

# Environmental Context

## Environmental context

We are currently undertaking ecological surveys for the Homestead Link to help us fully understand the baseline conditions for the scheme. From this information we will undertake a full Environmental Impact Assessment and prepare an Environmental Statement in line with a scope agreed with Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council.

The Environmental Statement will provide information on the area’s existing environmental conditions (known as the baseline) and will outline any potential impacts of the proposal and how these will be mitigated through the scheme’s design.

Initial ecological surveys being conducted include bats, dormice, reptiles, water voles, badgers, otters, invertebrates, macrophytes, birds and hedgerows.



**The landscape corridor once approved, will be retained in perpetuity to ensure that the buffer between the South West Rugby scheme and Dunchurch is protected.**

## Biodiversity

- The Homestead Link aims to achieve a 10% gain in biodiversity compared to what is present on the site now. A key principle of The Homestead Link is for the green infrastructure created as part of the development, to provide an area better than what is present now, in terms of habitats available for wildlife.
- The gain will be achieved by creating significantly better-quality habitats focusing on what is a priority in Warwickshire such as grassland, hedgerows and woodland throughout the site.
- Wildlife corridors will be provided (indicated by the green arrows on the landscape plan) designed with wildlife in mind to provide foraging for many different species including bats and birds.
- The wildlife corridors will be created by enhancing retained woodland, trees and hedgerows with planting of known benefits to wildlife and also creating new species rich areas of grassland and scrub.
- Protected species, such as bats, roost and forage in the areas surrounding the proposed Homestead Link route, therefore we will protect and enhance existing hedgerows and woodland where possible, and through new planting will ensure protected and priority species can continue to move through the landscape.
- Existing grasslands, hedgerows and woodland will be enhanced alongside the Homestead Link, with the aim of creating better quality and better condition habitat to benefit the local wildlife that are present.
- Lighting will be carefully designed to be sensitive to the variety of nocturnal wildlife known to live in the area. The aim of this is to reduce the impact the road and street lighting may have on nocturnal wildlife.
- The landscape corridor once approved, will be retained in perpetuity to ensure that the buffer between the South West Rugby scheme and Dunchurch is protected.

