10 TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY

10.1 INTRODUCTION

This section considers how the proposals described in Section 2.2 may affect terrestrial ecology (excluding ornithology, which has been described in Section 9).

No significant terrestrial ecology issues were identified in the scoping report (Royal Haskoning, 2006). Nevertheless, a walkover survey was proposed to identify the habitat types within the proposed cruise terminal and surrounds. A second walkover was undertaken in April 2008 to identify the habitats in the vicinity of the existing cruise carpark.

The report of the Phase 1 Habitat Survey is included in the ES as Appendix D.

10.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

10.2.1 Study Area

The study area covers Falmouth Docks, with particular focus on the terrestrial areas to be affected by the proposed project, as covered in the survey (see Section 10.2.3).

10.2.2 Baseline Data Collection

There was a lack of available baseline terrestrial ecology data for Falmouth Docks. Accordingly, a survey was undertaken.

10.2.3 Survey

An ecological walkover survey of the relevant areas of Falmouth Docks was undertaken in March 2007. Standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology was employed (JNCC, 1990) which involved walking the study area and surrounds and noting each habitat type. This methodology was extended to include searching for habitats that may support fauna species of nature conservation interest. The findings of the survey are presented in Appendix D.

10.2.4 Assessment Criteria and Technique

Impacts to terrestrial ecology have been assessed using the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom which has been drawn up by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM). These guidelines have been developed by IEEM to promote good practice in Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) relating to terrestrial, freshwater and coastal environments to the mean low water mark in the UK. The guidelines can be viewed at http://www.ieem.net/ecia/index.html.

10.2.5 Assessment of Impact Significance

Impact significance has been assessed using the methodology set out in Section 1.4.3 and using the terms identified in Table 1-1.

10.3 BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

10.3.1 Terrestrial Habitat

The Phase 1 Habitat survey identified the following habitats within the study area:

- vegetated walls;
- scrub;
- rough grassland; and
- hardstanding.

The majority of the habitat within Falmouth Docks is hard standing comprised of gravel or concrete. Other habitats identified within Falmouth Docks are common and of low nature conservation interest comprising ruderal, scrub and coastal species.

The rock revetment between the Queens Wharf and Northern Wharf (see Figure 10-1) is dominated by butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with abundant willow (*Salix* sp), frequent gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and occasional holm oak (*Quercus ilex*). This habitat type is patchy, comprises common species which have little potential to supported protected fauna and is therefore considered to be of low nature conservation interest.

Figure 10-1 Vegetated Rock Revetment between Queens Wharf and Northern Wharf (left) and Willow and Gorse Scrub adjacent to Northern Wharf (right)

The car parking areas in the eastern part of the Docks estate comprise hard standing areas of gravel or concrete. This habitat type is of no nature conservation interest due to the absence of flora and fauna, although the seaward edge is situated adjacent to the Fal and Helford Estuaries SAC (see Section 8 on Marine Ecology).

10.3.2 Protected Species Habitat

Suitable habitat for breeding birds, reptiles and bats was searched for during the Phase 1 survey. No suitable habitat for bats or common lizard was identified.

Sub-optimal breeding bird habitat was identified within the study area. This habitat is sparse and exposed to the elements and the docks are relatively noisy from the presence of humans, machinery and traffic. The woodland habitats on Pendennis Point provide more suitable cover, breeding and foraging habitat. Impacts arising from the loss of this habitat are assessed in Section 9 on Ornithology.

10.4 POTENTIAL IMPACTS DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE

There are not anticipated to be any impacts to terrestrial ecology as a result of the construction of the proposed project.

10.5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS DURING THE OPERATIONAL PHASE

There are not anticipated to be any impacts to terrestrial ecology as a result of the operation of the proposed project.