together with parts of Abbey, Minster, Norcot and Southcote wards.

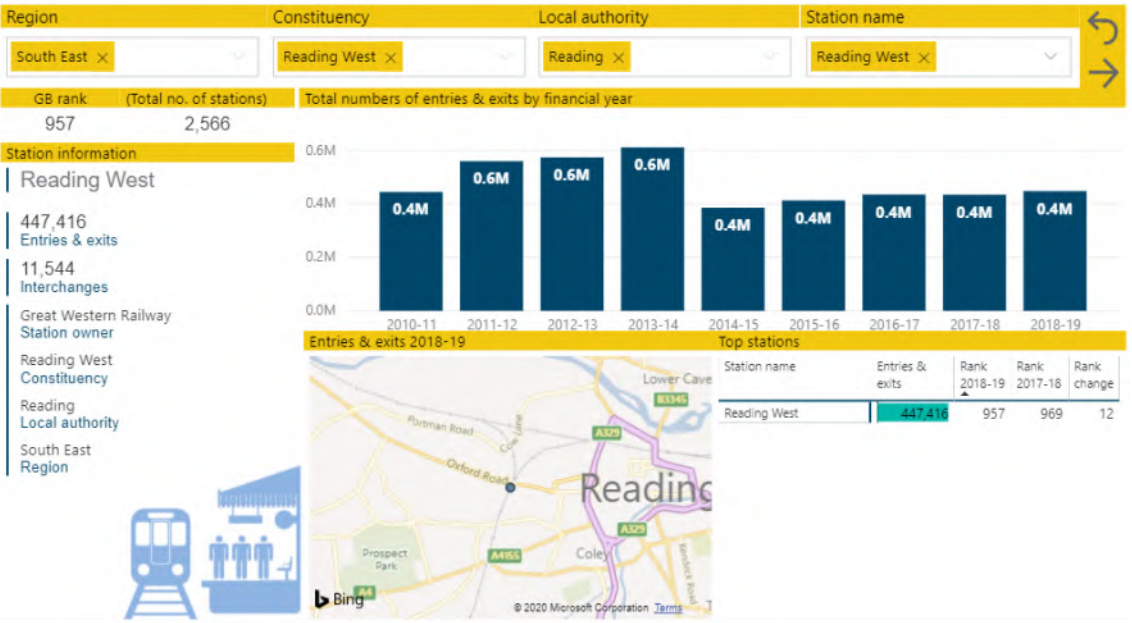
Whereas most of this area is in the Reading West parliamentary constituency, the Abbey ward portion (between the Inner Distribution Road and Prospect Street / George Street) is in the Reading East parliamentary constituency.

The area has good pedestrian, public transport and vehicular access routes and provides a varied mix of residential areas blended with retail, commercial business and industrial uses providing a vibrant and diverse area.

The Station is also located between two roads serving the Western side of Reading town centre. The major vehicular route is Oxford Road, which is served by Reading Buses and Thames Travel bus services 15 sky blue, 15a sky blue, 16 sky blue, 17 purple, 143 and BB3 (students only). Adjacent to the Platform 2 entrance off Oxford Road are hoops for bicycle users. The Tilehurst Road vehicular route is served by Reading Buses service 33 royal blue. In close proximity to both station entry points are pelican crossings to assist footpath users.

Reading West Station has seen steady year on year passenger number increases and is considered to be in need of upgrading and investment to provide the facilities expected by GWR customers and to align with other stations on the network.

Footfall number details (2018-2019 revised March 2020) taken from:  
<https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/usage/estimates-of-station-usage/>



The upgrading of Reading West Station also has the support of Reading Borough Council having been identified in the Local Plan (adopted November 2019).

## LOCAL PLAN



READING BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN • ADOPTED NOVEMBER 2019

Extracts taken from:

[https://images.reading.gov.uk/2019/12/Local\\_Plan\\_Adopted\\_November\\_2019.pdf](https://images.reading.gov.uk/2019/12/Local_Plan_Adopted_November_2019.pdf)

### 4.5 Transport

#### Achieving the Transport Strategy

##### TR1: ACHIEVING THE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

*Proposed development should contribute appropriately to meeting the objectives of the most up-to-date Local Transport Plan or any successor document, including sub-strategies, specific projects identified and the local action plans.*

*Planning permission will not be granted for major development proposals unless there is a commitment to implement measures to promote and improve sustainable transport facilities, such as through provision to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport; and through agreed travel plans, safe routes to local facilities and services, including schools and parks, and similar measures.*

*All development proposals should make appropriate provision for works and contributions to ensure an adequate level of accessibility and safety by all modes of transport from all parts of a development, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling, in accordance with any agreed transport assessment submitted as part of the application.*

- 4.5.1 The Council's objectives for transport set out in the Local Transport Plan (2011-2026)<sup>92</sup> are: -
- To facilitate more physically active travel for journeys in a healthy environment;
  - To improve personal safety on the transport network;
  - To provide affordable, accessible and inclusive travel options for everyone;
  - To ensure that the transport network operates safely and efficiently to meet the needs of all users;
  - To align transport and land use planning to enable sustainable travel choices, improve mobility, reduce the need to travel and preserve the natural environment;
  - To deliver balanced packages of value for money transport solutions and make best use of existing transport investment;
  - To offer sustainable transport choices for the Travel to Work Area and beyond, integrating within and between different types of transport;
  - To improve journey times, journey time reliability and the availability of information; and
  - To reduce carbon emissions from transport, improve air quality and create a transport network which supports a mobile, affordable low-carbon future.

- 4.5.6 The current Local Transport Plan covers the period 2011-2026, but this policy applies to any subsequent plans that may be published. A new version of the Local Transport Plan (LTP4) is in production in 2019, and this will need to consider both additional capacity and demand management measures.

### Major Transport Projects

#### TR2: MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS

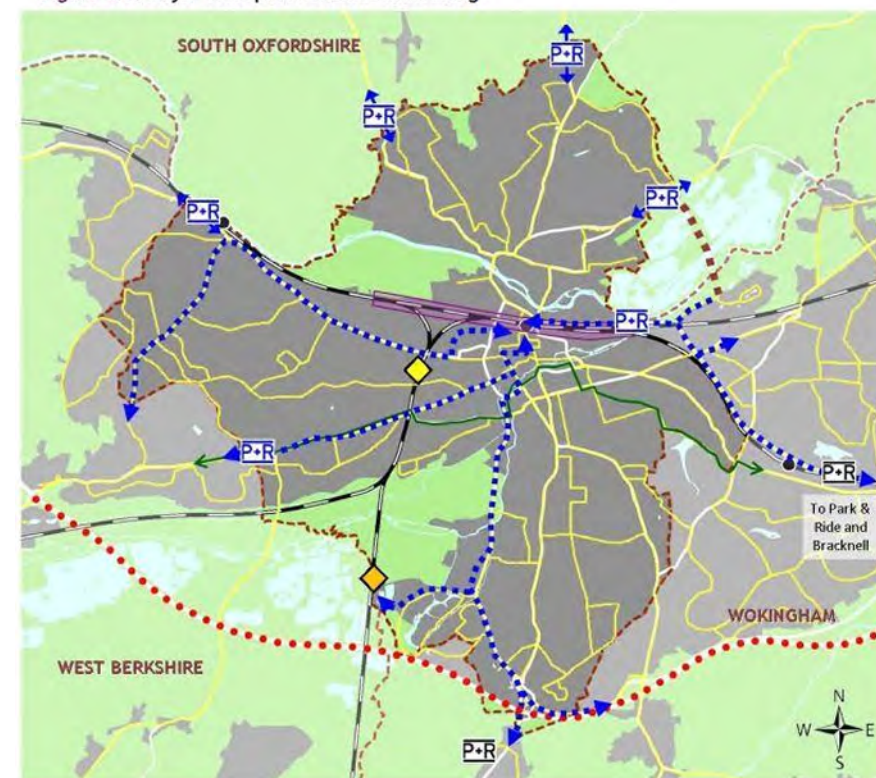
Priority will be given to the implementation of the major transport projects identified in the Local Transport Plan (or any successor document) and other identified major transport projects. Land required for these projects will be safeguarded where necessary. These will include:

- Mass Rapid Transit
- Park and Ride sites
- Green Park station and interchange
- Reading West station upgrade
- Cow Lane bridges
- Crossing of the River Thames
- National Cycle Network Route 422
- Development of high-quality bus services

Land to be safeguarded for the following projects is shown on the Proposals Map: southern<sup>93</sup> and eastern Mass Rapid Transit route (TR2a), Green Park Station and Interchange (TR2b), Reading West Station (TR2c), Cow Lane Bridges (TR2d) and National Cycle Network Phases 1 and 2 (TR2e).

- 4.5.8 Those transport projects that are highlighted in the Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 that are likely to have the most significant needs in terms of land use are mass rapid transit, park and ride and Green Park station and interchange.
- **Reading West Station Upgrade:** There is a proposal to upgrade the existing Reading West Station with improved passenger facilities. The Council is working with Network Rail and First Great Western on progressing this project.

Figure 4.8: Major Transport Schemes in Reading



#### KEY

- |                                                                                       |                                    |                                                                                       |                                      |                                                                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Green Park Station and Interchange |  | National Cycle Network 422 scheme    |  | Local authority boundary |
|  | Reading West Station upgrade       |  | M4 Smart Motorway scheme             |  | Railway and station      |
|  | Future park and ride corridor      |  | Existing bus network                 |  | Water                    |
|  | Existing park and ride             |  | Potential additional Thames crossing |  | Undeveloped land         |
|  | Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route  |  | Safeguarded for Crossrail            |  | Built up area and road   |

## 7.2 Strategy for West Reading and Tilehurst

7.2.1 The following represent some key principles for the area:

- Important employment areas will be retained for the most part, although some loss of identified fringe locations will help to manage the tension between employment and residential areas;
- District and local centres will continue to thrive, and the Meadway district centre will see development to ensure that it is better able to serve the local community;
- Opportunities to undertake renewal and regeneration of some of West Reading's suburban areas will be investigated;
- New development will provide or contribute to infrastructure to adequately support the development;
- New park and ride capacity will be sought on the A4 and A329 corridors;
- Development will enable and support key transport improvements, such as mass rapid transit, the upgrade of Cow Lane Bridges, National Cycle Network route 422 and the upgrade of Reading West station.
- Areas of landscape and heritage importance will be conserved, including the edge of the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- Recreation use of the Rivers Thames and Kennet and their surrounds will be promoted.
- Should any future major development take place to the south west of Reading, infrastructure links into Reading should be enhanced.

7.2.2 The strategy for the area is illustrated on Figure 7.1.

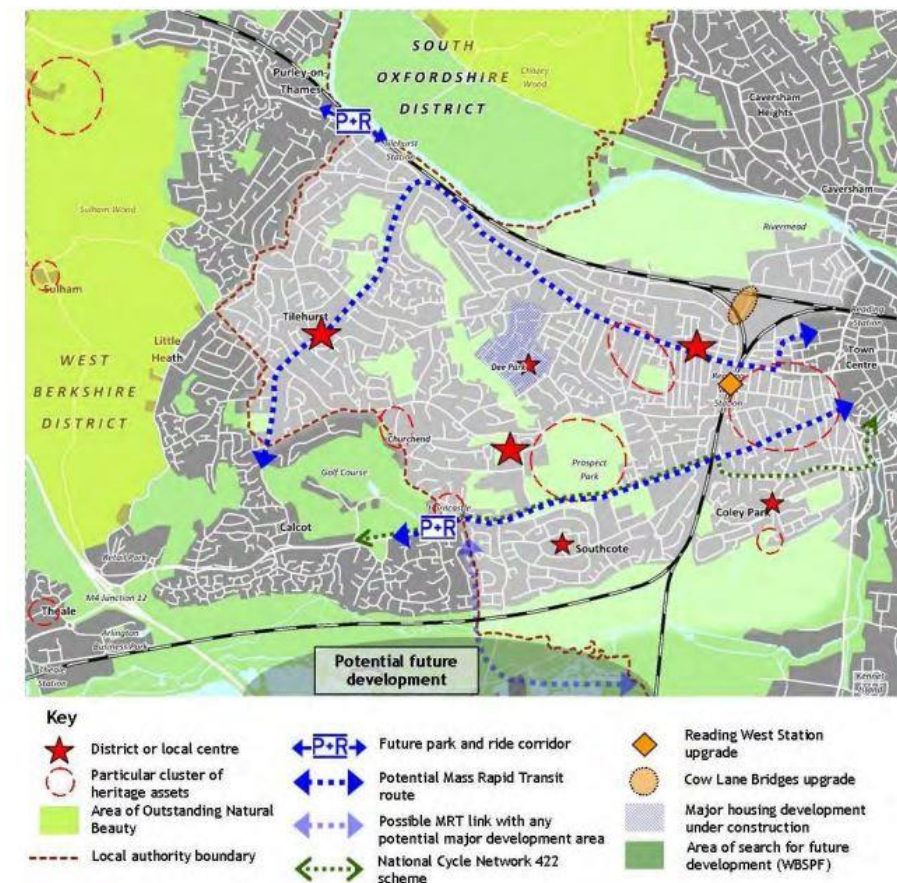


Figure 7.1: Area Strategy for West Reading and Tilehurst

Reading West Station onward travel information is also available from National Rail, with details of buses, taxis and cycle routes, extract attached.

## Reading West Station Onward Travel Information

### Local area map



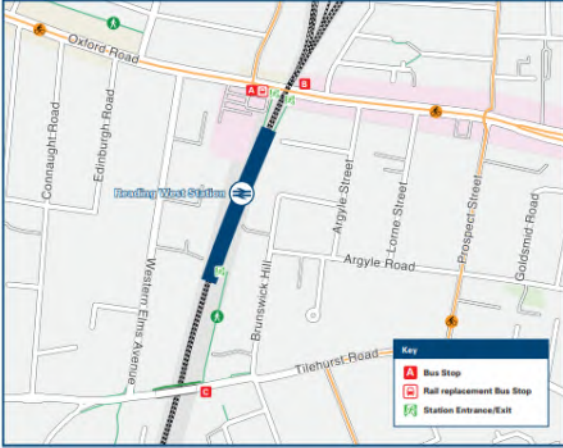
**Key**

- Reading Crown Court
- Christchurch Meadows
- Hotel
- The Hexagon Theatre/ Arts Centre
- Library
- Reading Museum & Town Hall
- Pharmacy
- Prospect Park
- The Oracle Shopping Centre
- Cycle routes
- Footpaths

Reading West is a PlusBus area.

**PlusBus** PlusBus is a discount price 'bus pass' that you buy with your train ticket. It gives you unlimited bus travel around your chosen town, on participating buses. Visit [www.plusbus.info](http://www.plusbus.info)

### Buses



**Key**

- Bus Stop
- Rail replacement Bus Stop
- Station Entrance/Exit

Rail replacement buses/coaches depart from outside McDonalds on the Oxford Road.

### Main destinations by bus

(Data correct at September 2019)

| DESTINATION                         | BUS ROUTES            | BUS STOP |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Calcot                              | 15                    | 15       |
| Dee Park                            | 15, 15a               | 15       |
| Goring (St. Saviour's)              | 143+                  | 143      |
| Little Heath                        | 33                    | 33       |
| The Meadow                          | 15, 15a               | 15       |
| Norcot (Church End Lane)            | 33                    | 33       |
| Pangbourne                          | 17*                   | 17       |
| Purley                              | 143                   | 143      |
| Reading (Three Tuns/Wokingham Road) | 16, 143               | 16       |
| Reading (Town Centre)               | 17*                   | 17       |
| Reading (Town Centre)               | 15, 15a, 16, 17*, 143 | 15       |
| Tilehurst (Dark Lane)               | 16                    | 16       |
| Tilehurst Station                   | 16, 143               | 16       |
| Tilehurst (The Triangle)            | 15, 15a, 17*          | 15       |
| Tilehurst (The Water Tower)         | 33                    | 33       |
| Upper Basildon                      | 15, 17*               | 15       |
| Westwood Glen/Lower Elmstone Drive  | 143+                  | 143      |

**Notes**

- PlusBus destination, please see below for details.
- Bus routes 15, 16, 17 and 33 operate daily.
- Bus routes 15a and 143 operate Mondays to Saturdays.
- Extensive bus connections to all parts of Reading and beyond from bus stops at Reading Station.
- Night buses also operate on this service.
- \* Not all journeys serve this destination, please check timetables.
- Direct trains operate to Reading Station from Reading West Station.
- Change trains at Reading Station for a regular train service to Pangbourne or Goring & Stratley.

