

# Development Update

Ecology, Biodiversity  
and Open Space  
at Waterbeach

Key Phase 1

Waterbeach

# Development update

- Housebuilder update
- Primary School and School Plaza
- Denny End Road
- Mere Way
- Community centre and interim health



# The Big Picture

- Understanding the wider landscape and context
- Priority species and habitats
- Opportunities to connect "green corridors" for nature
- Building a Vision for the development that supports local nature recovery strategies

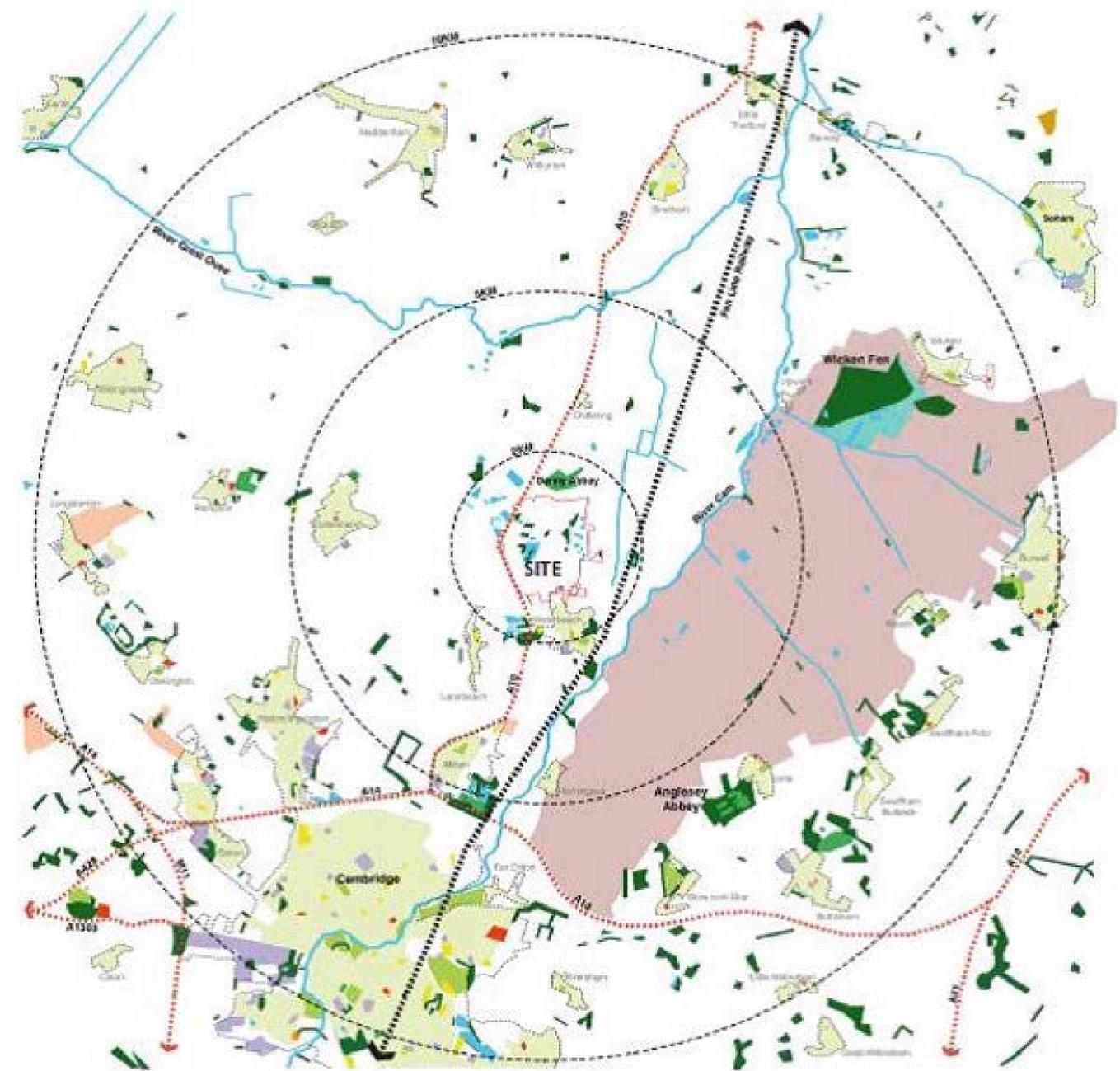
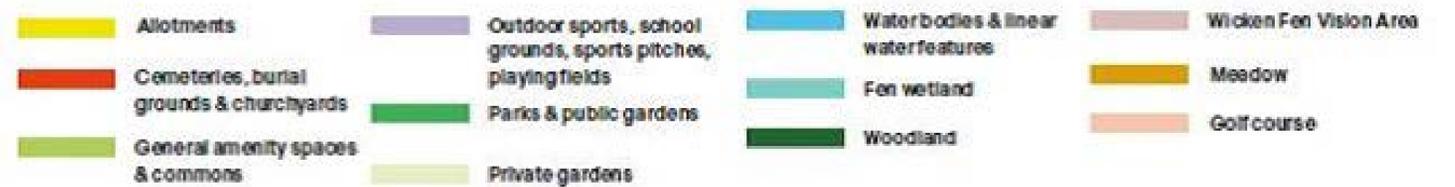


