

Environment Topical Discussion – Transcript

Stacey: Thank you for joining this session on environment and we hope that the session is useful to you. Thank you Katy.

Katy: My name is Katy Sutton. I'm part of the engagement consultation team within Arup and I'm leading on this project for the engagement and consultation. So I'm going to run through the ground rules for this session again. Turning on your camera is optional, please mute your microphones if you guys aren't participating, it just reduces background noise. To take part in the event to ask any questions, you guys have to select to raise your hand so you'll see that at the top of your screen there's an emoji with a little hand so just click that if you want to ask any questions, or you can use the chat function as well and just type your questions into the chat. So this event is being recorded as Stacey said for our use. Any kind of disrespectful language and any questions using inappropriate language won't be answered and we will not tolerate any kind of disrespectful language and we will remove you from this meeting if you continue to be to use disrespectful language up. If you guys have any technical issues, just exit and rejoin the event.

that tends to solve most of the issues with Teams and if you have any further questions or further information needed, just email the master planning inbox.

This event is about environment, so we'll be taking any questions about environment, anything of outside that topic, you can email the masterplanning inbox or refer to the FAQs that are available on the BMBC website. So what we'll do is we'll just have a brief run through and reminder of the consultation material, and then we'll open the floor to questions.

So next slide, just quickly reminding you guys who's on the call. So Stacey is the project manager from the Barnsley side. Trevor, is a biodiversity officer from Barnsley then myself, I will be facilitating this event and then Yan-Yee is from the environment team. Next slide Stacey.

Stacey: Thanks Katy. So I thought it would be helpful to start and just recap on what a master Plan framework is and so the Council adopted the local plan in January 2019 and within the local plan, sites MU2 and MU3 at Carlton were allocated as mixed use development sites. There was a policy requirement as part of the local plan that required the production of a masterplan framework. A masterplan framework is a strategic document that sits beneath the local plan. So it's supplementary to the local plan and builds upon the detail and the policies that are set out within the local plan. It provides additional detail on what will be provided on site and it will be setting out expectations in terms of what's expected from any forthcoming planning applications that will be coming forward on the site, such as transport assessments, air quality and noise assessments. And once this masterplan frameworks adopted, we will expect planning applications to be submitted on the site.

As part of that planning application exercise, there will be further opportunity to comment on the emerging detail as part of that. As I said, the Master Plan framework should be seen as supplementary to the local plan and the supplementary planning documents that's already been adopted as part of the local plan together with the national planning policy practice guidance as well.

Can you move to the next slide, please Katy?

So, just to recap on the main goals of the Master Plan Framework. It will seek to deliver around 2000 new homes, a small local shop and 210 place pupil expansion to Carlton Primary Academy. It'll create new and sustainable and distinctive neighbourhoods. It will preserve and enhance Wharncliffe Woodmoor, and deliver a new community garden. It will connect neighborhoods with Fishdam Lane and Royston Lane. It will seek to enhance Church St, Fishdam Lane and Royston Lane as a green gateway into the site. It will also enhance the national cycle network and seek to establish wildlife corridors through the site. It will also implement environmental buffers as noise and visual screening to surrounding uses as well. Thank you Katy.

Yan-Yee: So in terms of biodiversity, the masterplan framework looks to retain and enhance the majority of Wharncliffe Woodmoor and enhancement measures may include things like additional planting of native species to the woodland areas or creation of native hedgerows and trees providing additional connectivity through the site. And in addition, the habitats within the site that have been identified to have high biodiversity value, have been retained. This information was informed by surveys undertaken previously to inform the local plan. As well as an ecological site survey undertaken to help inform the masterplan. Thanks.

Katy: Right, so as I said, it was just going to be a brief introduction to the material, so I think the floor is open to you guys and any questions you may have. I'll run through this again at the end, but just a reminder that the feedback period is open until the 28th of July. So if you haven't submitted your feedback, please do. Either raise your hand or drop something in the chat if you have any questions. Otherwise, we will then wait to hear from you.

I guess out of interest while we're waiting for any questions to come up, the members of the public that have joined, have you guys got a specific interest in environment or specific concern about biodiversity, animals, wildlife? Anything like that?

Attendee: I just wanted to speak to you about that it says the high biodiversity value areas will be retained and so which bits of them exactly are they? The hedgerows that are shown on the map in dark green?

Yan-Yee: Yeah, so if you look at the key on the right hand side, it's the striped bright green areas. They're the areas that have been previously identified and reconfirmed, or identified from update surveys undertaken.

Attendee: So will any of that that you know that that's there now? How much of that will be removed and retained? Will there be a difference or not?