### Taxis

Reading West station has no taxi rank or cab office. Advance booking is essential, please consider using the following local operators: (Inclusion of this number doesn't represent any endorsement of the taxi firm)

**Reading Cabs**  
0118 907 6509

**500 Cars**  
0118 959 9999

**Green Metro Cars**  
0118 966 6656

### Further information about all onward travel

| Local Cycle Info                                                                               | National Cycle Info                                                                                                 | Bus Times                                                                                                                 | NextBuses                                                                                                               | PlusBus                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="http://reading.gov.uk">reading.gov.uk</a><br>For more information about cycle routes. | <a href="http://sustrans.org.uk">sustrans.org.uk</a><br>Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity. | See timetables<br>displayed at bus stops.<br><a href="http://www.traveline.info">www.traveline.info</a><br>0871 200 22 33 | Find the bus times for your stop.<br>Search for a bus stop by entering a postcode, street & town or a stop name & town. | <a href="http://plusbus.info">plusbus.info</a><br>A discount price 'bus pass' that you buy with your train ticket. It gives you unlimited bus travel around your chosen town, on participating buses. |

### National Rail Enquiries

| Online                                                     | NRE App                                              | Social Media                                     | Alert Me                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Contact Centre                                                                                        | PlusBike                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="http://nationalrail.co.uk">nationalrail.co.uk</a> | Free National Rail Enquiries app for iOS and Android | facebook.com/nationalrailenq<br>@nationalrailenq | You can sign up to Alert Me messages on the National Rail Enquiries website where you can receive train and platform notifications directly to your smart phone.<br><a href="http://nationalrail.co.uk/alertme">nationalrail.co.uk/alertme</a> | 03457 48 49 50<br>Calls cost no more than calls to geographic numbers (01 or 02) and may be recorded. | <a href="http://nationalrail.co.uk/plusbike">nationalrail.co.uk/plusbike</a><br>For more information. |

**GWR** Great Western Railway

**National Rail**  
Britain's train companies working together

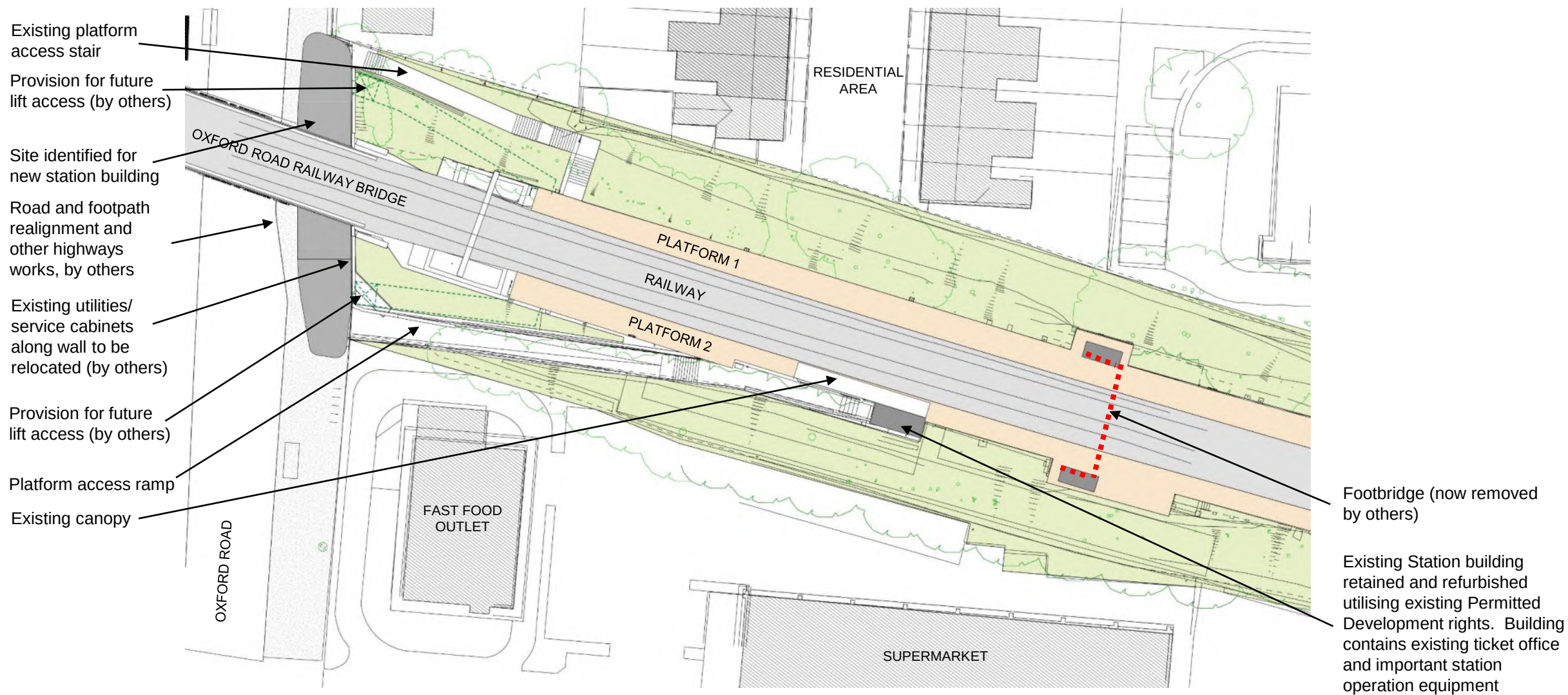
This poster shows details of popular destinations and main, frequent bus routes. Additional services may run, so please check with Traveline or see posters at local bus stops. Whilst considerable care has been taken to ensure the information contained on this poster is correct and accurate, National Rail cannot accept responsibility for any loss or inconvenience caused by any errors or omissions, or for loss, damage, injury or inconvenience resulting to the cancellation, alteration, delay or disruption of a service. For any feedback, please e-mail [comments@nationalrail.co.uk](mailto:comments@nationalrail.co.uk)

Use this code with your mobile to take this poster with you.

## SITE



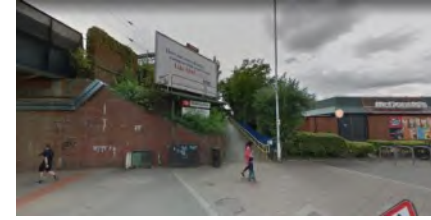
## SITE



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Oxford Road/platforms 1 &amp; 2 access



(Images by Google StreetView)



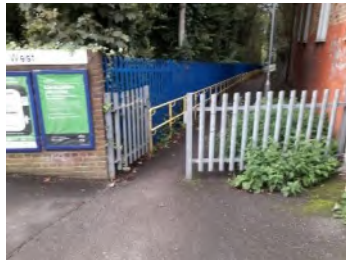
Platforms 1 &amp; 2



(Images by GWR/Oxford Architects)



Tilehurst Road/platform 1 access



(Images by GWR/Oxford Architects)

## USE & LAYOUT

The concept of the layout has been developed through a series of consultation meetings (see separate list at end of section). The appearance of the new station building was conceived as a simple angular form nestled under the railway bridge.

Its primary function is to operate as ticket office with the facilities expected of similar sized stations on the GWR network. Its secondary function is to provide a retail opportunity that can benefit both station and non-station users.

The final layout allows users to enter the building centrally from the South side of Oxford Road, pass through the gateline, then access the desired platform. If required, there are opportunities to utilise the additional facilities that are provided, such as the self-service ticket vending machines, retail offering or WC facility.

The design also allows for out of hours use when the station building is not operational and secured. Out-of-hours gates are provided at both Oxford Road and Tilehurst Road, the former having separate gates to each platform and self-service ticket vending machines adjacent. The shape of the plan has also been arranged to reduce the potential of loitering with CCTV provided throughout.

## MATERIALS

The new station building materials selection wants to be simple and complement with the vernacular of red brick, stone detailing and tiled roofs typical of the surrounding area and railway architecture and heritage, whilst also representing the simple function the building serves and acting as a reference point within the streetscape.

The external walls of the building will be formed using two brick colours (red and grey, typical of the surrounding area) separated with a continuous cill level coping and utilising different brick bonds, recesses and projections to add visual interest. A metal flat roof with expressed overhangs incorporates concealed down-lighting and mounting points for CCTV and customer information screens. The large metal framed glazed entrance doors and screens provides visibility to and from the street and also an opportunity as a non-station user to be aware of the buildings function.

Smaller metal framed windows to the street provide natural light to the station offices and also a kiosk style sales window from the retail unit. The out-of-hours gates and screens will be metal framed with mesh infills as found on other stations.

External wayfinding, signage and customer information screens will be provided in the standard GWR style and colour palette.

Reinstatement of the hard-landscaping will be tied into, and coordinated with, the proposed resurfacing associated with the wider Oxford Road realignment and improvement project being delivered by Reading Borough Council (and not forming part of this planning application).

## ACCESS

The new building will be compliant with current Building Regulations (Part K and Part M2), BS8300, The Equality Act along with GWR, Network Rail and the Department of Transport standards. The design has also be reviewed by the GWR accessibility team.

- Accessible entrances and wide-aisles within gateline for less-able users or customers with pushchairs/buggies/luggage
- Accessible WC
- Lowered accessible ticket office window
- Future provision for lift access to both platforms from new station building (subject to platform enhancement works by others)
- Enhanced lighting and CCTV coverage around the station access points

## SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

- Redeveloping/reusing an underutilised 'brownfield' site within the urban context
- GWR new-build projects target a BREEAM Excellent rating, exceeding current Building Regulations standards
- Prolonging and enhancing the functionality, safety and security of the Station and users
- Use of recyclable materials and modular construction for ease of construction and reduced construction waste
- Naturally ventilated building

## ECOLOGY

To assist in developing the proposals for this scheme, an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken by Windrush Ecology. See Appendix 1 of this Design & Access Statement.

An Executive Summary is provided in Section 1 of the Windrush Ecology report. Section 4 of the Windrush Ecology report provides further information on habitats and species, with Section 5 providing an impact assessment and recommendations noted in Section 6.

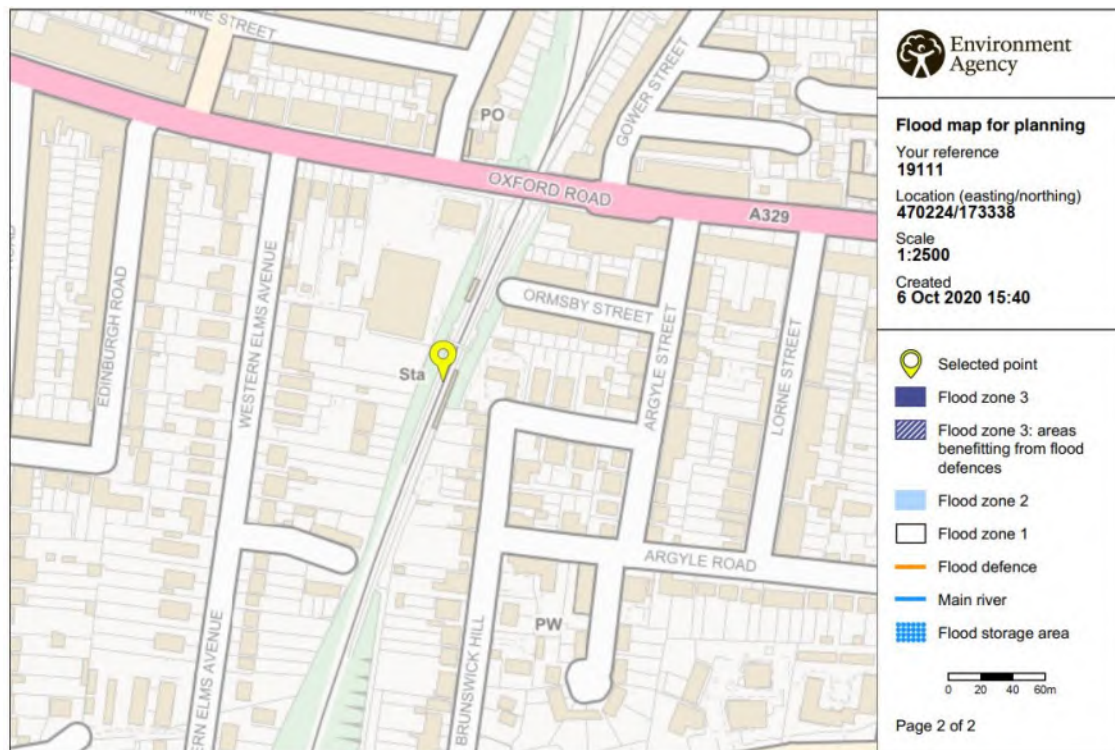
In summary:

- Buildings and hard-standing are of negligible ecological value
- Scrub and ruderal vegetation are considered to be of low ecological value, but offer potential habitat to hedgehogs
- Semi-mature trees are considered to be of ecological value within the site, and within the wider context
- No habitats of 'principal importance' as listed under Section 41 or NERC Act 2006 are present
- Two trees are assessed as having 'moderate potential' to offer shelter to bats. All other trees and building/structures are assessed as having 'negligible' potential to offer shelter to bats within potential roost sites
- No bats or evidence of bats were observed during the survey of the building/structures. No bat droppings were found within the buildings/structures or in association with external features. All of the buildings/structures were assessed as having 'negligible' potential to offer shelter to bats and roosting bats are considered to be absent from all buildings/structures
- No badger setts or evidence of badgers were noted, and badgers are considered to be absent
- Trees and shrubs offer potential nest sites to breeding birds

The proposed works are not expected to have an impact on the Station ecology.

## FLOOD MAP

The proposal is located within flood Zone 1, an area with a low probability of flooding. A flood risk assessment is therefore not required due to the site area being less than 1 Hectare.



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## CONSERVATION AREA

Although not wholly within a Conservation Area, we are aware there are nearby Conservation Areas (Oxford Road/Russell Street) to the East of the proposal site which could be affected. A Heritage Statement is provided in Appendix 5.

## CONSULTATION

Pre-application advice has been coordinated through series of meetings attended by the following:

- Reading West Station Upgrade – Member Reference Group
- Reading Borough Council – Planning and Highways
- Great Western Railway
- Network Rail
- Consultant Design Team
- Thames Valley Police
- British Transport Police
- Reading Borough Council Conservation Architect

At these meetings, the design development has been reviewed, commented upon and revisions made. The project team now feel the design is suitably developed that a planning application submission can be progressed for formal consideration.

The following is a list of projects that are, or will be, occurring around the application site within the programme timescale.

**They do not form part of this planning application submission**, but through a series of meetings have been coordinated and considered in the context of our proposal.

### **READING WEST STATION UPGRADE, ASSOCIATED HIGHWAYS ENHANCEMENTS BY RBC**

Reading Borough Council's Transport Planning and Highways Department has developed a set of highway and interchange enhancements to the Oxford Road that enables the installation of the proposed new station building on the southern footway of Oxford Road.

The alterations adjacent to Reading West Station include realigning the kerb-line on both sides of Oxford Road passing under the railway bridge, relocating existing bus shelters, bins and pedestrian crossing, increasing the bicycle parking provision and relining the road markings.

The amendments to the highway all fall within the existing highway boundary and are not subject to planning approval requirements. The GWR project team have been having regular meetings with the RBC transport planning team throughout the development of the scheme.

### **OXFORD ROAD CORRIDOR, SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS BY RBC**

Further to the scheme being promoted at Reading West Station, Reading Borough Council is also in the process of implementing other improvements and enhancements along Oxford Road promoting sustainable transport facilities and complement the Network Rail highways works at Cow Lane including bus lanes, cycle lanes and improvements to public spaces.

The scheme has undergone an initial consultation and scheme drawings are available on the Reading Borough Council website.

## **ANTI-TRESPASS DETERRENT SCHEME BY NETWORK RAIL**

Network Rail have identified a number of stations on the GWR network that would benefit from an anti-trespass deterrent. Reading West has been selected to receive an installation for a trial 12 month period, with installation commencing mid-December 2020.

The anti-trespass system will take the form of column mounted cameras at either end of platform 1. These will be focused along the platform and the software pre-programmed to identify erratic movements or unusual positioning on the platform. The 2-stage warning system will first activate a flashing warning light. If this has no effect, the second activation will be warning sound.

The intention behind the deterrent is to make people aware the platforms are being monitored.

## **TILEHURST ROAD GATELINE BY GWR**

Great Western Railway is taking the opportunity to improve the appearance and safety of the Tilehurst Road access point to the Station.

During the construction of the new station building, a pre-fabricated modular covered gateline will be constructed inside the Tilehurst Road access. This will enable users to purchase tickets in advance of travel or on the day of travel within the local vicinity. It will also provide CCTV coverage and improved lighting.

General improvements will also be made to the access route including the pruning of vegetation and lighting improvements.

In conclusion, the new station building will provide a valuable and much needed facility for the station users which will be also be beneficial to the wider community.

The operation of the station will not be affected by this proposal, but the improvements to facilities, safety and security will provide a much needed upgrade to a well used station on the public transport network, as well as aligning with Reading Borough Councils Local Plan deliverables.

The siting and design of the proposal will complement the location by acting as a renewed focal point for the station.

Appendix 1: Ecology survey

Appendix 2: Tilehurst Road permitted development scope of works

Appendix 3: RBC Oxford Road realignment scope of works

Appendix 4: Reading West Station facilities & map

Appendix 5: Heritage Statement



**Reading West Railway Station, Oxford Road,  
Reading, Berkshire RG1 7PY**

### **Preliminary Ecological Appraisal**

**March 2020**

**on behalf of Oxford Architects**

#### **Disclaimer**

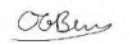
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Any recommendation, opinion or finding stated in this report is based on the circumstances and facts as they existed at the time that Windrush Ecology Ltd performed the work. The content of this report has been provided in accordance with the provisions of the CIEEM Code of Conduct.

