

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

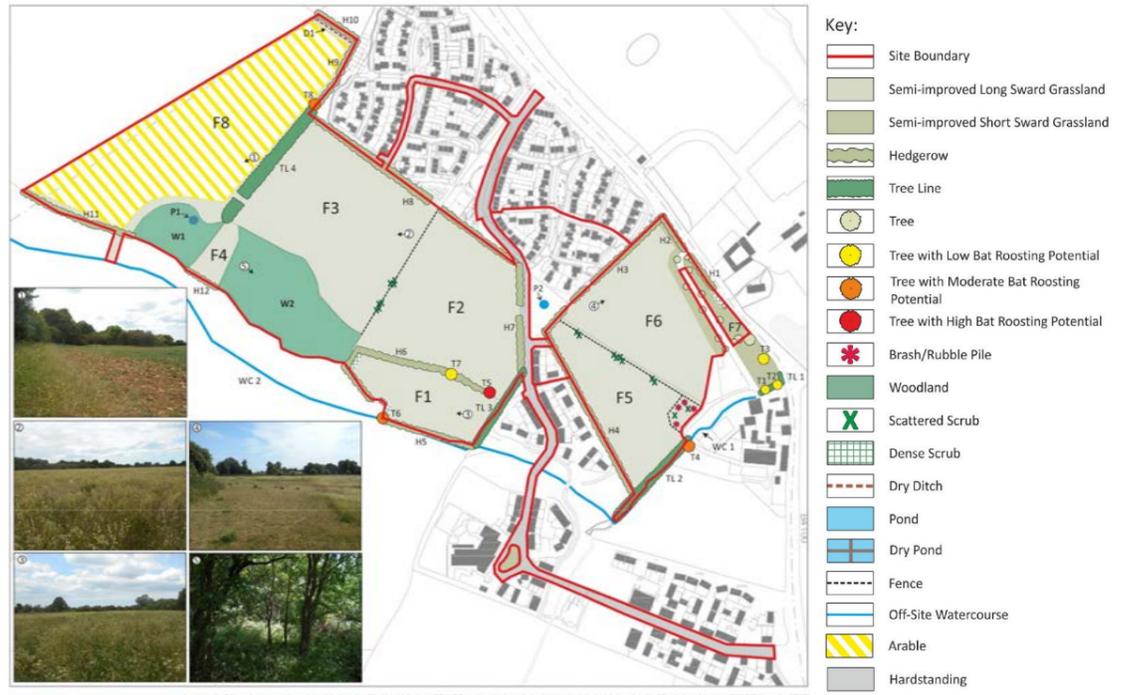


The Site is currently dominated by semi-improved grassland with areas of arable and woodland habitat present largely bound by hedgerows and treelines. Two watercourses lie adjacent to sections of the Site boundary to the south and south-east. The habitats of greatest ecological value both in their own right and with regard to the opportunities they provide for faunal species are the woodlands, hedgerows, tree lines and watercourses, of which the woodland and a number of the hedgerows likely qualify as UK Priority Habitat. These features are largely retained, buffered, and safeguarded under the proposed development. Survey work undertaken at the Site has identified opportunities for roosting, foraging and commuting Bats, Badgers, other mammals, breeding birds, reptiles, Common Toad and Brown Hairstreak Butterfly.

Full details of safeguarding, mitigation and enhancement measures are fully set out within the Biodiversity chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and associated planning application documents. However, opportunities to safeguard, mitigate and enhance include:

- Retention and protection of key habitat features such as the watercourses, woodland, hedgerows and their buffer zones
- Sensitive timings and working methods

- Supervised staged habitat clearance exercises to safely remove protected species from developable areas
- Provision of new and enhanced greenspace and ongoing sensitive management of such habitats
- Provision of new faunal enhancements throughout the Site including bird and bat boxes (integrated and upon retained trees), Hedgehog domes and highways, hibernacula and log-piles for reptiles and amphibians and invertebrate hotels and butterfly banks



SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEM



The Site is primarily located in Flood Zone 1, with a low risk of flooding. There are two small streams located on the east and south boundary of the Site, which introduce a localised area of flood risk associated with river and surface water sources. All proposed built development and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) have been located within the low-risk area.

The existing topography and proposed landscape corridors provide an opportunity to create a system of swales and ponds to mitigate surface water.

The creation of a SuDS network also provides the opportunity for an exciting ecologically rich meadow to enhance biodiversity. Swales and ponds also provide a place for people to enjoy nature and relax.

Through provision of enhanced and new habitats throughout the Site a biodiversity net gain is anticipated for which a minimum 10% net gain is sought. Net gains will be achieved through the enhancement of existing features such as the woodland and hedgerows and creation of new habitats including new native shrub planting, wildflower meadow grassland and the use of SuDS basins to provide wet wildflower meadow/ areas of standing water.

