

February 2023

# London Luton Airport Expansion

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**5.10 Strategic Landscape Masterplan**

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5.10 STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

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# Strategic Landscape Masterplan

London Luton Airport Expansion  
Development Consent Order

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Existing field proposed as Replacement Open Space



# Introduction

This Strategic Landscape Masterplan Report provides an illustrative overall masterplan for the Main Application Site and a brief overview of the proposals in each landscape mitigation area proposed. This is illustrative only and for more information the following reports and figures should be referred to (provided within the Environmental Statement (ES)).

- Mitigation Measures set out in Section 14.8 and 14.10 of **Chapter 14** of the ES [TR020001/APP/5.01]
- Landscape Mitigation Plans, provided as **Figure 14.9 - 14.13** of the ES [TR020001/APP/5.03]
- Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan (Outline LBMP), provided as **Appendix 8.2** of the ES [TR020001/APP/5.02]
- Code of Construction Practice, provided as **Appendix 4.2** of the ES [TR020001/APP/5.02]
- Section 4.9 of **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** [TR020001/APP/5.01]
- Works Plans [TR020001/APP/4.04]
- Design Principles Document [TR020001/APP/7.09]
- Public Rights of Way in the Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [TR020001/APP/4.08]
- Bird Strike Risk Assessment, provided as Appendix 8.4 of the ES [TR020001/APP/5.02]

A numbering system has been developed to allow each element of the Proposed Development to be described, and the location and anticipated timing of the work understood for this assessment. This system refers to Work No's and more information explaining this can be found within Section 4.4 of **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** of the ES [TR020001/APP/5.01].



Existing Wigmore Valley Park



# Landscape Design Principles

- 1** Retain, protect and enhance valued landscape, heritage, and biodiversity features
- 2** Improve connectivity between green infrastructure assets, which will improve habitat connectivity and encourage a diversity of wild flora
- 3** Design to avoid or reduce adverse effects on valued features and in instances where features are lost or damaged, restore and enhance these features, including hedgerows and traditional field boundaries.
- 4** Establish new areas of planting, including woodland, scrub, trees and grassland
- 5** Use landscaping and tree planting to provide visual screening to the airport
- 6** Encourage public access through the Replacement Open Space but dissuade access to the Habitat Creation area to encourage wildlife and biodiversity to thrive

- 7** Create a 'country park' character taking inspiration from the surrounding character of the area
- 8** Gradual transition from the formal park in the west towards the rural character in the east. Use of a cohesive palette of materials to link the two.
- 9** Improve existing facilities within Wigmore Valley Park
- 10** Provide opportunities for unstructured or natural play and additional recreational facilities
- 11** The Proposed Development will be designed and developed to minimise the risk of bird strike in accordance with the Bird Strike Risk Assessment
- 12** An inclusive and unifying public realm will be provided to the development incorporating formal hard and soft landscape as well as best practice on water management
- 13** Provide considered circular walks and include links into wider connections, including multi-user routes and ensuring accessibility for all.



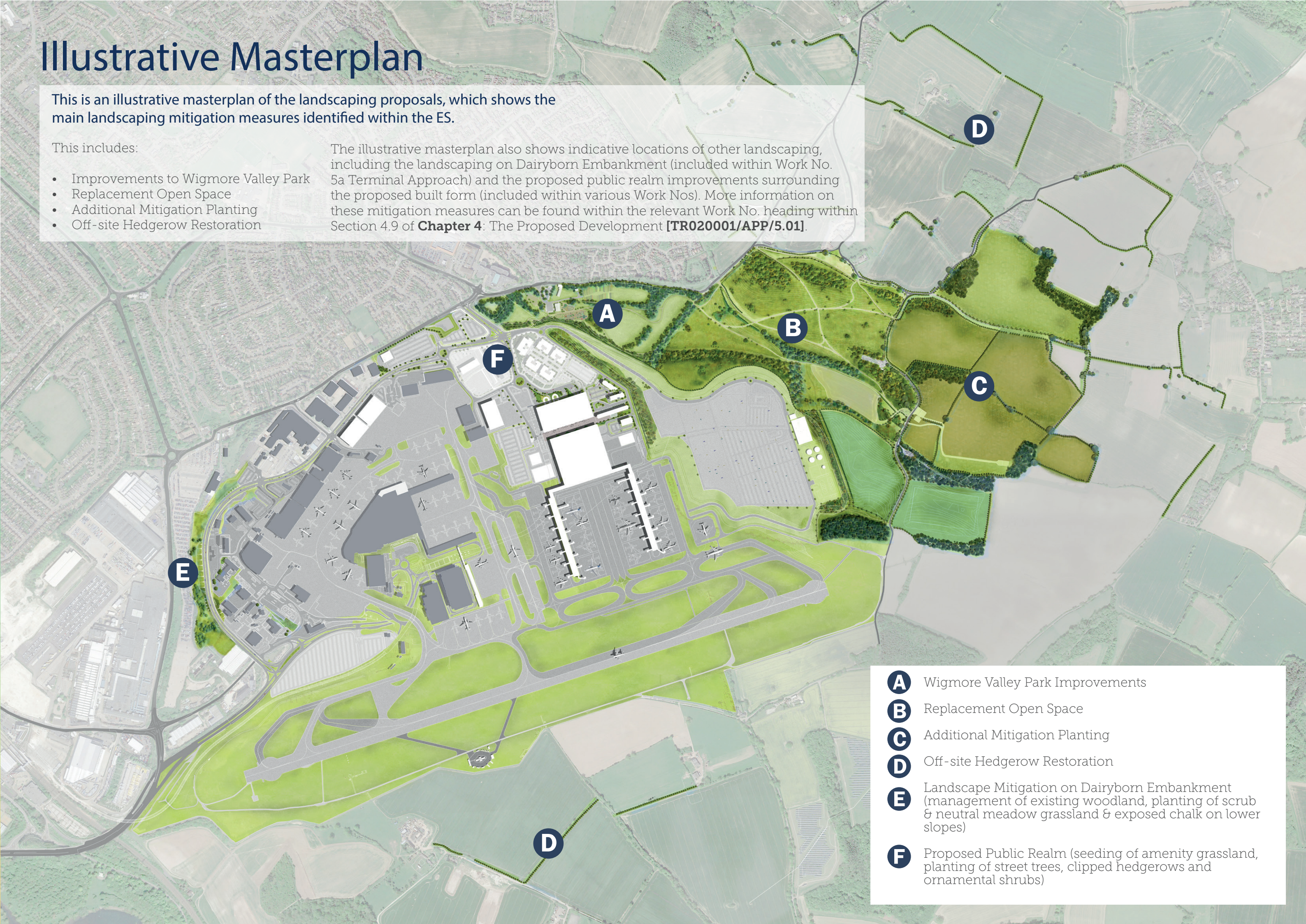
# Illustrative Masterplan

This is an illustrative masterplan of the landscaping proposals, which shows the main landscaping mitigation measures identified within the ES.

This includes:

- Improvements to Wigmore Valley Park
- Replacement Open Space
- Additional Mitigation Planting
- Off-site Hedgerow Restoration

The illustrative masterplan also shows indicative locations of other landscaping, including the landscaping on Dairyborn Embankment (included within Work No. 5a Terminal Approach) and the proposed public realm improvements surrounding the proposed built form (included within various Work Nos). More information on these mitigation measures can be found within the relevant Work No. heading within Section 4.9 of **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development [TR020001/APP/5.01]**.



- A** Wigmore Valley Park Improvements
- B** Replacement Open Space
- C** Additional Mitigation Planting
- D** Off-site Hedgerow Restoration
- E** Landscape Mitigation on Dairyborn Embankment (management of existing woodland, planting of scrub & neutral meadow grassland & exposed chalk on lower slopes)
- F** Proposed Public Realm (seeding of amenity grassland, planting of street trees, clipped hedgerows and ornamental shrubs)



The majority of proposed landscape mitigation is proposed to the north east of the airport, as shown on the illustrative masterplan shown below.

These areas of landscaping aim to:

- Mitigate landscape and visual effects
- Retain, enhance and introduce new habitats
- Maximise the biodiversity of both new and existing habitats
- Promote access across the replacement open space

Detailed landscape mitigation plans are available on the Landscape Mitigation Plans, provided as **Figure 14.9 - 14.13** of the ES [TR020001/APP/5.03].





# Provision of Open Space

This section covers both Work No. 5b(01) Enhancements to existing Wigmore Valley Park and Work No. 5b(02) Replacement Open Space.

This includes retaining and enhancing land within the north and eastern parts of the existing Wigmore Valley Park and providing an area of replacement open space located to the east of the existing green space at Wigmore Valley Park. The character of the area would transition from the more formal park character within Wigmore Valley Park towards a more rural character within the replacement open space, linked together with a cohesive material palette.



