



PADBURY BROOK SOLAR FARM

SITE ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. SITE PROPOSAL.....	4
3. LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.....	7
4. ECOLOGY PROPOSALS.....	11
5. SUMMARY.....	14



INTRODUCTION



Protect and improve existing landscape/natural features.



Increase opportunities for wildlife through on-site habitat improvements and creation.



Provide a community benefit fund to support local projects/initiatives.



Introduce new planting to preserve and enhance local/visual amenity.



Enhance and improve existing footpaths on the site.



Provide educational boards to improve understanding of the local area.



Promote clean, affordable renewable energy.



Create accessible green spaces around the site.

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



SITE PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL

JBM Solar is proposing a **solar farm** and associated infrastructure on land near Stratton Audley, Cherwell District, Oxfordshire.

The UK is committed to achieving '**net zero**' carbon emissions by **2050**. Solar is now one of the cheapest sources of renewable electricity generation in the UK.

PROJECT LONGEVITY

The development would have a lifespan of about **40 years**. After this, the site will be decommissioned and returned to its former use.

Pastoral farming will be able to run un-interrupted on site, continuing to produce food for the UK market. Likewise, the proposals are not situated on any 'good' quality farmland, and the **site will remain greenfield** before, during and after the development.

The rows of panels will be oriented east to west, and face south to maximize generation. The wide gaps between the rows of panels (4-5m) allow wildflower meadows and high quality grassland to grow underneath, in-between and below the panels.

For efficiency, the internal access tracks largely follow field boundaries and existing tracks, utilizing the already present gaps in vegetation and existing field gates.

SOLAR PANEL STRUCTURE

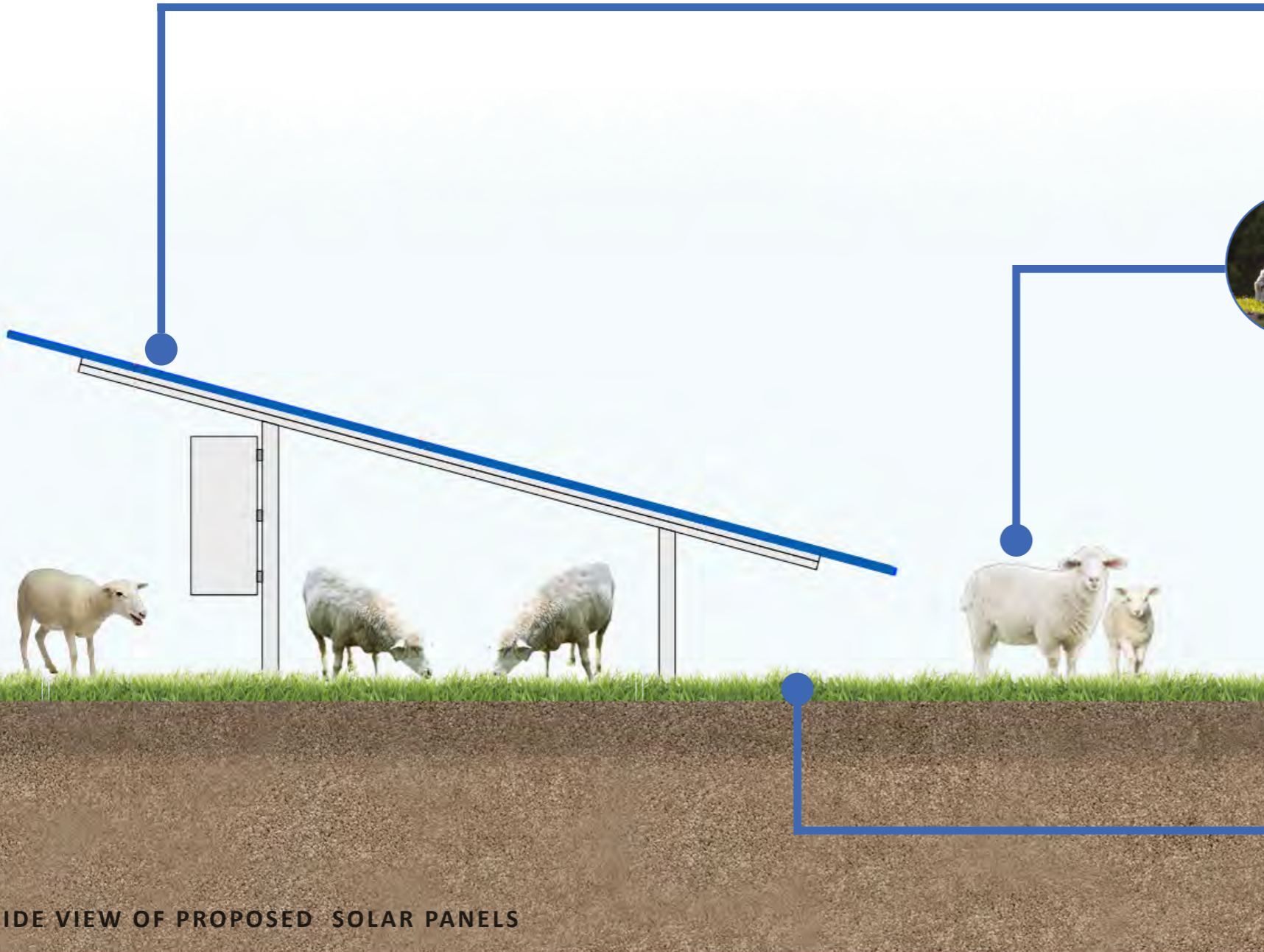
The solar panels are in a fixed position facing south.

