## Proposal: Land East of Kenilworth - EIA SCOPING OPINION

It is recommended that the following topics be covered in the scoping report:

- 1) **Description of Physical Characteristics of the Whole Development:** consider the scale and purpose of the proposed development describing clearly its design, and land use requirements during construction and operation (Appendix A)
- 2) Description of Aspects of the Natural Environment likely to be Affected
  - (i) Important habitats and important species (Appendix B & C)
  - (ii) Ecosystem structures and functioning (Appendix D)
  - (iii) Landscape features of major importance to wildlife (Appendix B, C, & D)
  - (iv) Soils, hydrology, earth heritage (Appendix E, F and G)
  - (v) Importance and status of features present (Appendix H)
- 3) Information Needed to Assess Impacts: Provide full details covering:
  - (i) Potential damaging impacts and features likely to be affected
  - (ii) Vulnerable timing/seasons
  - (iii) Lifespan of impacts
  - (iv) Cumulative impacts
  - (v) Likelihood of impacts
  - (vi) Significance of impacts (e.g. value of features affected and the scale/magnitude of impacts)
- 4) **Dealing with Impacts and Opportunities for Gain:** Provide full details of conservation measures to avoid, reduce and compensate for impacts and/or to secure the enhancement and long term sustainable management of habitats, species and features to be retained and/or created on of around the site. The Council recommends that the Biodiversity Impact Assessment<sup>1</sup> tool is used to facilitate this evaluation.
  - (i) Avoidance of Impacts e.g.
    - Site selection avoiding harm to key sites, maintaining their capacity to support existing habitats and species
    - > Achievement of a sympathetic built footprint, incorporating existing features into the development layout
    - Continued provision for public access, and enjoyment ad interpretation of nature on site
    - Prevention of further habitat fragmentation and species isolation e.g. no loss of and positive management for stepping stones, linear features and areas used for dispersal
  - (ii) Nature Conservation During the Construction Process e.g.
    - Impact assessment of all potentially damaging construction activities.
    - > Mitigation measures to avoid impacts during construction
  - (iii) Management or Reduction of Impact e.g.
    - Controlling sources of impact during all phases of development
    - ➤ Habitat repair and species restoration
    - Translocation (salvaging and moving habitats and species)
  - (iv) Compensation for features to be Lost or Damaged e.g.
    - ➤ Land-forming and shaping of local topography to recreate landforms lost to development
    - > Restoration and enhancement of existing features on or around the site
    - Habitat re-creation to replace features lost
    - > Expose/creation of earth science (geological/geomorphological features)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Biodiversity Impact Assessment Tool (BIA) can be found here

- Provision of artificial wildlife features (e.g. badger setts/bird boxes and bat caves)
- Provisions for new public access, enjoyment/interpretation of nature on or off site.
- Compensation for habitat fragmentation and species isolation e.g. recreation and management of alternative stepping stones, linear features and areas used for dispersal
- Compensation for loss of environmental capacity to support important habitats and species.
- (v) Opportunities for Environmental Enhancement and Gain: for instance:
  - Land-forming and shaping of local topography to provide new habitats
  - > Restoration and enhancement of existing features on or around the site
  - Habitat creation and species recovery to provide new additional features of interest
  - Exposure/creation of earth science (geological/geomorphological features)
  - Provision of artificial wildlife features (e.g. badger setts/bird boxes and bat caves)
  - Provisions for new public access, enjoyment/interpretation of nature on or off site
  - ➤ Reversal of habitat fragmentation and species isolation (e.g. re-creation and management of alternative stepping stones, linear features and areas used for dispersal).
- (vi) Management and Monitoring of Nature Conservation Features:
  - management of Natural Habitats and Wild Species
  - Monitoring Natural Habitats and Wild Species
- 5) **Responsible Persons:** Provide names, qualification and experience of personnel to carry out the work and to demonstrate that standard good practice methods have been used to generate the information provided.