Nothing in this report constitutes legal opinion.

|                     |                                                                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Client</b>       | Oxford Architects                                                     |
| <b>Job name</b>     | Reading West Railway Station, Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7PY |
| <b>Survey date</b>  | 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020                                         |
| <b>Report date</b>  | 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2020                                           |
| <b>Report title</b> | Preliminary Ecological Appraisal                                      |
| <b>Reference</b>    | W3526_rep_Reading West Railway Station_26-03-20                       |

|                    | Signed                                                                                | Name                                       | Position            | Date       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| <b>Prepared by</b> |  | Oliver Bevan MEnvSci                       | Assistant Ecologist | 04/03/2020 |
| <b>Reviewed by</b> |  | Edward Bodsworth MA (Cantab)<br>PhD MCIEEM | Director            | 26/03/2020 |



Reading West Railway Station

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1 Executive Summary

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Site Details      | Reading West Railway Station (referred to as 'Reading West' for the purposes of this report), is located within the suburbs of the town of Reading, to the south of Oxford Road. This report includes the station itself as well as a distinct area of land approximately 320m south of the station, 'land adjacent to Tilehurst Road'. The site has an approximate Ordnance Survey grid reference of SU 701 732.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Proposals         | There is a proposal to construct a new station building at Reading West. This would include new access points to the platform via lifts as well as the construction and conversion of waiting shelters on the platform. A new ticket barrier building will also be constructed at the land adjacent to Tilehurst Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Methodology       | An extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 by Robbie Birkett MSci.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Evaluation        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The site comprises buildings, areas of hard-standing as well as trees, tall ruderal vegetation and scrub.</li><li>Buildings and hard-standing are of negligible ecological value. Scrub and ruderal vegetation are considered to be of low ecological value.</li><li>Semi-mature trees are considered to be of ecological value within the site, and within the wider context.</li><li>No habitats of 'principal importance' as listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 are present.</li><li>Two trees are assessed as having 'moderate' potential to offer shelter to bats. All other trees and buildings/structures are assessed as having 'negligible' potential to offer shelter to bats within potential roost sites (Collins, 2016).</li><li>Trees and scrub offer potential nest sites to breeding birds.</li><li>Trees and linear habitats may offer some (albeit limited) foraging habitat to bats, and may provide a habitat corridor for bats and other species.</li><li>Scrub and ruderal vegetation offer potential habitat to hedgehogs.</li></ul> |
| Impact Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There are no foreseeable impacts on sites of nature conservation importance or habitats of 'principal importance' as listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 are present.</li><li>The proposed development is likely to affect existing building and areas of hard-standing.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Small-scale loss of ruderal vegetation and scrub may also occur, but it is considered that this will not result in a significant ecological impact.</li><li>The proposals are unlikely to result the loss of overall biodiversity.</li><li>It is considered that species-specific measures can deliver biodiversity gain.</li><li>The proposals will not result in any foreseeable impacts on roosting bats or trees that bats could use for shelter.</li><li>Removal of woody vegetation during the bird nesting period has the potential to result in disturbance, destruction of nests and killing and injury of young and eggs.</li><li>Additional external lighting may affect bat behaviour.</li><li>There may be small-scale loss of habitats for hedgehogs, but there are considered to be no significant impacts on this species.</li></ul> |
| Recommendations | <p>It is recommended that mature trees are retained and protected.</p> <p>Recommendations are made for the planting of native species, or species of known value to wildlife, where possible.</p> <p>Recommendations are made with regard to bats and lighting.</p> <p>Recommendations are made with regard to species-specific enhancement such as bat boxes, bird boxes and dead wood features to deliver biodiversity gain.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



Reading West Railway Station

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Site Description

The land at Reading West Railway Station is located within the western suburbs of the town of Reading, to the south of Oxford Road and to the west of Ormsby Street. This report includes the 'land at Reading West' Railway Station itself as well as a separate area of land approximately 320m south of the station. This area is referred to as the 'land adjacent to Tilehurst Road' (located to the south), and is also within the suburbs of Reading. The land adjacent to Tilehurst Road provides a pedestrian point of access to the land at Reading West via a slipway that runs adjacent to the trainline. The two areas of land are collectively referred to as the 'the site' for the purposes of this report. The approximate Ordnance Survey grid reference of the site is SU 701 732.

The site comprises a railway station with an associated station office within Reading West as well as a section of the railway line itself, a railway bridge and tarmac road surrounded by patches of tall ruderal vegetation, scrub and trees. The land adjacent to Tilehurst road comprises an area of trees and a concrete slipway.

The site is situated within the suburbs of West Reading and is surrounded by suburban areas including roads, residential areas, commercial and industrial areas. The railway line extends to the north and south of the site. Habitats within the immediate and wider area are limited to domestic gardens and amenity parkland. The site is situated approximately 1.5km south of the River Thames but separated from it by areas of built development within the town.

### 2.2 Proposals

There is a proposal to construct a new station building at Reading West. This would include new access points to the platform via lifts as well as the construction and conversion of waiting shelters on the platform. A new ticket barrier building will also be constructed at the land adjacent to Tilehurst Road.

### 2.3 Aims of Study

The aims of this study are to describe and evaluate the habitats present within the site and to assess the potential for the site to support protected and notable species. The report discusses the potential impacts of the proposed development on the ecology of the site, on valued habitats and on protected/notable species. The study also makes recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures and habitat enhancement with regard to habitats and species. The need for further ecological survey work is discussed in light of the impact assessment.

One specific aim is to assess the potential for buildings and trees to offer shelter to roosting bats.

### 2.4 Bat Ecology

Bats are the only mammals to have developed the ability of true flight. At present, over 1,100 species of bat are recognised worldwide, making bats the second largest mammal group after rodents. As well as flight, bats have evolved a system of navigation and orientation using echolocation which has allowed many species to become nocturnal. There are 18 species of bat that occur within the British Isles, of which 17 are known to breed here. More species occur in the south and west of the country, with species numbers declining towards the north and into Scotland.

All bat species in the UK are nocturnal and feed exclusively on insects (they are insectivorous) which they catch in flight during their night-time activity, using echolocation to locate and home-in on their prey. Bats will roost during the daytime and seek out dark, enclosed and undisturbed places in which to do so, often using a variety of roosting sites within their home range. Different roost sites are used



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for different purposes (such as mating, giving birth and hibernation) and at different periods of a bat's life cycle.

During the summer, female bats will gather together in a maternity or breeding roost. In the UK, this starts to occur towards the end of May and the females will seek out a warm and undisturbed site in which to give birth. Because maternity roosts require a particular set of environmental attributes (such as location, temperature, orientation and size), breeding bats tend to return to roost and breed in the same locations year after year. Given that bats live a relatively long time (anywhere from 10-20 years), and only give birth to one pup a year, maternity colonies are crucial to the reproduction and survival of the local population and can be very sensitive to environmental change.

Relatively little is known about hibernation roosts, as tracking and locating hibernating bats is very difficult. However, many species (particularly those within the genera *Myotis* and *Rhinolophus*) have been found within underground sites such as caves, mines and cellars, where the temperature remains constant and low throughout the winter allowing the bats to remain in a state of torpor. The spring and autumn are periods of transition and bats can use a number of different locations on a temporary basis, often moving between roosts as environmental conditions change and temperatures fluctuate. In the autumn, bats will mate and it has been shown that male and female bats will gather at particular locations (such as a building, cave or tree) to meet, socialise and mate.

Bats choose to roost in a number of different locations, depending on the species, their activity pattern and the period of their lifecycle. Certain species, such as the pipistrelles, favour crevices and small cavities for roosting and will use features such as cracks, crevices and small rot holes in the boughs and trunks of trees and within certain features of buildings such as boxed eaves, gaps under roof tiles, hanging tiles and soffit boards. Other species favour large, uncluttered roof spaces and lofts within buildings where they can hang up on the underside of the roof and use the interior space for flying prior to emergence. Hollow trees, cellars, caves, barns, churches and cavity walls can also all be used for roosting, given suitable access. Certain species, such as the noctule, favour roosting sites within trees whilst others tend to favour buildings. Roost sites may be used by only a very small number of bats, such as solitary males, or may offer shelter to tens or hundreds of bats within maternity and hibernation roost sites.

The suitability of roosting sites is also highly influenced by the location or context of a tree, building or cave. Roost sites are most often favoured when they are within close proximity to foraging habitats and where those habitats are connected to one another within the landscape by features such as hedgerows, woodlands, rivers or sunken lanes along which bats disperse and 'commute' from place to place. Suitable foraging habitats are any places where insect prey is diverse and abundant such as woodlands, ponds, lakes, rivers, scrub, hedgerows and unimproved grassland or pasture. Thus, the ecological context of a site is very important for determining if bats may be present within a roost and the potential for a roost to be present tends to be much higher within rural or village locations.

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Desk Study

The Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) was contacted in November 2019 to gather records that it holds for protected and notable species, and non-statutory sites of nature conservation importance from within a 1km radius of the site.

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)) website was searched for information regarding internationally protected sites (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation) within 5km of the survey area and statutory sites of nature conservation importance (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest) within a 1km radius of the site. Other Internet resources interrogated as part of the desk study include:



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- Bing Maps - [www.bing.com/maps](http://www.bing.com/maps)
- Google Earth - [www.earth.google.co.uk](http://www.earth.google.co.uk)
- Google maps - [www.google.co.uk/maps](http://www.google.co.uk/maps)

Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and the Berkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) were also consulted to gather information pertaining to priority habitats and species for conservation action at the national and local level.

Aerial photography interpretation is used to place the site into an ecological context and to provide information on the nature of the habitats beyond the site boundary. The information garnered is used to put the site into an ecological context and to provide a baseline to the habitat assessment.

3.2 Field Surveys

3.2.1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

An extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 by Robbie Birkett MSci. A walkover of the site was conducted, and a description of the habitats present was prepared using standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology (JNCC, 2010).

Target notes were also prepared on features of particular ecological interest and an assessment was made of the site’s potential to support protected and notable species (such as species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006).

3.2.2 Weather Conditions

Surveys were conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The weather on the day was cool (8°C) and overcast (100% cloud cover), with a light breeze (Beaufort Scale 1-2) and intermittent rain showers.

3.2.3 Assessment for Roosting Bats

Trees and buildings were assessed for their potential to offer shelter to roosting bats in accordance with best practice guidelines published by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins, 2016). The trees were assessed from ground level (using binoculars) as either having high, moderate, low or negligible potential to shelter roosting bats according to the criteria shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Criteria for the assessment of buildings and trees for roosting bats (Collins, 2016)

| Potential  | Features                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Negligible | Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Low        | A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). |
| Moderate   | A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation significance.                                                                                                                                                           |
| High       | A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.                                                                                                                       |

Potential roost features (PRFs) in trees that may be used by bats include (Collins, 2016):



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- woodpecker holes;
- rot holes;
- hazard beams;
- other vertical or horizontal cracks and splits (such as frost cracks) in stems or branches;
- partially detached bark;
- knot holes arising from naturally shed branches, or branches previously pruned back to the branch collar;
- man-made holes (e.g. cavities that have developed from flush cuts) or cavities created by branches tearing out from parent stems;
- cankers (caused by localised bark death) in which cavities have developed;
- other hollows or cavities, including butt-rots;
- double leaders forming compression forks with included bark and potential cavities;
- gaps between overlapping stems or branches;
- partially detached ivy with stem diameters in excess of 50mm; and bat, bird or dormouse boxes

The study also takes into account the structure and ecological context of the onsite buildings, including the following factors which may increase the likelihood of roosting bats being present:

- Age of the building (pre-20<sup>th</sup> Century or early 20<sup>th</sup> Century construction)
- Nature of construction; traditional brick, stone or timber construction
- Large and complicated roof void with unobstructed flying spaces
- Large (>20 cm) roof timbers with mortice/tenon joints, cracks and holes
- Entrances and gaps for bats to fly and crawl through
- Poorly maintained fabric providing ready access points for bats into roofs, walls; but at the same time not being too draughty and cool.
- Roof warmed by the sun, south-facing roofs in particular
- Weatherboarding and/or hanging tiles with gaps
- Undisturbed roof voids
- Buildings and built structures in proximity to each other providing a variety of roosting opportunities throughout the year
- Buildings or built structures close to good foraging habitat, in particular mature trees, parkland, woodland or wetland, especially in a rural setting.

3.3 Limitations

The survey was undertaken in January, when some herbaceous plants have died back, and so certain botanical species may have been under-recorded. Whilst it is considered that a thorough habitat survey has been undertaken, and robust data and conclusions have been delivered within the assessment, the study provides only a snapshot of the species present at the time of the survey and should be considered with this in mind.

4 Results & Evaluation

4.1 Ecological Context

The site is located within the western suburbs of the town of Reading. Habitats are limited to Cow Lane Depot Local Wildlife Site (LWS) to the north-east (Figure 1) and domestic gardens, amenity parkland and roadside trees.

#### 4.1.1 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

##### 4.1.1.1 Statutory Sites

There are no statutory sites of international importance to nature conservation within a 5km radius of the site nor are there any statutory sites of a national importance within a 1km radius of the site.

##### 4.1.1.2 Non-statutory Sites

There is one non-statutory site of nature conservation importance within a 1km radius of the site, namely Cow Lane Depot LWS.

##### Cow Lane Depot LWS

Cow Lane Depot LWS is a small isolated, triangular site bounded by a railway track, situated towards the centre of Reading. It is located approximately 400m north-east of the site. The depot forms a mosaic of habitats ranging from willow scrub with mature trees, to open standing water with swamp to ruderal and tall herb grassland. The depot has a varied topography with a steep north facing slope. Cow Lane Depot provides a wildlife corridor in an urban landscape.

#### Reading West Railway Station Designated Wildlife Sites Map

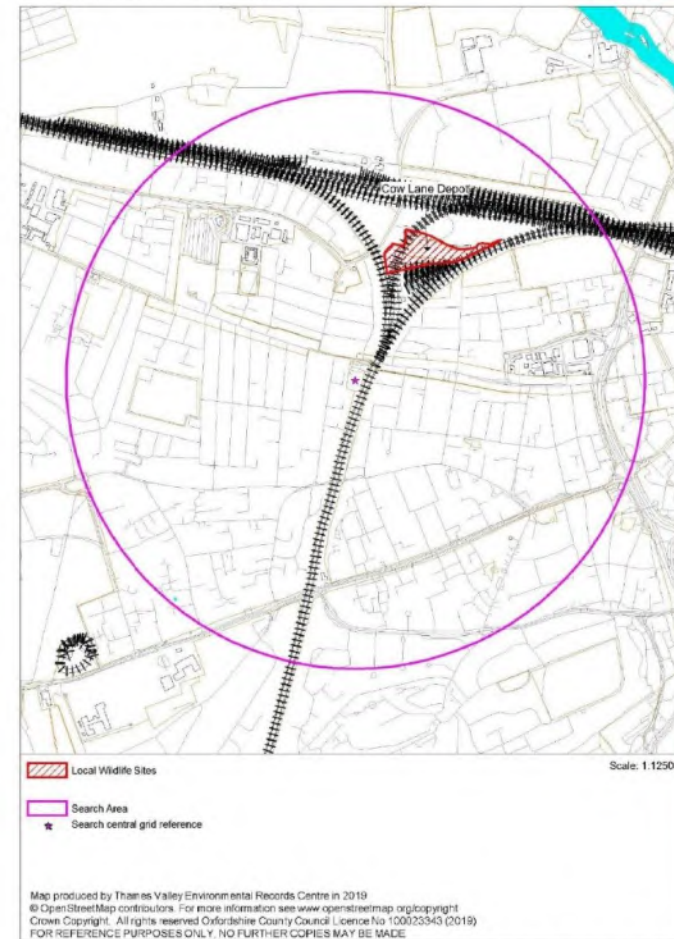


Figure 1. Non-statutory sites of nature conservation importance within a 1km radius of the site.



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#### 4.1.2 Species Records

The following sections summarise the most pertinent protected/notable species records provided by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.

##### 4.1.2.1 Plants

The Records Centre holds one protected/notable plant record from within a 1km radius of the site. This pertains to a record of corn mint plantain *Mentha arvensis* which is associated with Cow Lane Depot LWS. The record dates from 1986.

There are also records of the invasive Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, the most pertinent of which was from within Reading West itself, recorded in 2017.

##### 4.1.2.2 Invertebrates

The Records Centre holds records for three invertebrate species within a 1km radius of the site, namely, stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*, small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*, and common club-tail dragonfly *Gomphus vulgatissimus*. These records date from 1998 to 2018. Notably, the records of stag beetle pertain to 71 records from suburban Reading, of which the closest are located approximately 170m south-east of the site.

##### 4.1.2.3 Reptiles

There is one record of the common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* located within the search radius. This record is from 2010. There are also nine records of slow worm *Anguis fragilis*. These records are in relatively close proximity to the site, and centre around 11-15 Western Elms Avenue, which is located approximately 100m to the west of the site. The records date from 2008 to 2013.

##### 4.1.2.4 Birds

The Records Centre holds a number of records of bird species, including species which can be found in suburban environments such as song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, swift *Apus apus*, red kite *Milvus milvus* and starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

Notably, one record of red kite is from the site although it is likely to pertain to a bird in flight over the site rather than an active nest or breeding pair. The bird records date from 1985 to 2017.

##### 4.1.2.5 Bats

Species of bat recorded within the local area include common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* and brown long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*. All records are from within 1km of the site and date from 1995 to 2016.

##### 4.1.2.6 Other Mammals

The TVERC holds records for badger *Meles meles* and European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* from the surrounding area. These records date from 1998 to 2019.

##### 4.1.2.7 Other Species

There are no records of amphibians, such as the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*.

#### 4.2 Habitats

Photographs of the site are presented in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 illustrates the location of the site and provides an aerial photograph of the site within the surrounding landscape.



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#### 4.2.1 Overview

Reading West comprises a railway station platform, railway line and railway bridge with associated pedestrian walkways and a station office. Surrounding these are areas of tall ruderal vegetation, scrub and trees. Areas of steel fencing both bound and intersperse the site thus controlling access and pedestrian flow. To the south the land adjacent to Tilehurst Road is a smaller area of land with around ten trees, an area of hard-standing as well as part of a footbridge.

