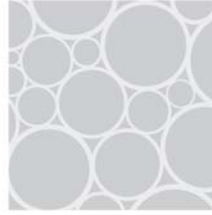




ENVIRONMENTAL



FLOOD RISK



DRAINAGE



ECOLOGY

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Proposed Polytunnels, Mitton Lodge Farm, Staffs.

Project Aims

Mitton Lodge Farm in Mitton in Staffordshire required a Phase 1 Habitat Survey to inform a planning application for a polytunnel development.



The site is located approximately 1km west of Mitton, which is approximately 4km west of the centre of Penkridge. The Church Eaton Brook, which is a tributary of the River Penk, runs along the northern site boundary.

Project Summary

The key issues discussed in the report were the possible impacts on protected species that may be found on and in close proximity to the development area.

Due to the low ecological value of large areas of arable crop land, of which the development area comprises of almost entirely the site did not support significant species.

The main constraint identified by the surveys was the potential impact on badgers.

As polytunnels are moved on a field rotation basis, the ecological assessments were required on a farm



wide approach-thus increasing the potential impacts on badger activity and expanding sett sizes.

Badger surveys and annual monitoring of badger activity has reduced the likelihood of impacts on badgers.

Wildlife in the UK receives protection under a range of legislation including:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994