# <u>Appendix A – Information Required on the Physical Characteristics of the Proposed</u> Development

- (a) Physical Characteristics of the Proposed Development: Provide details on:
  - (i) Why the development is required and now it is consistent with prevailing Development Plan?
  - (ii) What will be built or excavated / extracted?
  - (iii) Where things will be built or excavated/extracted (e.g. describing proposed land uses within the boundary of the site, showing clearly the development footprint and layout on appropriate scale plans)?
  - (iv) When things will happen (e.g. predicted timing/duration of key phases of development)?
  - (v) What wastes and emissions will be generated and how will they be disposed of and/or treated?
  - (vi) Who will be responsible for he development during the various phases of its life?
  - (vii) Others [to be specified]
- (b) **Predicted Sources of Potential Impact During All phases of Development:** Provide information to identify all impacts generated by:
  - (i) Land-take e.g.
    - Footprint (e.g. location of buildings roads, and other construction and excavations)
    - Layout (e.g. distribution of built development across the site)
    - > The route of utilities and services and associated excavations
    - Access routes (both permanent and temporary)
    - Landscaping (type and location)
  - (ii) Operations During Demolition and Construction Phases e.g.
    - Demolition operation
    - Blasting e.g. for minerals operations
    - Storage areas for construction materials
    - Temporary access routes for construction vehicles both on and offsite
    - Vegetation Clearance
    - > Top soil and sub-soil removal
    - Ground and excavation works
    - Routing of services and utilities (e.g. underground power-lines, water supply and drainage)
    - Assembly areas for components of construction
    - Structural works for building and engineering
    - Environmental incidents and accidents (e.g. spillages, noise and emissions)
    - Removal of site offices / compounds and final site clear away after construction
  - (iii) The occupation/operational Phase e.g.
    - Access (both route and means)
    - > Landscaping and vegetation management (e.g. maintenance operations)
    - Site operation and management (e.g. maintenance operations)
    - Presence of people and typical uses and activities (including factors likely to cause disturbance (e,g, increased public access and pressure, lighting, noise, regular emissions)
  - (iv) The Decommissioning Phase (especially relevant for projects with a relatively short life span)
  - (v) The Restoration Phase (where operations/phases have finished e.g. for mineral extractions
  - (vi) Potential Non-standard Operations (e.g. one-off incidents and accidents)
- (c) **Duration of Development Phases:** Provide information to indicate how long phases are expected to last
  - > Temporary (less than 1 year)
  - Short Term (1-5 years)
  - > Long term (5-25 years)
  - Permanent (more than 25 years e.g. more than one generation)
- (d) Constraints on Information Available: Outline Planning applications or incomplete design propoals may result in gaps in information and consequently uncertainty about potential impacts. Such gaps in information and /or uncertainty about the detail of proposed development should be clearly identified.

# Appendix B – Information Required on Habitat Characteristics

- (a) **Habitat Types Present:** Provide details of habitats present using recognised types and classifications e.g.:
  - (i) Phase 1 habitat types
- (iv) Red Data Book Species
- (ii) NVC plant communities
- (iii) UK and Local BAP Categories
- (b) **Extent and Location of Different Habitat Types:** Provide details of the full extent of the area surveyed and the location and measured extent (e.g. in hectares or metres) of each habitat mosaic or community type identified within the areas shown on appropriate scale plans
- (c) Factors Upon which Habitat Structure and Functioning are Dependant: Provide details relating to:
  - (i) Ecological influences e.g.:
    - Ecological conditions
    - Ecological interaction and processes
    - Long term dynamics
    - Ecological resources
    - Ecological stress and disturbance factors
  - (ii) Traditional agricultural or land management practices
- (d) Conservation Status of Habitat: Provide information to show whether or not:
  - (i) The measured extent of habitat onsite / locally / regionally / nationally is increasing, stable or decreasing?
  - (ii) Habitat structure and functioning on-site is improving, stable or deteriorating?
  - (iii) The conservation status of it's typical species onsite / locally / regionally / nationally and/or across its range is increasing, stable or decreasing?
- (e) Important Species (as defined in Appendix A) Associated with Habitats on Site: Provide details where relevant for the following:
  - (i) Does the site provide prime habitat for any important species?
  - (ii) Is the site critical for the survival of important species at the local / national/ regional scale?
  - (iii) At what stage of the life cycle or season does the site support the species concerned?
  - (iv) Is the habitat upon which the species is dependent easily re-creatable?
- (f) Ecological Networks and Degree of Habitat Fragmentation in the Wider Landscape: Provide details of:
  - (i) Spatial linkages, connection, patterns, patch size, and distribution of existing fragmented seminatural habitat within [ 2km ] of the site
  - (ii) Extent and effectiveness of linear features or stepping stones in the surrounding landscape, forming links for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of important species of fauna and flora.
- (g) Natural Colonisation and Expansion in the Landscape: Provide details of:
  - (i) Important species on site which ate mobile and have high powers of dispersal
  - (ii) Important species which are immobile, and have poor powers of dispersal without human assistance
  - (iii) Ecological requirements (influences) at the landscape scale necessary for species dispersal from the site and for natural colonisation and habitat expansion into the surrounding areas.
- (h) Timing and Method Statement for Surveys: Provide details of:
  - (i) The date and time of day when surveys were carried out and the proposed methods, with justification for their selection e.g. published methodologies. Information should be recorded using (as relevant) appropriate equipment, prescribed maps, sketches, photographs and standard recording forms.
  - (ii) The limitations of survey results and gaps in information, if any, either because of techniques used or because of timing and / or personnel used, or inability to gain access to the land involved.
- (i) **Responsible Persons:** Provide details of the personnel responsible for habitat survey with details, where necessary, of level of relevant experience and qualification.

