



LCA

ecological and landscape design consultants

Project Case Studies

Holbeche Brook, Dudley - Ecological Surveys



As part of the proposed deculverting work to Holbeche Brook, Land Care Associates carried out Extended Phase 1 habitat and great crested newt surveys on part of Barrow Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). This site is notable for the richness of its wildlife and habitats as well as significant geological and archaeological features. The initial habitat assessment identified fifteen water bodies (ponds) within 500m of the development site and efforts were concentrated on eight waterbodies with the highest potential for supporting breeding populations of great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*). Given that the presence of great crested newts was definitely established and the sites proximity to nearby Fenns Pools SSSI (a nationally important site for this species), LCA recommended that all ponds and as much of the terrestrial habitat as possible should be protected for the duration of the proposed site works.