Yan-Yee: No, so that they are the areas that have been highlighted to be retained, so those areas won't be removed, they are retained as is. And then there's also some conversation about potential enhancement areas, so those areas if there's management that could be undertaken that would be better for those areas. Or say for example there's areas of Woodland may be lacking in a particular not large numbers of different tree species. So for example, you might be able to enhance that area by putting other tree species in.

Attendee: OK, because my concern is that there's deer that go on Wharnccliffe Woodmoor, they come down railway lines and they're going onto Wharnccliffe Woodmoor in the night to graze and early mornings. I'm worrying about how their houses at the back of the bakery that are adjacent to the Marsh, how they will implicate the deer, will it put them off from coming to Wharnccliffe Woodmoor. And how can you guarantee that won't happen?

Yan-Yee: So they're coming down from the railway line that's currently existing? So that area has been proposed as a green corridor, so that won't have housing on in those area. The idea of the green corridors is to provide connectivity through the site to enable movement and for wildlife that's actually currently utilising the site.

Attendee: Right, because I've got a map and I've sent it to the masterplanning department and I think Stacey has seen it, I think Trevor has seen it as well. It shows the Northeast Area Council. It's a map from 2017 and it's got wildlife in circular walks on it and it shows circular walk trails, it shows Transpennine trails and there's also environment areas and wildlife corridors. Now these wildlife corridors, they go all way around the MU3 and MU2 site and then on Top Marsh and then they go back onto canal and they go up through Royston. Now how will these continue to be maintained with these houses now being in place on that same site because I know that you're going to put a road down side the bakery and on this map that I'm looking at, that's down as an environmental area. And if that's already being used as a habitat, shouldn't that be retained? Because it'll be more valuable, won't it? If it's being worked on as well by volunteers to increase its biodiversity value.

Katy: Yeah, Trevor. Did you want to jump in?

Trevor: Yes please. Hi we've had quite a few discussions. So the Northeast Area Council wildlife corridors I help them identify and work those up, but that's all gone quiet for the last two or three years, and I don't know what the status of those plans are. So as far as I'm aware, they haven't actually been adopted. They're sort of aspirational, but even within that, I've looked at them again and I didn't see any particular conflict from the MU3 draft masterplan in terms of corridors. Because for example, the route that the national cycle network or the transpennine trail will take through the site, can only be an improvement for that connectivity of wildlife from my point of view.

So yes, whilst I haven't got those Northeast Area Council corridors in front of me, my recollection is that they shouldn't necessarily be put at risk by this development.

Attendee: What about the ones on MU2 because there's not much space on MU2 and there's actually 2 wildlife corridors. One that runs at the back away at school would be and then one where the dyke is and then it's a blue line, which I think is water. I'm not sure there's no key for the blow. Let me show you a map. There's not going to much space to retain those two corridors. There's already geological faults in that site as well at MU2, and to put houses on there as well, there's not going to be much space. Wouldn't it be more beneficial to put the community garden over that side and then the school can use it as well? And then local residents, it's more accessible to them

because that would also help wildlife. Wonder if it will like a community garden rather than houses in such a small space.

Katy: I'm just jumping in there real quick. That comment that about your thoughts on whether community garden should go is a really good comment. And that's the kind of thing that we want to hear in the feedback. So if you haven't submitted your feedback yet, I suggest dropping that into your feedback as well. But, I'll leave it to Trevor and Yan-Yee to answer that.

Trevor: Can I perhaps comment first with respect to the wildlife corridor in MU2 following Carlton Beck, the stream, is already going to be preserved. There shouldn't be any risk to that. We believe it's got water vole in it which are a protected mammal, but the stream and its banks are going to be retained within the development so that isn't risk. I don't recall the other corridor that you talked about?

Attendee: If you look carefully, there is 2 pink stripes going through MU2, not just one. Can you see on there?

Trevor: No, I'm afraid I can't.

Katy: Have you got that map Trevor? Maybe it's worth us taking that bit away and coming back to you.

Attendee: Thank you, at least consider it because it would be unfair on the wildlife, especially I think there's Buzzard somewhere that nest down there and there's hedgehogs always squished at the side of the road. I know that a lot of elderly residents that live in Carlton door walk their dogs around that area. So to improve wildlife on that one section would be really beneficial to community. And if you include it community garden in that as well, there's extra facilities there for people that already live in Carlton as well. Rather than walking all the way down Shaw Lane, because it is quite far in terms of walking for all the people.

Katy: That's some good feedback and we'll take that one away and look into it. And Trevor can have a look at that map as well, is that alright?

Attendee: Yeah, that's brilliant. Thank you.

Katy: We'll move on to a few other questions. So the next question is about independent and unbiased environmental surveys having been carried out, or were they done by Barnsley Council? Yan-Yee, could you talk through the environmental surveys?

