

South Wokingham Distributor Road (SWDR) – Landscape response - CB
242535 Conditon 24 - Request for more information – 03/03/2025

No	Query	Response
	We do not consider the submitted CEMP is currently sufficient to allow the discharge of condition 24.	
1	<u>4.3 Ecology</u> The table is quite generic and not site specific and this should be updated in relation to site conditions. Working near invasive species (Himalayan Balsam). It would be best to hand pull the Himalayan Balsam out by the roots, rather than strimming.	Added "Refer to Appendix H – Ecology Plans and Reports for full details of mitigation required " to Pg 25 First box Updated Control Measures for BATS on Pg 25, Updated Control Measures for Badgers on Pgs 25/26 Updated Control Measures for Himalayan Balsam on pg 28 Updated Control Measures for Japanese Knotweed on Pg 28
2	<u>4.4 Vegetation and Arboriculture</u> Reference to 'whenever practicable' should be removed from the plan and commitments to avoiding harm when removing trees and vegetation included. Trees and vegetation should only be removed at the right time of year to avoid any impact to protected species.	Altered the text to pg 29 the first paragraph to remove 'whenever practicable' and included that trees removed outside bird nesting season. Statements in 3rd paragraph for protection of retained trees altered to enforce the commitment of protection for root zones and fencing around RPA as per Appendix J - Arboricultural Method Statement.
3	<u>4.10 Excavation, Piling, Ground Conditions, Contamination and Hazardous Materials Piling</u> In terms of ecology, we recommend vibro piling with slow start up and no working outside of a few hours after dawn and a few hours before dusk.	Added the statement to pg 36/37 second paragraph "Temp sheet piles will be installed using an excavator with mounted Vibro Hammer from the working platform. The vibro hammer has a steady build up to the max vibration frequency of the side grip pile driver. Works will be limited to normal working hours only between 8am to 6pm."
4	<u>4.17 Site Lighting</u> We recommend that lighting along the river corridor is kept as low as possible but the levels should be identified within the plan. There is guidance on the Institute of Lighting Professionals and Bat Conservation Trust about level and direction of lighting which is suitable.	Added paragraphs to Pg 54 section 4.17 Site Lighting stating " During construction work, the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) and the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) recommend minimizing artificial lighting near bat roosts and foraging areas, and using lower correlated color temperature (CCT) lighting (e.g., 3000K) to reduce impact. Temporary construction site lighting will be designed to minimise general spillage of light, which may otherwise affect residential receptors and ecological receptors (primarily bats). The following shall be implemented: • Maintain dark corridors along retained areas of retained woodland and hedgerows along Survey Area boundaries, to ensure continued connectivity within and across the Survey Area for bats. • Use the minimum light levels necessary for the relevant task / function, this may equate to reducing light intensity and/or using the minimum number or light sources or minimum column height. • Use hoods, louvres or other luminaire design features to avoid light spill onto retained and newly created areas of vegetation likely to be used by foraging and commuting bats. In particular, light spill from the construction or operational phase lighting onto and all other trees with bat roosting potential should be avoided to minimise the risk of disturbance. • Use narrow spectrum light sources where possible to lower the range of species affected by lighting, specifically avoiding shorter wavelength blue light, using instead warm/neutral colour temperature 2,700 (ideally) kelvin lighting (BCT, 2023). • Use light sources that emit minimal ultra-violet light to avoid attracting night-flying invertebrate species which in turn may attract bats to the light.
5	<u>4.18 Site Fencing</u>	Added Paragraph to Pg 55 Section 4.18 Site Fencing "Temporary Panel Mesh Fencing around River Emm

	All the fencing around the river corridor needs to let mammals through the site safely.	Brooke - The proposed tree protection fencing and perimeter fencing along the river corridor is the standard anti-climb temporary Heras Fencing with support brace and block feet. The open mesh of the fencing will allow any flood water to openly flow under and through. Fencing will be checked daily to ensure no build up of debris. The gap underneath the fencing will allow small mammal to pass through the fencing."
6	<u>Superseded Reports</u> Your consultation portal includes a number of reports which are noted as being superseded but with no updated reports replacing them. The relevance of these reports is therefore unclear, and whether any recommendations within them have been included within the CEMP. The reports include: • Riparian Mammal Survey Report, WSP, August 2024 • Ecological Mitigation Strategy, WSP, October 2024 • Bat Survey Report, WSP, October 2024 • Badger Survey Report, WSP, July 2024 • Work Package Plan, Balfour Beatty, May 2024 • Himalayan Balsam Report, Technical Note, WSP, October 2024 • Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment Report, WSP, August 2024 • Reptile Survey Report, WSP, July 2024	Reports have been issued to the EA.
	<u>Closing comments</u> Please re-consult us once further information or revisions have been submitted for this application. Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below. Miss Sarah Green Sustainable Places - Planning Advisor Direct e-mail planning_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk	