

## BIODIVERSITY

### ***CE/19 – Biodiversity***

**Establishes the primacy of protected habitats and species reflecting relevant EU Directives, requiring their protection and mitigation of development effects. Also states objective of achieving a net biodiversity gain not just restricted to protected species and habitats, and to restrict development which limits opportunity for public enjoyment of areas of biodiversity value.**

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+++	+++	+++	Very clear statement of purpose consistent with UK and EU legislation. Clause 5 provides for development where this is the public interest, but this does not obviate the need for mitigation of any effects and is consistent with PPG9.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	(+)	+(+)	++(+)	Initial benefit qualified because of disruptive effect of construction on wildlife, but will improve with sensitive redevelopment as proposed in policies CE/20 and CE/21.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	+	+(+)	++	Again there is a clear statement of the need to preserve or enhance access, which will be achieved as a result of this policy and the incorporation of publicly-accessible biodiversity space in an area that is currently private land.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their	~	~	~	

settings				
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	(+)	(+)	(+)	Intrinsically this objective is more to do with the built environment but this policy makes provision for public access for enjoyment of the open areas and is intrinsically supportive at the very least.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	+(+)	++	As for 2.3.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	+	+	+	Contributes to objective of providing good quality leisure facilities.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work	~	~	~	

appropriate to skills, potential and location			
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
<b>Summary of assessment:</b> Establishes a commitment to protect wildlife in general, and protected species and habitats in particular, that are consistent with UK and EU legislation. Ostensibly the policy is concerned with wildlife conservation but certain clauses address links with biodiversity and recreation to encourage residents to use the area.			
<b>Summary of mitigation proposals:</b> Mention of the need for ecological survey and to balance the desire to encourage people to visit these areas with the need to retain quieter, isolated areas for local wildlife might be appropriate in this overarching statement of policy, however both are addressed in CE/20.			
<b>Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects:</b> None identified.			

### **CE/20 – Existing biodiversity features**

Requires the developer(s) to undertake an ecological survey of the site to identify the presence of protected and locally important species and habitats (using the county Biodiversity Action Plan as a reference), to retain existing features key to maintaining and supporting local biodiversity, and to prepare a biodiversity management strategy.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	

2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	+	+	Supportive, although the principal requirements are delivered by policy CSF/19.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	(++)	(++)	(++)	<p>Clearly supportive in principle, especially provisions to retain any biodiversity features of value. The development adjoins the Barnwell Road Local Nature Reserve. The boundary of the Reserve adjoins the green corridor, limiting impacts. However the Reserve has a small amount of border adjoining housing development to the north and south of the far western extent of the green corridor, and minor landscaping may be necessary to limit any impacts. This requirement would need to be reviewed in the ecological survey and addressed through the biodiversity management plan and construction strategy.</p> <p>However the assessment is qualified because the supporting text makes specific mention of three species – the brown hare, grey partridge and skylark – which benefit from the open space of the airport. The concept diagram makes provision for the green corridor linking Coldham's Common through the site to the area south of Teversham, but this will also include recreational features (as per policies CE/17 and CE/18). It is questionable whether the changed biodiversity setting will offer the openness and security offered by the airfield and whether the habitat they require can be provided within the new development. There may need to be habitat compensation for these species at other locations if this is the case and if the ecological survey reveals they are present.</p>
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the	~	~	~	

countryside and wild places				
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	Potential benefits summarised under 3.3.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+	+	Retaining existing biodiversity assets (though primary to benefit local wildlife) will help to intersperse the largely new environment with established features.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local	~	~	~	

people in the community			
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
<p><b>Summary of assessment:</b> Retention of existing biodiversity features is clearly advantageous for local wildlife, and it will contribute to the setting of the urban quarter by interspersing the largely new development with established, older features. Requirement for an ecological survey is clearly essential and supports the key provisions of policy CSF/19. The survey will need to occur early after the initial planning of the site begins to ensure that biodiversity mitigation measures are fitted into the master plan and reflected in other site development guides.</p> <p>However we believe that redevelopment of the site, even with provision of a green corridor, will not provide suitable habitats for the three locally important species mentioned in the supporting text, since redevelopment will result in the loss of a large open area which provides scope for access and limited disturbance to these species. As a result it is likely that habitat compensation will be necessary at another location, possibly in the proposed country park, if the ecological survey confirms they are present on the site.</p> <p><b>Summary of mitigation proposals:</b> See above. Also there may be a need for a limited edge treatment of any housing development either side of the west end of the green corridor as this part of the site adjoins the Barnwell Road Local Nature Reserve. The need for such treatment would be determined by the ecological survey.</p> <p><b>Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects:</b> None identified.</p>			

### CE/21 – New biodiversity features

Incorporates diverse features ranging from the large-scale (green corridor and country park), medium-scale (green fingers within the built-up areas of the site) and local enhancements (bird boxes, safe road crossings) to encourage wildlife to remain on or recolonise the site.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives  
 [abridged in some cases]

Assessment  
 Short Med. Long

Comments / Proposed Mitigation

1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	++	+++	Little to comment on – clearly beneficial.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	+	++	+++	Effect builds with the addition or expansion of the larger facilities and (hopefully) recolonisation of the site by wildlife.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+(+)	++	Benefits proportional to the size of the feature.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+(+)	++	As for 3.2.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	

5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	++	+++	As for 2.3.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	+	+(+)	++	Reflects dual biodiversity / recreation purpose of the larger features.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	+	+	+	Green features are part of the infrastructure in a sense and therefore this is supportive.
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
<b>Summary of assessment:</b> Clearly sustainable in complementing the retained biodiversity features with new ones on a range of scales from the country park to nesting boxes in urban areas, in order to encourage wildlife to be attracted to and (where possible) remain on the site during development.				
<b>Summary of mitigation proposals:</b> None identified.				
<b>Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects:</b> A very straightforward secondary effect that providing a range of features should help to attract a range of species including those currently on site so that local wildlife is indeed diverse.				