Yan-Yee: So Arup were appointed as a consultant to be BMBC so we are independent to the Council themselves. So we undertook a surveys of the whole area to determine what habitat types were there and then subsequently, what fauna could be supported by those habitats. So in answer to the question, yes independent service have been undertaken. Then separate to the masterplan framework, but moving forward in terms of planning applications, individual planning applications will have to have undertaken separate ecology surveys as well to be submitted as part of the planning application.

So that's not part of this masterplan framework, but that's moving forward in terms of individual planning applications.

Trevor: Before we've reached the masterplanning framework process, there was the local plan and in designating sites while allocating new development sites through the local plan, the council procured a set of a preliminary ecological assessments to support those decisions, so that includes all of MU2 and all of MU3. They were produced by Wildscapes, which is the consultancy arm of Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. So that is an independent consultancy and the local planning decisions were based in part upon those ecology surveys as well.

Katy: Great thanks Trevor. Moving on to the next question, I see a comment there about water voles in Carlton Beck, and just anything like that, that's really good local knowledge, so anything like that, please do submit in your feedback. Next question, what is the approximate size width of the buffer zone that already runs parallel with Carlton, Royston Boundary Walk? Is this about the Greenbelt?

Trevor: I think the Royston, Carlton Boundary Walk in certain parts of the site, runs adjacent to the live railway line. So I believe it's just on the West side of the live railway line, certainly South of Shaw Lane. So I'm just trying to remember what the explicit question was. Can you remind me, please?

Katy: Yeah, the attendee has raised their hand so maybe they'll clarify. Ok that's fine we will come back to you. There's comments from an attendee about the community garden and the mosaic habitat. Perfect for MU2 and the water voles as well. Just also worth mentioning that there were habitat surveys done, which identified what those habitats may support and then developers would have to do further surveys as well. It's been mentioned that MU2 is more suitable for community use. Right and then right so Carlton voiced in Boundary walk from the bottom of Spring Lane Trevor onwards through to industrial Industry Rd.

Trevor: I know Spring Rd and I know industry Rd. OK, yes, so it's the line of the stream which is he's otherwise known as Carlton Beck. I didn't know the Royston Carlton Boundary War went along there. I can't actually remember whether we've specified what the width should be, so unless anybody can clarify that for me, that's something we'll have to come back on. But I'm not sure it's actually being specified in that much detail; it'll just have to be a usable corridor for the majority of the smaller species. You know things like water voles and things that use the riparian corridor.

Katy: Thanks Trevor. OK, next question. What input will the Wildlife Trust and Natural England have in any future developments? So Stacy, do you want to talk through planning applications or Yan-Yee go on?

Yan-Yee: Yeah, I was just going to say in terms of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, we have actually spoken to them already regarding the masterplan and we are having conversations in terms of what would be suitable for any enhancement measures that are proposed within MU2 and MU3 that would be beneficial for Carlton Marsh, for example. And there was conversation around certain specific species of trees that would be beneficial to the like Willowtits and the wetland birds that it has been designated for. So in terms of conversations with them, that is already currently

ongoing. Then with Natural England, going back the planning application stage and Natural England will, as a statutory consultee, be consulted on any planning applications that come forward as well. So that's when they'll get involved.

Katy: Great thanks, Yan-Yee. Hopefully that answers your question. Does anybody have any further questions? I know someone is typing right now, so will wait to hear from them.

Trevor: Yeah just to add a little bit more to what Yan-Yee has just said, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are in a little bit of a difficult position because they have two interests, which don't always coincide. The first one is the Council works in partnership with them to manage some of the what you might call wilder green spaces on the Council's behalf. So that includes Wharnccliffe Woodmoor or Carlton Stack and also that bit of Carlton beck running up the side of Carlton Industrial Estate so they have a Land Management role in partnership with us and then separately they also have a sort of lobbying advising role, particularly on planning applications. And sometimes they might disagree with the Council in terms of a planning decision but still, be prepared to manage our land for us and that, and that might be the case here. So we have a very good relationship with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, but it doesn't mean we always agree on everything. So yes, they've helped us manage the water vole habitat alongside Carlton beck. But I know they also have some reservations about the proposed masterplan, so that's just to give a little bit more context, which I think kind of goes in line with the question that was just asked.

Katy: The next question about water voles, is it correct that this area adjacent to the back may be disturbed?

Trevor: The whole idea is to try and leave the back side undisturbed and if anything, enhance and improve it for water voles and I see no reason why the development won't lead to a better riparian corridor for species like the water vole.

Katy: Ok next question. So what consideration to the wildlife in existing community has been given in relation to noise and pollution levels which would increase as a result of this masterplan framework?