- A** Existing main entrance into Wigmore Valley Park retained
- B** Enhanced surfacing and facilities including improved skate park, play facilities and Wigmore Pavilion (proposed under planning consent for Green Horizons Park)
- C** Localised land raising and the construction of an earth bund proposed to the south west of the existing Wigmore Valley Park entrance for screening purposes
- D** Proposed woodland planting
- E** Retained existing woodland
- F** Resurfacing, and in some instances upgrading, of existing Public Rights of Way and creation of new surfaced paths.
- G** Hedgerow restoration
- H** Neutral meadow grassland
- I** Amenity grassland
- J** Proposed scrub

## Wigmore Valley Park

The enhancements to the existing park would improve the connectivity, screening and biodiversity value of the retained parkland area, through the creation of additional surfaced paths linking to the replacement open space provision, and through the planting of additional scrub and woodland vegetation. The park would benefit from enhancements such as the improved skate park, play facilities and Wigmore Pavilion (proposed under planning consent for Green Horizons Park) and would also deliver opportunities for unstructured or natural play, picnicking and exercise.

## The Replacement Open Space

The Replacement Open Space has been located to be accessible to the adjoining communities it serves and a range of users would be encouraged to make use of the space, through increased accessibility and enhancements. Landscape treatments proposed within the Replacement Open Space have been selected in response to existing site conditions and local character guidance and have been positioned strategically to improve habitat connectivity and provide visual screening. It is envisaged that the Replacement Open Space would deliver additional opportunities for unstructured or natural play and would also include some additional recreational facilities.

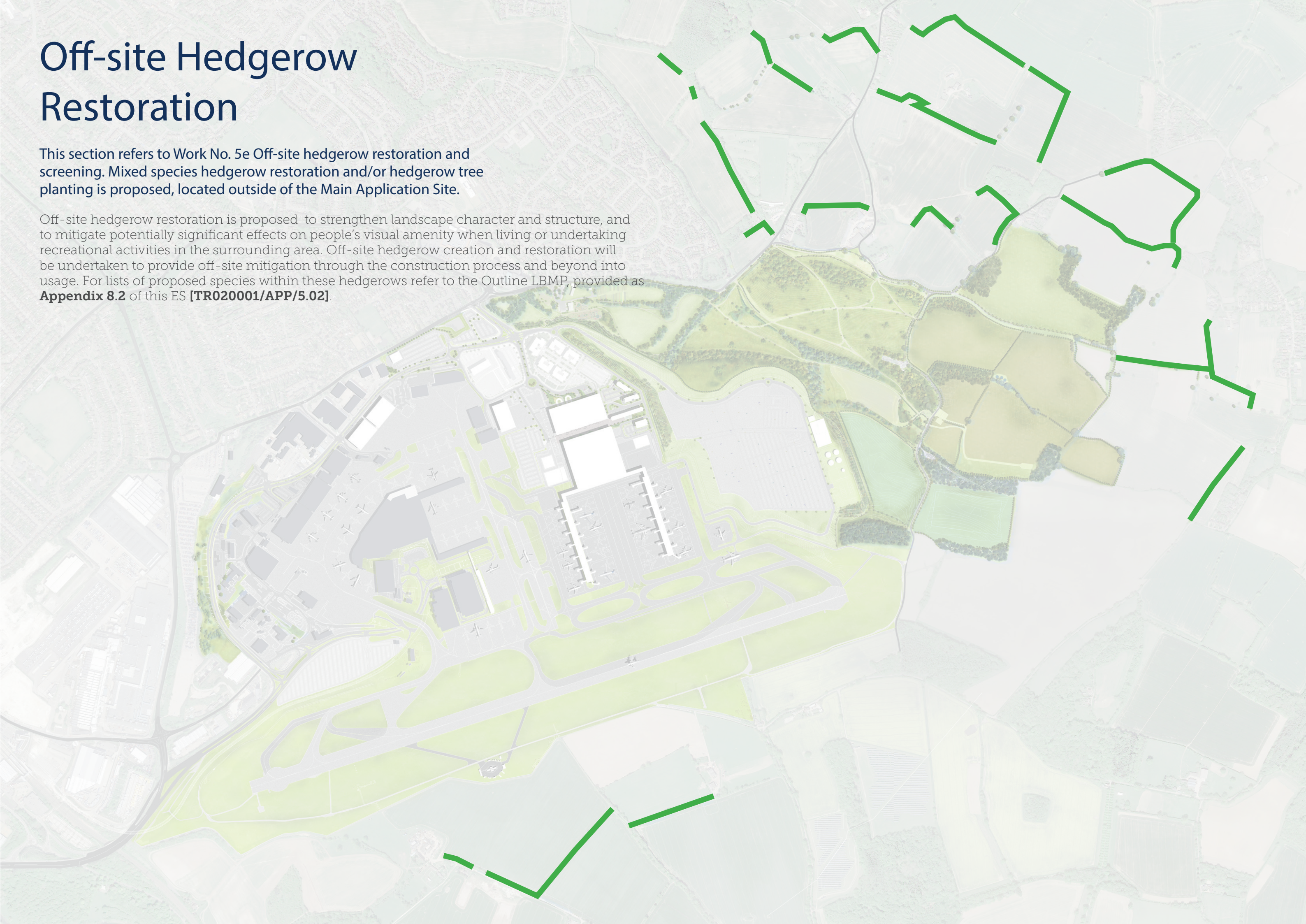
Soft landscaping within Wigmore Valley Park and the Replacement Open Space would include the management of existing woodland, proposed new broadleaved woodland, amenity grassland, neutral meadow grassland,



