

Improving Biodiversity

There are no statutory designated sites within the site boundary. However, it does contain a Local Wildlife Site: Dissington Old Brick Pond.

Habitats within the site are dominated by land under agricultural management – primarily arable with smaller areas of improved grassland and semi-improved pasture which are of limited botanical value. Habitats of greater ecological value are located along the existing linear features of the site, such as watercourses and hedgerows.

The site and surrounding areas are known to support, or be suitable to support, the following species:

- Breeding Birds
- Wintering Birds
- Bats
- Otter
- White-Clawed Crayfish
- Red Squirrel
- Badger
- Brown Hare
- Hedgehog

There is no evidence of Great Crested Newt, Reptiles or Water Vole in or around the application site.

The large extent of The Dissington Estate provides a unique opportunity to provide a net gain in biodiversity.

The proposed development will seek to avoid development in the most sensitive ecological receptors, namely:

- River Pont Corridor (high importance for otter, badger, bats and breeding birds)
- Long Plantation & Forsters Plantation (high importance for breeding birds and potentially red squirrel)
- Limestone Lane trees and hedgerows (moderate importance for bats and breeding birds)

Additional landscaping and planting will also be used to create additional wildlife permeability and corridors throughout the site on both a north/south and east/west axis. Arable farmland will be subject to management regimes beneficial to a range of fauna; and any surface water discharges into aquatic receptors will ensure that suitable habitat conditions are retained.