Stacey: I can jump in here Katy about in terms of planning applications. So the masterplan framework, as I said that in the presentation, sets out the expectations for developers. When developers are considering their proposals and submitting their planning applications, there'll be a section that deals with noise and how we expected development proposals to consider noise impacts, for existing residents and surrounding uses and what sort of assessments we expect as part of any forthcoming planning applications as well. So what we're saying in the presentation is, the masterplan framework follows on from the local plan and provides additional levels of detail that are site specific, but it doesn't go as far as what a planning application would do in terms of doing in depth technical assessment. It will provide some level of detail but not the full level of detail that you would expect to see at planning application stage and so when those planning applications get submitted for each individual parcel within the masterplan framework in future, as part of those planning applications, noise impact assessments will be expected to be undertaken to assess what impact the proposals are going to have any existing residents and also consider any conflict with

surrounding uses between the industrial estate, for example, existing residents and any additional noise that will be generated as a result of the development that's proposed as well.

Katy: Thanks Stacey. There are some comments and a question from an attendee. So this is about public consultation supplementary planning document, so it's about policy BIO1. So noctule bats were there only bat species listed and no amphibians were listed either, so any of this data relate to Carlton as there are several bats on the site?

Trevor: So I think I think the question was around the fact that the policy BIO1 doesn't explicitly refer to bats in amphibians. But it is implicit, because you can't mention all animal groups in a relatively simple policy. But bats in particular are given great weight because they are European protected species, even though Brexit happened, they've still got a very high degree of protection. The thing about bats is there is still a lot of them around and they'll be flying over almost every green space every night. They're pretty heavily protected because of the rate of decline of their numbers. The key thing is primarily where the roosts. Now there's a lot of woodland, particularly on the Wharncliffe Woodmoor site, but it's relatively young plantation woodland and most of the trees have not reached the sort of maturity that would host a bat roost. However, the planning applications that would come in separately would have to do a specific survey for bat roost potential in those trees. So our generic policies, both the BIO1 policy and the biodiversity SPD, do cover up the key protected species, that includes many amphibians, particularly great crested newts, but all sorts of bird species as well. So there's all sorts more surveys that would have to come in at planning application stage.

Yan-Yee: I was just going to add as well, in terms when planning applications are put forward, records from the local records centre are requested as part of the preliminary ecological appraisal, which is the ecology report that is submitted as part of the planning application and those local records do form part of the assessment of what further surveys may be required on site as well. So that information is requested from a local record centre, whilst the report is undertaken and submitted so they're the most up-to-date records that would be requested from a local record centre.

Attendee: Do you know all the how you said about your biological records centre? Well prior to us doing this campaign, a lot of people didn't know how to log their sightings with the Biological records centre. So I'm only assuming I don't know this for a fact, but a lot of sightings are going unregistered because people they take the pictures but they don't always register the sightings. And I'm sure Trevor will agree with me on that and we've been using I naturalist app to log where things are, but I'm not sure if that does go through to the record centre or not so there could be loads of data that people have got, just that on their computers, that's not actually going to record centre. So that when developments are happening not just in Barnsley but all over that country, you know we're losing as wildlife. And I mean stating nature Report 2019, that lays it all out about how many species are in decline. Like bats, why are bats in decline? Because their habitats are being destroyed and the diets you know the things that they eat, the bugs and things, pesticides, everything. It all contributes and you know we need to be making sure that every single step is followed precisely and that

every single bit of wildlife is acknowledged and recognised and trying like protect because we have got it got an infinite amount of wildlife.

Katy: Thank you for voicing your concerns and I just wanted to stop you because I think you've asked several questions so I want to make sure we cover them. So that first question was about the records centre, can we answer that one?

Trevor: Yeah, I can answer that one. So Barnsley council funds Barnsley Biological records centre and we have a steering group which oversees the record centre made up of independent people, including some independent professional ecologists and members of the local nature conservation community. And they acknowledge that there are some serious gaps in the database and we do seek to try and gain new surveys to cover some of the gaps, but with the best will in the world, it can't possibly do that. And so attendee, you and I have discussed your records and the fact that you weren't aware the record centre existed. That's not a surprise I would think a lot of Barnsley probably doesn't know exists, so we've concentrated on trying to get more key records on there, particularly the ones that might affect your planning decisions and we can help people get their records onto there. And bearing in mind, the planning applications have yet to come in, any records sightings that people have got, I can help people get those onto our record centre so please get them in now. You also talked about some why bat species are numbers are declining and loss of habitat. Well, I would agree with you on that. Some people will have heard of the biodiversity net gain initiative, which the Planning Authority is employing on the current masterplan site and all the masterplan areas. Which means in a measurable way, we should end up with more habitat in terms of quality and area, when you do a multiplication between the two, you should end up with more for biodiversity after the development than before, which sounds counter intuitive and I have to admit I was a quite a late convert to this, but the old ways of measuring the biodiversity has not been working through the planning system. I genuinely think that biodiversity net gain is a system that can do a lot for biodiversity, and we're going to have 10% biodiversity net gain, as a result of this. So actually, although you will end up with a smaller green space, it will be a higher quality, so hopefully the bats that are around will have more habitat feed over that will support more insects.

