

12 ECOLOGY & HERITAGE

Ecology

- A Phase 1 Ecological Appraisal has been undertaken on this site by MLM Consulting Ltd. This appraisal has been prepared to assess the constraints to the proposed development arising from site ecology.
- Habitats found on site include hedgerow, river bank with scattered trees, river, semi-improved neutral grassland, introduced shrub, buildings and hard standing.
- The appraisal confirmed that the proposed development will not adversely affect the adjacent statutory designated sites or the River Chelmer providing suitable measures are taken to prevent run-off from construction from entering the watercourse.
- The site was found to have the potential to support otter, roosting bat species and breeding birds. An otter survey was undertaken in February 2018. This report confirmed that, whilst this species most likely traverses along this section of river fairly frequently, because of the built up and disturbed nature of this area it is unlikely to be used as a place of shelter and therefore the proposed development is unlikely to significantly disturb or effect otters. Bat Surveys have been undertaken in September 2017, which confirmed there are no bats on site. There is scope to improve the habitat for bats and birds through installation of bat and bird boxes either on existing or new buildings.



Evidence of Otters in the River Chelmer

Heritage

- A detailed Heritage Impact Assessment has been prepared to evaluate historic significance of the existing structures and consider the impact of the proposed development of the Rivermead site will have upon nearby historic buildings/ features.
- The proposal aims to retain the existing 1950s building on Rivermead North, as it is considered, this building is significant in the rich industrial history of this part of Chelmsford along the riverbank.
- Historic features such as the 'pipe bridges' are to be retained as part of the proposal, to further enhance the site's historic interest. Upon Rivermead South lies a small brick-built structure which has been identified by the Council as a significant historic WW2 feature. This structure is to be retained. Proposed landscaping will also enhance its visibility from within and outside the site.



Grade II Listed Mill House

- 'Mill House' has been identified as a Grade II listed building by English Heritage. Impact upon this 18th Century building and its surrounding setting (Mill Pond) has been thoughtfully taken into consideration as part of the design process.