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Appendix 7.19 Riparian Mammal Survey Report (Cable route and access road) Part 4

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April 2025



Beacon Fen Energy Park
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Quality information

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Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 104 Grid reference: TF 20192 38965 Ditch 104 bounds the eastern end of arable field C66 of the Cable Route Corridor, to the western side of Vicarage Drove. The earth banks were >2m in depth, 2-5m in width, and steep in profile. Water with a slow current was present during the first survey. Bankside vegetation was dominantly short grasses including false oat grass Other species present included common nettle, dead nettle, bristly ox tongue, bramble, and hogweed. This ditch was considered to provide habitat of low suitability.		None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 105 Grid reference: TF 20109 38882 Ditch 105 is the eastern boundary of arable field C67 of the Cable Route Corridor, west of Vicarage Drive. Along the western bank, a hedgerow was present. No water was present during either round of survey, therefore this ditch was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter.		None



Photograph Signs of water vole or otter Waterbody description and suitability Ditch 106 Grid reference: TF 20062 38843 Ditch 106 is the western boundary of arable fields C72 and C71, running along the eastern side of Vicarage Drove. No water was present in this ditch at the times of either survey, therefore this ditch was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 107 Grid reference: TF 20371 38836 Ditch 107 forms the boundary between arable fields C72 and C73 of the Cable Route Corridor. The earth banks were 1-2m in depth, 2-5m in width, and steep in profile. Static water was present during the first round of survey. Bankside vegetation was described as short grasses. Marginal vegetation consisted of reed mace and common reed. Other species present included dog rose, bramble, common nettle, colts foot. Due to vegetation growth, visibility was constrained. This ditch provided habitat of low suitability.	Photograph	None None



Signs of water vole or otter Waterbody description and suitability Photograph Ditch 108 Grid reference: TF 20148 38763 Ditch 108 is the northern boundary of arable field C72 of the Cable Route Corridor. No water was present in this ditch during either survey, therefore this habitat was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water	er vole or otter
Ditch 109	The same of the sa	Sightings:	None
Grid reference:			
Ditch 109 forms the boundary between the		Latrines:	Twenty-two latrines were recorded along this
substation area C68 and arable fields C63, C64, and C65 of the Cable Route Corridor.			ditch in September 2024.
The earth banks were >2m in depth, 5-10m in width,	Control of the Contro	Burrows:	
and steep in profile. Water was present in both			One burrow identified in April 2024
surveys, with a slow flow.			Four burrows identified in September 2024
Floating vegetation included common water-			
crowfoot mare's tail, and yellow iris.		Footprints:	Three latrines with footprints identified during
Marginal vegetation included common reed.	THE PARTY OF THE P		September 2024 survey.
Other species present included common nettle,		Feeding	None
bristly oxtongue, spear thistle, Yorkshire fog, false		remains:	
oat grass, and cocksfoot grass. Water voles signs were recorded along this ditch.			
water voies signs were recorded along this ditch.	ALTHOUGH TO THE TOTAL THE SECOND		
		Runs/pathw	None
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Photograph Signs of water vole or otter Waterbody description and suitability Ditch 110 Grid reference: TF 19369 38589 Ditch 110 forms the northern, southern, and western boundaries of arable field C64 of the Cable Route Corridor. This ditch was dry during both rounds of survey. Bankside vegetation included bramble scrub. This ditch was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 111 Grid reference: Ditch 111 is located in C68 of the substation area, running along the northwestern edge of hardstanding. The earth banks had a depth of 0.5m-1m, a width of 1-2m, and a shallow profile. Water was present during both rounds of survey, with a sluggish current. Bankside vegetation consisted of rushes including common reed. Due to a large amount of bankside and marginal vegetation, access to the ditch was constrained. This ditch provided a habitat of low suitability.		None



Photograph Waterbody description and suitability Signs of water vole or otter Ditch 112 **Grid reference: TF198387** This ditch is located at the northern area of the substation, C68. The bank and waterbody substrate were a mixture of earth and gravel, with the surrounding area also consisting of gravel. The bank was 0.5m-1m deep and 2-5m wide, with a shallow profile. Water was present during the first and second survey, with a sluggish current. Bankside and marginal vegetation consisted of greater reedmace, hard rush, and sedge species. Floating vegetation consisted of water crow foot, None water plantain Alisma plantago-aquatica, and mares This ditch provided habitat of low suitability.