Attendee: Yeah, I agree with that, but you did say that bit less space and animals need as much space as we do so when you're figuring into territories and things like that, you know there's going to be more conflict between species and things like that as well. So it you know they need space. And I do agree that you know a better quality habitats better. But I also think a bigger, better quality habitat would be even better.

Trevor: I see where you're coming from but take that parcel of land north of Shaw Lane, that you can see in the image there, that's an arable field. Now when that's got the crop in it, ecologists often call that sort of habitat a green desert, because, yes, it's green, but it support very minimal biodiversity value. And you could take, say, 1/4 of that site develop the other 3/4 into housing and say save a quarter of it and make that into really good biodiverse grassland and in my opinion, and the biodiversity net gain process says you end up with a better outcome than you had before.

Attendee: Well can't you just put out houses on that one field then and then? It's all the way from Marsh and everything. You know, because this the one near railway

bridge, this is just a farmers field as well, you know, that wall that I told you about Trevor? The railway line that goes the old railway line, that's where that old wall is where those oils out that I told you about. And then those hedges that are like took north of there, they've got loads of different bird species in them. They shouldn't be touched but the actual field there there's the dyke running through it.

Trevor: In terms of what gets allocated and developed and what doesn't, my role is to feed in the biodiversity issues into the equation and then it's for colleagues who have more of an overview and working with Arup to try and identify what the best balance is, what the best compromises are. So I'm not best placed to say where the housing should or shouldn't be.

Stacey: I think it's important to say at this point now, where participants have a strong view about which areas of land are more valuable from a nature conservation perspective or otherwise, then they're the sort of comments that need to be fed into consultation feedback because they can be taken account of. This is what we were discussing when we had this telephone call earlier this week about so rather than focusing on fighting the development, which I know, some people might still do, including yourself. We're consulting on what the framework will look like and what the development will shape up like, rather than whether it's going to happen. Comments focused on where the best location for housing is within the site, versus where the best areas for nature conservation and where's the best areas for new play areas, for example, or the community garden, are really valuable feedback as part of the consultation feedback that can be taken into account in development of the final masterplan framework.

Attendee: Yeah, thank you because I mean we don't want it building on, but it's a case that minute we feel like we're going to get it forced upon us. And you know we don't want that to happen and then it all and it just get put where it where it's you, where you guys choose without minimal input from us. You know it's sad for us. Because we don't want you to build, we don't because this all the impact, health and pollution and congestion and stuff it just saw, isn't it hard for those? But I don't get your point. I don't see that it's better to contribute some constructive rather than just dismiss it all time, I do get that.

Katy: Thanks. Please do submit your feedback, they're all really useful comments. So next question about the most recent survey, where are the most recent surveys? I don't know if this is about the location of where the surveys were? But I think the most recent surveys were all taken across the whole of the MU2 and MU3 sites, is that right Yan-Yee?

Yan-Yee: So we went out and did an ecology walkover survey and included all of MU2, MU3 and so just building on the information as well that Trevor mentioned as well that informed the local plan.

Katy: Great, hopefully that answered the question. There's a comment about Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed on MU2 and also in areas of MU3, so how will that be dealt with?

Yan-Yee: I can answer that. So in terms of invasive species, when any construction occurs, they'll have to undertake any works using a method statement, so that ensures the invasive species aren't spread off site. But as part of the enhancement measures that could be made on site, management of invasives will actually enhance biodiversity on site so that's likely something that would get recommended in terms of management of invasives and just a removal of them will increase biodiversity on site.

Katy: Thanks Yan-Yee. So following up on the previous question, the attendee is wanting to see the surveys, is that information going to be reported anywhere in an environmental report, or anything like that.

Stacey: I don't think we've made them available as part of public consultation activity, but I can't see any reason why we couldn't make those available on request. And that's something that I'm definitely happy to explore, so leave that with me. I'll check whether there's any reasons why we can't share that with you. And then if so, then I'll email them directly as we've got your contract details.

Katy: I think sections may have to be redacted. Is that right?

Stacey: Yeah, potentially we might have to do a bit of a redaction exercise, if there's any personal information or anything on there, but I'll definitely. I'll come back to you tomorrow via email, just to let you know, in principle whether I can share those with you and if they need to be redacted, you might need to give me a few days to do that exercise, and then I can share them with you.

Katy: Yeah, I'm thinking about protected species as well Stacey, badger sets.

Stacey: Ah yes of course.

