

I have reviewed the survey information for the three sites in relation to biodiversity and have summarised below:

#### Bradbury Farm, Crick

Majority of the site comprised poor semi-improved grassland managed by grazing sheep. **Priority habitat on site includes broadleaved woodland and hedgerows.** The woodland is located to the north of the site stretching to the M48. Hedgerows bound the east, south and west of the site – the hedgerow along the eastern boundary is newly planted and species poor, whilst the hedgerows along the south and west boundaries were notably gappy and also species poor. Numerous scattered trees are also present along site boundaries.

**Potential presence of roosting bats (mature trees) badger (woodland), breeding birds (hedgerows, woodland, trees) and hazel dormice (hedgerows/woodland) was noted.** Therefore, it is possible that further survey work will be required depending on the extent of the finalised proposals. The impact of lighting on such habitats will also need to be considered.

The ability of the site to deliver an overall net benefit for biodiversity must be considered. The status of the hedgerows and woodland mean that there should be scope to enhance these habitats via planting and ongoing management.

#### Langley Close, Magor

Around half of the site comprises poor semi-improved grassland, with bare ground comprising much of the rest of the site. **Priority habitat on site includes broadleaved woodland and hedgerows.** The woodland is located along the north of the site. Other boundaries comprise species-poor hedgerows with mature trees.

**Potential presence of roosting bats (mature trees) badger (woodland), breeding birds (hedgerows, woodland, trees) and hazel dormice (hedgerows/woodland) was noted.** Therefore, it is possible that further survey work will be required depending on the extent of the finalised proposals. The impact of lighting on such habitats will also need to be considered.

The ability of the site to deliver an overall net benefit for biodiversity must be considered. The status of the hedgerows and woodland mean that there should be scope to enhance these habitats via planting and ongoing management.

#### Oak Grove Farm, Portskewett

The two fields comprise improved and semi-improved grassland of low ecological value. **Priority habitat on site is limited to the hedgerows around the site boundaries.** All hedgerows were noted to be in a defunct or species-poor condition.

**Potential presence of roosting bats (mature trees) and breeding birds (hedgerows, trees) was noted.** Therefore, it is possible that further survey work will be required depending on the extent of the finalised proposals. The impact of lighting on such habitats will also need to be considered. The site is located within 2km of the Severn Estuary SPA but the small size of the site and poor quality habitat means that impacts to qualifying features are unlikely (but nevertheless should be considered).

The ability of the site to deliver an overall net benefit for biodiversity must be considered. The status of the hedgerows mean that there should be scope to enhance these habitats via planting and ongoing management.

### Conclusion

From the submitted information, Oak Grove Farm appears to be of the lowest ecological value with no woodland located within the site boundary. Nevertheless, further survey work may be required at all three sites depending upon the extent of the proposals.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 12 sets out that “planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity” (para 6.4.5 refers). This policy and subsequent policies in Chapter 6 of PPW 12 respond to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The chosen site must be able to demonstrate that it has the ability to provide an overall net benefit as per PPW 12 prior to determination.

Kind regards

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