Waterbody description and suitability **Photograph** Signs of water vole or otter Ditch 113 **Grid reference: TF196384** Ditch 113 is located in C68, in the southern section of the substation. The bank was very shallow, with a profile of less than 45 degrees and depth of 0.5m to 1m, being almost flat in some areas Water was present during the first survey, with no flow. Bankside vegetation was predominantly rushes, and marginal vegetation consisted of common reed, coltsfoot, and ox-eye daisy Leucanthemum vulgare. Access was largely limited to the northern bank due to the density of reeds during both rounds of survey. This ditch provided low habitat suitability. None



Photograph Signs of water vole or otter Waterbody description and suitability Ditch 114 **Grid reference: TF 19163 38742** Ditch 114 formed the border of arable fields C62 and C63 of the Cable Route Corridor. This ditch was dry at the time of both surveys. This ditch was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Photograph Signs of water vole or otter Waterbody description and suitability Ditch 115 Grid reference: TF 18874 38703 Ditch 115 bounds the southern end of arable field C60 of the Cable Route Corridor. This ditch was dry during both rounds of survey. This ditch was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Waterbody description and suitability **Photograph** Signs of water vole or otter Ditch 116 Sightings: None Grid reference: TF 20215 38488 None Ditch 116 is the eastern boundary of arable fields Latrines: C73, C71, C70, and C69 of the Cable Route Corridor. **Burrows:** The earth banks were >2m in depth, 10-20m in width, and steep in profile. One water vole burrow identified in Floating vegetation included duckweed, and September 2024 marginal vegetation common reed. Other bankside species present included common nettle, thistle None Footprints: species, field bindweed, field speedwell, bristly oxtongue, and mallow. Due to the height and density Feeding None of vegetation present, as well as depth of water, remains: survey access was constrained in some areas. Water vole and possible otter signs present in this ditch. Runs/pathw None ays: Possible otter anal jelly identified in Otter anal jelly September 2024



Photograph Signs of water vole or otter Waterbody description and suitability Ditch 117 Grid reference: TF 20009 38503 Ditch 117 forms the boundary between arable fields C70 and C71 of the Cable Route Corridor. This ditch was dry during both surveys undertaken. This ditch was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 118 Grid reference: TF 19803 38461 Ditch 118 is located along the west side of the substation access road, forming the western border of arable fields C70 and C69. The earth banks were 1-2m in depth, 2-5m n width, and had a steep profile. Static water was present during the first round of survey. Bankside vegetation was herbaceous, including cow parsley, common nettle, cleavers, and mustard species. Marginal vegetation mainly consisted of sedge species including perennial ryegrass Lolium perenne. Hawthorn and bramble partially blocked survey along the southeastern side. This ditch provided low suitability habitat.		None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 119 Grid reference: TF 19882 38328 Ditch 119 forms the boundary between arable fields C69 and C70 of the Cable Route Corridor The earth banks were 0.5-1m in depth, 2-5m in width, and steep in profile. Static water was present during the first survey. Bankside vegetation was described as herbaceous, including meadow fox tail, cocksfoot, teasel, and tufted hair grass. Marginal vegetation was dominantly common reed Due to the height of vegetation, bank visibility was severely constrained. This ditch provided habitat with low suitability.		None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Grid reference: TF 20076 38261 Ditch 120 follows on east from ditch 107, forming the boundary between arable fields C69 and C70 of the Cable Route Corridor. The earth banks were 1-2m in depth, 2-5m in width, and steep in profile. Static water was present during the first survey round only. Bankside vegetation was described as bushes and shrubs, including bramble. Marginal vegetation was dominantly common reed. Some areas of the northern bank were obscured due to the presence of trees, species including hawthorn and crack willow. This ditch was considered to be of low suitability.		None



Photograph Waterbody description and suitability Signs of water vole or otter Ditch 121 **Grid reference: TF 19911 38193** Ditch 121 is the southern boundary of arable field C69 of the Cable Route Corridor, adjacent to Vicarage Drove. The earth banks were 1-2m in depth, 2-5m in width, and shallow in profile. Static water was present during the first survey only. Due to access constraints, this ditch could only be surveyed from the northern bank. In addition, the presence of tall grasses, namely common reed. This ditch was considered to be unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Waterbody description and suitability **Photograph** Signs of water vole or otter Ditch 122 **Grid reference TF196382** Ditch 122 is located at the south end of the substation area, C68. The ditch runs between an area of trees at the bottom of the substation, and a small access road. The earth banks were 1-2m deep and 1-2m wide, with a steep profile. Bankside vegetation consisted of tall grasses including meadow foxtail. Marginal vegetation consisted of sedges. There were also areas of bramble scrub. Water was present during the first survey only, with None areas of drying. This ditch provided habitat of low suitability.