# Appendix C – Information Required on Important and Protected Species

(a) **Presence or Absence:** Provide details of important or protected species recording actual counts, sitings, and/or records of established pathways, latrines, droppings and pellets, animal tracks, fur, feathers, feeding areas and other relevant signs and activity:

(i) Vascular plants (ii) Non-vascular plants (iii) Birds (iv) Mammals (v) Amphibians and Reptiles (vi) Fish

(vii) Terrestrial invertebrates (viii) Aquatic invertebrates

- (b) Population Status: Provide details for:
  - (i) Population numbers/density / abundance / frequency actually recorded or predicted
  - (ii) Population viability (e.g. minimum viable population and relationships to meta-population)
  - (iii) Social organisation (e.g. number of individuals present in different age classes)
  - (iv) Proportion of national, regional or local species population using the site (e.g. quantitative and /or qualitative assessment of the application site in context of its importance within the species' wider range and distribution).
- (c) Conservation Status of Species: Provide information to demonstrate why:
  - (i) Population trends are increasing, stable or decreasing at the local, regional or national scale
  - (ii) Territory and range are increasing, stable or decreasing at the local, regional or national scale
  - (iii) Habitat extent and viability is increasing, stable or decreasing at the local, regional or national scale
  - (iv) The species is of ecosystem importance (e.g. only relevant where a species demonstrates keystone characteristics in terms of ecosystem functioning and site integrity).
- (d) How species Use the site and Surrounding Area: Provide information to show:
  - (i) Locations used for shelter (e.g. setts, holts, nesting sites, rearing young, roost sites, hibernation sites)
  - (ii) Sources of food and water and key feeding and hunting areas
  - (iii) Behaviour and habits (including seasonal variations) in using the site or surrounding area
- (e) **Key factors Upon Which the Species is Dependent:** Provide information to show the relationships between important species and ecological structures, processes and functions upon which they may be dependent during all stages of their life-cycle (see Appendix D)
- (f) Degree of Species Mobility in the Landscape and Aids or Barriers to Movement: Provide details to show:
  - (i) Dispersal characteristics on a daily or seasonal basis e.g. for colonisation, feeding, resting, breeding
  - (ii) Migratory habits / migratory corridor routes shown at [...local / national / international...] scale
  - (iii) Location and type of features in the surrounding landscape which are of major importance to the species' dispersal, migration and genetic exchange (for instance stepping stones and linear features)
  - (iv) Occurrence of key agricultural practices in the landscape which enable species migration, dispersal or genetic exchange (e.g. 'traditional agricultural practices' such as livestock using drove roads).
- (g) Timing and Method Statement for Surveys: Provide details of:
  - (i) The survey methods employed, demonstrating that surveys have taken account of seasonal constraints (e.g. key times of year for breeding, migration, wintering, flowering periods etc.), normal variations and fluctuations in population numbers, and have accounted for species that may be more elusive.
  - (ii) The means for data capture (demonstrating use of published methodologies, appropriate equipment, maps, sketched, photographs and standard recording forms) and means of data interception and analysis (e.g. statistical analysis used, computer packages; GIS etc), also highlighting any limitations or gaps in data (e.g. resulting from poor timing, or inability to gain access to the land involved).
- (h) **Extent and Location of Species Surveys:** Provide details of the full extent of the area surveyed and the location of all species data identified within the area shall be submitted and shown on appropriate scale plans.
- (i) Responsible Persons: Provide details of the personnel responsible for species survey, indicating levels of relevant experience and qualification note for some species work, surveyors must hold a relevant licence.