Figure 4. Green Infrastructure sub-regional context



# Defining the development's vision for nature... and people!

- Deep knowledge of the site's flora and fauna
- Protecting the species and habitats there
- Enhancing them through setting a vision, and planning framework
- Carrying out a Biodiversity Audit to set in place the plans to measure those enhancements - working with SCDC Ecologist and the Wildlife Trust.



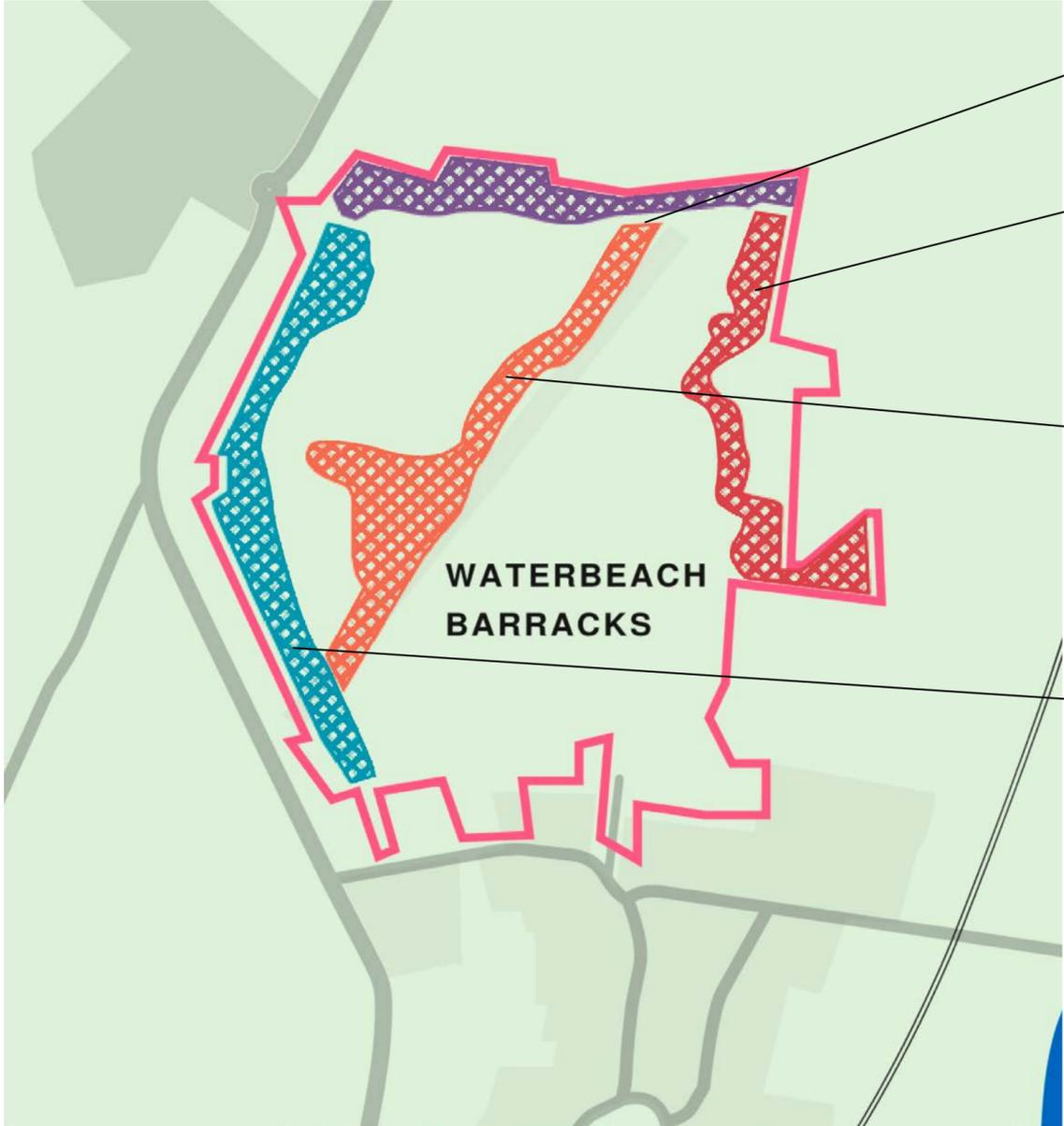
# Making it happen

- From strategy to delivery
- Key Phase 1 detailed planning enables focus on key areas, habitats and species
- Space for nature, space for people and the heritage landscape and connections come together
- Healthy places with nature on their doorstep
- Defining and designing natural areas for people to enjoy and keeping some areas more for nature!