# Off-site Hedgerow Restoration

This section refers to Work No. 5e Off-site hedgerow restoration and screening. Mixed species hedgerow restoration and/or hedgerow tree planting is proposed, located outside of the Main Application Site.

Off-site hedgerow restoration is proposed to strengthen landscape character and structure, and to mitigate potentially significant effects on people's visual amenity when living or undertaking recreational activities in the surrounding area. Off-site hedgerow creation and restoration will be undertaken to provide off-site mitigation through the construction process and beyond into usage. For lists of proposed species within these hedgerows refer to the Outline LBMP, provided as **Appendix 8.2** of this ES [TR020001/APP/5.02].





# Additional Mitigation Planting



- A** Proposed woodland
- B** Wildlife ponds
- C** Neutral meadow grassland
- D** Neutral grassland (low intensity grazing)
- E** Hedgerow restoration

This section refers to Work No. 5d(01) and 5d(02) Habitat creation. Creation or restoration of mixed species boundary hedgerows with hedgerow trees, creation of neutral meadow grassland and woodland planting.

Neutral meadow grassland would be managed through a mixture of cutting and low-intensity grazing. Woodland would provide screening from adjacent footpaths and would improve habitat connectivity. Small ponds would also be introduced for biodiversity value but not to attract flocks of wetland birds.



# Landscape Restoration



This section refers to Work No. 5c(01) and 5c(02). This area would be excavated and re-graded during construction works and so landscape restoration is proposed following this work.

This restoration would include the seeding of amenity grassland, planting of neutral meadow grassland, broadleaved woodland and mixed-species hedgerows. Calcareous grassland would also be delivered and would be managed by low intensity grazing.



# Ecology & Biodiversity

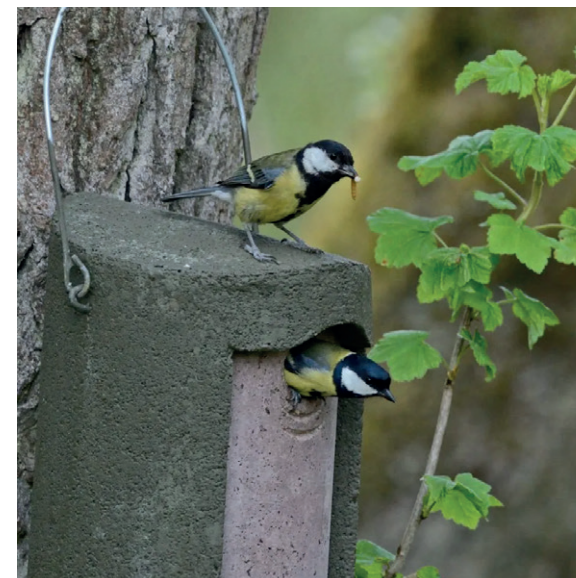
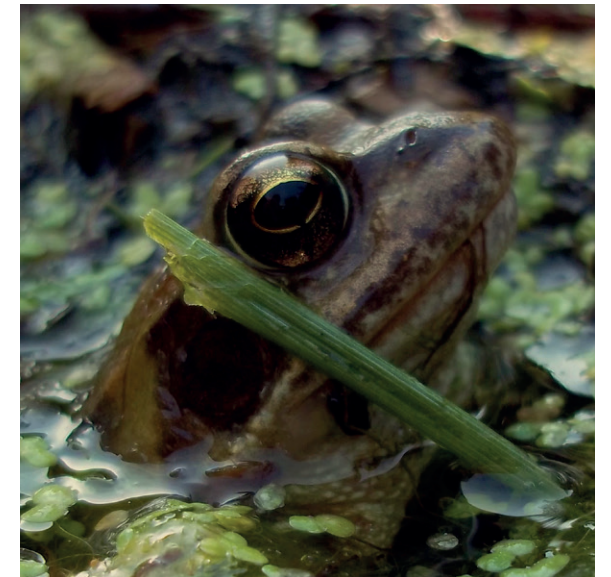
The mosaic of grassland, woodland and pond habitats that will be created and enhanced will provide suitable habitat for a range of species.