PASTORAL LAND

Planted grassland allows for grazing to occur in-between and underneath the panels.

WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Grasslands and wildflower meadows will be present along field margins and in-between/below the panels.



SIDE VIEW OF PROPOSED SOLAR PANELS

SITE CONTEXT PLAN

LEGEND

 Site



LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS



LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

LANDSCAPE

As part of the proposed development, hedgerow tree and buffer planting will take place across the Site.

Landscape enhancements proposed across the Site include:

- Planting of around 120 acres of species rich grassland
- Wildflower meadow and native hedgerow planting along PRoW
- Strengthening the native hedgerow by filling in any gaps
- Planting of native trees, interspersed within the hedgerow
- Planting over 10 acres of wildflower meadows across the site

The proposal will deliver **over 215% biodiversity net gain**, >21 times the statutory amount and an addition of 2.4km of hedging and tree planting. The landscape proposals can be found in detail on the landscape masterplan.

A landscape strategy has been developed for the site with the following broad aims:

- Screen the proposed development within the existing landscape
- Reduce visual impact through new hedge/tree planting
- Enhance and restore existing landscape features

HEDGEROWS & HEDGEROW TREES

The proposed hedgerow will follow the existing field boundaries and will help to screen views of the panels from the surrounding area. Existing **hedgerow will be retained and enhanced** through additional planting and will be maintained at a height of 3-4m.



THE FOOTPATH WILL BE WIDENED TO 10M, AND ENSURE GREATER ACCESSIBILITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

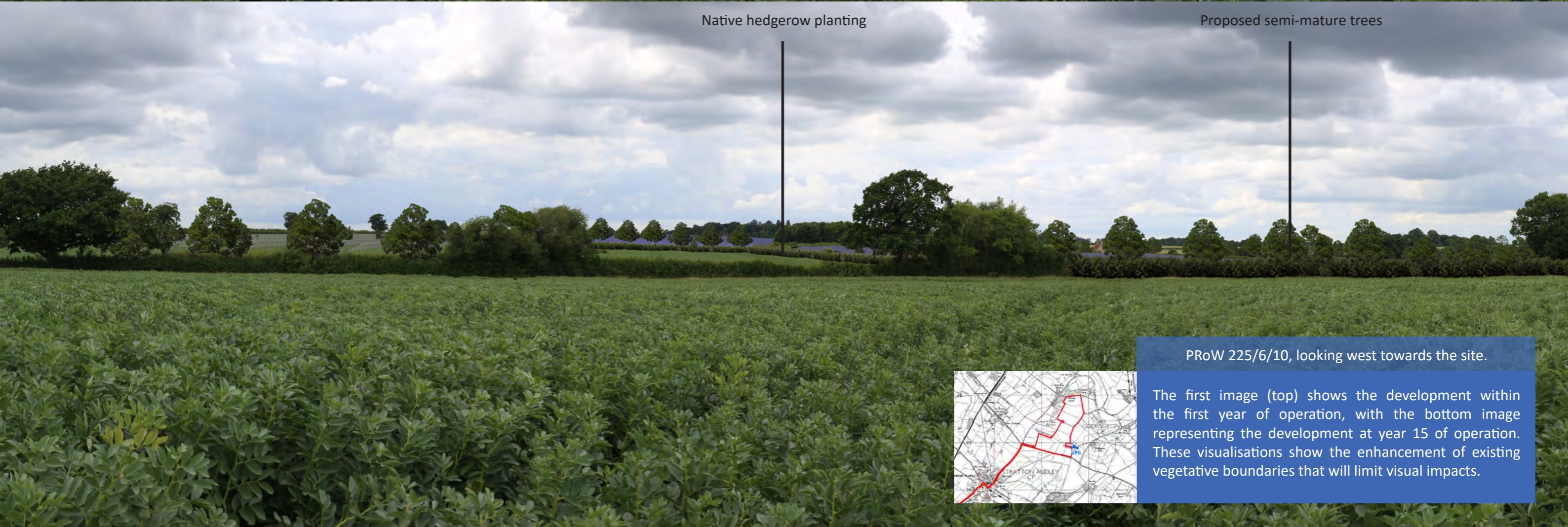
NEW NATIVE HEDGEROWS AND TREES ARE PROPOSED TO SCREEN VIEWS.





