

3.10 Ecology & Biodiversity

Ecology Strategy

The illustrative masterplan has been developed with consideration to how the existing ecological features and habitats could be protected, enhanced and reprovided as part of the Scheme. A number of strategic goals have been established as part of the ecological strategy for the site:

- protect existing and establish new ecological links between existing and new habitats by creating continuous green spaces and linear tree planting;
- protect mature existing trees and plant diverse species of new trees, including UK native species;
- protect and extend the existing SINC area by creating new woodland habitats and ecotone conditions;
- support local bat and bird populations by creating new forage and habitat opportunities across the site;
- create new habitat areas on site, including wet and dry wildflower rich grasslands;
- provide good quality green roofs to reprovide lost open mosaic habitats and add ecologically valuable grassland habitats;
- utilise SuDS features to create additional ecologically valuable green spaces;
- use a large portion of UK native plant species, in combination with carefully selected non-native species of known ecological value.

Phased development will allow existing flora and fauna to be displaced and then to recolonise the site over time without wholesale clearance. Phase 1A will deliver the largest area of new green infrastructure, the extended Peace Garden, providing a focus, along with the extended SINC, for biodiversity. Interim maintenance of the site prior to development will encourage biodiversity.

