

Long-term ecological assessment, monitoring and management:

Through our involvement since the mid-1990s at the 145 ha. Beddington Farmlands site, our staff has considerable experience in the assessment and analysis of change in habitats and in species populations on a site undergoing constant development, and in recommending and carrying out mitigation actions to reduce loss of biodiversity.

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.
- It was also conditional on the management of two areas of displacement habitat which has to maximise 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 maximise the potential for *target species* on site such as Lapwing and Tree Sparrow, and maximise biodiversity.

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- 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
- 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.