#### 4.2.2 Buildings/Structures

All buildings/structures are assessed as having 'negligible' potential (Collins, 2016) to offer shelter to roosting bats. The buildings are considered to be of negligible ecological value.

##### Station Office

The station office is located on the western platform of Reading West. It is a simple brick building with a flat bitumen and mineral felt roof. There are no loft spaces. The external walls of the building are in a good state of repair, with no cracks, crevices or cavities that could be used by roosting bats for shelter. The roofing felt is close-fitting and intact.

##### Railway Bridge

The railway bridge is located at the north of the site, spanning the A329. It has a steel structure with a brick base and wall on either bank. The underside of the bridge displays the structural steel beams which are covered by a metal mesh. The brick base and walls of the bridge are in a good state of repair, with no cracks, crevices or cavities that could be used by roosting bats for shelter. The steel mesh present on the underside of the bridge prevents access to the frame to both bats and birds.

##### Footbridge

The footbridge lies partly within the site within the land adjacent to Tilehurst Road. The footbridge is a steel framed bridge that allows pedestrians passage across the railway line. The bridge has a steel frame as well as metal mesh panelling that encircles the walkway. The steel footbridge is in a good state of repair with no cracks, crevices or cavities that could be used by roosting bats for shelter.

#### 4.2.3 Hard-standing

Hard standing is present at multiple areas of the site. This includes part of the A329 at the north of the site, pedestrian walkways and platforms associated with the railway station and railway platforms and sections of the railway line. Hard-standing is present in the form of concrete slabs, tarmac, and coarse track ballast. Areas of hard-standing are considered to be of negligible ecological value.

#### 4.2.4 Tall Ruderal Vegetation & Scrub

There are some patches of tall ruderal vegetation and scrub associated with the railway line. Much of this vegetation shows signs of regular clearance, likely due to its proximity to the railway line. Sections of scrub and tall ruderal vegetation are largely grouped in the north and east of the site. Species noted within these areas include buddleia *Buddleja davidii*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, ivy *Hedera helix*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, burdock *Arctium* sp., cleavers *Galium aparine*, common mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* and great mullein *Verbascum thapsus*. There were also saplings of ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and *Viburnum* species. Within the north-eastern area of tall ruderal vegetation there were also two coppiced sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* stools present.

Ruderal vegetation and scrub are not listed as habitats of 'principal importance' within Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. The habitat comprises common and widespread species and is considered to be of low ecological value.



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#### 4.2.5 Trees

There are a number of semi-mature trees present within the site. At Reading West, trees are linearly grouped along the western boundary. The trees present within this section are mostly sycamore trees although there were also individual poplar *Populus* sp. and elder. There are areas of deadwood at ground level that evidence past work to clear vegetation. Trees in the land adjacent to Tilehurst road make up the majority of the site and are again dominated by sycamore although common lime *Tilia x europaea* and willow *Salix* sp. are also present. The understorey of this area is dominated by bramble and ivy. Deadwood in this section is limited to small branches and other brash.

Semi-mature trees are considered to be of ecological value within the context of the site, but also within the wider local area. Trees alongside railway lines can provide habitats for species such as birds and bats, as well as providing wildlife corridors and green infrastructure, particularly within urban and suburban areas.

#### 4.2.6 Boundaries

The boundaries of the site are marked by brick walls and steel rail fencing. These features are of negligible ecological value.

### 4.3 Species

#### 4.3.1 Plants

No rare or scarce plants, such as corn mint, were noted within the site. All plant species are common and widespread. No Japanese knotweed was observed within the site.

#### 4.3.2 Invertebrates

There are numerous records of stag beetle from the surrounding area, and this species uses dead wood, particularly dead stumps and standing dead wood as habitat. The species is usually associated with parkland and woodland. Deadwood features of the site are largely restricted to cut woody vegetation, comprising brash and small stumps. The dead wood habitats are not considered to be extensive enough to support stag beetles.

The habitats present on site are not suitable for the small heath butterfly which requires semi-improved or unimproved grassland. Similarly, the habitats are also unsuitable for the club-tail dragonfly. It is considered likely that the habitats support common and widespread invertebrates of scrub and ruderal habitats.

#### 4.3.3 Reptiles

There are multiple records of slow worms pertaining to 11-15 Western Elms Avenue and the Oxford Road Community Garden, which are both located to the west of the site.

Although the scrub and ruderal vegetation that is present within the site may offer some shelter to slow worms, these habitats are considered to be sub-optimal for the species. In addition, it is considered that roads and built development create a barrier to possible slow worm, and other reptile, dispersal from suitable habitats within the local area.

Given the above, it is considered likely that reptiles are absent from the site.

#### 4.3.4 Birds

Bird species noted during the field survey are common and widespread and typical of garden habitats, such as great tit *Parus major* and wood pigeon *Columba palumbus*. No rare or uncommon bird species were observed, and the breeding bird assemblage of the local area is likely to comprise common and widespread species.



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Trees and scrub have the potential to offer nest sites to breeding birds. The site is not considered suitable for ground nesting birds.

#### 4.3.5 Bats

No bats or evidence of bats were observed during the survey of the buildings/structures. No bat droppings were found within the buildings/structures or in association with external features. All of the buildings/structures are assessed as having 'negligible' potential to offer shelter to bats and roosting bats are considered to be absent from all buildings/structures.

Two semi-mature sycamore trees within the western boundary of Reading West are assessed as having 'moderate' bat roost potential (Collins, 2016); see Appendix 3 for tree locations. Both trees exhibit pruning scars and rot holes which could offer shelter to roosting bats. All other trees exhibit no features that roosting bats could use for shelter.

The site offers potential foraging and commuting habitats for bats, and the vegetation along the railway line may act as a linear dispersal habitat. The bat species assemblage is likely to comprise common and widespread species that are typical of suburban habitats, such as the common pipistrelle. Areas of hard-standing offer no obvious foraging habitat to bats.

#### 4.3.6 Other Mammals

No badger setts or other evidence of badgers were noted, and badgers are considered to be absent.

Hedgehogs may be present within the site. Suitable areas for hedgehog foraging exist in the form of ruderal vegetation, scrub and trees. Buildings and hard-standing are not suitable for hedgehogs.

#### 4.3.7 Amphibians

There are no records of amphibians within a 1km radius of the site, and there are no ponds or waterbodies within the site or within a 500m radius of the site (as shown on Ordnance Survey maps). Amphibians are considered to be absent.

#### 4.3.8 Other Species

No evidence of any other protected species was found.

### 4.4 Relevant Legislation & Policy Guidance

#### 4.4.1 Nesting Birds

Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. The nesting season for most species is between March and August inclusive.

#### 4.4.2 Bats

As with many animal species within the UK, declines in the abundance and distribution of many bat species have been documented through recent decades. The reasons for these declines are various and complex but it is considered that the major factors are changes in land use and agriculture, the loss of woodlands and hedgerows and the loss of suitable roosting sites.

Bats are particularly sensitive to human activity due to the fact that they roost within buildings, trees and underground structures such as mines, and the availability of suitable roost sites is considered to be a key factor in the conservation of bats within the UK. As a consequence, all species of bat and their roost sites are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) and under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Taken together, these make it an offence to:

- (a) Deliberately capture or intentionally take a bat
- (b) Deliberately or intentionally kill or injure a bat
- (c) To be in possession or control of any live or dead wild bat or any part of, or anything derived from a wild bat
- (d) Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal or intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a wild bat uses for shelter or protection
- (e) Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bat while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection
- (f) Deliberately disturb any bat, in particular any disturbance which is likely
  - to impair their ability;
  - (i) to survive, breed, reproduce or to rear or nurture their young; or
  - (ii) in the case of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or
  - to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong

A bat roost may be any structure a bat uses for breeding, resting, shelter or protection. It is important to note that since bats tend to re-use the same roost sites, current legal opinion is that a bat roost is protected whether or not the bats are present at the time.

Although the law provides strict protection to bats, it also allows this protection to be set aside (derogation) under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 through the issuing of licences (referred to as European Protected Species Licences or EPSL). Where a lawful operation is required to be carried out but which is likely to result in one of the above offences, a licence may be obtained from Natural England (the statutory body in England with responsibility for nature conservation) to allow the operation to proceed. However, in accordance with the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, a licence can only be issued where the following requirements are satisfied:

- The proposal is necessary 'to preserve public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment';
- 'There is no satisfactory alternative';
- The proposals 'will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range'.

These three criteria are often referred to as the 'three tests' of the Regulations. All three must be satisfied in order for a licence to be granted.

Certain bat species are listed on Annex II of The Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2017. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) can be designated for such species.

#### 4.4.3 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty on the Secretary of State to publish, review and revise lists of living organisms and types of habitat in England that are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving English biodiversity.

It also requires the Secretary of State to take, and promote the taking of, steps to further the conservation of the listed organisms and habitats. This is important in the context of planning

decisions as the National Planning Policy Framework affords planning policy protection to the habitats of species listed by virtue of Section 41.

Species listed within Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 that are relevant to the site, or considered to be potentially relevant, include:

- Hedgehog (scrub, ruderal vegetation and brash offer potential habitat)
- Certain bird species, such as dunno (woody vegetation offers potential nest sites)
- Certain bat species, such as soprano pipistrelle (linear vegetation offers potential movement routes and two trees have moderate bat roost potential)

#### 4.4.4 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The revised National Planning Policy Framework was updated in February 2019 and sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. This revised Framework replaces the previous National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012, and revised in July 2018.

The NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- Maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- Preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- Remediating and mitigating spoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited. Planning permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

- The need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
- The cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
- Any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.

Within areas defined as Heritage Coast (and that do not already fall within one of the designated areas mentioned in paragraph 172), planning policies and decisions should be consistent with the special character of the area and the importance of its conservation. Major development within a Heritage Coast is unlikely to be appropriate, unless it is compatible with its special character.

To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
- Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- Development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
- Development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.

The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- ❖ Potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- ❖ Listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
- ❖ Sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

## 5 Impact Assessment

The impact assessment is based on the proposed layout as presented in Appendix 4.

### 5.1 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

There are no foreseeable impacts on sites of nature conservation importance, including Local Wildlife Sites. Cow Lane Depot LWS is located approximately 400m from the site. The proposals are unlikely to have any direct or indirect impact on areas that are located outside the site boundary.

### 5.2 Habitats

The proposals are likely to affect areas of hard-standing, existing buildings as well as some areas of tall ruderal vegetation and scrub. Ruderal vegetation and scrub are considered to be of low ecological value and so the loss of a relatively small area of these habitats is unlikely to result in a significant ecological impact. Habitat loss at this scale is unlikely to affect the potential function of the vegetation within the site as a linear habitat corridor, particularly due to the fact that trees and boundary vegetation will be retained. The proposals will not result in any impacts on habitats of 'principal importance', as listed within Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

The NPPF (revised February 2019) states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts to existing habitats and providing net gains for biodiversity. Given the above discussion, it is considered unlikely that the proposals this will result in a significant loss of biodiversity and providing biodiversity gain within what is an existing train station and platform within a suburban area is not considered to be a conservation priority. It is considered that gain can be achieved through species-specific measures, such as bat boxes, bird boxes and dead wood habitats.

### 5.3 Species

#### 5.3.1 Invertebrates

Loss of ruderal vegetation and scrub may result in the small-scale loss of habitat that may support widespread and common invertebrates; there are no foreseeable impacts on uncommon or rare invertebrates, such as the stag beetle.

#### 5.3.2 Reptiles

There are no foreseeable impacts on invertebrates.

#### 5.3.3 Birds

Without sensitive timing, or the adoption of careful work practices, removal of scrub and other woody vegetation could result in the damage or destruction of active birds' nests and the killing/injury of eggs/young.

#### 5.3.4 Bats

External lighting can have an impact on bats by affecting their activity and behaviour. In that certain species of bat have been shown to be attracted to mercury vapour lamps which emit light over a very broad-spectrum including UV light to which insects are particularly sensitive. Insects can be attracted in large numbers to mercury lamps and so can bats of the genera *Nyctalus* and *Pipistrellus*, including noctules *N. noctula* and common pipistrelles *P. pipistrellus* (Rydell and Racey 1993). Lighting has

shown to have an opposite effect on certain other species, such as the lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, which have been shown to avoid areas of artificial light (Stone *et al.* 2009).

The proposals will not result in any foreseeable impacts on roosting bats or features that bats could use for shelter. The buildings and manmade structures do not offer any roosting opportunities for bats. Furthermore, the proposals do not currently involve the loss of any trees with bat roost potential.

Scrub and ruderal habitat loss is unlikely to result in a significant loss of foraging opportunities for bats. Habitat loss at this scale is unlikely to affect the potential function of the vegetation within the site as a linear habitat corridor, particularly due to the fact that trees and boundary vegetation will be retained.

#### 5.3.5 Hedgehogs

The proposals are unlikely to result in any significant impacts on hedgehogs. Whilst some vegetation cover may be lost, this is likely to be relative small-scale and unlikely to result in impacts on the local hedgehog population as a whole. It is considered unlikely that there will be any significant impact with regard to hedgehog movement or dispersal, as the linear habitat along the railway line will be retained.

#### 5.3.6 Other Species

There are no foreseeable impacts on other species, including badgers and amphibians.

### 6 Recommendations

#### 6.1 Further Surveys

No further surveys are considered necessary at this stage.

#### 6.2 Habitats

It is recommended that all trees are retained and protected, in particular the two mature sycamore trees assessed as having moderate bat roost potential.

It is recommended that any landscape planting is designed, planted and managed to maximise its value to wildlife. One key element of this would be the species used within the planting, which should comprise native species where possible, as well as ornamental plants of known value to wildlife. The key will be to provide a variety of flowers and fruits throughout the year in order to provide food for insects and birds, as well as providing potential nest sites through the planting of trees and shrubs.

Appendix 5 recommends a number of suitable species for landscape and garden planting schemes, including non-native species for more formal areas, although the species mix should by no means be limited to this list. Planting should aim to provide ground cover for animals such as hedgehogs and invertebrates, and so low-growing ground cover should be encouraged. Native species such as bugle, ivy and periwinkle could be used for this purpose, or ornamental species such as lady's mantle, elephant's ears or perennial geraniums may also be suitable for formal areas of ornamental planting. A diversity of structure should also be encouraged through the planting of small trees, with shrubs and herbaceous plants species established below.

#### 6.3 Species

##### 6.3.1 Bats

Although it is not necessary from a legal perspective, consideration should be given to the erection of bat boxes on retained trees. These boxes could be traditional wooden boxes, or longer lasting woodcrete boxes (e.g. Schwegler boxes). If boxes are adopted, it is recommended that they are

installed as high as possible facing south with a clear flight path to the box entrance. The erection of bat boxes would be seen as biodiversity gain.

It is recommended that additional external lighting is avoided, unless it is necessary for reasons of security and safety. In particular, light spillage around new bat roosting features and along boundaries should be avoided, so that a dark corridor is created around the peripheries of the site in order to facilitate the movement of bats, as well as other nocturnal wildlife.

Where external lighting is required, it should be kept at low level and a low intensity, with hoods and baffles used to direct the light to where it is required (Bat Conservation Trust 2018, Emery 2008). To minimise the impact on bats, the use of low pressured sodium lamps is recommended in preference to mercury or metal halide lamps which have a UV element that can affect the distribution of insects and attract bats to the area, affecting their natural behaviour (Bat Conservation Trust 2018).

The key principals for choosing a suitable type of lamp are:

- Avoid blue-white short wavelength lights: these have a significant negative impact on the insect prey of bats. Use alternatives such as warm-white (long wavelength) lights as this will reduce the impact on insects and therefore bats.
- Avoid lights with high UV content: (e.g. metal halide or mercury light sources) or reduce/completely remove the UV content of the light. Use UV filters or glass housings on lamps which filter out a lot of the UV content.

Selecting an appropriate lamp unit that is designed to be environmentally friendly will minimise light spill, but further controls can be imposed by installing directional accessories such as baffles, hoods and louvres on lamps to direct light away from ecologically sensitive areas.

LED (Light Emitting Diode) units are an effective way to direct the light into small target areas and are recommended for lighting the proposed parking and turning area. Composite LEDs can be switched off to reduce/direct the light beam to specific areas.

##### 6.3.2 Birds

It is recommended that the removal of trees, shrubs and other woody vegetation is undertaken outside of the bird breeding period, avoiding March to August inclusive.

The erection of bird nesting boxes is recommended in order to provide suitable nest sites for species within the local area, as nest boxes can be excellent substitutes for the nesting potential of trees. Over 60 species are known to adopt nest boxes including blue tits, great tits, starlings, robins and sparrows.

The location and nature of the nest box depends on the species it is designed for; boxes for tits, sparrows or starlings should be fixed two to four metres up a tree or a wall; open-fronted boxes for robins and wrens need to be low down, below 2m, and well-hidden in vegetation. Unless there are trees or buildings which shade the box during the day, boxes should be faced between north and east, thus avoiding strong sunlight and the wettest winds.

Recommended boxes are:

- 1B Schwegler Nest Box
- 2H Schwegler Robin Box
- Schwegler Avianex Bird Box

The erection of bird boxes would be seen as a biodiversity gain.



Reading West Railway Station

6.3.3 Other Species

It is recommended that any woody vegetation that needs to be cleared is retained within the site as brash and log piles. This will provide habitat for hedgehogs, fungi and invertebrates.

