

Our ref: W4361\_let\_White Cross Farm\_17-07-24

Your ref: Land at White Cross Farm, Wallingford



Ecological Consultancy for Planning  
Research & Development

Simon Heaton  
Planning Consultant  
Heaton Consulting  
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*by email only*

17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Simon,

**Re: Site Walkover & Update 2024 – Proposed Sand and Gravel Extraction at Land at White Cross Farm, Wallingford**

I am writing to you following an ecology site walkover and updated habitat survey that I undertook on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

I can confirm that there has been no significant change in the status of habitats since the previous ecological appraisal was undertaken and formally reported in support of this planning application.

The majority of the southern area of the site is still in cultivation, with areas of arable land and agriculturally improved grassland. Areas of semi-improved grassland and marshy grassland are still present within the northern areas of the site, with grazing by cattle creating floodplain grazing marsh. All of other habitats, including scrub, the building, wet and dry ditches and trees, also remain unchanged. I attach some photographs to the end of this letter to confirm the above.

Given that there has been no significant change in habitat status, it is considered that the ecological baseline upon which the existing ecological impact assessment is based is robust. There is considered to be no change in the status of notable and protected species since this previous baseline was established, and no need to undertake any further protected species surveys or assessments.

It is my understanding that there have also been some very subtle changes to the Conceptual Restoration Plan, the most recent version being V3. The changes are limited to the proposed areas of reedbed and wet woodland, where there has been a minor change the relative areas of these two proposed habitats.

Both of these habitats are habitats of 'high distinctiveness' and thus, both habitats will deliver the same number of Habitat Units within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Given this, the minor change in the relative areas of these two habitat types will have no change on the outcome of the Metric calculation for Biodiversity Net Gain.

So, in conclusion, the existing ecological baseline is solid and robust, and there is no recommendation to undertake any further ecology surveys. The minor changes to the Conceptual Restoration Plan will not result in any changes to the outcome of the biodiversity net gain assessment.

I trust this brief report is sufficient for your records.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Bodsworth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Edward Bodsworth MA (Cantab) PhD MCIEEM**  
**DIRECTOR**



Marshy grassland



Mature poplar tree and semi-improved grassland



Bank of the River Thames



Existing building





Dense scrub



Improved grassland