Yan-Yee: Yeah any badger records and then uh some schedule 1 bird species would have to be redacted.

Katy: Yeah, so just a heads up, but some sections will be redacted. So just looking for the next question, anything anybody wants to raise? So one question about the beck and the protection from pollution from the industrial estate.

Trevor: In a previous life, I was a river pollution control officer and I've been visiting Carlton Industrial Estate for many years prior to this organisation. So I'm familiar with some of the issues relating to Carlton Industrial Estate and there has been some chronic pollution in that area. I don't know if those have been resolved because I don't do that job anymore, but if we've got water vole in there, then the current level of pollution can't be particularly bad, so I'm just wondering if the question is talking about some an increased threat from the masterplan development.

The thing is, the masterplan isn't inviting anybody to pollute and it's covered by separate legislation regulated by either the Environment Agency or Yorkshire Water. When it comes to impacts on the watercourse, the Council has a role in terms of air pollution or noise pollution, which is outside of my area of expertise, but pollution control in the Council and the Environment Agency are statutory consultees, so they

will be involved in the planning process anyway. Again, I'm stepping outside of my work area, so maybe Stacey wants to comment some further on that.

Katy: Just to add, reporting raw sewage flowing into the beck would be to the Environment Agency. So a question about passage under roads for hedgehogs in the Carlton area, kingfisher and barn owl. Please drop that into the feedback, would be great to have a list of all this kind of local knowledge that you have, and have it on record. How do we deal with hedgehogs at the moment, Trevor?

Trevor: I'm not exactly sure I know what you mean about dealing with. If, I mean that if a road had gone right through the middle of Wharncliffe Woodmoor then we would have required a wildlife corridor probably going underneath it for terrestrial animals. But, that's not on the cards, as you can see. We haven't created any hedgehog underpasses on other roads in the borough, but we have put in toad underpasses so you know more aquatic habitat. But, then where that was done previously was some different types of habitats, so given that the road the access Rd through the housing, he's going to be in a sort of residential area. I don't think it's really appropriate. I don't think it's justifiable really, because at the end of the day, we've already got roads going through the whole of the borough. Most of the built up area already. I think it's a question of providing good quality habitat that gives hedgehogs the chance to continue to thrive and breed and spread out from where they already are. And we're already in touch with the local hedgehog group to try and do that. And we've supported Hedgehog releases locally, so it is something that we are interested in. The hedgehog is a Barnsley diversity action plan species and I see no reason why it won't keep to be a target species that we want to help preserve and conserve.

Katy: Thank you Trevor. Next question. How will the watercourse that runs through and under Wharncliffe Woodmoor be protected?

Yan-Yee: Is this a watercourse that is already culverted under underneath the wood. I mean the watercourses themselves within Wharncliffe Woodmoor aren't being developed, and then, the section of the beck that currently runs through the arable field, has also been earmarked for retention. And, as Trevor previously mentioned in terms of ensuring that there is a buffer come from the riparian zone. So that's the terrestrial habitat that runs alongside the beck itself. There will be a protection for a corridor of like trees or Scrabble, grass, and that runs adjacent to the beck as well. So, the beck itself would be protected as well as some of the habitat that is directly adjacent to it as well.

Katy: OK, thanks, Yan-Yee. An attendee has a question about will more detailed environmental studies include the impact on the surrounding areas and villages? I guess that's one is for Stacey.

Stacey: Yeah, I am just going to point out in response to that question about the likelihood of an environmental screening being undertaken due to the scale of the sites collectively at planning application stage and in the chance that, that might trigger a need for a full environmental impact assessment. What the screening exercise does is consider whether the development as proposed and results in an environmental impact and triggers the need for a full environmental impact assessment. And then once the environmental impact assessments undertaken that goes through the impacts and

ascertains what mitigations are required in terms of planning application response to that.

Katy: OK, thank you Stacey. A few more comments from an attendee about animals in the area. Again useful information to know so thank you. Then there's a question here about a wildlife corridor report and whether we've seen that, might be one for you Trevor.

Trevor: It's not ringing any bells.

Katy: I will get the attendee to send that across and we can have a look at it. Thank you for that. The main sewage system underneath MU2 how will this be dealt with, that might be morally related to site conditions? And, I don't know Stacey, if you can answer that, but it might be one that we have to take away.

Stacey: Yeah, I think it's probably one to take away, but just explaining that we have sort of undertaken a full analysis of any site constraints and opportunities, and that includes both foul and clean water within that. So looking at opportunities to connect to existing works for example, so it has been factored into the master plan framework. But I'm not a specialist in that area to be able to respond to that specific question now so I think it's one to take away Katy.

