



**EASTERLY ALTERNATION
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

***Environmental Impact Assessment
Environmental Statement, Volume III
Appendix 12.5 Justification for Scoped Out Ecological
Features***

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1. Justification for Scoped Out Ecological Features

1.1.1 **Table 1.1** summarises ecological features and/or specific effects which have been scoped out and are further considered in **Chapter 12: Biodiversity, Volume II** of the Environmental Statement.

Table 1.1 Biodiversity effects scoped out of assessment

Ecological features	Effects scoped out	Justification for scoping out
European Statutory Designated Sites	All construction effects	<p>All identified sites are >1.7km from proposed enabling works with no pathway for effects to occur.</p> <p>Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for the South West London Waterbodies SPA do overlap the areas required for construction, however the nature and scale of construction is such that no effects would occur.</p>
National Statutory Designated Sites	All construction effects	<p>All identified sites are >1.7km from proposed enabling works with no pathway for effects to occur.</p> <p>SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for the Wraysbury Reservoir and Staines Moor SSSI do overlap the areas required for construction, however the nature and scale of construction is such that no effects would occur.</p>
Non-Statutory Designated Sites	All construction and operational effects	<p>The Lower Colne SMI is located upstream of the Proposed Development and therefore not anticipated to be impacted in the unlikely event of a pollution incident.</p> <p>Industry standard embedded measures relating to potential construction effects (pollution or dust deposition) would be employed ensuring no effects would occur.</p> <p>Operational effects would not result in any observable change compared to the existing baseline.</p>
Habitats (including on airfield, off airfield and Habitats of	All construction and operational effects	<p>No HPs have been identified within the Proposed Development Area.</p> <p>Small areas of habitat loss may be required on the airfield however they are considered to be of low ecological value and common habitats</p>

Ecological features	Effects scoped out	Justification for scoping out
<p>Principal Importance (HPI)</p> <p>Notable Plant Species</p>		<p>which are widespread in the wider area. These areas are shown in Figure 3.1-3.3 of Appendix 12.4. In addition, measures to mitigate the loss of habitats through Biodiversity Net Gain have been included and are summarised in Appendix 12.4.</p> <p>Industry standard embedded measures relating to potential construction effects (pollution or dust deposition) would be employed ensuring no indirect effects of habitat degradation would occur.</p> <p>Given the nature of the habitats present it is considered highly unlikely that any notable plant species would occur.</p>
<p>Invertebrates</p>	<p>All construction and operational effects</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would not result in significant habitat loss with only small areas of common/widespread habitat to be impacted.</p> <p>Therefore, the associated effect on invertebrates is considered unlikely to be observable against the current baseline or have an impact on any notable invertebrate species.</p>
<p>Amphibians (including GCN) and reptiles (excluding grass snake)</p>	<p>All construction and operational effects</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is unlikely to support populations of amphibians or reptiles (excluding grass snake). Observed populations of species such as GCN and slow worm in the wider area are isolated from the Proposed Development by roads and other major developments and are >500m away.</p> <p>Therefore, this is no predicted pathway for effects to occur.</p>
<p>Breeding birds and bats</p>	<p>Operational effects</p>	<p>Effects on habitats which support breeding birds and bats would be limited to those associated with construction.</p> <p>During operation, the Proposed Development will result in a redistribution of noise from ground operations and changes in aircraft arrivals or departures (noting that the number of aircraft movements will not change).</p> <p>There will be no change in aircraft operations or aircraft noise during westerly operations.</p> <p>There will be no change in the number of aircraft movements or passengers, and no</p>

Ecological features	Effects scoped out	Justification for scoping out
		<p>change to landside road traffic or any sources of noise other than aircraft.</p> <p>Operational Effects would therefore not result in any observable change compared to the existing baseline with birds and bats already existing in a highly disturbed environment close to both runways and surrounding the Airport.</p>
<p>Water vole, badger and brown hare</p>	<p>All construction and operational effects</p>	<p>The Proposed Development Area is unlikely to support populations of these species.</p> <p>Extensive surveys during the Heathrow Expansion Project found no evidence of water vole presence.</p> <p>Badger populations are present in the wider area but are isolated from the Proposed Development by roads and other major developments.</p> <p>No recent records of brown hare were identified as part of the desk study.</p>
<p>Invasive Species</p>	<p>All construction and operational effects</p>	<p>No evidence of invasive non-native species were identified during surveys.</p>