

13 Further Information

Introduction

- 13.1 The scoping opinion provided by Reading Borough Council (March 2018) agreed that it would be appropriate for Ecology and Nature Conservation to be scoped out of the assessment of Proposed Development it is not in an ecologically sensitive area. In the scoping opinion the Reading Borough Council Ecologist indicates that an updated Phase 1 Habitat Survey and bat survey “*will be adequate to assess the likely ecological impact of the proposals*”. The Preliminary Ecology Appraisal included at Appendix 12.1 outlines the results of a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and survey for species (including bats) undertaken in 2018 at the site of the Proposed Development. The conclusions of the Preliminary Ecology Appraisal are outlined below.

Conclusions of the Preliminary Ecology Appraisal

Designated Sites

- 13.2 The site is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory wildlife site designation and its redevelopment is highly unlikely to have a direct or indirect adverse impact on any local wildlife site as they are all completely isolated from the site by existing urban infrastructure.

Habitats and Plants

- 13.3 The site consisted primarily of hard standing and buildings with only small sections of the site supporting vegetation. The trees on site were all non-native and semimature/immature, and the small strips of semi-improved neutral grassland on the western boundary were species-poor and derived from neglected amenity grassland. None of the habitats on site were considered to be of elevated ecological or nature conservation value.

Protected Species

- 13.4 The buildings on site lacked features that could be used by roosting bats or nesting black redstarts and overall the site was not considered to be of value to any protected animal species, other than small numbers of common birds that may breed in the trees and scattered scrub within the site.