Photograph Signs of water vole or otter Waterbody description and suitability Ditch 123 Grid reference: TF 19269 38372 Ditch 123 runs along the south side of Vicarage drove, forming the northern boundary of arable field C74 of the Cable Route Corridor. No water was present in this ditch during either survey, therefore this ditch was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 124 Grid reference: TF 19117 38124 Ditch 124 bounds the western edge of arable field C74 of the Cable Route Corridor. This ditch was dry during both surveys, therefore this ditch was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter.		None



Waterbody description and suitability Photograph Signs of water vole or otter Ditch 125 Grid reference: TF 19283 38092 Ditch 125 runs along the boundary between arable fields C74 and C75 of the Cable Route Corridor. This ditch was dry during both rounds of survey, therefore was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Photograph Signs of water vole or otter Waterbody description and suitability Ditch 126 Grid reference: TF 19451 38067 Ditch 126 is the boundary between arable fields C75 and C76 of the Cable Route Corridor. No water was present in this ditch during either survey rounds, therefore it was considered unsuitable habitat for water vole and otter. None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water	er vole or otter
Ditch 127		Sightings:	None
Grid reference TF196381			
Ditch 127 is located between arable fields C76 and		Latrines:	None
C77 of the Cable Route Corridor.			
The earth ditch banks were 1-2m in depth, 1-2m in		Burrows:	
height, and had a steep profile.			Three water vole burrows identified in April
Bankside vegetation was mainly tall grasses,			2024 and one in August 2024
including meadow foxtail, and marginal vegetation			
was mainly reeds. Water was present during the first round of survey,		Footprints:	None
with a sluggish current.		Feeding	Areas of water vole feeding signs at both
Due to a hedge on the east bank, the ditch was only	- (remains:	burrows in April 2024.
surveyed from the west bank.	The second of th	Terriairis.	burrows iii Aprii 2024.
Water vole signs present.	Man and the second		
		Runs/pathw	None
		ays:	
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Photograph Waterbody description and suitability Signs of water vole or otter Ditch 128 **Grid reference: TF 19487 38321** Ditch 128 is the northern boundary of arable field C75 of the Cable Route Corridor, running along the southern side of Vicarage Drove. The earth banks were >2m in height, 2-5m in width, and steep in profile. Species present included common nettle, cow parsley, hogweed, and common reed. Due to the height of the vegetation, view of the ditch for survey was severely constrained. Therefore, it could not be ascertained whether water was present at the time of survey. None This ditch provided habitat of low suitability.



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 129 Grid reference: TF196382 Ditch 129 is located along the northern boundary of arable field 76. This ditch runs between the northern end of the field and a small access road, which may cause disturbance. The earth banks were 1-2m deep, 2-5m tall, and had a steep profile. Bankside vegetation consisted of tall grasses including meadow foxtail and sedges. Floating vegetation consisted of common water starwort, marigold species Tagetes sp., great willowherb and common reed. This ditch provided habitat of low suitability.		None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 130 Grid reference: TF 19298 37842 Ditch 130 is the southern boundary of arable fields C74, C75, and C76 of the Cable Route Corridor. The earth banks were 1-2m in depth, 2-5m in width, and shallow in profile. Static water was present during the first round of survey. Bankside vegetation was predominantly tall grasses such as false oat grass. Marginal vegetation included common reed. This ditch provided habitat of low suitability.		None



Waterbody description and suitability	Photograph	Signs of water vole or otter
Ditch 131 Grid reference: TF196377 Ditch 131 runs along the southern perimeter of arable field C77 of the Cable Route Corridor. The earth banks were 1-2m in depth, 2-5m in width, and had a steep profile. Water was present during the first round of survey and had a sluggish current. Bankside vegetation consisted of sedges, and marginal vegetation was dominantly reed species, largely common reed. Water was present in this ditch during the first round of survey, and it was noted that it was of poor quality with signs of pollution. This ditch provided habitat of low suitability.		None



5. CONCLUSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

AND

- 5.1.1 Water vole signs were present in ditches 9, 30, 31, 39, 41, 52, 54, 59, 63, 65-67, 69, 72-74, 79-83, 85, 86, 100, 103, 109, 116, and 127.
- 5.1.2 An otter seen in ditch 85 and possible otter signs were present in ditches 30, 100, and 116.
- 5.1.3 The results of the riparian mammal survey have been used to inform the Ecology Chapter of the **Environmental Statement** (**Document ref: 6.2 ES Vol 1. 6.2.7**) which is being submitted in support of the DCO application, assessing the impacts of the Proposed Development (Sections 7.6.59-61 of the Ecology Chapter) and requirement for mitigation (Section 7.7.1 of the Ecology Chapter).



6. REFERENCES

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Drawings















