

Environment

Following the results of further ecological surveys and feedback from the 2021 public consultation, we've amended our biodiversity mitigation to reflect the updated habitat and species data and to improve habitat function and connectivity within the wider landscape.

Offsite mitigation areas

- We've identified a number of offsite areas for habitat creation. Areas of woodland planting and grassland creation or enhancement are proposed in eight locations.
- These are shown on the 'Proposed changes map'.

Hedgerow improvements

- Our proposed mitigation would focus on enhancing the existing hedgerow network.
- In addition, we would create new hedgerows across the length of the scheme where feasible.
- This would safeguard dormice throughout construction and in the long term.

Woodland management

- We would look to install dormouse boxes in several areas of existing woodland.
- Woodland management, such as coppicing to allow development of ground level vegetation, is also proposed.