Katy: Yep, that's fine. So we've got three now to take away. Come back to various people on. Right, an attendee has a few comments here about hedgehogs being released and then let's see a question about biodiversity plan and why hasn't that been updated prior to the local plan, Trevor?

Trevor: Yeah thanks Katy. I don't think I was aware that any hedgehogs had been released in Carlton. I know a lady we work in partnership with her. I mean, I call her the local hedgehog lady. She's doing sterling work around Barnsley. And she has consulted me and others about releases on some Barnsley council green spaces. I wasn't aware any had been released. I don't think I was aware any had been released on Wharncliffe Woodmoor. And since you first raised that issue, I've tried to speak to her and I've not managed to have that conversation yet, but I don't think I was aware of that. Even if there were hedgehogs released on Wharncliffe Woodmoor, it would be a showstopper in planning terms, because if there is quite a high density of hedgehogs, they can still be trapped out and translocated to other appropriate sites. So that's true of many species. So in planning terms, that wouldn't be a showstopper, but we'll find out what the level is. I'll speak to her, I'll get that information and that can feed into the process. As regards the biodiversity action plan that was scheduled to run from 2008 to 2012, and then be updated, it's a document that is published by Barnsley Biodiversity Trust. Now, whilst the Council has adopted it as part of the evidence base for the local plan, it's not a document that's within our control. So we have advised and encouraged Barnsley biodiversity trust to update the document on many occasions, and they do want to. They just haven't managed to complete it yet. It's been going through a sort of a steady, slow process for many years. But it's not something that's within our control. But I have fed forward the concerns that have been raised through the master plan, to the trust and I just hope that they will publish a new version.

Katy: OK, thanks Trevor. I think a few more comments from an attendee about that conversation she had with her. So yeah, I think just probably take that away and you are trying to speak with her, so that's fine. Next kind of question/comment from an attendee. A protected species with most protected species have wings. How the current wildlife, food and hunting corridor going to be maintained and improved so birds can't be trapped.

Yan-Yee: I could take that one. As I mentioned earlier in terms of the actual site itself, quite a few of the areas have been already earmarked in terms of biodiverse areas being retained and then any of the kind of green corridors would either have enhancement, such as hedgerows or lines of trees and so that will provide additional habitat for roosting birds and foraging as well. Then as I mentioned earlier there has been conversations with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust about what would be suitable in terms the species that would be planted for enhancement. That would be relevant and would be used by any of the wetland birds that are using Carlton Marsh at the moment.

Katy: Thank you, we have a comment/question about safeguarding in place for priority species in Barnsley. Is there anything in place for priority species at the moment in Barnsley Trevor?

Trevor: Of the simplest way to answer that in terms of the planning process is that there's an awful lot, so we have regards to the national hierarchy of priority and protected species with the European protected species at the top. Like all bat species, great crested newts, for example. And where they're known to be roosting or nesting or whatever. The breeding area is we have particular regard so that's why we do. The initial ecology reports and why we why we will be requiring the more detailed ones at planning application stage. So I've referred already to bats, for example, and why it's unlikely that they're actually roosting on for example, on Wharnccliffe Woodmoor. So we follow the national guidance in terms of both what the priority and protected species are, and then how you go about protecting them. So there's an awful lot in place. We also work in partnership with Barnsley Biodiversity Trust and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and others. There's no better example of that than the fact that Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve has just been incorporated into what will be a new site of special scientific interest which covers low to the wetlands down the Dearne Valley like old moore, which is primarily about wetland bird species and those sort of habitats. We've encouraged the stage that we've reached the site of Special Scientific Interest has been notified by Natural England, which means it's not quite formally designated yet. It probably will be, but in the meantime, those subsites if you like, like Carlton marsh, already have the statutory protection in place, so that's why we're working in partnership and why people like Natural England will be consultees on not only the master plan, but also the planning applications.

Katy: Thanks Trevor, so an attendee has got a question here about can the community be involved in the planting and rewilding please? I think that's Stacey.

Stacey: Yeah, I was just going to say about future stewardship of green spaces across all the master plan sites we're being clear within the text of the master plan that our preferred maintenance arrangements for large scale green spaces like one Wharnccliffe Woodmoor for example, that it be managed by a charitable trust or organization that relies on volunteer activity such as Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. So as Trevor has already

said, we are working with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in terms of them helping us manage the site. And we're also having conversations with them as well about the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of that site. And so I think that's a really good idea to get residents involved. It's something that we're really keen to happen, and so I would definitely encourage you to get involved with organisations like Yorkshire Wildlife Trust if you are not already, I suspect that many of you will be and I'm happy to put you in touch with that organization if need be, and I'm sure that Trevor would be as well.

Katy: Thanks Stacey, good question there. So it was said there would be an ecologist on site during clearings. At Hoyland there are trees removed during nesting without an ecologist present. Do we have any comments on that, and do we know anything about that? Trevor, I think I'll go to you first.

