

Wigmore Valley Park

We have worked closely with local stakeholders and listened to the feedback expressed by the local community at our previous consultations to ensure that the proposed new open space meets both the construction and operational requirements of the expanded airport as well as local ambitions for this space.

We have made changes to our plans to allow replacement open space to be delivered to serve the existing community. This includes the following benefits:

- **Minimise earthworks activities near the more frequently used parts of the replacement area of parkland**
- **Protect more of the existing scrub and woodland vegetation on Winch Hill**
- **Ensure valued archaeological and habitat features are not be impacted by construction activities**

By delaying works to construct the new terminal we have also allowed landscape mitigation proposed within the replacement open space greater opportunity to establish, improve habitat connectivity, frame people's views and help screen change beyond its limits. Our proposals focus on the establishment of natural habitats, delivering areas of meadow grassland, native shrub planting, broadleaf woodland, and mixed-species hedgerows with hedgerow trees.

In replacing affected open space, we are committed to:

- **Reproviding space that is at least as good in usefulness, attractiveness, quality, accessibility and at least 10% larger than the current provision**
- **Retaining the existing main entrance into Wigmore Valley Park near to Wigmore Hall/Wigmore Pavilion**
- **Working with the respective authorities and stakeholders to determine suitable arrangements and amenity facilities for the replacement open space**
- **Delivering the replacement open space ahead of other works commencing within the existing parkland**
- **Seeking to minimise the duration of any construction activities that may affect open space, and the duration of any temporary areas of open space**
- **Engaging with local stakeholders on the potential for future community stewardship of a new park, overseen by a new Community Trust**

We have already secured planning permission to provide enhanced facilities: an improved skate park and play facilities; an improved Wigmore Pavilion; and better surfaced footpaths. The park would retain many of the mature trees and much of hedgerow vegetation that defines the east and south east boundary of the existing Wigmore Valley Park. It would encompass several other important landscape features within the surrounding area, including a section of mature hedgerow on Winch Hill.



We would also work with local stakeholders to deliver further features to encourage the surrounding community to use, engage with and be active in the park, including picnic areas, provision for dog walking, and opportunities to explore nature to get a multi-sensory experience.

Informed by feedback from this consultation, this could also include further areas for play or exercise.

We have made changes to our plans so that the remains of an existing Romano-British villa can remain in-situ and will not be impacted by construction activities. We have made further changes to other elements of the proposals to avoid disturbance to a badger sett.

New landscaping will improve habitat connectivity, provide visual screening, and frame people's views. Our current development proposals focus on establishing natural habitats, delivering areas of meadow grassland, native shrub planting, broadleaf woodland, and mixed-species hedgerows with hedgerow trees. In the open space east of Winch Hill Lane, a further area of wildflower grassland would be grazed by livestock to control more aggressive plant species and maintain it as a species-rich environment.

Responding to concerns about the maturity and establishment of new vegetation, we have already seeded some areas, and are proposing to seed and plant up other areas ahead of development consent, and to use some larger trees and plants that are in a more advanced stage of growth.

We recognise that further work is needed to address concerns that have been raised previously, and we plan to continue our work with the relevant stakeholders to address these as we take our proposals forward.

Figure 3.6 Proposed landscape plan

