

**Kingsnorth Strategic Link**  
**Ecological Considerations for Each Scheme Option**

Please refer to the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Appendix C) for more information.

<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Option 3</b>
<p>Scheme adjacent to excellent <b>great crested newt</b> (GCN) habitat along the East Stour River tributary. Biological records reveal a GCN record 120m north of the tributary (dated 2012). Therefore likelihood of GCN presence in the area is considered high.</p> <p>Option 1 also runs immediately adjacent to the pond at the Britannia Lane / Ashford Road roundabout. A GCN Habitat Suitability Index for this pond was scored as Average.</p> <p>If GCN found to be present, mitigation would be required. This would necessitate a European Protected Species (EPS) licence, an application for which takes on average 6 weeks.</p>	<p>Scheme adjacent to excellent great crested newt (GCN) habitat along the East Stour River tributary. Biological records reveal a GCN record 120m north of the tributary (dated 2012). Therefore likelihood of GCN presence in the area is considered as high.</p> <p>Mitigation as option 1.</p>	<p>Scheme adjacent to excellent great crested newt (GCN) habitat along the East Stour River tributary. Biological records reveal a GCN record 120m north of the tributary (dated 2012). Therefore likelihood of GCN presence in the area is considered as high.</p> <p>Mitigation as option 1.</p>
<p>Potential <b>water vole</b> habitat exists along the East Stour River. Scheme crosses river once.</p> <p>If water vole found to be present, mitigation would be required, this would necessitate a European Protected Species (EPS) licence, an application takes on average 6 weeks.</p>	<p>Potential water vole habitat exists along the East Stour River. Option 2 scheme crosses the river 3 times.</p> <p>Mitigation as option 1.</p>	<p>Potential water vole habitat exists along the East Stour River. Option 3 scheme crosses river twice.</p> <p>Mitigation as option 1.</p>
<p>Potential <b>otter</b> habitat exists along the East Stour River. Scheme crosses river once.</p> <p>If otter are found to be present, mitigation would be required, this would necessitate a European Protected Species (EPS) licence, an application takes on average 6 weeks.</p>	<p>Option 2 scheme crosses the river 3 times.</p> <p>Mitigation as option 1.</p>	<p>Option 3 scheme crosses the river twice.</p> <p>Mitigation as option 1.</p>

<p>Road runs adjacent to trees with <b>bat</b> roosting potential and may require removal of trees (i.e. two oaks along Pound Lane)</p> <p>If bats found to be present, mitigation would be required; this would necessitate a European Protected Species (EPS) licence. An application takes an average 6 weeks.</p>	<p>As option 1.</p>	<p>As option 1.</p>
<p>All areas of the site are suitable for <b>nesting birds</b>. Nesting habitat clearance should ideally take place in the months September-February, outside of the main bird breeding season.</p> <p>If such clearance activity is required during the breeding season (March-August) then an inspection for active nests must be made within 48 hours prior to starting works. If a nest is found, works will need to be delayed at this location until the chicks have fledged.</p>	<p>As option 1.</p>	<p>As option 1.</p>
<p>All options of the scheme cut through habitat suitable for <b>reptiles</b>.</p> <p>If reptiles are found to be present mitigation may take the form of habitat manipulation or an on-site capture-translocation programme.</p>	<p>As option 1.</p>	<p>As option 1.</p>
<p>Potential <b>white-clawed crayfish</b> habitat along the East Stour River. Scheme crosses river once.</p> <p>If white-clawed crayfish are found to be present mitigation would be required. This could involve a capture-translocation programme. Mitigation must be carried out under a Natural England licence, application for which would take a minimum of 6 weeks.</p>	<p>Potential white-clawed crayfish habitat along the East Stour River. Scheme crosses river 3 times.</p>	<p>Potential white-clawed crayfish habitat along the East Stour River. Scheme crosses river twice.</p>
<p>The site has potential to support <b>badgers</b> in terms of setts, foraging and commuting routes. All options could affect habitat suitable for badgers.</p> <p>Given the tendency for badgers to create new out-lying setts within their territories, a pre-construction survey</p>	<p>As option 1.</p>	<p>As option 1.</p>

<p>for badger setts within 30m of the site is recommended.</p> <p>If an active badger sett is found and is within close proximity to the works, mitigation under licence may be required.</p>		
<p>The site has a number of hedgerows. For the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 to be applicable, the hedgerow must be at least 20 metres in length (or if less than 20 metres, it must meet another hedgerow at each end), more than 30 years old and meet at least one of the criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations (e.g. situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site). During the preliminary ecological appraisal it was not confirmed if the hedges on site are classed as important hedgerows.</p> <p>Option 1 cuts through 5 hedges.</p>	<p>Option 2 cuts through 10 hedges.</p>	<p>Option 3 cuts through 8 hedges.</p>
<p>No invasive non-native species (INNS) were seen during the preliminary ecological appraisal. However all Options have the potential to go through land where INNS are present.</p>	<p>As Option 1.</p>	<p>As Option 1.</p>
<p>All Options have the ability to affect other wildlife. Vigilance must be maintained for species such as dormice, hedgehogs, hare, and notable invertebrates as per recommendations listed in the preliminary ecological appraisal report.</p>	<p>As Option 1.</p>	<p>As Option 1.</p>
<p>All Options have the ability to affect waterbodies and will require to comply with the Environment Agency Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG) and be aware of, and comply with PPG5</p>	<p>As Option 1</p>	<p>As Option 1</p>