Trevor: With respect to the Hoyland development, I'm yet to see any proof that there wasn't an ecologist on site. That's not to say there wasn't, it's just that once the planning permission has been given, for example for the Hermes development or some of the other ones that have already started, Hoyland. once the planning permission has been given, if the developer then goes ahead and clears some vegetation where there is an active nest, then that's an offence under the wildlife and Countryside Act. And the regulator of that is the police or the enforcement authority. So I've pointed people towards making reports to the to the police if that's what they think, but I've not actually seen any evidence that that that that was the case, so I can't comment on that. With respect to an attendee saying that an ecologist should be on site. I think it is likely to be an offer that will be accepted, well made and accepted by the planning authority in these big developments. They're what's called an ecological clerk of works will be present during the vegetation clearance process, so I hope that will be offered and we'll be encouraging it. And obviously it would be accepted. It would be good practice.

Yan-Yee: I'd just like to add as well, and again, I'm not saying that there wasn't an ecologist on site, but it may have been that the areas had already been checked by an ecologist and the ecologist has then given the contractors the go ahead to actually do the vegetation removal and so it could have been that they were there either the day before or the morning of the vegetation clearance, haven't recorded any nesting activity by breeding birds, and therefore they've given the thumbs up to the contractors to do the vegetation removal as well.

Katy: Thanks, Yan-Yee another way to think about that up. Any other questions about this masterplan, framework, environment, anything I can see an attendee is typing so we'll wait just a couple seconds for that to come in. Right, so will the survey's for ecology be carried out during the right season. So I think Yan-Yee we can go straight over to you.

Yan-yee: Yeah, so the preliminary ecological appraisal, which is the initial survey that you undertake. You can undertake that at any time of year, but any further surveys, those surveys in particular. So things like bats up. Or, if you've got some areas where you need to undertake detailed botanical survey and they do require to be undertaken at certain times of year, in terms of the reporting we always report, according to certain guidelines that we need to work too. And then it's the local planning authority who can

also pick that up in terms of the planning application and push back on that if the surveys have been undertaken out of season and insufficient justification has been provided for that.

Katy: Brill, thanks. I see one more person typing. But how, long do ecology surveys, particularly tree surveys last?

Yan-Yee: I presume that is that in relation to doing a nesting bird survey on say some trees or shrubs, I'm guessing?

Katy: Yes, why don't you cover that and we can see if they have a follow up question.

Yan-Yee: We generally say up to a day two days prior to any vegetation being removed from, it also depends on what period of the nesting bird season you're in as well, what the weather has been like as well. So for example this year we had a fairly warm up start of spring and prior to March so, we'd recorded birds starting to nest in February and so. We actually had an incident of a project where we'd already recommended that they do a nesting bird checks because we'd already noted the birds breeding. But then, you know, later on in the year when birds are kind of winding down and maybe not nesting as frequently, you could extend the time in which year you undertake the nesting bird survey and then recommend that the vegetation is then removed.

Katy: Great, thank you Trevor anything to add there? Yan-Yee covered it?

Trevor: Well, I think she's covered the birds aspect, just to complete that with respect to bat roosts. Then the surveys last for up to two years or if it's about the general habitat of trees, then the national standard is generally thought to be not more than four years to reassess the habitat.

Katy: I think it was about tree species so I think you just covered that one, thank you. Let's see flora and fauna have they been recently surveyed? So, Bluebells mentioned on the Carlton Royston boundary walk.

Yan-Yee: I can answer that as well. So the surveys that we undertook earlier in the year and it was noted that we did take undertake surveys out of a particular growing season. And so when further surveys are brought forward, they should be undertaken during certain times of year and depending on what habitat type you've got on site, that should be taken into consideration as to when any particular further surveys are undertaken for botanical surveys.

Katy: Great, thank you. Just noting the time we've got a couple minutes left so if anybody has a couple more questions feel free to drop them in. We've got about four minutes or so and so we will wait to see this next question come in. I think more comments about types of flora and fauna and where they're located. Thank you for that. Any other questions? I'll stay silent for another 20 seconds or so and then we can see where we're at. Actually, I'll run through the feedback period in the next steps, while we're waiting to see if any other questions come in. So there's been a lot of good questions, so thank you guys for your time, and thank you for joining. If you do have any further just feel free to email the master planning inbox. And as we've all kind of

said to you guys, there's loads of good local knowledge that's been talked about and shared today, so please submit that in your feedback if you haven't already. So next steps feedback period closes on 28th and then we'll review that feedback and see how we can address it within the Master Plan Framework design and then looking to have council approval and publication in late 2021. I guess on that note, thank you guys. Thanks again for joining, I think that's it.