# <u>Appendix D – Information Requires on relationships Between Ecosystem Structures,</u> Processes and Functioning and Important Habitats and Species

Identify key relationships between important habitats and species (as identified in Appendix B and C) and, where relevant, the following ecological structures, processes and function upon which they may be dependent:

- (a) Ecological Conditions: Provide details for one or more of the following:
  - (i) Climatic Conditions: e.g. temperature, wind, precipitation
  - (ii) Topographical Conditions: e.g. Aspect, slope, altitude, exposure
  - (iii) Substrate Conditions: e.g. Soils, geology, pH, Salinity, Nutrient Status
  - (iv) Hydrological Conditions e.g. Water levels, Flows & Volumes, Water Quality and Drainage
- (b) Ecological Resources: Provide details for one or more of the following:
  - (i) Characteristics of Home Range / Territory
  - (ii) Characteristics of Roost Sites / Nesting Sites / Shelters / Setts / Holts
  - (iii) Requirements for Food and Water
  - (iv) Requirements for Soil Mineral Nutrients and Hydrochemistry
  - (v) Requirements for Solar Radiation
  - (vi) Requirements for Gaseous Resources
- (c) Ecological Interactions ad Processes: Provide details for one or more of the following:
  - (i) Population Ecology and Behaviour: e.g. Competition, Colonisation, Succession, Establishment, Breeding Sites, Feeding Areas, Territory size, protection and camouflage, reproduction rates, carrying capacity and limiting factors, mortality rates, survival rates and strategies, population cycles, sex and age ratio, over-wintering behaviour and hibernation.
  - (ii) Community Dynamics: e.g. Food Webs, predator-prey relationships, herbivore-plant relationships, herbivore-carnivore relationships, decomposer, adaptation, dynamism and climax, productivity, nutrient cycling, feedback mechanisms, minimum viable population, fragility and stability
  - (iii) Spatial Linkages in the Landscape: e.g. Patchiness and Degree of Fragmentation, connectivity stepping stones and linear features important for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange.
- (d) Stress and Disturbance Factors: Provide details for one or more of the following:
  - (i) Natural Processes and Influences: e.g. Grazing, Fire, Flooding, Drought, Wind Blow and Storm Damage, Disease, Eutrophication, Erosion, Deposition and other geomorphical Processed.
  - (ii) Human Influences: e.g. Disturbance from Public Access and Pets, Animal Husbandry, Cutting, Burning, Mowing, Drainage, Irrigation, Culling, Hunting, Excavations, Earth Shaping, Ploughing, Seeding, Planting, Cropping, Fertilising, Pollution and Contamination, Use of Pesticides and Herbicides, Introduction of exotics and weeds and Genetically, Modified Organisms.
- (e) Method Statement for Study: Provide details of:
  - (i) The proposal methods for identifying key ecological structures, processed and functioning;
  - (ii) The limitation, if any, of such a study and any gaps in background data and / or knowledge;
  - (iii) The source of information and data upon which the finding are based
- (f) Extent and Location of the Area Covered by the study: Provide details of the full extent of the study area and the locations of all key features / elements within that area, shown on appropriate scale plans.
- (g) Timing of Baseline Information: Provide details of the time of day, season, or year when baseline surveys were carried out and upon which the study is based
- (h) Responsible Persons: Provide details of the personnel responsible for the study with details, where necessary, of levels of relevant experience and qualifications.

