

Growing Baldock

Environmental Statement Addendum Volume 1: Text
Chapter 11: Ecology



May 2026

Urban&Civic

Hertfordshire



11.1 ECOLOGY: INTRODUCTION

- 11.1.1 No changes to baseline conditions have been identified that were not already accounted for in the submitted ES Chapter 11. The ecological baseline remains unchanged for the purposes of this Addendum.

11.2 RESPONSE TO REGULATION 25 REQUEST

11.2.1 The table below summarises the Regulation 25 requests for additional information and the key issues raised by consultees in relation to ecology issues and how the chapter responds to them.

Table 11.1: Regulation 25 Requests Summary

Commentary from Reg. 25 Request	Response from Applicant
<i>The RSPB</i> Our objection relates to uncertainties as to efficacy of the proposed offsetting measures for breeding Corn Bunting. Over previous years, the proponent and their consultants have consulted the RSPB about their approach to mitigation for this population. We have broadly supported the approach of enhancement of nearby County Farm sites to bolster Corn Bunting populations and so offset those lost on the development site At present, no detail has been submitted as to the extent of the crop/habitat enhancement measures on this offset land. We therefore have no certainty that it will be of an extent to offset the territories lost on the development site. Research by the RSPB suggests territory sizes of c3.5ha per pair.	BMD have prepared an Off-site corn bunting mitigation strategy and On-site corn bunting mitigation strategy which addresses the comments received. These can be found at ES Addendum Appendix 11.1 and 11.2.
<i>Herts Wildlife Trust</i> For corn bunting territories on the periphery of the site, I accept that there is a degree of separation from new residential areas and the more intensive uses of green infrastructure. Nonetheless I still consider that there is a degree of risk to these territories and it would be prudent to assume, on a precautionary basis, that these territories might be lost and compensation planned accordingly.	

11.3 UPDATE TO BASELINE CONDITIONS / ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

11.3.1 No changes to the assessment methodology have been made.

11.4 ASSESSMENT OF SCHEME AMENDMENTS

11.4.1 The only amendments/clarifications relevant to this Ecology Addendum are:

- Mitigation details are more specific in terms of the location of off-site corn bunting mitigation.

11.4.2 These clarifications do not arise from changes to the Scheme design parameters that would materially alter the ecology baseline. They are provided to respond to consultee commentary received from both the Wildlife Trust (HWT) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

11.5 MITIGATION MEASURES

- 11.5.1 The Ecological Mitigation and Management Strategy does not propose additional mitigation measures beyond those considered in the submitted ES Chapter 11. However, to provide additional clarity and transparency a new Off-site Corn Bunting Mitigation Strategy (**Appendix 11.1**) has been prepared which provides further details of the location of the off-site mitigation site and an On-site Corn Bunting Mitigation Strategy (**Appendix 11.2**) which details measures to secure corn bunting habitat within the sit boundary. .
- 11.5.2 Corn bunting measures are secured through the EMP and HMMP mechanism already set out within the ES Chapter 11 and do not constitute new categories of mitigation.

11.6 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

Construction Stage

- 11.6.1 No changes to the effects reported in the original outline ES Chapter 11 are anticipated as a result of the clarifications set out in this Addendum.

Post-Completion Stage

- 11.6.2 No changes to the Post-Completion Stage residual effects arise, beyond those in the original ES and the subsequent clarifications provided in the February 2026 ES Addendum.