

MEMO

TO: John Dent, Major Project Manager, Regeneration and Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council

FROM: Marc Thomas, Associate Director, Environment, WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff

SUBJECT: Five Mile Lane Improvement, Brown Hare Assessment and Mitigation

DATE: 31st October 2016

This memorandum has been produced in response to a request for further information on the assessment and mitigation proposed for the use of the site by Brown Hare.

Brown Hare

An assessment of the Scheme on brown hare was included in the published ES (Five Mile Lane Improvements: Environmental Statement, Parsons Brinckerhoff, February 2016) as set out below.

Baseline

Paragraph 9.4.80 of the published ES stated:

There were several sightings of brown hare during the Extended Phase 1 habitat survey conducted by Soltys-Brewster in 2008. There are also numerous records for this species in SEWBReC data (the nearest within 369 m of the Scheme). None were seen during the Extended Phase 1 survey in 2014, but they could be present in low densities.

Brown hare was noted as being present within the vicinity of the Scheme and was assigned a value of County Importance in Table 9.11 of the published ES, and was selected as a 'Key Ecological Receptor' in the assessment.

Predicted Effects (without Mitigation)

The impact of the Scheme on brown hare was assessed in Tables 9.13 and 9.14 of the published ES. Extracts of these tables are provided below.

Table 9.13: Impacts on Key Ecological Receptors During Construction of the Scheme

Key Ecological Receptor	Nature Conservation Value	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Impact
Brown Hare	County Importance	Disturbance to brown hare if using habitats in the vicinity during construction.	Low Adverse	Medium Adverse

Table 9.14: Impacts on Key Ecological Receptors During Operation of the Scheme

Key Ecological Receptor	Nature Conservation Value	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Impact
Brown Hare	County Importance	Risk of mortality to hares crossing the Scheme carriageway.	Low Adverse	Slight Adverse

Residual Effects (with Mitigation)

The residual effects of the Scheme on brown hare was assessed and summarised in Table 9.16. An extract from this table is provided below.

Table 9.16: Summary of Nature Conservation Impacts

Potential Impacts	Nature of Impact	Significance (Without Mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
Construction				
Brown Hare	Disturbance to brown hare if using habitats in the vicinity during construction	Medium Adverse	None, hares likely move away	Slight Adverse
Operation				
Brown Hare	Road kill mortality	Slight Adverse	Unlikely to use crossing points; new hedges along road will discourage crossing	Neutral

Further mitigation

Mitigation measures provided for other key ecological receptors is set out in Section 9.6 of the published ES. An Addendum to the Environmental Statement (Five Mile Lane Improvements: Environmental Statement Addendum, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, October 2016) provides additional information on mitigation particularly for Breeding Birds.

The mitigation measures provided for other key ecological receptors will also benefit brown hare e.g. all areas of long grass, arable field and scrub will be checked for the presence of nesting lapwing and skylark during the breeding season. During these checks, searches will also be carried out for breeding brown hare, and works suspended in the vicinity until such time as young have been weaned (approximately four weeks). Searches will be carried out in areas of long grass between the months of February and September (inclusive) in order to cover the full brown hare breeding season.

In addition the provision of habitats such as wildflower meadow and scrub and agreements made with local landowners to carry land management for breeding birds will also be beneficial for brown hare.

I trust that the above provides sufficient information on the assessment and mitigation proposed for the use of the site by Brown Hare. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Marc Thomas
Associate Director, Environment