# Appendix E – Information Required on Soil Characteristics

- (a) **Broad Scale Soil classification:** Provide details of soils on site from published Regional Bulletins for the Soil Survey of England and Wales
- (b) **Site Specific Soil Survey and Analysis:** Unless otherwise agreed soil survey and analysis should follow the Soil Survey Handbook and conform to BS3882. Soil information to be provided should include one or more of the following
  - (i) soil map of the site
  - (ii) description of soil profiles (including depths of each soil horizon)
  - (iii) soil fauna and flora
  - (iv) soil chemistry (e.g. nutrient status and pH)
    - primary nutrients (Nitrogen / Phosphorous / Potassium)
    - secondary nutrients (Sulphur / Calcium / Magnesium)
    - micro nutrients (Boron / Chlorine / Copper / Iron / Manganese / Molybdenum / Zinc)
  - (v) soil colour and texture (e.g. sand, silt or clay)
  - (vi) soil structure and bulk density
  - (vii) soil moisture (e.g. water holding capacity)
  - (viii) soil plastic contaminants
  - (ix) parent material and location where soil originated (relevant where soil has been moved or imported)
  - (x) soil drainage characteristics

## (c) Method Statement for Surveys:

- (i) The proposed methods, with justification for their selection (drawing upon published methodologies). Information should be recorded using (as relevant) appropriate field and laboratory equipment, prescribed maps, sketches, photographs and standard recording forms.
- (ii) The limitations, if any, of survey results, either because of techniques used or because of timing and / or personnel used, or inability to gain access to the land involved.
- (d) **Extent and Location of Soil Samples:** The full extent of the area surveys ad the location of each soil sample within that area shall be submitted and shown on the appropriate plans.
- (e) Timing of Soil Surveys: The time of day, season, or year when the surveys are carried out.
- (f) **Responsible Persons:** The personnel responsible for the soil survey with details, where necessary, of levels of relevant experience and qualification.
- (g) Constraints on Information: gaps in information or uncertainty about details should be identified.

# <u>Appendix F – Hydrological Characteristics to be Assessed: Provide details on one or more</u>

- (a) Hydrological Characteristics to be Assessed: Provide details on one or more of the following:
  - (i) Surface Water Quality
    - oxvaen content
    - nutrient content
    - microbial status
    - suspended sediment load
    - chemical characteristics
    - macro-invertebrate sampling
  - (ii) Surface Water Hydrology / Hydraulics
    - flow velocities
    - riparian drainage
    - surface water runoff
    - flow regime
    - magnitude / frequency / duration of flooding
  - (iii) Channel Morphology / Sediments
    - bank / bed stability
    - bed slope / profile / cross-section
    - plan form / pattern
    - channel size
    - suspended sediment load
    - bed load
    - degradation / erosion of bed and banks
  - (iv) Groundwater Hydraulics / Hydrogeology
    - level of water table
    - direction of flow and aquifer properties (e.g. hydraulic conductivity)
  - (v) Groundwater Quality
    - Site Specific features
- (b) Method Statement for Surveys: Provide Details of
  - (i) The proposed methods, with justification for their selection (drawing upon published methodologies). Information should be recorded using (as relevant) appropriate field and laboratory equipment, prescribed maps, sketches, photographs and standard recording forms.
  - (ii) The limitations, if any, of survey results, either because of techniques used or because of timing and / or personnel used, or inability to gain access to the land involved.
- (c) **Extent and Location of Hydrological Surveys:** Provide details of the full extent of the area surveyed and the location of each sample within that area shall be submitted and shown on the appropriate plans.
- (d) **Timing of Hydrological Surveys:** Provide details of the time of day, season, or year when the surveys are carried out.
- (e) **Responsible Persons:** The personnel responsible for the soil survey with details, where necessary, of levels of relevant experience and qualification
- (f) Constraints on Information: gaps in information or uncertainty about details should be identified.

# **Appendix G – Information Required on Earth Heritage Characteristics**

Description of the site using the Earth Science Conservation Classification: Provide details for:

#### (a) Exposure Sites

(i) disused quarries, pits and cuttings

(ii) Coastal and river cliffs

(iv) Mines and tunnels

(ii) Active quarries and pits

(iii) Foreshore exposures

(v) Inland outcrops and stream sections

## (b) Integrity Sites

(i) Static (fossil) geomorphological sites (i) Active process geomorphical sites

(iii) Caves and karst

(v) Mine Dumps

(iv) Limestone pavements

(iv) Limestone pavements

(vi) Unique mineral, fossil and other geological sites

## Description of the site using the guidelines for evaluating Local Geological Sites (LGS)

#### (c) Scientific Importance:

- (i) Petrology
  - > Does the site expose good representation of igneous / metamorphic / sedimentary rocks?
  - > Does the site demonstrate important of igneous / metamorphic / sedimentary features
- (ii) Stratigraphy
  - Does the site show representative stratigraphic features?
  - > Is the site important for stratigraphic features?
- (iii) Palaeontology
  - Is the site important for a particular fossil species or assemblage?
  - > Is the site important palaeo-ecologically?
- (iv) Mineralogy
  - Is the site important for a particular mineral or assemblage of minerals?
- (v) Sedimentary or Tectonic Structures
  - Does the site demonstrate any important structural features?
- (vi) Geomorphology
  - Is the site an important landscape?
  - Does the site demonstrate geomorphological features or processes?