Native hedgerow planting

Proposed semi-mature trees



PRoW 225/6/10, looking west towards the site.
The first image (top) shows the development within the first year of operation, with the bottom image representing the development at year 15 of operation. These visualisations show the enhancement of existing vegetative boundaries that will limit visual impacts.

ECOLOGY PROPOSALS



ECOLOGY PROPOSALS

ECOLOGY

The proposal will **retain all higher value habitats** on site and deliver significant net gains in biodiversity through additional habitat creation.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

The development is expected to result in a **>215% net gain to local biodiversity**, >21x times the standard. This is a result of the considerable habitat creation proposed across the site.

MEADOWLAND

The creation of species rich grassland and wildflower meadows throughout the site will deliver significant benefits to local wildlife, resulting in a rich network of new habitats.

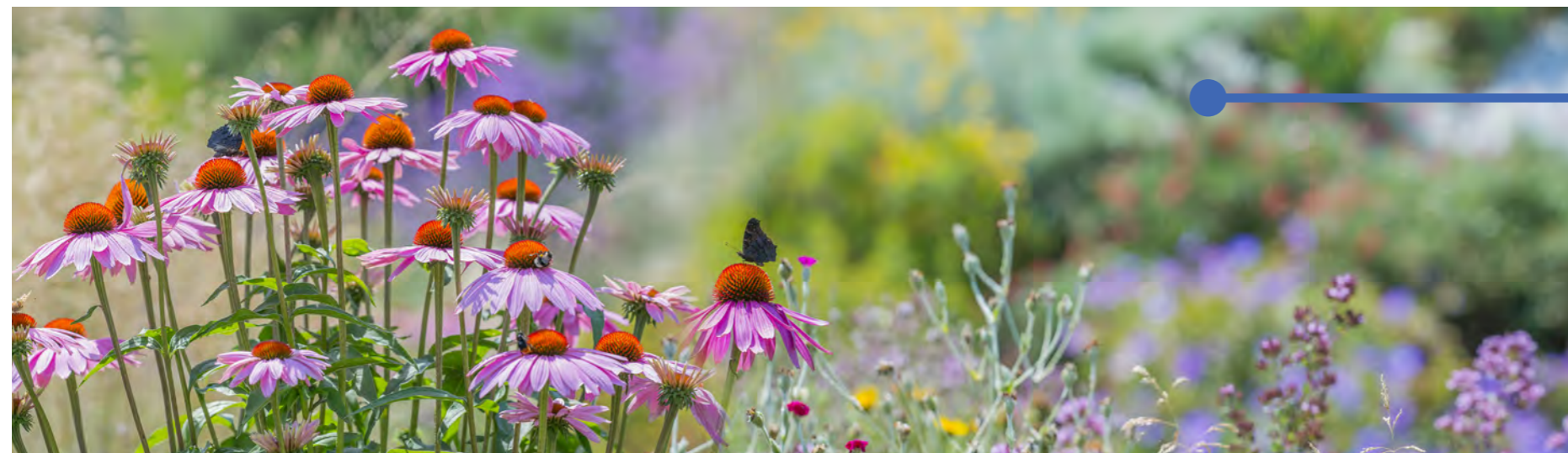
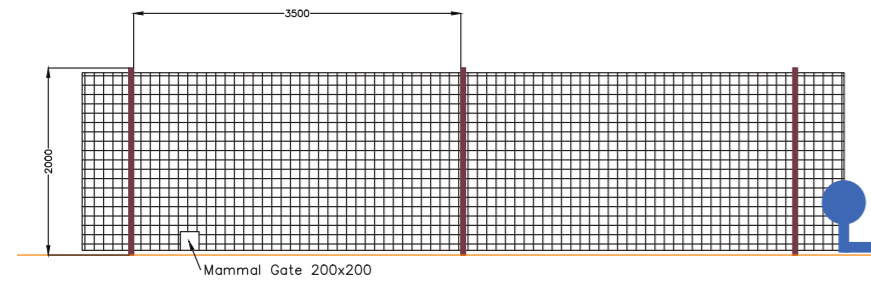
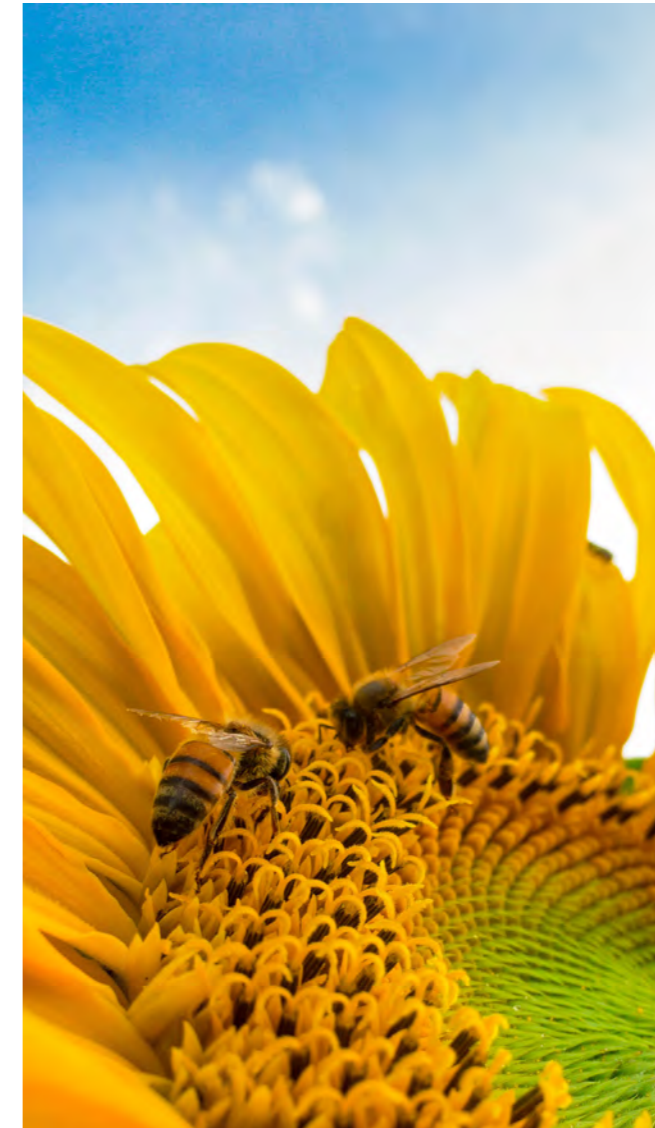
The species-rich grassland will allow the soil to recover by enabling it to retain and store nutrients without the threat of topsoil erosion, allowing it improve for future agricultural use.

No pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers are to be used, greatly benefiting local wildlife including pollinators, insects, birds, and water-based ecosystems.

'The proposal will deliver over 215% net gains in biodiversity'

CARE FOR MAMMALS

Mammal gates are integrated into all fencing, alongside the creation of green corridors, allowing species to move freely across/through site.



WILDFLOWER PLANTING

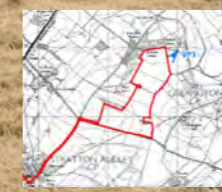
New meadows will create habitats for vital insects/pollinators and help to create a diverse ecosystem.



Mature tree planting

Where the existing hedgerow planting is sparse, Gaps within the hedgerow will be re-enforced with new hedgerow planting.

PRoW 371/8b/10, looking south-west towards the site.
The first image (top) shows the development within the first year of operation, with the bottom image representing the development at year 15 of operation.



SUMMARY



SUMMARY



215% increase to local biodiversity through on-site habitat improvements/creation.



Plant over 230 mature trees within 2.4km of new hedgerow.



Enhance and improve footpaths, with the addition of a new north-south permissive path.



Provide a community benefit fund to support local projects/initiatives.



Promote clean, affordable energy to meet the equivalent needs of over 16,680 homes.



Create green areas within the site, with over 10 acres of new accessible wildflower meadows.



Protect and improve existing landscape features such as hedgerows and trees.