7 References.

Bat Conservation Trust, 2018. *Bats and artificial lighting in the UK: Bats and the Built Environment series*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

CIEEM, 2016. *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, 2nd edition*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

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

Emery, M., 2008. *Effect of Street Lighting on Bats*. Urbis Lighting Ltd., Anglia.

JNCC, 2010. *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a technique for environmental audit*. JNCC First published 1990; reprinted in 2010.



Reading West Railway Station

8 Appendix 1. Photographs



Photograph 1. Reading West Railway Station viewed from the north-east.



Photograph 2. Tall ruderal vegetation in the north-east corner of the site.



Photograph 2. Tall ruderal and scrub vegetation in the north-west corner of the site.



Photograph 3. Trees bounding the west side of Reading West.



Photograph 4. Loose deadwood and debris bordering the west of Reading West.



Photograph 5. Potential bat roost feature identified on a mature sycamore.



Photograph 6. Potential roost feature identified on a mature sycamore.



Photograph 7. The railway bridge of Reading West.

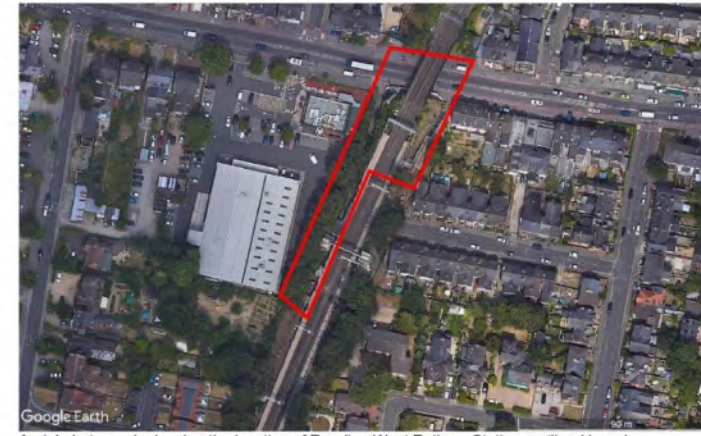


Photograph 8. Trees present in the land adjacent to Tilehurst Road.



Photograph 9. Pedestrian path within the land adjacent to Tilehurst Road.

## 9 Appendix 2. Site Location Plans



Aerial photograph showing the location of Reading West Railway Station, outlined in red.



Aerial photograph showing the location of the land adjacent to Tilehurst Road, outlined in red.

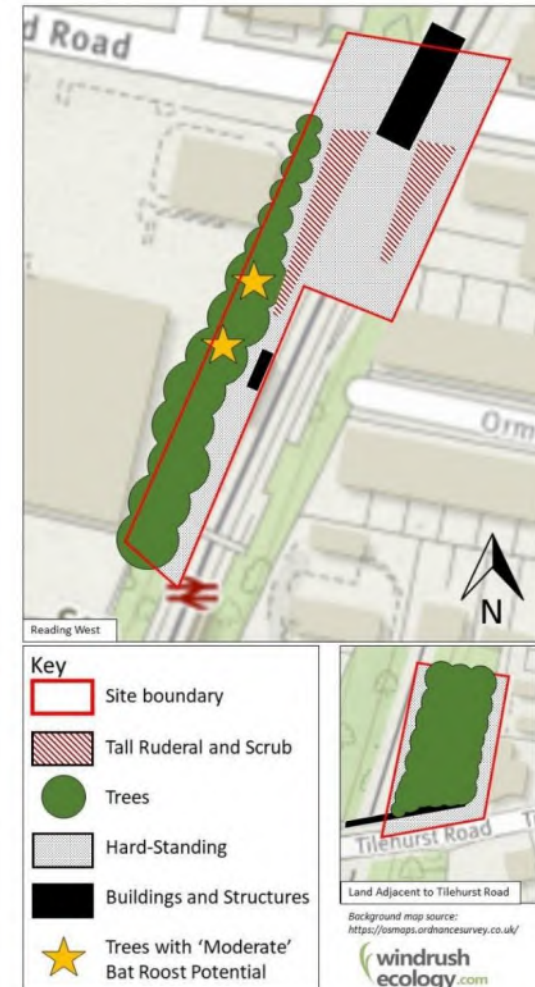


Aerial photograph showing the location of both sections of the site, outlined in red.



Ordnance Survey map showing the approximate location of the sites (indicated by the red arrows) within the local area.

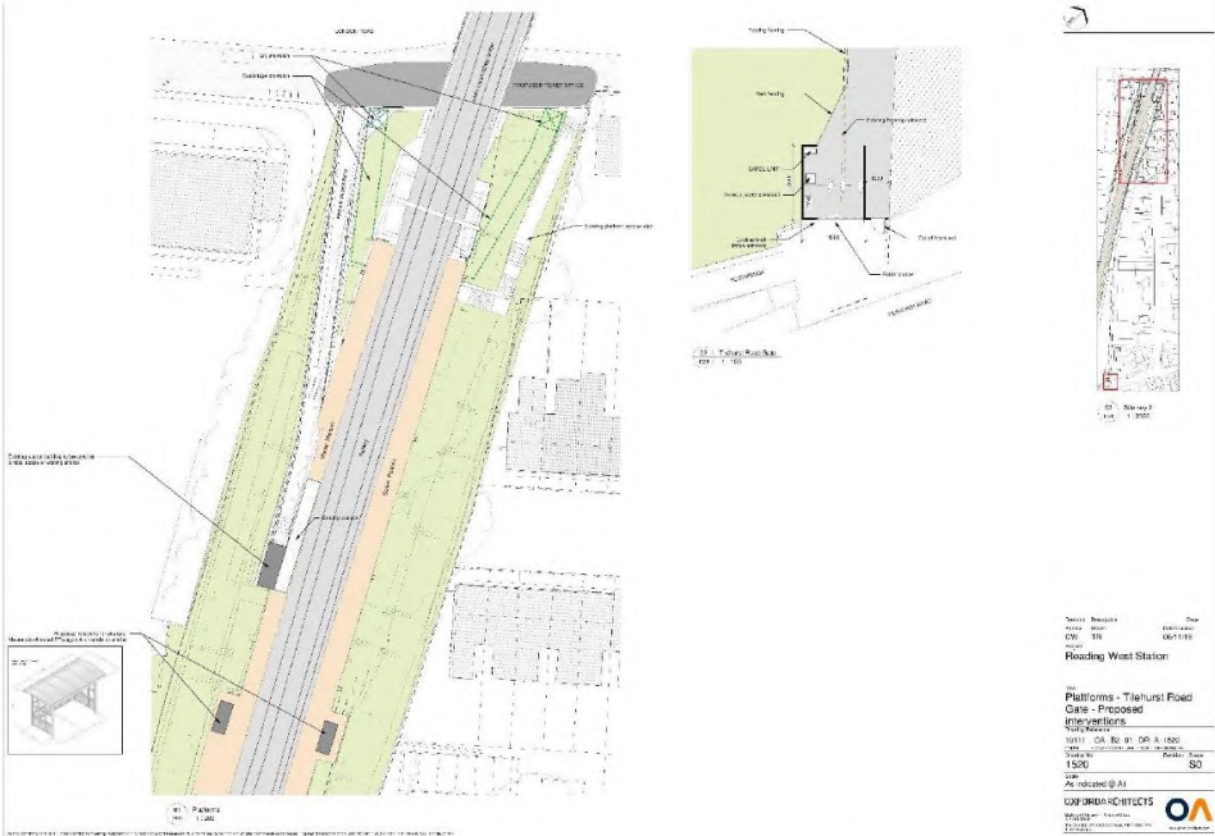
## 10 Appendix 3. Phase 1 Habitat Plan





Reading West Railway Station

11 Appendix 4. Proposal Plans



Reading West Railway Station

12 Appendix 5. Species for Landscape and Ornamental Planting

| Common Name                      | Botanical Name                   |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Trees</b>                     |                                  |
| Field maple*                     | Acer campestre                   |
| Beech*                           | Fagus sylvatica                  |
| Hornbeam*                        | Carpinus betulus                 |
| Willow*                          | Salix sp.                        |
| Silver birch*                    | Betula pendula                   |
| Rowan*                           | Sorbus aucuparia                 |
| Whitebeam*                       | Sorbus aria                      |
| Alder*                           | Alnus glutinosa                  |
| Wild cherry*                     | Prunus avium                     |
| Flowering cherry                 | Prunus sp.                       |
| Flowering pear                   | Pyrus calleryana                 |
| Crab apple*                      | Malus sylvestris                 |
| Fruiting apple                   | Malus sp.                        |
| English oak*                     | Quercus robur                    |
| Elm*                             | Ulmus sp.                        |
| Small-leaved lime*               | Tilia cordata                    |
| <b>Shrubs</b>                    |                                  |
| Holly*                           | Ilex aquifolium                  |
| Hazel*                           | Corylus avellana                 |
| Wayfaring tree*                  | Viburnum lantana                 |
| Wild service tree*               | Sorbus torminalis                |
| Buckthorn*                       | Rhamnus cathartica               |
| Guelder rose*                    | Viburnum opulus                  |
| Hawthorn*                        | Crataegus monogyna               |
| Hebe                             | Hebe sp.                         |
| Rosemary                         | Rosmarinus                       |
| Ceanothus                        | Ceanothus sp.                    |
| Weigela                          | Weigela sp.                      |
| Dog rose                         | Rosa canina                      |
| Dogwood*                         | Cornus sanguinea/alba            |
| Rose (single flowered varieties) | Rosa sp.                         |
| Wild privet*                     | Ligustrum vulgare                |
| Garden privet                    | Ligustrum ovalifolium            |
| Lilac                            | Syringa vulgaris                 |
| Escallonia                       | Escallonia sp.                   |
| Lavender                         | Lavandula sp.                    |
| Flowering currant                | Ribes sp.                        |
| Honeysuckle*                     | Lonicera periclymenum            |
| Mexican orange blossom           | Choisya sp.                      |
| Spiraea                          | Spiraea sp.                      |
| Amelanchier                      | Amelanchier lamarckii/canadensis |
| Cotoneaster                      | Cotoneaster sp.                  |
| Yew*                             | Taxus baccata                    |

| Common Name               | Botanical Name                          |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Broom                     | <i>Cytisus sp.</i>                      |
| Rose of Sharon            | <i>Hypericum calycinum</i>              |
| Firethorn                 | <i>Pyracantha sp.</i>                   |
| Butterfly bush            | <i>Buddleia davidii</i>                 |
| Clematis                  | <i>Clematis sp.</i>                     |
| <b>Perennials</b>         |                                         |
| Elephant's ears           | <i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>              |
| Sage                      | <i>Salvia sp.</i>                       |
| Lamb's ears               | <i>Stachys byzantia</i>                 |
| Periwinkle*               | <i>Vinca major &amp; Vinca minor</i>    |
| Ivy*                      | <i>Hedera helix</i>                     |
| Bugle*                    | <i>Ajuga reptans</i>                    |
| Lady's mantle             | <i>Alchemilla mollis</i>                |
| Geraniums                 | <i>Geranium sp.</i>                     |
| Globe thistle             | <i>Echinops ritro</i>                   |
| Monk's hood               | <i>Aconitum sp.</i>                     |
| Yarrow*                   | <i>Achillea millefolium</i>             |
| Teasel*                   | <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>                |
| Oriental poppy            | <i>Papaver orientalis</i>               |
| Michaelmas daisy          | <i>Aster sp.</i>                        |
| Bear's breeches           | <i>Acanthus spinosus</i>                |
| Montbretia                | <i>Crocsmia sp.</i>                     |
| Purple coneflower         | <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>               |
| Ornamental onion          | <i>Allium sp.</i>                       |
| Catmint                   | <i>Nepeta sp.</i>                       |
| Verbena                   | <i>Verbena sp., Verbena bonariensis</i> |
| Marjoram                  | <i>Origanum majorana</i>                |
| Thyme                     | <i>Thymus sp.</i>                       |
| Crocus                    | <i>Crocus sp.</i>                       |
| Daffodil                  | <i>Narcissus sp.</i>                    |
| Snowdrop                  | <i>Galanthus nivalis</i>                |
| Winter aconite            | <i>Eranthis sp.</i>                     |
| Bluebell*                 | <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>        |
| Primrose*                 | <i>Primula veris</i>                    |
| Forget-me-not*            | <i>Myosotis sp.</i>                     |
| Grape hyacinth            | <i>Muscari botryoides</i>               |
| Hollyhock                 | <i>Althaea rosea</i>                    |
| Lenten rose               | <i>Helleborus orientalis</i>            |
| Foxglove*                 | <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>               |
| Greater knapweed*         | <i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>               |
| Great mullein*            | <i>Verbascum thapsus</i>                |
| Toadflax*                 | <i>Linaria vulgaris</i>                 |
| Meadow crane's-bill*      | <i>Geranium pratense</i>                |
| *indicates native species |                                         |

**13 Appendix 6. Data Search Results**

Please refer to separate biodiversity report prepared by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.

Thames Valley

Environmental Records Centre



Enabling data-driven decisions to better enhance and protect our natural environment

BIODIVERSITY REPORT

Site: Reading West Railway Station

TVERC Ref: TVERC/19/498

Prepared for: Windrush Ecology Limited

On: 09/12/2019

By: Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre  
01865 815 451  
datasearch@tverc.org  
www.tverc.org

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

The following are included in this report:

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- ☑ Terms & Conditions
- ☑ Species data statements

PROTECTED & NOTABLE SPECIES INFORMATION:

- ☑ Summary table of legally protected and notable species records within 1km search area
- ☑ Summary table of Invasive species records within 1km search area
- ☑ Species status key
- ☑ Data origin key

DESIGNATED WILDLIFE SITE INFORMATION:

- ☑ A map of designated wildlife sites within 1km search area
- ☑ Descriptions/citations for designated wildlife sites
- ☑ Designated wildlife sites guidance



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The copyright for this document and the information provided is retained by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre. The copyright for some of the species data will be held by a recording group or individual recorder. Where this is the case, and the group or individual providing the data is known, the data origin will be given in the species table.

TVERC must be acknowledged if any part of this report or data derived from it is used in a report. The whole document may be used as an appendix within your report.

The data in this report can only be used for the project for which it was requested. It cannot be passed on to third parties without permission of TVERC (this excludes reports presented to clients and Local Authorities).

The data should be considered valid for a maximum 12 months from the date on the cover of this report. If the data is to be used after that time an update should be requested. The data must not be added to any permanent database system.

The absence of any species or habitat data for any site, area or location does not mean that any species or habitat is not present.

MAPS

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DATA STATEMENTS

STATEMENT ON RECORDS BELONGING TO THE BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BAT GROUP (BSBBG)

TVERC has agreed an exchange of data with BSBBG which enables us to provide records belonging to them with the grid reference given to 1 km precision. Such records are indicated by the term "refer to BSBBG for full details" in the location column and BSBBG in the data origin column of the species table. Enquirers are recommended to contact the BSBBG direct to obtain further information. Please note that the BSBBG provides TVERC with an annual update of their records, so they may hold records for your search area that TVERC does not yet have access to. Requests for information may be submitted via the BSBBG website; [www.berksbats.org.uk](http://www.berksbats.org.uk).

STATEMENT ON RECORDS BELONGING TO THE BINFIELD BADGER GROUP

TVERC has agreed an exchange of data with Binfield Badger Group which enables us to provide records belonging to them with the grid reference given to 1 km precision. Such records are indicated by the term "refer to BBG for full details" in the location column and BBG in the data origin column of the species table. Enquirers are recommended to contact the Binfield Badger Group direct to obtain further information. Please note that the BBG provides TVERC with an annual update of their records, so they may hold records for your search area that TVERC does not yet have access to. It should be noted that:

- (a) Absence of data does not imply that there is no badger activity.
- (b) There is a need for a suitably qualified person to carry out a survey, or resurvey just prior to any work commencing as badgers can move into an area that previously had no activity.

Requests for information from Binfield Badger Group can be submitted to:

Binfield Badger Group  
PO Box 3805  
Binfield  
Berkshire  
RG42 1HH

Email: [badgers@binfieldbadgers.org.uk](mailto:badgers@binfieldbadgers.org.uk)

STATEMENT ON WILDLIFE TRUST WATER VOLE DATA

Since 2008 data has been collected as positive or negative sections of watercourses. Positive sections crossing into search areas are included within the data. These are shown with the central grid reference for the stretch of watercourse. This may fall outside the search area but the stretch will be at least partly within the search area. The location information shows the beginning and end points of the stretch of watercourse.

Produced by TVERC  
September 2014

STATEMENT ON BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB DATA

TVERC has a data exchange agreement with the Berkshire Ornithological Club which enables us to provide ornithological data held by the Berkshire Ornithological Club for most species. However, we cannot supply records for the species below within the breeding season (April to September inclusive). If you require this information, please contact the Berkshire Ornithological Club (Richard Burness, [records@berksoc.org.uk](mailto:records@berksoc.org.uk)). As there may be a time lag between data recording and upload to the TVERC database, it may be advisable to contact the Berkshire Ornithological Club at the email address above for the most recent records.

