

SILVERTOWN TUNNEL

**Preliminary Environmental  
Information Report:  
Appendix 9.A**

**Target Notes and Dedicated  
Species Assessments for  
Reptiles, Black Redstart and Bats**

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## List of Abbreviations

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report

## Glossary of Terms

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	Phase 1 habitat survey is a standard technique for rapidly obtaining baseline ecological information over a large area of land. Habitats are mapped based on the vegetation present. The technique is often extended to give further consideration to the potential of habitats to support protected species and species of conservation concern
Bat Emergence Survey	Bat emergence survey is a standard technique used to help determine presence/likely absence of roosting bats within a suitable feature such as a building or tree. It usually involves observing potential bat access points prior to dusk for approximately two hours to see if any bats emerge.
Target Note	A target note is a method of showing the location of an ecologically significant feature, for example a badger sett, on a Phase 1 habitat map.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Silvertown Tunnel is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) creating a new highway below the River Thames connecting Silvertown to the north and Greenwich to the south. As part of this, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), is being undertaken to ensure the development has no detrimental effect on the environment, including ecology. Prior to production of the ES, a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) has been written and compiled. Full details of the Scheme, the ecological baseline, the potential impacts of the Scheme and proposed mitigation and enhancements are provided in the PEIR.
- 1.1.2 This Appendix details elements of the extended Phase 1 habitat survey and dedicated species assessments which are referred to in the PEIR assessment but were not included.
- 1.1.3 Following an initial desk study and extended Phase 1 habitat survey, four targeted surveys were undertaken based on the habitat available on site. These were:
- Invertebrates (Appendix 9.B)
  - Reptiles
  - Black redstart
  - Bats
- 1.1.4 The methods, results and recommendations of the invertebrate survey are provided in Appendix 9.B.
- 1.1.5 Summary methods and results of these surveys are reported in the Chapter 9 Terrestrial Ecology, only the information not reported in the Chapter 9 is included here.

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## 2. REPTILE SURVEY

**Table 2-1 Weather data for reptile surveys undertaken at Silvertown and Greenwich, those marked with a \* are Silvertown only. NB: all results were negative.**

Survey date	Surveyors	Temperature (°C)	General weather conditions
8 May 2014	Sam Marles and Steph Clayton-Green	Not recorded	Overcast at start of survey, raining during survey.
15 May 2014	Rebecca Beale	11-15	Dry, sunshine, v occasional gentle cool breeze, light & high cloud cover, 11°C-15°C
29 May 2014	Rebecca Beale	12-13	100% low cloud cover (reducing to 95% at end of survey at Greenwich site). Dry, occasional gentle breeze.
30 May 2014	Michelle Robertson & Petya Georgieva*	14-17	Cloud cover 8/8, dry, good visibility, humid.
12 June 2014	Nick Henson & Rebecca Beale*	12-14	Bright sunshine, 5-10% cloud cover (high cirrus clouds), dry, gentle-to-moderate cool breeze.
24 June 2014	Nick Henson*	16-18	Dry, sunny, warm, calm.

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### 3. BLACK REDSTART SURVEY

**Table 3-1 Weather data for black redstart surveys. NB: All results were negative.**

Survey date	Surveyors	Temperature (°C)	General weather conditions	Start and finish times
25 April 2014	Mark Lang	Not recorded	Fine	16:00 to 18:00
8 May 2014	Sam Marles and Steph Clayton-Green	Not recorded	Overcast	04:00 to 06:30
30 May 2014	Michelle Robertson & Petya Georgieva	14-17	Cloud cover 8/8, dry, good visibility, humid.	03:50 to 05:40
12 June 2014	Nick Henson & Rebecca Beale	12-14	Bright sunshine, 5-10% cloud cover (high cirrus clouds), dry, gentle-to-moderate cool breeze.	03:50 to 07:00
24 June 2014	Nick Henson	16-18	Dry, sunny, warm, calm.	19:30 to 20:30

3.1.1 No black redstarts were recorded during the targeted surveys. Incidental bird species recorded during the black redstart surveys, include:

- Magpie (*Pica pica*)
- Carrion crow (*Corvus corone*)
- Wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
- Feral pigeon (*Columba livia*)

- Black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)
- Herring gull (*Larus argentatus*)
- Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*)
- Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)
- Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)
- Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)
- Pied wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)
- Great tit (*Parus major*)

## 4. BAT EMERGENCE SURVEY

**Table 4-1 Weather data for bat emergence survey of ASD Metals building, Silvertown. NB: All results negative.**

<b>Survey date</b>	<b>Surveyors</b>	<b>Temperature (°C)</b>	<b>General weather conditions</b>	<b>Start and finish time</b>
12 May 2014	Guy Stone and Will Trehella	10-12	Heavy rain showers up until 20.30, then dry but overcast. Light Breeze.	20:20 to 22:25 (sunset 20:41)

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## 5. TARGET NOTES FROM EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

**Table 5-1 Target notes from extended Phase 1 habitat survey**

	Number	Description
Greenwich	G1	Unmanaged grassland with typical species including False Oat-grass ( <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> ), and Yarrow ( <i>Achillea millefolium</i> ). Potential foraging habitat for reptiles although isolated by roads.
	G2	Mature plantation woodland, dominated by Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ) and Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ). Likely to be of local value for breeding birds.
	G3	Virginia Creeper ( <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> ) present on fence. This is an invasive species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
	G4	Japanese Knotweed ( <i>Fallopia japonica</i> ) present along fenceline of adjacent compound. This is an invasive species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
	G5	Patches of species-poor unmanaged grassland within dense scrub. Suitable habitat for foraging reptiles, although the habitat is isolated within a network of roads and urban development.
	G6	Dense Bramble ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and Grey Willow ( <i>Salix cinerea</i> ) scrub, likely to be of value for nesting birds.
	G7	Large mature London Plane ( <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> ) trees.
	G8	Large mature London Plane trees. An area of Dwarf Elder ( <i>Sambucus ebulus</i> ) was also present.
Silvertown	S1	Large area of Japanese Knotweed spreading as far south as the pylon and onto the adjacent underground land.
	S2	Thin species-poor semi-improved grassland and ephemeral herbs interspersed with bare ground, Bramble and Butterfly-bush ( <i>Buddleja davidii</i> ) scrub. High potential for notable invertebrates and reptiles.
	S3	Thin species-poor semi-improved grassland, Ivy ( <i>Hedera helix</i> ) Bramble and Butterfly-bush ( <i>Buddleja davidii</i> ) scrub. High potential for notable invertebrates and reptiles.

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S4	Brick shed within ASD metals. Missing mortar and crevices between brick and concrete plinth indicate a low potential for supporting roosting bats – the site is noisy and well lit.
S5	Species-poor semi-improved grassland and Grey Willow ( <i>Salix cinerea</i> ) scrub. Potential for supporting reptiles and notable invertebrates to a lesser extent. Steeply sloping and dangerous slope towards sludge lagoon.
S6	Very dense Butterfly-bush, Elder ( <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ) and Bramble scrub surrounding outlet from pond into River Thames. The outlet appears to be tidal. Some areas of Common Reed ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> ) are apparent in the outlet; the water is silt laden and appears to be brackish.
S7	Embankment of the underground line. This supported species-poor grassland, with the appearance of having been recently resown with a fine-grass mix. An occasional bush of Butterfly-bush was present. Low potential for supporting reptiles due to lack of cover.
S9	Sludge pond at the base of steep embankments. This supported small areas of reedswamp but no submerged vegetation. The water was silt laden and appeared poor quality, (possibly brackish) with a connection to the River Thames. The reeds may be used by birds for nesting (such as by reed buntings ( <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> )).
S10	Wharfs and jetties along the river frontage, with associated areas of scrub. Potential habitats for foraging and nesting black redstarts ( <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> ) when associated with nearby buildings.
S11	Area of fraying concrete with ephemeral herbs and Butterfly-bush and Bramble scrub, (particularly along east boundary). May be used by foraging black redstarts.



## 6. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SITE

**Figure 6-1 View (west) of the Silvertown site from the Emirates Air Line above, showing large areas of hard standing and buildings, with parcels of scrub and semi-improved grassland and the River Thames to the south.**



**Figure 6-2 Roundabout in the north of the Silvertown site with mixed plantation.**



**Figure 6-3 Standing water in the centre of the Silvertown site, supporting a reedbed.**



**Figure 6-4 Areas of unmanaged semi-improved grassland interspersed with scattered scrub, suitable habitat for reptiles, occurs throughout the Silvertown and Greenwich sites.**



**Figure 6-5 The majority of the predominantly industrial use Silvertown site is formed of hard standing.**



**Figure 6-6 A large parcel of dense/continuous scrub, suitable for breeding birds, occurs on the Greenwich site.**

