

WAVEGARDEN BRIDGE AND CYCLE LINK PRE-APPLICATION ENGAGEMENT

ECOLOGY

- A Sweco ecologist has carried out survey and assessment work based on three site visits between March and August 2019.
- Woodland habitats cover both sides of the Union Canal, with wych elm, common ash and sycamore trees dominating the canopy, and hawthorn, elder and holly present at ground level.
- The ground flora includes small numbers of typical woodland indicators such as wild strawberries, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, wild garlic (ramsons), common figwort and dog's mercury.
- The canal and adjacent woodland habitats form a corridor which achieves recognition as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Biodiversity Site for the valuable wildlife habitats and associated flora and fauna.
- Detailed bat surveys carried out by Echoes Ecology have identified a small number of trees within the path footprint which have potential to support roosting bats, at least five species of which have been recorded within a 2km radius of the site.
- No other protected species have been found within the site or a survey buffer around it. However otters are known to use the canal as a feeding ground, and badger, water vole and other commoner species will also use the sheltered habitats.

