

## 1. THE CRAB AND WINKLE CYCLE PATH: OVERVIEW OF HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND CREATION

### PLANTING PLAN

- 1.1 The planting plan includes the addition of numerous native species, which provide habitat structure and foraging opportunities for species groups such as birds, small mammals and invertebrates.
- 1.2 All species listed within the planting plan have wildlife value, but in particular:
- Oak (*Quercus robur*): Long term food source and nesting habitat for birds, invertebrates and mammals.
  - Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*): Source of nectar in early spring for bees and other invertebrates.
  - Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*): Food plant for many caterpillars of moths. Flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects. The haws are a rich food source for birds and small mammals.
  - Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*): dense, evergreen vegetation for nesting and roosting birds. In addition the berries provide a food source for bird species such as blackbirds and thrushes and the flowers a food source for invertebrates.
  - Hazel (*Corylus avellana*): early season pollen for bees and nuts later in the year for small mammals.
  - Dog rose (*Rosa canina*): foraging opportunities for bees, including honeybees and bumble bees, as well as nest material for leaf cutter bees.
  - Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*): berries provide a food source for birds and the flowers a source of food for hoverflies.
  - Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*): early source of pollen for invertebrates and berries later in the year provide good foraging for birds.

### RETENTION OF REPTILE HABITAT

- 1.3 The small population of slow worms will be maintained within the site through habitat retention and enhancement.
- 1.4 Encroaching scrub has reduced the area of grassland available within the site over the last 10 years. Therefore, management of scrub through rotational cutting along scalloped edges will allow restoration of small areas of grassland, prevent future encroachment and retain the slow worm population present.

### DARK FLIGHT CORRIDORS FOR BATS

- 1.5 Mitigation will reduce the impact of lighting on foraging and commuting bats from low to negligible:

- Any post-development lighting will be designed so as to avoid the illumination of the vegetation bordering the cycle path in order to maintain dark flight corridors for foraging and commuting bats.
- The height of lighting columns will be limited as far as possible in order to avoid light trespass away from the cycle path itself.
- Lighting will use only the minimum amount of light required and will be directed to where it is needed. Accessories such as hoods, cowls, louvres and shields will be used where required to ensure that light is directed to the intended areas only. Fixtures will not allow upwards leakage of light.
- External lighting will use lights that emit low levels of UV light such as LED lighting which is more directional than sodium lighting features. If the use of LED lighting is not possible, then High Pressure Sodium lighting features will be used.

### HABITAT FOR HEDGEHOGS

- 1.6 The site currently provides habitat for hedgehogs. This will be maintained and managed. The addition of habitat features, such as log piles and a varied, native species planting plan will enhance the site for hedgehogs.
- 1.7 In addition, the path between The Bridge Approach and Teynham Road, which passes over the railway line and two roads, may connect this habitat for hedgehogs.

### OTHER HABITAT FEATURES

#### Log piles

- 1.8 Log piles will be created within the areas of scrub and grassland to provide hibernating, sheltering and basking opportunities for slow worms.
- 1.9 Log piles also provide sheltering and foraging habitat for small mammals, birds and invertebrates.

#### Loggeries

- 1.10 To enhance the site for stag beetles (and other saproxylic species) loggeries will be created, comprising partially buried, deciduous logs in area with minimal management and away from any potential significant disturbance.

#### Bird boxes and bat boxes

- 1.11 The site comprises secondary woodland, which generally lacks cavities and other features found within mature trees, that provide habitat for nesting birds and roosting bats.
- 1.12 The installation of at least **20** bird boxes and **10** bat boxes suitable for species found within the locality, will create additional opportunities.