## (d) Educational Value:

- (i) Is the site suitable for teaching the earth heritage components of the national curriculum?
- (ii) Is the site suitable for teaching the earth sciences at 'A' level (or equivalent) or undergraduate?
- (iii) Is the site suitable for other educational users?
- (iv) Is the site physically accessible?
- (v) Is the site safe?
- (vi) Is the access to the site suitable for educational visits?

### (e) Historic Associations

- (i) Is the site historically important in terms of advances in knowledge for Earth Heritage?
- (ii) Has the site any historic of mining or quarrying or associations with culture, folklore or religion?
- (iii) Has the site any archaeological significance e.g. prehistoric cave remains / deposits?

## (f) Aesthetic Characteristics:

- (i) Is the site an essential component of an attractive or evocative local landscape?
- (ii) Could the site be used to promote public awareness and appreciation of geology or geomorphology?
- (iii) Has the site been used as a source of important or particular building material (e.g. Bath Stone)?

## (g) Method Statement for Surveys: Provide details of:

- (i) Desktop studies using existing reference material and also proposed field methods, with justification for their selection (drawing upon published methodologies). Information should be recorded using (as relevant) appropriate equipment, prescribes maps, sketches, photographs and standard recording forms.
- (ii) The limitations, if any, of survey results, either because of techniques used or because of timing and / or personnel used, or inability to gain access to the land involved.
- (h) Extent and Location and Timing of Geological or Geomorphological Surveys: Provide details of the full extent of the area surveyed; the date and location of records shall be submitted and shown on appropriate scale plans.
- (i) Responsible persons: The personnel responsible for the soil survey with details, where necessary, of levels of relevant experience and qualification

# Appendix H – Information Required on Nature Conservation Status and Importance

- (a) Evaluation Against Criteria for Selection of Statutory Sites:
  - i) Sites of International Importance
    - Ramsar Sites (under the Ramsar Convention)
    - Special Protection Areas (under the E.E.C Birds Directive)
    - > Special Areas of Conservation (under the E.C. Habitats Directive)
  - (ii) Sites of National Importance
    - National Nature Reserves
    - ➤ Biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
      - Vascular Plants
      - Non-Vascular Plants
  - (iii) Local Nature Reserves
- (b) Evaluation of Habitats and Species Protected by International and National Legislation under:
  - (i) The Birds Directive 1971
  - (ii) The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
  - (iii) The Badgers Act 1992
  - (iv) The Habitats Directive 1994
  - (v) The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- (c) Evaluation Against Criteria for the Selection of Local Non-Statutory Sites:
  - (i) Scientific Characteristics (Local Wildlife Sites criteria)
  - (ii) Community Characteristics and Value (Local Wildlife Sites criteria)
- (d) Evaluation Against Criteria to Identify Priority Habitats and Species in the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans
  - (i) Priority habitats
  - (ii) Priority Species
  - (iii) Locally Distinctive Habitats and Species
- (e) Landscape Features of Major Importance for Wild Fauna and Flora (as referred to under Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, 1992; and Regulation 37 of the Conservation (natural Habitats & c) Regulations, 1994) Such features act as stepping stones or linear features and thus aid the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species).
- (f) **Economic Importance** (e.g. timber and coppice products in ancient woodland)
- (g) Evaluation of the Conservation Status of Habitats and Species (as defined by Habitats Directive, 1992)
- (h) Important Hedgerows and Trees (defined by the Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders).
- (i) Method Statement for Identifying Importance: Provide details for the criteria used to evaluate the importance of nature conservation features on the site and / or in the surrounding area. Also include details of the full extent of the area evaluated and the location of all sites and / or features identified as meeting specific criteria and thus qualifying as important. Identify the personnel responsible for evaluation with details, where necessary, of levels of relevant experience and qualification. Finally, highlight any gaps in information used or uncertainty about the results of the valuation.