



## Bats

2 identified low status tree roosts would be lost along with further potential tree roosting habitats, foraging and commuting habitat (woodland, grassland, hedgerows, and waterbodies). However lost, suspected and potential bat roosts would be replaced with more roosts of a superior quality close to the original locations.

## Otters

The construction of viaducts over the Lancaster Canal and Savick Brook have the potential to cause disturbance to otters that may be foraging, commuting or dispersing up and downstream and prevent the movement of otters into the wider environment. However, care and consideration would be given to the protection of otter corridors during construction. The provision of large open viaducts is the best method of maintaining these otter corridors for the future.

## Brown Hares

Construction activities including vegetation clearance would result in a minor loss of resting and feeding habitat for brown hares, disturbance and potential mortality of young hares. Culverts with ledges and/or stand-alone underpasses would be integrated to maintain their pathways.

## Hedgehogs

There will be a loss of hedgerows, suitable scattered, deciduous trees, woodland and scrub which provide (or have the potential to provide) suitable nesting sites, nesting materials and feeding areas for hedgehogs. Construction activities including vegetation clearance would result in a loss of nesting and feeding habitat for hedgehogs and potential mortality. However, new nesting habitats would be created and culverts with ledges and/or stand-alone underpasses integrated within the scheme design to maintain their pathways.

## Toads

1 pond would be lost currently identified to support toad larvae. Ground habitat losses would also occur and there is a risk of mortality during construction. 2 new ponds would be created to mitigate the impact around Bartle Hall, one to the east and one to the west with ground habitat created here and at locations along the route corridor, including Bartle Wetland Biological Heritage Site (BHS). There will also be a series of underpasses/culverts to continue pathways.

Overall, the effects of the scheme on ecology and nature conservation would result in a moderate adverse impact due to the impacts on 3 features of County Value:


- Bartle Wetland Biological Heritage Site
- the established network of hedgerows; and
- the loss of 7 veteran trees.

Significant residual impacts are anticipated during the year of opening for:

- Birds (breeding and wintering)
- Barn Owls
- Bats.

Following implementation of mitigation measures, after 15 years residual adverse impacts at a county level are predicted for one ecological feature: veteran trees.

## Keeping you updated

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