



Long-term ecological assessment, monitoring and management

Through our involvement, since the mid-1990s, at the 145 ha. Beddington Farmlands site, our staff have considerable experience in the assessment and analysis of change in habitats and in species populations on a site undergoing constant development.

Case study: Beddington Farmlands

Beddington Farmlands, once solely a sludge drying sewage treatment works, has been in the process of development for gravel extraction and landfill since 1998. Permission to develop was conditional upon a staggered development, restoring areas post land-fill.



Mediterranean Gull, a winter visitor to Beddington, this individual was ringed as a nestling in Holland in June 1999 and was seen in September 2007 by one of our ornithologists.

It was also conditional on the management of two areas of displacement habitat which has to maximize biodiversity potential for birds with the need for sludge management from the sewage works.

An annual monitoring protocol of birds and bats is undertaken by MKA Ecology Ltd with recommendations for management of the site.

We also undertake monthly management of the displacement habitat to increase the potential for *target species* on site such as Lapwing and Tree Sparrow, and maximize the biodiversity potential of the areas.

This involves annual survey and monitoring of changes in habitats, breeding and wintering bird populations, and monitoring of bat activity, recommending action to offset the construction impacts.



Parts of the site are active landfill cells.

A detailed annual report is produced, analysing reasons for changes and giving recommendations aimed at maintaining populations of the target bird species for which Beddington is especially important.

We initiate and manage plans on site for the creation of valuable habitats, including lakes, islands, scrubland, grassland and reedbed for the benefit of other *target species* and for Birds of Conservation Concern.