

Ecology



Ecological surveys have been carried out to identify the habitat types in the vicinity of the Fourfields site and HVAC cables, and the presence of protected species and birds that utilise the area.

The Fourfields site is arable farmland which is a highly managed habitat. The drystone walls that will need to be removed could provide reptile habitats, hence the intention is to reinstate the drystone walls elsewhere on the Fourfields site to ensure the habitat is not entirely lost.

The landscaping landforms will be planted with native mixed woodland on the north and east sides. This will provide both visual screening and increased habitat diversity. The west and southern landscaping will be planted with a coastal meadow mix. The area and the sedum roof will be actively managed to ensure planting success.

The cable route passes primarily through improved grassland which is grazed by livestock. This will be reinstated once the cable is installed and, as such, there will be no long term impacts on ecology.



Evidence has been found of otters and water voles on one of the streams which needs to be crossed by the HVAC cables. The specific routing of the cable has taken this into account to avoid features such as otter holts. Preconstruction surveys will be carried out to ensure that the information is up to date and, if necessary, the cable routing will be moved within the planning red line boundary to avoid damage and minimise disturbance. Additional precautions to prevent impacts on water quality and minimise disturbance will be implemented as the situation requires.