

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

# CULTURAL HERITAGE

There are up to 58 archaeological remains in the area and we will avoid disturbing them as much as possible. It is anticipated that there will be one site which will be affected moderately. The others will only be slightly affected or have a neutral impact.

There are 45 identified historic buildings in the area, of which 23 are predicted to be impacted during the construction of the scheme. After the scheme is complete the predicted impacts are only slight or have a neutral impact on all the properties.

There are 7 landscape types in the area and we will mitigate any disturbance. It is anticipated that only one landscape type would be affected moderately. The others will only be slightly affected or there will be a neutral impact.

# **ECOLOGY**

Habitats in the area include woodland, veteran trees, hedgerows, grassland, swamp and open water.

Species in the area include great crested newts, birds, barn owls, bats, otters, brown hares, hedgehogs, toads, slow worms, riverine fish, riverine Invertebrates.

At Bartle Wetland there would be no loss of the fen and swamp habitat for which the site is designated. Anticipated losses of poor semi-improved grassland and hedgerow habitats would be replaced by habitats of a superior quantity and quality.

### **Great Crested Newts (GCN)**

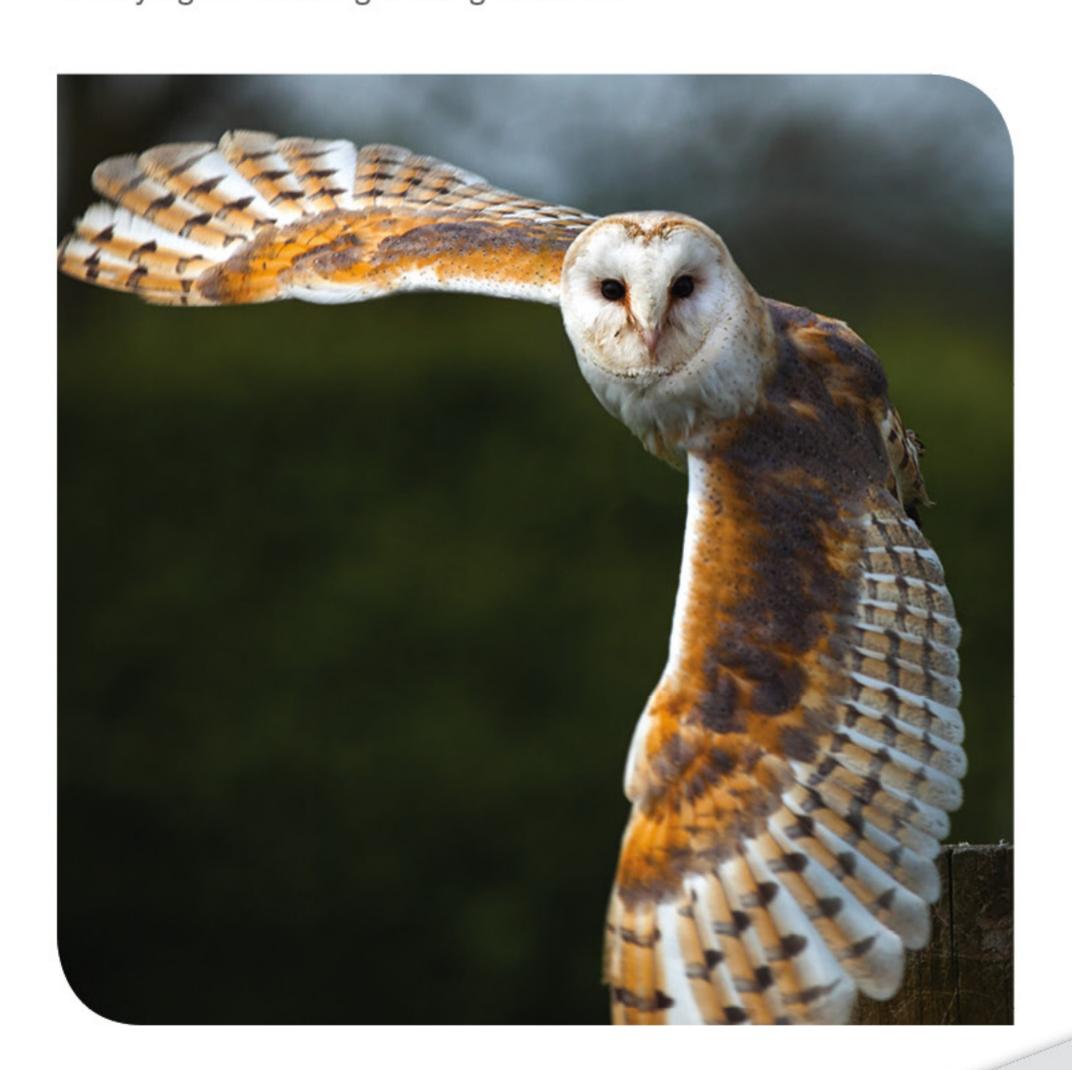
There would be a loss of one breeding pond which currently supports a small population. This is part of a wider medium population of GCN which would have a moderate impact. 8 ponds with small populations would lose surrounding habitats. There is also a risk of mortality to GCN during construction. To make up for losing 1 pond, we will create 4 new ponds, 3 directly east of Bartle Hall and a large pond on the west side of the new road opposite the Bartle Wetland. A permanent barrier to prevent GCN access to the road would be installed to avoid the risks of GCN trying to cross.

### **Birds**

The overall area offers a small proportion of the total available habitat used by birds. There would be significant levels of disturbance during construction to the wintering and breeding bird population However, it is recognised that individual birds are likely to establish breeding territories within the retained areas of some fields and within the larger fields within the wider area and beyond. Foraging and nesting birds would generally be displaced into similar, adjacent habitats within the wider area and beyond. Nest boxes would be provided

### **Barn Owls**

There would be no loss of roosting or breeding sites during construction, but a reduction in available foraging habitat due to the loss of grassland, hedgerows and field boundaries. The provision of continuous hedges and/or lines of closely spaced trees at 3 metres high from the opening year will reduce the risk of low flying birds hitting moving vehicles.



## Keeping you updated

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