Bittern  
Little egret  
Black redstart  
Gadwall  
Red-crested pochard  
Marsh harrier  
Hen harrier  
Montagu's harrier  
Goshawk  
Hobby  
Peregrine falcon  
Quail  
Corncrake  
Oystercatcher  
Stone-curlew  
Little ringed plover  
Eurasian curlew  
Black-tailed godwit  
Barn owl  
Long-eared owl  
Short-eared owl  
Kingfisher  
Nightjar  
Wryneck  
Woodlark  
Cetti's warbler  
Marsh warbler  
Wood Warbler  
Dartford warbler  
Firecrest  
Bearded tit

Additional resources are available to aid interpretation of the data. For example - *The Birds of Berkshire*, Bucknell, Clews, Righelato and Robinson 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2013 (also on-line at <http://berksoc.org.uk/county-atlas/the-book/>) and *The Thames and Chilterns Bird Atlas* (<http://thamesandchilternsbirdatlas.org.uk/>). Nationally published data and analysis of conservation status include - Birds of Conservation Concern 4 - *British Birds* 108 708-746 and the annually published "The State of the UK's Birds" available on the BTO and RSPB websites. In assessing sites, the local atlas projects referred to above identify areas of high avian biodiversity by reference to OS National Grid tetrads.



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(2kmx2km squares) which provide information (not readily available from the BOC database) which should be referred to when assessing the importance of a site or the impact of any proposed development.

USE OF NBN ATLAS DATA

Commercial organisations and members of the public may refer to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas for wildlife records and habitat and designated site information for their own private use.

Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that 'planning policies and decisions should be based on up-to-date information about the natural environment and other characteristics of the area'. The NBN Atlas does not hold information on Local Wildlife Sites or priority habitats in this area and there are restrictions on public access to the majority of species records available via the NBN, so ecology reports without a data search from TVERC are at risk of non-compliance with the NPPF.

TVERC have advised planning authorities in Berkshire and Oxfordshire that ecology reports using only NBN data should not usually be validated and the NBN has requested that suspected breaches of NBN terms and conditions are reported to the NBN Data Access Officer, who will take appropriate action. Further detail is available on our website:

<http://www.tverc.org/cms/content/ecological-survey-reports-planning-applications>

STATEMENT ON GRID REFERENCES

The following types of grid references are provided:

- Six figure grid references. Many of these will be an assigned relatively central grid reference for a site though with small sites the assigned grid reference for a site could be close to the edge. The record may have come from anywhere within the site. Where additional location information is provided the reference may be more accurate or central to a subsite within the larger site. Where the location is not site based, the grid reference should be within 100 metres of the location.
- Four figure grid references. Generally these are 1km records often with some location information to give an idea of which part of the 1km square the record was found. Sometime this information can be quite accurate. Where a large site is referred to the location should be in that part of the 1km square that is within the site. In some case these may be tetrad records with grid reference referring to a 2km x 2km square. This includes some confidential records from Oxford Ornithological Society. Other tetrad data is rarely included.
- Eight and ten figure grid references: These are generally accurately worked out to the location where the species was found. However for small and narrow sites eight figure grid references may be used as a central grid reference for a site.
- TVERC intends to start tagging data to qualify these grid references but at present only a limited amount of qualification is provided. 1km square records are tagged as 1km record and 2km square records are tagged as 2km record.



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## Legally Protected and Notable Species Summary

## Reading West Railway Station

## 1km Search Area

| Taxon Name                                           | Common Name             | European Directives      | UK Legislation                                       | NERC s41 | Other Designations    | Earliest Record       | Latest Record | No. of Records | Max. Abundance |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Birds</b>                                         |                         |                          |                                                      |          |                       |                       |               |                |                |
| <i>Anser anser</i>                                   | Greylag Goose           |                          |                                                      |          | Bird-Amber            | 27/08/2005            | 27/08/2005    | 1              | 30             |
| <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>                            | Mallard                 |                          |                                                      |          | Bird-Amber            | 27/08/2005            | 27/08/2005    | 1              | 20             |
| <i>Milvus milvus</i>                                 | Red Kite                | BirdsDir-A1              | WACA-Sch1-p1                                         |          | RL-Global-post2001-NT | 04/12/2003            | 16/10/2017    | 19             | 3              |
| <i>Falco peregrinus</i>                              | Peregrine               | BirdsDir-A1              | WACA-Sch1-p1                                         |          |                       | 11/12/2003            | 11/12/2005    | 8              | 1              |
| <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>                           | Golden Plover           | BirdsDir-A1              |                                                      |          |                       | 13/02/2004            | 13/02/2004    | 1              | 2              |
| <i>Larus argentatus</i>                              | Herring Gull            |                          |                                                      | NERC-S41 | Bird-Red              | 15/05/2004            | 15/12/2005    | 3              | 3              |
| <i>Larus marinus</i>                                 | Great Black-backed Gull |                          |                                                      |          | Bird-Amber            | 18/12/2004            | 18/12/2004    | 1              | 5              |
| <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>                    | Black-headed Gull       |                          |                                                      |          | Bird-Amber            | 27/08/2005            | 27/08/2005    | 1              | Present        |
| <i>Sterna hirundo</i>                                | Common Tern             | BirdsDir-A1              |                                                      |          | Bird-Amber            | 18/06/2004            | 18/06/2004    | 1              | 1              |
| <i>Apus apus</i>                                     | Swift                   |                          |                                                      |          | Bird-Amber            | 25/06/2003            | 28/07/2012    | 48             | 100            |
| <i>Alcedo atthis</i>                                 | Kingfisher              | BirdsDir-A1              | WACA-Sch1-p1                                         |          | Bird-Amber            | 03/10/2004            | 03/10/2004    | 1              | 2              |
| <i>Delichon urbicum</i>                              | House Martin            |                          |                                                      |          | Bird-Amber            | 27/08/2005            | 27/08/2005    | 1              | 100            |
| <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>                             | Grey Wagtail            |                          |                                                      |          | Bird-Red              | 27/04/2003            | 16/04/2005    | 7              | 2              |
| <i>Prunella modularis</i>                            | Dunnock                 |                          |                                                      | NERC-S41 | Bird-Amber            | 27/08/2005            | 27/08/2005    | 1              | Present        |
| <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>                          | Black Redstart          |                          | WACA-Sch1-p1                                         |          | Bird-Red              | 26/10/2005            | 26/10/2005    | 1              | 3              |
| <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>                       | Redstart                |                          |                                                      |          | Bird-Amber            | 10/04/2004            | 10/04/2004    | 1              | 1              |
| <i>Turdus philomelos</i>                             | Song Thrush             |                          |                                                      | NERC-S41 | Bird-Red              | 12/01/1999            | 20/07/2005    | 9              | 5              |
| <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>                             | Mistle Thrush           |                          |                                                      |          | Bird-Red              | 14/05/2005            | 14/05/2005    | 1              | 1              |
| <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>                              | Starling                |                          |                                                      | NERC-S41 | Bird-Red              | 27/08/2005            | 27/08/2005    | 1              | Present        |
| <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>                             | Bullfinch               |                          |                                                      | NERC-S41 | Bird-Amber            | 18/03/2003            | 18/03/2003    | 1              | 1              |
| <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>                          | Reed Bunting            |                          |                                                      | NERC-S41 | Bird-Amber            | 20/06/1985            | 20/06/1985    | 1              | Present        |
| <b>Higher Plants - Flowering Plants</b>              |                         |                          |                                                      |          |                       |                       |               |                |                |
| <i>Mentha arvensis</i>                               | Corn Mint               |                          |                                                      |          | RL-Eng-post2001-NT    | 08/08/1986            | 08/08/1986    | 1              | Present        |
| <b>Invertebrates - Beetles</b>                       |                         |                          |                                                      |          |                       |                       |               |                |                |
| <i>Lucanus cervus</i>                                | Stag Beetle             | HabDir-A2np              | WACA-Sch5-s9.5a                                      | NERC-S41 | Notable-B             | 01/01/1998-31/12/1998 | 19/06/2018    | 71             | 1              |
| <b>Invertebrates - Butterflies</b>                   |                         |                          |                                                      |          |                       |                       |               |                |                |
| <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>                         | Small Heath             |                          |                                                      | NERC-S41 | RL-GB-post2001-NT     | 08/04/1992            | 08/04/1992    | 1              | 1              |
| <b>Invertebrates - Dragonflies &amp; Damselflies</b> |                         |                          |                                                      |          |                       |                       |               |                |                |
| <i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i>                         | Common Club-tail        |                          |                                                      |          | RL-GB-post2001-NT     | 28/04/2017            | 31/05/2017    | 8              | 7              |
| <b>Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)</b>                  |                         |                          |                                                      |          |                       |                       |               |                |                |
| <i>Chiroptera</i>                                    | Bats                    | HabDir-A2np<br>HabDir-A4 | HabReg-Sch2<br>WACA-Sch5-<br>s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b | NERC-S41 | RL-Global-post2001-NT | 16/05/2016            | 09/11/2016    | 2              | 2              |

## Legally Protected and Notable Species Summary

## Reading West Railway Station

## 1km Search Area

| Taxon Name                                | Common Name             | European Directives      | UK Legislation                                       | NERC s41 | Other Designations    | Earliest Record           | Latest Record             | No. of Records | Max. Abundance |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Myotis</i>                             | Unidentified Bat        | HabDir-A2np<br>HabDir-A4 | HabReg-Sch2<br>WACA-Sch5-<br>s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b | NERC-S41 | RL-Global-post2001-NT | 09/03/2015                | 09/03/2015                | 1              | Present        |
| <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>                 | Daubenton's Bat         | HabDir-A4                | HabReg-Sch2<br>WACA-Sch5-<br>s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b |          |                       | 25/07/1991                | 25/07/1991                | 1              | 1              |
| <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>                   | Noctule Bat             | HabDir-A4                | HabReg-Sch2<br>WACA-Sch5-<br>s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b | NERC-S41 |                       | 09/03/2015                | 07/12/2018                | 7              | 1              |
| <i>Pipistrellus</i>                       | Pipistrelle Bat species | HabDir-A4                | HabReg-Sch2<br>WACA-Sch5-<br>s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b | NERC-S41 |                       | 06/02/1993                | 14/07/2013                | 9              | 17             |
| <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>          | Common Pipistrelle      | HabDir-A4                | HabReg-Sch2<br>WACA-Sch5-<br>s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b |          |                       | 14/04/2013                | 07/12/2018                | 10             | 1              |
| <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>              | Soprano Pipistrelle     | HabDir-A4                | HabReg-Sch2<br>WACA-Sch5-<br>s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b | NERC-S41 |                       | 09/03/2015                | 07/12/2018                | 6              | Present        |
| <i>Plecotus</i>                           | Long-eared Bat species  | HabDir-A4                | HabReg-Sch2<br>WACA-Sch5-<br>s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b | NERC-S41 |                       | 04/09/2015                | 04/09/2015                | 1              | 1              |
| <i>Plecotus auritus</i>                   | Brown Long-eared Bat    | HabDir-A4                | HabReg-Sch2<br>WACA-Sch5-<br>s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b | NERC-S41 |                       | 06/10/2017                | 06/10/2017                | 1              | Present        |
| <b>Mammals - Terrestrial (excl. bats)</b> |                         |                          |                                                      |          |                       |                           |                           |                |                |
| <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>                | West European Hedgehog  |                          |                                                      | NERC-S41 |                       | 01/01/2010-<br>31/12/2010 | 01/01/2019-<br>06/06/2019 | 12             | 1              |
| <i>Meles meles</i>                        | Eurasian Badger         |                          | Badgers-1992                                         |          |                       | 12/01/1998                | 04/07/2013                | 2              | 1              |
| <b>Reptiles</b>                           |                         |                          |                                                      |          |                       |                           |                           |                |                |
| <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>                   | Common Lizard           |                          | WACA-Sch5-s9.1k/s9.5a                                | NERC-S41 |                       | 2010                      | 2010                      | 1              | Present        |
| <i>Anguis fragilis</i>                    | Slow-worm               |                          | WACA-Sch5-s9.1k/s9.5a                                | NERC-S41 |                       | 30/07/2008                | 14/07/2013                | 9              | 4              |

## Invasive Non-Native Species Summary

## Reading West Railway Station

## 1km Search Area

| Taxon Name                              | Common Name       | Invasive Status    | Earliest Record | Latest Record | No. of Records | Max. Abundance |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Higher Plants - Flowering Plants</b> |                   |                    |                 |               |                |                |
| <i>Buddleja davidii</i>                 | Butterfly-bush    | INNS-Other-2015    | 18/06/1985      | 08/08/1986    | 2              | Present        |
| <i>Fallopia japonica</i>                | Japanese Knotweed | INNS-Priority-2015 | 19/07/2005      | 16/10/2017    | 3              | 1              |

## SPECIES STATUS KEY

## EUROPEAN DIRECTIVES

- **BirdsDir-A1** - Species listed on Annex 1 of EC Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds. This covers birds which are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.
- **HabDir-A2, HabDir-A2np, HabDir-A4 & HabDir-A5** - Annex 2 and Annexes 4/5 respectively of the EC Habitats Directive. This is the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. The abbreviations have the following meanings:

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HabDir-A2</b>   | Species which are endangered, the conservation of which the Community has a particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range which falls within the territory of the Community. They require the designation of special areas of conservation.                                                                                |
| <b>HabDir-A2np</b> | Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.                                           |
| <b>HabDir-A4</b>   | Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) in need of strict protection. They are protected from killing, disturbance or the destruction of them or their habitat. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession. |
| <b>HabDir-A5</b>   | Animal and plant species of Community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## UK LEGISLATION: CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2010

- **HabReg-Sch2, HabReg-Sch4 and HabReg-Sch5.** This legislation translates the European Habitats Directive (see above) into UK law where species are listed in Schedule 2 (priority & non-priority), Schedule 4 and Schedule 5.

## UK LEGISLATION: WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

## Schedule 1 Wild Birds

This prohibits the intentional killing, injuring or taking of any wild bird and the taking, damaging or destroying of the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs. It prohibits possession of wild birds (dead or alive) or their eggs. In addition:

- **WACA-Sch1-p1** – There are additional penalties for offences relating to birds on this schedule and it is also an offence to disturb such birds at the nest or with dependent young.
- **WACA-Sch1-p2** – Covers the protection of birds which may be killed during the open season.

(Please note that some schedule 1 bird records will refer to species that do not breed in the county, e.g. over-wintering birds such as Redwing or Fieldfare. Although we include them in the annotated records, only they and their nests, eggs and dependent young enjoy extra protection under the W&C 1981 act. If you are in any doubt about the breeding status of a bird please contact us at TVERC)



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## Schedule 5 Wild Animals

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WACA-Sch5-s9.1</b>  | Covers intentionally killing, injuring or taking any wild animal included in Schedule 5                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>WACA-Sch5-s9.1k</b> | Covers animals which are protected from intentional killing or injuring.                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>WACA-Sch5-s9.1t</b> | Covers animals which are protected from taking.                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>WACA-Sch5-s9.2</b>  | Covers animals which are protected from being possessed or controlled (live or dead).                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>WACA-Sch5-s9.4a</b> | Covers intentionally or recklessly disturbing of any wild animal included in Schedule 5. Also includes animals which are protected from intentional damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection. |
| <b>WACA-Sch5-s9.4b</b> | Covers animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection.                                                                                                |
| <b>WACA-Sch5-s9.4c</b> | Covers animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.                                                                                           |
| <b>WACA-Sch5-s9.5a</b> | Covers animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.                                                                                      |
| <b>WACA-Sch5-s9.5b</b> | Covers animals which are protected from being published or advertised as being for sale.                                                                                                                                            |

## Schedule 8 Wild Plants

- **WACA-Sch8** – Covers plants which are protected from intentional picking, uprooting or destruction (Section 13 1a); selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative) (Section 13 2a); advertising (any of these) for buying or selling (Section 13 2b).

## PRIORITY NERC S.41 2006

- **NERC-S41** Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.

## OTHER DESIGNATIONS: RED LISTS

**Global Red List Species** (tagged **RL-Global**) - Species listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Species included are from pre and post 1994 and post 2001 lists.

**GB Red List Species** (tagged **RL-GB**) - Species included in GB red lists. Species included are from pre and post 1994 and post 2001 lists. Please note not all taxon groups are currently covered, for example fungi.

**England Red List Species** (tagged **RL-Eng**) – Species included in England red lists. Out of the categories below, only CR, EN, VU, NT, DD and RE are used in the context of this Red List.

With all red lists, the date of the list used does not indicate when the species was designated, but which set of rules for designation were used. Due to the time required to produce a new red list for a species group, the rules used will often be much older than the date of the list.



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## Abbreviations:

**EX** – Extinct A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died.

**EW** – Extinct in the Wild. Species known to survive only in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population(s) well outside the past range.

**CR** – Critically Endangered (CR) Species facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future.

**EN** – Endangered: Species that are not Critically Endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.

**VU** – Vulnerable: A species is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future

**NT** – Near Threatened – A taxon considered likely to become endangered in the near future.

**NR** - Taxa with small populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk

**LR(cd)** – Lower risk (conservation dependent)

**DD** – Data deficient – A taxon with insufficient data to make an assessment of its risk of extinction.

**RE** – Regionally Extinct – Taxa that are considered extinct within the region but populations exist elsewhere in the world.

**R** - Taxa with small populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk.

**Inde** – indeterminate – based on a pre 1994 category: Taxa which are known to be Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare but with insufficient data to place them in one of the categories.

**Insu** – Insufficiently known - based on a pre 1994 category which equates to data deficient.

**Thre** - Taxa which are not known to occur naturally outside Britain. Taxa within this category may also be in any of the other RDB categories or not threatened at all.

Species included here are from information compiled by JNCC (The Joint Nature Conservation Committee).

## OTHER DESIGNATIONS: NATIONALLY NOTABLE SPECIES

This covers invertebrate species not falling within IUCN categories but never the less uncommon in Britain.

