

To: Tina Cuss **At:** Northampton County Council

Copy to: Andrew Shepherd **At:** PB Exeter
Tim Obee **At:** PB Exeter
Ursula Digby **At:** PB Exeter

From: Greg Slack **At:** PB Exeter

Date: 18 August 2014 **Ref:** 287512A HHE

Subject: A43 MOULTON BYPASS

Tina,

The purpose of this memo is to document the site meeting on 12 August 2014 and subsequent correspondence between Greg slack (PB) and Tina Cuss (NCC) regarding the proposed A43 Moulton Bypass.

The areas of discussion and the conclusions reached are detailed in the table below.

Discussion Point		Outcome
Species Specific Survey and Mitigation	Phase 1	Following the Phase 1 verification survey undertaken earlier this year, no further survey is required to establish notable habitats within or adjacent to the Site. However, the mitigation strategy will need to fully consider the need to compensate for any negative impacts upon those notable habitats within and surrounding the site, with due regard given to any habitats of Principal Importance as defined in the NERC Act.
	Bats	Bat survey proposals are appropriate. It was agreed that all trees within the construction footprint and a 15 m corridor either side should be inspected from the ground. Following the ground based inspection Category 2 and 3 trees (as defined by the Bat Conservation Trust Survey Guidelines) will be felled with bat boxes provided to compensate for the loss of potential roosts. Further presence / likely absence surveys will be required for Category 1 / Category 1* trees. Presence / likely absence data can be obtained through a single effort 'climb and inspect' survey. However three no. emergence / dawn surveys would be necessary should the climb and inspect survey be inconclusive (i.e. if there are features a tree climber is unable to inspect). A key part of the bat mitigation is likely to be the positioning of the road to allow the retention of mature trees near the roads edge along both Overstone Lane and The Avenue. This will provide a 'hop over' that can be used by bats which is likely to be more effective and cost efficient than installing bat bridges or underpasses.
	Birds / Reptiles	Following the updated breeding bird surveys undertaken earlier this year, no further bird or reptile surveys will be required. A Precautionary Method of Works will cover the construction and the landscape strategy will account for birds and reptiles during operation.
	Great crested newts (GCN)	Tina considered that GCN were relatively unlikely to be present within the scheme footprint although records have since been discovered in Moulton College (approximately 1.2 km west). If eDNA results show that GCN are present within the garden ponds nearby, it may be possible to use a precautionary assessment based on a medium population size within the ES. This would allow the design of appropriate mitigation based on a worst case scenario. Should presence be confirmed, additional survey work will be required prior to construction for licensing purposes.

Discussion Point		Outcome
	Badger	The ES will need to contain a badger mitigation strategy that addresses the potential for fragmentation of badger populations and habitat, which may lead to increased mortality. This will require an updated (2014) and expanded (to the west of the road) badger survey which will be undertaken in September 2014.
	General	The surveys and mitigation strategy will need to have considered the widest footprint required for construction (including all areas of temporary habitat loss, including working corridors, cuttings and compounds).
General Mitigation	Noise / pollution	The mitigation proposals will need to include a CEMP to manage noise/disturbance and pollution and a landscape strategy to compensate for habitat losses and to provide net biodiversity gain in accordance with planning policy.
	Lighting	Lighting proposals will need to consider the presence of protected species and a lighting strategy will need to be developed.

In summary, Tina confirmed that she was largely content with the proposals for survey provided in the scoping report and confirmed that there would be no requirement for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the road. Tina will be looking for a joined up approach to mitigation, ensuring that the landscaping, lighting and ecological mitigation strategies are developed together to deliver a workable strategy.

Kind regards,

Greg