

Age round barrows, the majority of them clustered within distinct barrow cemeteries. Associated spatially with these cemeteries are a range of linear features, some of which may represent late prehistoric field boundaries, while a number of the longer linear features may be territorial boundaries.

- 2.32 Wiltshire County Council is aware of the results of the study and require that the round barrow cemetery straddling the eastern boundary of the site should be preserved in situ. The existence of known features elsewhere in the site including ring/penannular ditches and a double linear ditch in the south west of the site require archaeological field evaluation to be carried out in accordance with the specification of the County Council. Such archaeological evaluation will therefore be a requirement of any planning application and permission.

Ecology

- 2.33 No statutory or non statutory nature conservation designations apply to the site or the adjoining area. Geological maps show that the site is formed of chalk. There are no watercourses flowing through the site and no water bodies. An ecological study of the site shows it to comprise mainly arable fields, bordered by fragmented occasionally species - rich hedgerows. Overall this habitat is of limited intrinsic value for nature conservation.



FIG 2.6 ECOLOGICAL INTEREST

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2.34 The large mature trees in the grounds of the Sarum Centre and within the hedgerows are, however, of intrinsic nature conservation value. The hedgerows are likely to support nesting birds. A main and outlying badger sett are present in the south western portion of the site, and the woodland, and amenity grassland in this area are valuable foraging habitats for badgers. Two UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species (BAPS) have been noted on or close to the site. These are brown hare and sky larks. The areas of ecological interest are identified in figure 2.6).

2.35 Appropriate mitigation measures must therefore form an integral part of any planning application for the site and may be incorporated as conditions on any relevant permission.

Agricultural Land Quality

2.36 An agricultural study of the site shows that of the 40.4 ha study area some 34 ha are in agricultural use. The greater majority (68%) of the agricultural land comprises grade 3b. There is, however, a single isolated area of grade 3a. The study reveals that the loss of this agricultural land is unlikely to have any significant effects on agricultural businesses.

2.37 In this case the greater majority of the agricultural part of the site comprises grade 3b land and it is considered that the development would not result in the loss of a significant area of BMV land and that the proposed development is in accordance with the advice given in PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas.

Key Findings of the Site Characteristics Appraisal

2.38 The following constraints and opportunities within and around the site have been identified which need to be addressed in the development of the site.

- i) There is a lack of local facilities for the existing community there being no primary school, community or religious building, or permanent doctors surgery. The new proposals can and must help resolve these deficiencies by the provision of new facilities.
- ii) There is a limited access to public transport (if the first rate facilities geared for travelling public at the Beehive Park & Ride are not taken into account). The development can and must help resolve this deficiency by the provision of new services.
- iii) The existing residential community does not comprise a full complete mix of housing. The new development should achieve this so that taking the

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new and existing community as a whole, a balanced mix of housing will be provided.

- iv) The Old Sarum Airfield Employment Estate is an important economic focus providing opportunities for local employment.
- v) The site is relatively inconspicuous from publicly accessible view points in the wider landscape and is not a prominent component within views of the landscape setting of Salisbury. It therefore represents a good opportunity to accommodate necessary development.
- vi) The football stadium is potentially intrusive and amelioration should be considered in the design of the scheme.
- vii) An area of archaeological importance in the eastern corner of the site should be protected from development and incorporated as open space.
- viii) The Sarum Centre is the obvious area of previously developed land within the site and it is important to integrate redevelopment of the Centre in the overall project. The mature hedgerows and trees along the eastern field boundary adjoining the Sarum Centre, and around the Centre, together with other field boundaries which typically mark the edges of the site are important local features in landscape and ecological terms and should be retained wherever possible.
- ix) Views from and to Old Sarum Scheduled Ancient Monument will be addressed in the landscape strategy and design guide.
- x) There is potential to improve the amenity of the road corridor along the Portway and develop a sense of place at Old Sarum.
- xi) There is potential to provide landscaping along the northern edge of the site to help filter views.
- xii) The lack of formal access to, or alongside the Ministry of Defence (M.O.D) playing fields is a weakness which restricts permeability. Opportunities to achieve better linkages between the areas of new development and the potential to provide enhanced recreation and open space facilities for the existing and new consolidated community must be assessed and pursued.

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