# Our 5 priority areas for nature

Within that wider design of green space, there are 5 areas being managed for nature with specific habitat and species action plans in place



**Northern parkland:** transforming arable fields to species-rich grassland and parklands with traditional wetland areas

**The Royal Engineer's old golf course:** the grassland, bunkers and specimen trees have created an amazing backdrop to this important habitat area, creating a rich and diverse habitat for a wide range of species, and will be further enhanced to support our priority species.

**Lake and runway grassland:** this patchwork of wetlands, meadows and woodland at the heart of Waterbeach will be enhanced to support the kingfishers already using the area, as well as a range of key species groups such as reptiles, bats and amphibians.

**The western bund along the A10:** provides grassland, wetland and trees/shrubs that will be transformed to benefit species including butterflies, moths, common lizard, birds and bats. Enhancements to the Old Tillage waterway, which connects the River Cam to the Old West River and the Fens, will help species like water vole and otter commute through the area.

**Urban ecology:** Waterbeach has been designed so wildlife habitats connect throughout the development; from hedgehog highways through gardens to swift and bat boxes on the homes. Wildlife-friendly gardening booklets in welcome packs and nature walks with our ecologist and the Wildlife Trust will help new residents find out more about local nature and how their gardens can be designed to support wildlife.

# Find out more online



## The lake and runway grassland

Beautiful and tranquil, the lakeside and runway are a patchwork of wetlands, meadows and woodland in the heart of Waterbeach Barracks.

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Priority species at the lake and runway grassland



Kingfisher

Nationally scarce pond skater

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**Kingfisher**  
(*Alcedo atthis*)

Kingfishers are a focus species for the lake and runway grassland area at Waterbeach.

SPECIES FOCUS



Listen to a kingfisher call

[www.waterbeachwb.co.uk](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk)

# Work so far - Our First New Homes for badgers



# Work so far - Planting the first 11,000 of 17,000 trees in phase 1



# Work so far - Homes for birds

Three types of nest box selected for:

- Great, Blue, Marsh and Coal Tits as well as House Sparrows, with internal chambers designed to maintain temperatures and mimic natural nests.
- Starlings providing larger entrances and spacious, well-lit interiors that can also attract Spotted Woodpeckers.
- Open, balcony entrances and wooden nesting chamber for Robins and Wrens – designed to protect against predators.

Housebuilders are also doing their bit with swift bricks, and bat homes, as well as hedgehog highways in fencing

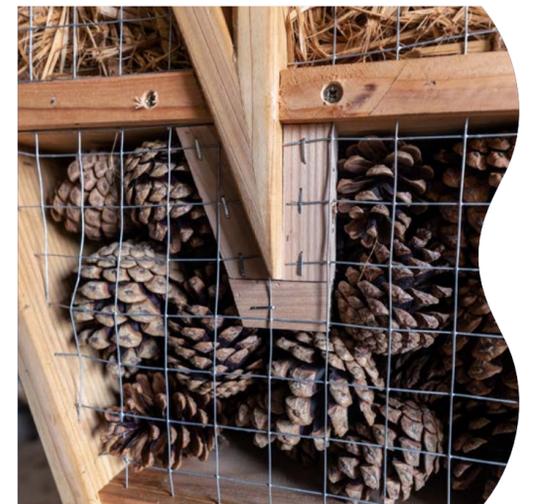


## Work so far - And our bees

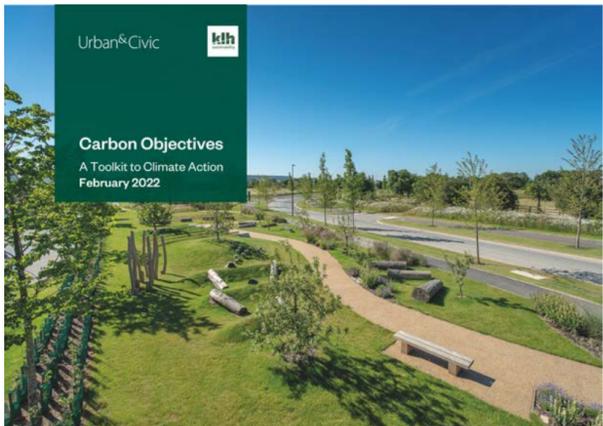
Reflecting the WB call sign of the former airfield - this pollinator will provide homes for Leafcutter, Mason, Solitary and Yellow faced bees, as well as other insects.

And bug hotels - shown below - are dotted throughout the woodland areas and green spaces- made from the wood left over from our woodland management work.

Rather than discard the wood, it is used to create homes for insects. The woodland and grassland areas all now have management plans which put nature at their heart. made from the wood left over from the woodland management that has ensured the inherited woodland is under management plans for nature.



# Delivering a Net Gain for Nature



# And for people



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# Waterbeach