**Nationally Notable A** (Tagged **Notable-A**): Taxa which occur in <30 10 km (hectad) squares or for less well recorded groups within <7 vice counties.

**Nationally Notable B** (Tagged **Notable-B**): Taxa which don't fall within IUCN categories but are uncommon in Britain and occur in 31-100 10 km sq/ or for less or for less well recorded groups between 8 and 20 vice counties

**Notable** (Tagged **Notable**): Taxa known to be scarce (occurring in between 16 and 100 10km squares) but for which there is insufficient information to assign them to the above categories.

This designation comes from the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) species dictionary but is supported by JNCC.

## OTHER DESIGNATIONS: NATIONALLY RARE OR SCARCE SPECIES

This designation covers species that are recognised to occur in only a few locations in Britain. Note species reported in this section may also appear on red lists.

**Rare** (tagged as **Status-NR**) = occurring in 15 or fewer hectads (10 km squares) in the UK

**Scarce** (tagged as **Status-NS**) = occurring in 16 – 100 hectads in the UK.

## OTHER DESIGNATIONS: BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN LISTS &amp; RED LIST FUNGI

These lists were drawn up by leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organizations including the RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology. The most recent version was published in May 2009.

**Red List** (tagged Bird-Red) - species are those that are globally threatened, whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years (i.e. by more than 50% in 25 years), or which have declined historically and not recovered.

**Amber List** (tagged Bird-Amber) - Amber list species are those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years (by more than 25% but less than 50% in 25 years), those whose population has declined historically but recovered recently, rare breeders (fewer than 300 pairs), those with internationally important populations in the UK, those with localised populations, and those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe.

**Red List Fungi** – This designation uses the Red Data List of Threatened British Fungi (preliminary assessment) by Shelley Evans (BMS Conservation Officer). Species are designated as:

**Fungi Red-CR** – Critically Endangered

**Fungi Red-EN** – Endangered

**Fungi Red-NT** – Near Threatened

**Fungi Red-VU** – Vulnerable

These follow current IUCN guidelines (2001) as closely as possible but with adaptations to take into account the fungal lifestyle and associated practicalities of fungal recording.

## OTHER DESIGNATIONS: OXFORDSHIRE SCARCE &amp; RARE PLANTS

A rare plant register for Oxfordshire was published under the title *Oxfordshire's Threatened Plants* (Pices Publications, June 2018). This 15 year study produced a list of rare and scarce plants for the county. TVERC is now including Oxfordshire records of these species in its Protected & Notable Species GIS layers. The definitions of rare and scarce are as follows:

**Oxon-Rare** – Any species found in 1-3 Oxfordshire tetrads (2km x 2km square) over the duration of the data collection phase of the study (2000 – 2010 inclusive)

**Oxon-Scarce** – Any species found in 4 – 10 Oxfordshire tetrads over the data collection phase of the study.

### OTHER DESIGNATIONS: LOCAL BAP SPECIES

For any Local Authority that has drawn up a list of BAP species. Designations will only apply to species recorded from the Local Authority area.

Currently, only Bracknell Forest Council have such a BAP list and relevant records are tagged **BF-LBAP**.

### INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Species appearing on the Environment Agency list of non-native invasive species 2014. Species may have the following designations:

**Priority Species:** Species affecting EA interests the most

**Rapid Response Species:** Very invasive species that are not yet established.

### DATA ORIGIN KEY (MARCH 2019)

| Data Origin Abbreviation | Origin Details                                                   |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ABFG                     | Association of British Fungus Groups                             |
| AC                       | Academic Researcher                                              |
| AN                       | Abingdon Natural History Society                                 |
| ANHSO                    | Ashmolean Natural History Society (& Rare Plant Group)           |
| ARC                      | Amphibian & Reptile Conservation                                 |
| ARGUK                    | UK Amphibian & Reptile Groups                                    |
| BAT                      | Bat Licence Returns (from licenced Bat Recorders)                |
| BBG                      | Binfield Badger Group                                            |
| BBOWT                    | Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust        |
| BC                       | Butterfly Conservation (includes Upper Thames and National Data) |
| BCYS                     | Berkshire Churchyards Surveys                                    |
| BDS                      | British Dragonfly Society                                        |
| BENHS                    | British Entomological Natural History Society                    |
| BFC                      | Bracknell Forest Council                                         |
| BFVT                     | Bracknell Forest Veteran Tree Survey                             |
| BGG                      | Bicester Green Gym                                               |
| BIG                      | Berkshire Invertebrate Group                                     |
| BLS                      | British Lichen Society                                           |
| BLWS                     | Berkshire Local Wildlife Sites Project                           |
| BMERC                    | Bucks & Milton Keynes Environmental Record Centre                |
| BMG                      | Berkshire Mammal Group                                           |
| BOC                      | Berkshire Bird Clubs                                             |
| BOS                      | Banbury Ornithological Society                                   |
| BRAG                     | Berkshire Reptile & Amphibian Group                              |
| BRC                      | Biological Record Centre (Monk's Wood)                           |
| BSBBG                    | Berks & South Berks Bat Group                                    |
| BSBI                     | Botanical Society of the British Isles                           |
| BTC                      | Banbury Town Council                                             |
| BTO                      | British Trust for Ornithology                                    |
| BUWG                     | Bracknell Urban Wildlife Group                                   |
| BWARS                    | Bees Wasps & Ants Recording Society                              |
| BWG                      | Besselsleigh Wood Group                                          |
| CalRS                    | National Calliphoridae Recording Scheme                          |
| CBT                      | Childe Beale Trust                                               |
| CDC                      | Cherwell District Council                                        |
| COS                      | County Ornithological Services (also known as BCS)               |
| CPRE                     | Campaign to Protect Rural England                                |
| CRPG                     | Cotswold Rare Plant Group                                        |
| CSP                      | Cherwell Swift Project                                           |
| EA                       | Environment Agency (formally the National Rivers Authority)      |
| EC                       | Professional Ecological Consultant                               |
| ESB                      | Earthworm Society of Great Britain                               |
| ET                       | The Earth Trust (formally the Northmoor Trust)                   |
| FFF                      | Friends of Faringdon Folly                                       |
| FHT                      | Freshwater Habitat Trust                                         |
| FLC                      | Friends of Longcot Churchyard                                    |
| FoLV                     | Friends of Lye Valley                                            |
| FOTTG                    | Friends of the Trap Grounds                                      |

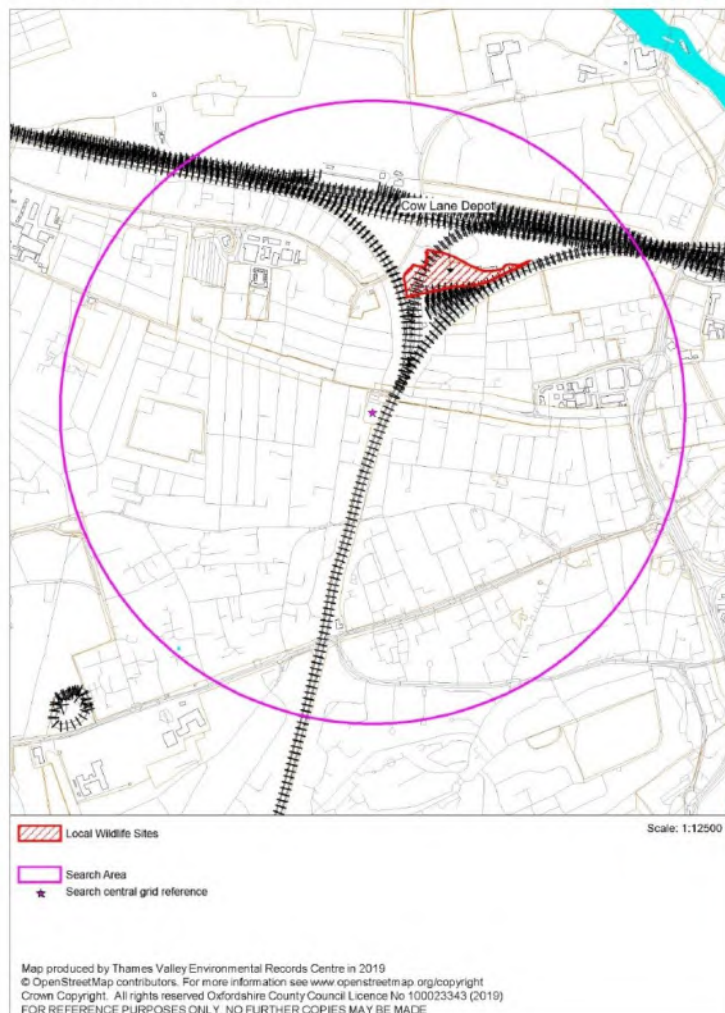
DATA ORIGIN KEY (MARCH 2019)

| Data Origin Abbreviation | Origin Details                                    |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| FROG                     | Froglife                                          |
| FSO                      | Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire                      |
| FWAG                     | Farmland Wildlife Advisory Group                  |
| GCER                     | Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records  |
| GCN                      | GCN Licence Return Records                        |
| HA                       | Highways Agency                                   |
| HWMT                     | Hurst Water Meadows Trust                         |
| ICL                      | Imperial College London                           |
| IOSF                     | International Otter Survival Fund                 |
| IREC                     | IRECORD Website                                   |
| LBRS                     | Longhorn Beetle Recording Scheme                  |
| LN                       | Local/National Expert (known to TVERC)            |
| LWVP                     | Lower Windrush Valley Project                     |
| MGLG                     | Moor Green Lakes Group                            |
| MOD                      | Ministry of Defence                               |
| MOP                      | Member of the Public                              |
| MS                       | Mammal Society                                    |
| NCRS                     | National (Trichoptera) Caddisfly Recording Scheme |
| NDD                      | National Dormouse Database                        |
| NE                       | Natural England/EN/NCC                            |
| NFC                      | Newbury Field Club                                |
| NHM                      | Natural History Museum                            |
| NNSS                     | Non-native Species Secretariat                    |
| NPD                      | National Ponds Database                           |
| NPMS                     | National Plant Monitoring Scheme                  |
| NRG                      | Newbury Ringing Group                             |
| NSP                      | NatureSpace Partnership                           |
| NT                       | National Trust                                    |
| OBadG                    | Oxfordshire Badger Group                          |
| OBG                      | Oxfordshire Bat Group                             |
| OBRC                     | Oxfordshire Biological Record Centre              |
| OBU                      | Oxford Brookes University                         |
| OCC                      | Oxfordshire County Council                        |
| OCYS                     | Oxfordshire Churchyard Survey                     |
| OFG                      | Oxfordshire Flora Group                           |
| OLWS                     | Oxfordshire Local Wildlife Sites Project          |
| OMG                      | Oxfordshire Mossing Group                         |
| OOS                      | Oxfordshire Ornithological Society                |
| ORAG                     | Oxfordshire Reptile & Amphibian Group             |
| OS                       | Otter Spotter Project                             |
| OSC                      | Oxford Swift City Project                         |
| OUNHM                    | Oxford University Natural History Museum          |
| OUWG                     | Oxford Urban Wildlife Group                       |
| OX                       | Oxford City Council                               |
| OxMG                     | Oxford Mammal Group                               |
| PC                       | Pond Conservation                                 |
| PL                       | Plantlife                                         |
| PT                       | Plant Tracker (non-native plant tracking app.)    |

DATA ORIGIN KEY (MARCH 2019)

| Data Origin Abbreviation | Origin Details                                            |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| PTES                     | People's Trust for Endangered Species                     |
| RBC                      | Reading Borough Council                                   |
| RBWM                     | Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead                     |
| RDNHS                    | Reading and District natural History Society              |
| RF                       | Richard Frankum                                           |
| RM                       | Reading Museum                                            |
| RRS                      | Riverfly Recording Scheme                                 |
| RSPB                     | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds                 |
| RTCT                     | River Thame Conservation Trust                            |
| RUWG                     | Reading Urban Wildlife Group                              |
| RWP                      | Reading Woodlands Plan                                    |
| SARS                     | Soldierflies and Allies Recording Scheme                  |
| ScRS                     | Scarabaeoidea Recording Scheme                            |
| SepRS                    | Sepsidae Recording Scheme                                 |
| SO                       | Science Oxford                                            |
| SODC                     | South Oxfordshire District Council                        |
| SW                       | Shotover Wildlife                                         |
| TVERC                    | Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre                 |
| TVFG                     | Thames valley Fungus Group                                |
| TW                       | Thames Water                                              |
| U                        | Unknown                                                   |
| UKWOT                    | UK Wild Otter Trust                                       |
| VCH                      | Victoria County History (historical records)              |
| VWH                      | Vale of White Horse District Council                      |
| VWT                      | Vincent Wildlife Trust                                    |
| WB                       | West Berkshire District Council                           |
| WBBRS                    | Weevil & Bark beetle Recording Scheme                     |
| WBC                      | Wokingham Borough Council                                 |
| WFG                      | Wychwood Flora Group                                      |
| WIA                      | Wildlife in Ascot Group                                   |
| WILDCRU                  | Wildlife Conservation Research Unit                       |
| WMUWG                    | Windsor & Maidenhead Urban Wildlife Group                 |
| WODC                     | West Oxfordshire District Council                         |
| WS                       | Wytham Survey                                             |
| WT                       | Woodland Trust                                            |
| WWT                      | Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust                                 |
| YE                       | Dick Greenaway, concerning land owned by Yattendon Estate |

### Reading West Railway Station Designated Wildlife Sites Map



### Berkshire Local Wildlife Site Citation

#### COW LANE DEPOT

Site Code: 77B03

Grid Reference: SU70449 73848

Area (ha): 1.544

Local Authority: Reading Borough

Last Survey Date(s): May 2004

Date Selected or Reconfirmed: Retained 2004

#### Site Description

A small isolated, triangular site bounded by a railway track, situated towards the centre of Reading. The site forms a mosaic of habitats ranging from willow scrub with mature trees, to open standing water with swamp to ruderal and tall herb grassland. The site has a varied topography with a steep north facing slope colonized by buddleia, hazel and goat willow. Cow Lane Depot provides a wildlife corridor in an urban landscape.

Standing water has collected at the centre of the site where stands of greater pond sedge and common reedmace swamp (with affinities to an S6/12 NVC community) form a mosaic with open water and areas of encroaching willow scrub. In 1985 the site consisted of a phragmites reedbed, which was not recorded in the 2004 survey.

Areas of willow scrub are dominated by crack willow with some mature trees and a shaded ground flora of predominantly nettle and areas of dense bramble. A stagnant, shaded ditch lies to the north with little vegetation and some litter has collected. Adjacent to the railway track lies a recently disturbed area that consists of a ruderal type grassland. Species include red fescue, creeping bent, black knapweed, meadow vetchling, teasel and great willowherb.

SECTION 41 HABITAT(S) OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: None

PROTECTED SPECIES: None recorded

SECTION 41 SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: Reed bunting (1986)

RED DATA BOOK (RDB) SPECIES: None recorded

NATIONALLY SCARCE (NSC) SPECIES: None recorded

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (BoCC):

Red List Species: Reed bunting (1985)

Amber List Species: Kestrel (2004)

TYPICAL SPECIES OF THE HABITAT TYPE(S)

Typical wetland species: hemp agrimony (1986), common reed (1986), greater and lesser pond sedge (2004), soft and hard rush (2004), bulrush (2004), fool's water-cress (1986), great willowherb (2004), marsh horsetail (1986), meadowsweet (1986), branched bur-reed (1986), purple-loosestrife (1986),

Typical grassland species: common sedge (1986), sneezewort (1986)

**GUIDANCE ON THE VARIOUS STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY WILDLIFE SITE DESIGNATIONS**

**SITE DESIGNATIONS THAT PROTECT THE UK'S NATURAL HERITAGE THROUGH STATUTE**

**LOCAL NATURE RESERVES (LNRS) (IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES)**

Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 LNRS may be declared by local authorities after consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation agency. LNRS are declared and managed for nature conservation, and provide opportunities for research and education, or simply enjoying and having contact with nature.

**NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES (NNRS)**

NNRs contain examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems in Great Britain. They are managed to conserve their habitats or to provide special opportunities for scientific study of the habitats communities and species represented within them.

NNRs are declared by the statutory country conservation agencies under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In Northern Ireland, Nature Reserves are designated under the Amenity Lands Act (Northern Ireland) 1965.

**RAMSAR SITES**

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. Originally intended to protect sites of importance especially as waterfowl habitat, the Convention has broadened its scope over the years to cover all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities. The Convention adopts a broad definition of wetland, namely "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres". Wetlands "may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six metres at low tide lying within the wetlands".

There is only one Ramsar site in Berkshire or Oxfordshire, South West London Waterbodies.

**SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES)**

The SSSI series has developed since 1949 as the national suite of sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical

features. These sites are also used to underpin other national and international nature conservation designations. Most SSSIs are privately-owned or managed; others are owned or managed by public bodies or non-government organisations.

Originally notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, SSSIs have been renotified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs were introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (in England and Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

**SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)**

SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive. SACs are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety within the European Union of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive. SACs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are designated under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended). New and/or amended Habitats sites which have been submitted to the European Commission by Government, but not yet formally adopted by the Commission, are referred to as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs). Sites which have been adopted by the EC, but not yet formally designated by governments of Member States are known as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). In the UK, designation of SACs is devolved to the relevant administration within each country.

SACs, together with SPAs, form the Natura 2000 network.

**SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)**

SPAs are classified by the UK Government under the EC Birds Directive. SPAs are areas of the most important habitat for rare (listed on Annex I to the Directive) and migratory birds within the European Union. SPAs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are classified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

SPAs, together with SACs, form the Natura 2000 network.

## NON-STATUTORY NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS

### LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

Local authorities for any given area may designate certain areas as being of local conservation interest. The criteria for inclusion, and the level of protection provided, if any, may vary between areas. Most individual counties have a similar scheme, although they do vary.

Most Local Wildlife Sites systems involve a panel of ecologists and others in the development of local criteria and the selection of the sites. Panels usually include a local government ecologist, an Natural England representative, the Local Wildlife Trust, the Local Environmental Record Centre and sometimes include a representative of local landowners and local naturalists.

These sites, which may be given various titles such as 'County Wildlife Sites' (CWS), 'Local Wildlife Sites' (LWS), 'Local Nature Conservation Sites' (LNCS), 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINCs), or 'Sites of Nature Conservation Importance' (SNCIs), together with statutory designations, are defined in local plans under the Town and Country Planning system and the National Planning Policy Framework and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

As part of a national standardisation process these sites have recently been renamed as Local Wildlife Sites in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Previously they were known as County Wildlife Sites in Oxfordshire and Wildlife Heritage Sites in Berkshire. Although the use of these names, especially in citations and descriptions, is being edited and replaced with Local Wildlife Sites or LWS it is likely that some references will remain to these former names until this is complete.

### PROPOSED LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES AND EXTENSIONS

These are also included on designated sites maps. They are areas thought to include important areas of UKBAP habitat or priority or protected species populations. Extensions are likely to have similar habitats to the adjacent Local Wildlife Sites. Local Authorities are made aware of these sites. They will not have been fully surveyed and taken to the selection panel as yet.

### NGO PROPERTIES / NATURE RESERVES

A variety of non-governmental organisations such as the John Muir Trust, Plantlife, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Wildlife Trusts and Woodland Trust own or manage nature reserves or other areas of land that are important for biodiversity. These sites may be intended primarily for nature conservation, or for other purposes such as protection of landscape features or the provision public access to the countryside. These areas of themselves have no statutory basis, but a large number are also designated SSSIs / NNRs / SPAs / SACs / Ramsar sites, etc.

In Berkshire and Oxfordshire, BBOWT (Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust), Woodland Trust and RSPB sites fall into this category.

### LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES (LGS)

Local Geological Sites formerly known as Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). As part of a national

standardisation process these sites have recently been renamed as Local Geological Sites in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Sites are selected under locally-developed criteria, according to their value for education, scientific study, historical significance or aesthetic qualities. Whilst not benefiting from statutory protection, LGS are equivalent to Local Wildlife Sites, and "...consideration of their importance becomes integral to the planning process".

### OTHER SITES

Occasionally other sites might be shown on maps. These are likely to be sites with some wildlife interest, usually managed by local groups, local authorities or town councils but which do not have a specific statutory or non-statutory designation.

Some local authorities within Oxfordshire and Berkshire have identified other sites which are protected through policies in their local plans, including Oxford Local Wildlife Sites in Oxford City and district wildlife sites in Cherwell.

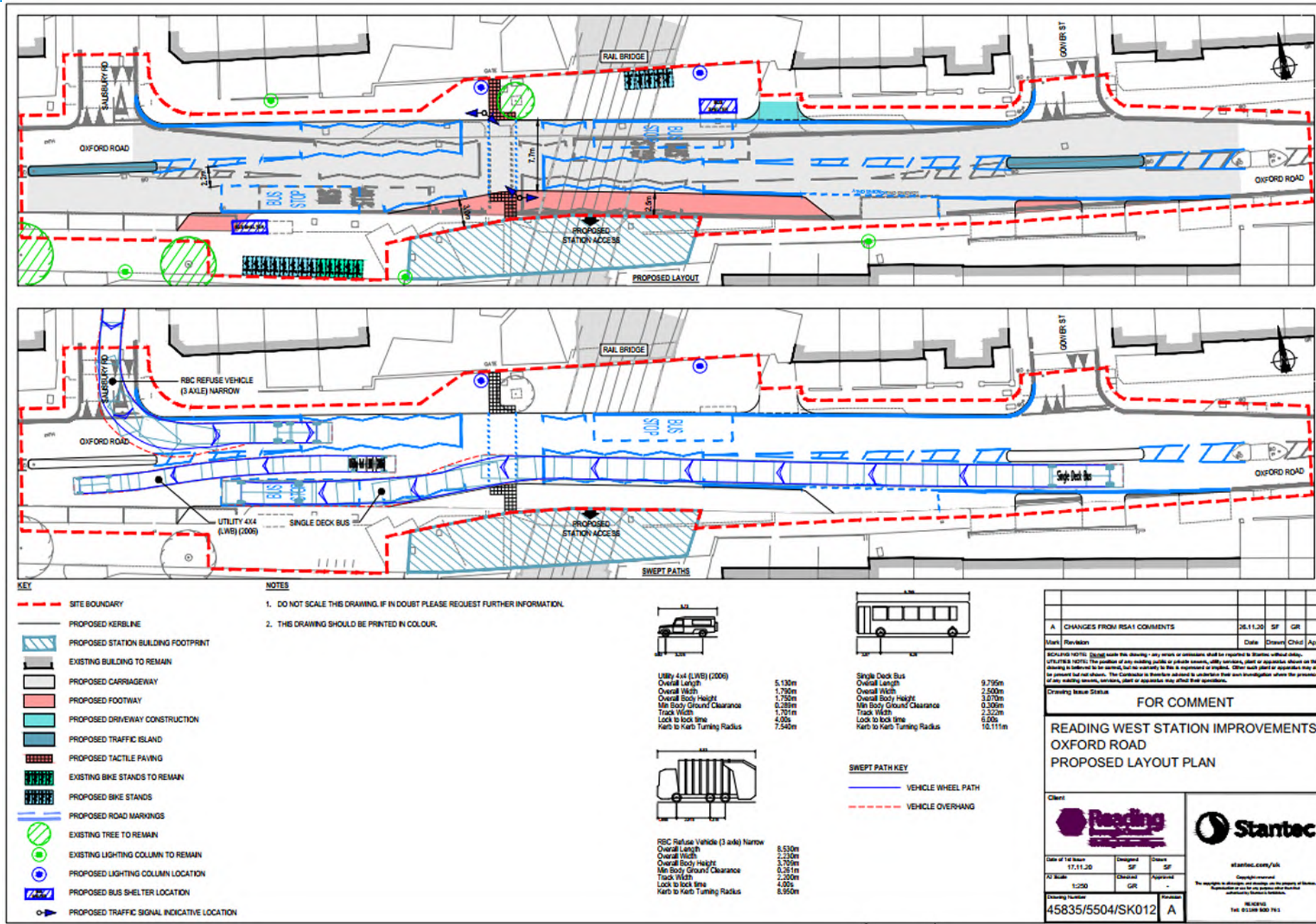
### CONSERVATION TARGET AREAS/ BIODIVERSITY OPPORTUNITY AREAS

These landscape scale areas have been identified as supporting high concentrations of UKBAP habitats and species populations and the potential to restore habitats at a landscape scale. These areas act as a focus for targeting resources into habitat management and restoration.

### ANCIENT WOODLAND

Ancient woodland areas within Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough are from an updated layer of ancient woodland produced by TVERC for Bracknell Forest Council and Wokingham Borough Council in 2015-16. This data has been provided to Natural England and is now shown on the Magic Map Interactive Map. For information of the methodology for selecting ancient woodland areas please contact TVERC.





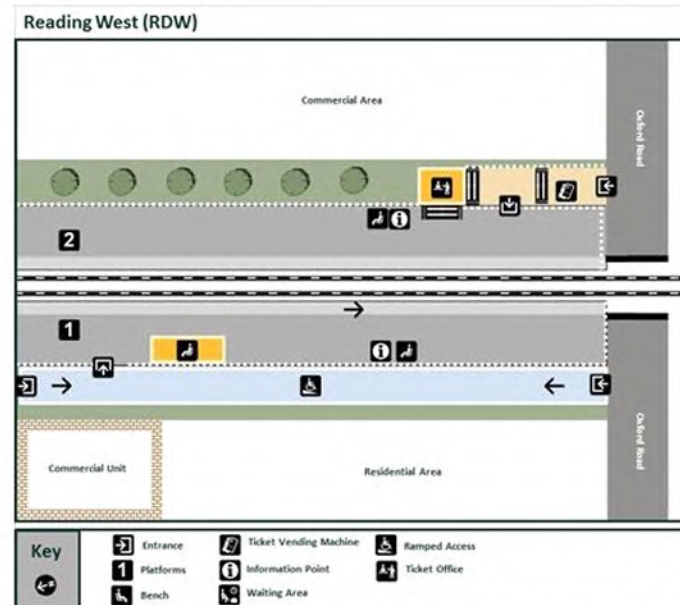
Details taken from:

[https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations\\_destinations/the.aspx](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations_destinations/the.aspx)

| Getting to and from the station                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  PlusBus ticketing available for this location. For details of ticket prices and bus information, <a href="#">click here</a> . |                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Bicycle parking</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                     |
|  No bike storage available                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                     |
| Storage spaces                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 0                                                                                                                   |
| Storage CCTV                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No                                                                                                                  |
| PlusBike (cycle hire)                                                                                                                                                                                          | No                                                                                                                  |
| Car Park                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  No                                |
| Onward travel information                                                                                                                                                                                      | Information to plan your onward journey is available in a printable format <a href="#">here</a>                     |
| Taxi                                                                                                                                                                                                           | No                                                                                                                  |
| Accessible taxis                                                                                                                                                                                               | Accessible taxis are available. Please request staff assistance.                                                    |
| Impaired mobility set down / pick up points available                                                                                                                                                          | No                                                                                                                  |
| Airport                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Air Port Link Please change at Reading for Heathrow and Gatwick links and Bristol Temple Meads for Bristol Airport. |

| Ticket buying and collection          |                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ticket Office                         |  Yes                                                             |
| Opening hours                         | Monday - Friday 06:30 - 10:45<br>Saturday - Sunday Closed                                                                                           |
| Location                              | On Platform 2                                                                                                                                       |
| Height adjusted ticket office counter |  Height adjusted ticket counter is not available at this station |
| Induction loop                        | This office has an induction loop                                                                                                                   |
| Ticket machines                       |  Yes                                                             |
| Accessible ticket machines            | There are accessible ticket machines at this station                                                                                                |
| Collection of pre-purchased tickets   |  Yes, from ticket machine                                        |
| <b>Smartcards</b>                     |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Smartcards issued                     |  Yes                                                             |
| Smartcards validators                 |  No                                                            |
|                                       | Smartcard Accepted                                                                                                                                  |
| Penalty fares                         | Penalty fares apply for <a href="#">Great Western Railway</a> .                                                                                     |

| Staffing and general services                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                      | ^ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Information available from staff                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                      |   |
| Information services - opening times                                                                                                                        | Monday - Sunday Closed                                                                                                               |   |
| Customer help points                                                                                                                                        | ✓ Yes                                                                                                                                |   |
| Lost Property                                                                                                                                               | Yes                                                                                                                                  |   |
| Please register your lost property here <a href="#">GWR Lost Property</a> . It can take several days for items to turn up, we will let you know if they do. |                                                                                                                                      |   |
| Monday - Friday 08:00 - 19:00<br>Saturday 09:00 - 17:00<br>Sunday 10:00 - 16:30                                                                             |                                                                                                                                      |   |
| Customer Services                                                                                                                                           | Please visit <a href="#">GWR Help &amp; Support</a> . Or contact our social media team @gwrhelp.                                     |   |
| Ticket gates                                                                                                                                                | ✗ No                                                                                                                                 |   |
| CCTV                                                                                                                                                        | Yes                                                                                                                                  |   |
| Location for Rail Replacement Services                                                                                                                      | Towards Reading: Bus Stop on Oxford Road under Railway Bridge. Heading away from Reading Bus Stop on Oxford Road, outside McDonalds. |   |
| Facilities                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                      | ^ |
| ATM Machine                                                                                                                                                 | ✗ No                                                                                                                                 |   |
| Toilets                                                                                                                                                     | ✗ No                                                                                                                                 |   |
| Waiting Rooms                                                                                                                                               | ✗ No                                                                                                                                 |   |

| Accessibility and mobility access                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                              | ^ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Staff help available                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ✓ Yes                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |
| Meeting point: platform.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                              |   |
| Staff help available opening times                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Monday - Friday 06:30 - 10:45<br>Saturday Closed<br>Sunday Closed                                                                                                                            |   |
| Ramp for train access                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ✗ No                                                                                                                                                                                         |   |
| Step free access note                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Step Free Category B3 - This station has a degree of step free access but only to Platform 1 and only if accessed via Tilehurst Road. Otherwise this station can be classified as Category C |   |
| Wheelchairs available                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ✗ No                                                                                                                                                                                         |   |
| Station Map                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                              | ^ |
| Station plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                              |   |
|  <p>The station plan shows two platforms, 1 and 2, separated by tracks. Platform 1 is on the left and Platform 2 is on the right. Both platforms have a ramped access point. The map also shows a commercial area to the north of the platforms, a residential area to the south, and Oxford Road running along the right side. A key at the bottom identifies various facilities: Entrance, Platforms, Bench, Ticket Vending Machine, Information Point, Waiting Area, Ramped Access, and Ticket Office.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                              |   |

## **READING WEST STATION HERITAGE STATEMENT**

### **CONTENTS**

**Introduction**

**The Site**

**The Design Proposal**

**Conclusion**

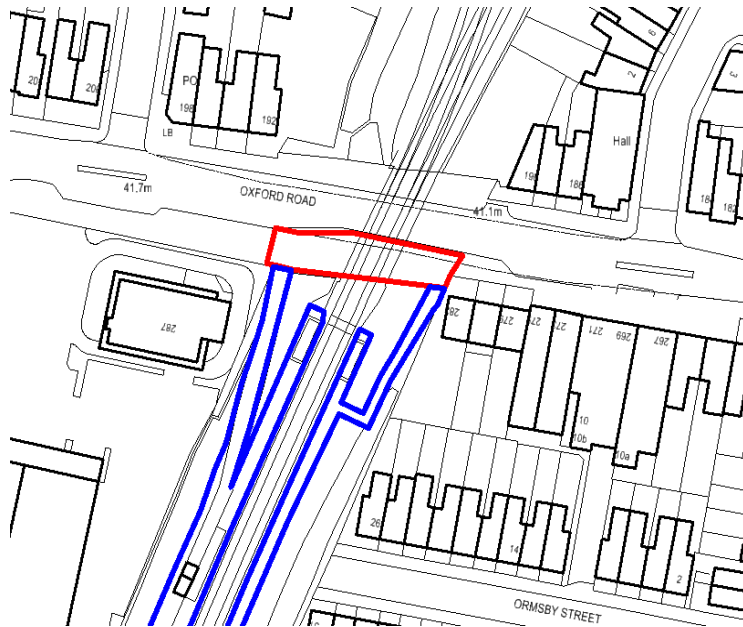
## INTRODUCTION

This statement has been prepared to provide additional information to support the application for a new Ticket Office at Reading West Station on the edge of the Oxford Road/Russell Street Conservation Area.

The information contained in this document provides information necessary to determine the application, including:

- Presenting the applicant's concept for the building
- Describing and explaining the key features of the proposal
- Describing the proposed materials for the building

## THE SITE



The proposed building is located on Oxford Road, under the railway bridge at the station. The eastern part of the site borders the conservation area.

Oxford Road is characterised as “a half- mile long “regular mix” of Georgian terraced housing and Victorian retail frontages.”



“Along this half mile stretch of the Oxford Road, a substantial proportion of the properties were built prior to 1833, and the route contains 40 listed properties. These factors reinforce the high value of this road both to Reading’s history and the history of the area.

Reading’s most dominant building material, red brick, is seen frequently especially along the Georgian terraced façades. Polychrome brick and terracotta embellishment is notable and impressive further along to the west of the route nearer the railway bridge with later development along the road.”

Information from [Final-Russell-Street-Castle-Hill-CAA-March-2020.pdf \(reading.gov.uk\)](#)

Site photos can be seen in the Design and Access Statement Section 2 and are not duplicated here.

## THE DESIGN PROPOSAL

In order to reference the local material palette the proposed ticket office will consist of two brick buildings linked by an overarching metal roof and a glazed façade that includes the main entrance.

The building sits under the railway bridge, projecting forwards of the street frontage to provide a new focal point and a sense of destination.



A plinth of dark grey stack bond headers grounds the two buildings whilst the upper area is in a traditional stretcher bond red brick. To provide a contemporary twist and relieve the facade there are recessed panels in Flemish bond with projecting headers. The projecting headers will be in the grey brick rather than the red.



The proposed bricks are indicated below



1. First Quality Mult Bricks From MBH PLC



2. Synthesis S20 Bricks From MBH PLC

## CONCLUSION

The building has been designed to have a minimal impact on the original fabric of the Conservation Area.

Overall, the alterations will have no negative impact on the significance of the Conservation Area as a whole and benefit it through the improved safety and security of Reading West station. The proposal enhances an area at the end of the conservation area, providing a new focal point as it projects past the street frontage.

We hope that you will agree that the proposals are appropriate and in keeping with the character of the area and we consequently ask for your support and approval of this application.



Reading West Station  
Design and Access Statement  
October 2020

v2.2