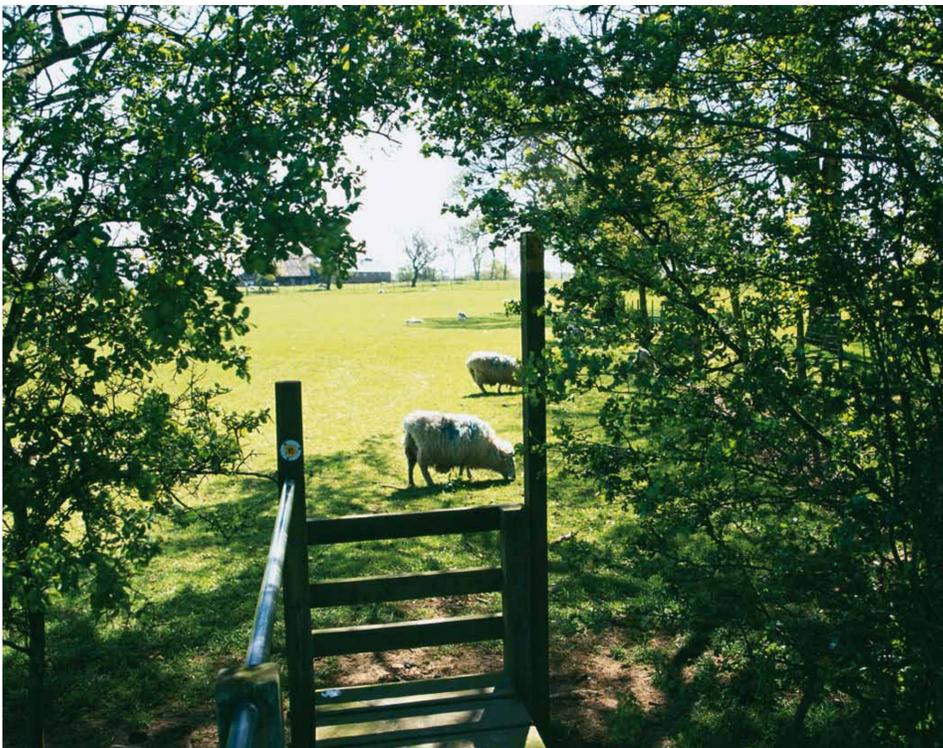


Information about the site we need to take into account

Ecosulis have provided ecological advice and undertaken extensive ecological surveys on site since 2006. Update ecology surveys were undertaken in 2012, the results of which have been used to inform the masterplan for the scheme, and suitable mitigation and management strategies.



The majority of the area proposed for development constitutes pasture, with a small proportion of other habitats including broadleaved woodland, hedgerows, semi-improved grassland (calcareous grassland) and buildings. These habitats are known to support notable and protected species, including species of fungi, bats, reptiles, breeding birds and invertebrates, and badgers are also present on the site.

The informed masterplan has been designed to provide a number of opportunities for building-in positive biodiversity features whilst retaining key existing features. Key on site mitigation includes the retention of the majority of the ecologically important features within the redevelopment site, including hedgerows, woodland and calcareous grassland, and the majority of trees and ditches. Key mitigation inherent in the design includes: The provision of 20m-30m buffer zones around all badger setts with no public access; the provision of 5m buffers along important hedgerows; and creation of new woodland, hedgerows, scrub, wildflower grassland, balancing ponds and swales. All of these features provide opportunities for increasing biodiversity on site, as well as providing high quality green space for residents of the development. Additional mitigation proposals further enhance these inherent design features for wildlife with the aim of minimising the identified impacts on key habitats/species.



Next Steps:

An Ecological Management Plan is being produced for the site, and further separate documents will be prepared to accompany detailed Reserved Matters applications including detailed habitat creation proposals and works Method Statements, to ensure that the ecological interest of the site is maintained and enhanced throughout construction and in the long-term.