This will be managed for 50 years to maximise the biodiversity value of both new and existing habitats, and ensure a successful establishment of vegetation and overall integration of works within the surrounding landscape, adopting a management approach that is appropriate to nature conservation, the users of the open space and its amenity. This habitat creation and enhancement has enabled the Proposed Development to achieve its voluntary commitment of achieving at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain.

Meadow grassland and created and enhanced woodland will provide habitat for invertebrates and in turn foraging habitat for species including badgers, bats and birds. A cluster of small wildlife ponds will be created and suitably managed for species including amphibians and invertebrates. These will be supplemented with hibernacula, bunds and log piles which will be created using surplus materials in strategic locations, including adjacent to the ponds, and will be suitable for species including reptiles, invertebrates, hedgehogs and amphibians. A range of suitable bat and bird boxes will be installed on retained trees to provide enhanced opportunities on the existing trees while newly planted trees mature.

In addition to planting new hedgerows, hedgerow restoration and enhancements of defunct hedgerows will be provided off site in order to improve the hedgerow network within the wider landscape, providing enhanced habitat and connectivity for a range of species.

For more information on species and habitats refer to the Outline LBMP, provided as **Appendix 8.2** of this ES [TR020001/APP/5.02].





# Planting

## Broadleaved Woodland

Woodland tree and shrub species to be planted would be similar to those that exist within the surrounding landscape, in line with the local landscape character and be resilient to climate change.

## Hedgerows

The new hedgerows will be species rich and comprise a mixture of native shrubs and where possible, coppiced stools. The species selected to be planted have been designed to be characteristic of the surrounding area. Hedgerow trees would provide further height and structure within several of the proposed hedgerows.

## Scrub

These scrub areas primarily border areas of woodland to be established within the replacement open space, to provide breeding and foraging habitat and a place of shelter for a range of fauna.

## Ornamental

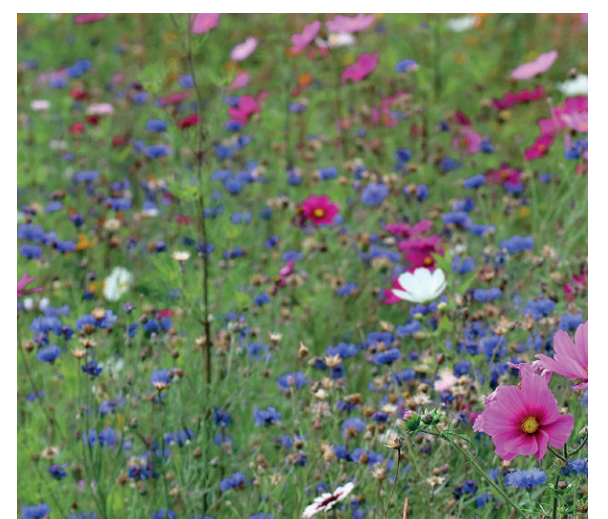
Ornamental shrub and ground cover planting will be concentrated within accent locations throughout the development (e.g. roundabout junctions, entrance points). Detailed plant selection will ensure ground cover shrubs and those of a more compact nature are located nearer to the front of planting beds, with those of a more upright form located further to the rear.

## Orchid Translocation

Orchids would be translocated as part of the works and more information can be found in the Orchid and Invertebrate Mitigation Strategy in **Appendix 8.10** of the ES [TR020001/APP/5.02].

For lists of proposed species within the above habitats, refer to the Outline LBMP, provided as **Appendix 8.2** of this ES [TR020001/APP/5.02].

For further information regarding planting standards refer to the Code of Construction Practice, provided in **Appendix 4.2** of the ES [TR020001/APP/5.02].





# Paths & Public Rights of Way

This section refers to the existing network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), footpaths within the replacement open space and Work Nos. 5b(03), 5b(04), 5b(05), 5b(06) and 5b(07).

Public access within the replacement open space would be encouraged through the resurfacing and in some instances upgrading of existing Public Rights of Way and through the creation of new surfaced paths. Proposals also include new access points to the replacement open space from the surrounding road network and Wigmore Valley Park. Footpaths will be a minimum of 2m width and bridleways will be a minimum of 4m in width and in accordance with the Hertfordshire County Council PRoW Improvement Plan<sup>1</sup>. For more information on PRoW refer to Public Rights of Way in the Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [TR020001/APP/4.08].



**A**

Work No. 5b(03) – Replacement Open Space - New footpath linking Footpath 38 to Footpath 43

**B**

Work No. 5b(04) – Replacement Open Space - New bridleway linking Footpath 43 to Winch Hill Road

**C**

Work No. 5b(05) – Replacement Open Space - New bridleway linking Bridleway 52 with FP41

**D**

New and improved entrances to the Replacement Open Space

**E**

Retained existing main entrance to Wigmore Valley Park

- Existing PRoW (footpath)
- Existing PRoW (bridleway)
- Creation of new PRoW (footpath or bridleway - see descriptions)
- Existing PRoW upgraded from footpath to bridleway: Work no. 5b(06) and 5b(07).
- Indicative informal paths within the Replacement Open Space
- PRoW outside of site boundary
- Chiltern Way Cycle Way



# Surfacing & Furniture



Above are some examples of the type of surfacing and furniture anticipated to be included within the proposed new open space.

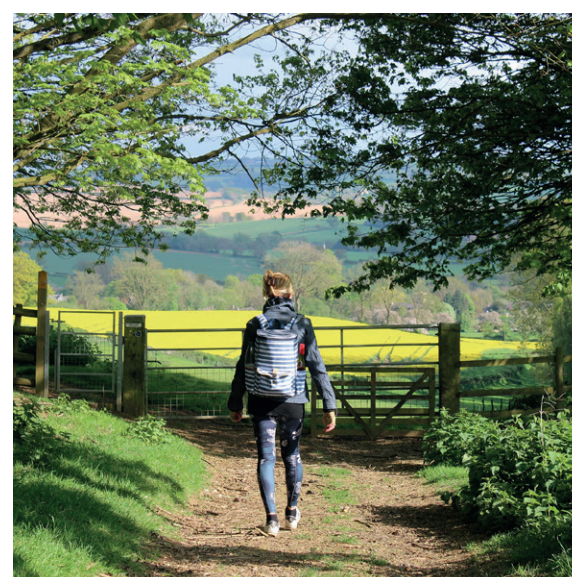
The character is proposed to be that of a ‘country park’, using natural materials and colours which are characteristic of the existing landscape conditions. This includes using materials such as wood, gravel and other permeable surfacing light in colour on surfacing, boundary treatments and furniture. Furniture proposed would include signage and wayfinding, cycle stands, benches, bins and inclusive access gateways as well as the inclusion of public artwork, integrated into the design of the park. The palette of materials would be cohesive across both Wigmore Valley Park and the replacement open space, tying the two characters (formal park within Wigmore Valley Park and more rural character to the east within replacement open space) together.

Surfacing should be kept firm and accessible to all user groups and would be a mixture of surfaced paths and managed grass paths. Surfaced / maintained footpaths and bridleways will be a minimum of 2m (footpaths) or 4m (bridleways) and along with gates and signposting, will be in accordance with all relevant highway guidance and designed to Hertfordshire County Council PRow standards.

For further information regarding the maintenance of furniture refer to the Outline LBMP, provided as **Appendix 8.2** of this ES [TR020001/APP/5.02].



# Facilities & Play



**A range of users would be encouraged to make use of the replacement open space and appropriate facilities would be accommodated to help facilitate these various user groups.**

This includes but is not limited to; families, teenagers, school groups, the elderly, walkers, joggers, plane-spotters, cyclists, skaters and horse riders,

It is envisaged that the replacement open space would deliver additional opportunities for unstructured or natural play and would also include some additional recreational facilities, the specific nature of which is still to be determined but could potentially include additional picnicking facilities, inclusive play equipment, gym equipment or trim-trail measures.

Wigmore Valley Park would also benefit from enhanced facilities such as the improved skate park and play facilities, proposed within planning consent for Green Horizons Park.



# Illustrations



Illustrative Image of country park character of replacement open space





Illustrative Image of potential entrances to replacement open space





Illustrative Image of country park character of replacement open space



References

1 Hertfordshire County Council (2017) Rights of Way Improvement Plan