

Landscape and Habitat Design

You said: “Planting and landscaping to hide the railway should not disrupt existing habitats.”

We did:

Protect and enhance habitats

The CVWS was previously a large area of arable land with limited habitats of value. Existing tree belts and hedgerows have been retained wherever possible. We will be creating a richer ecological environment and this will be fully connected into the wider landscape. Our landscape proposals will provide new and varied habitats and also help to reduce the visual and noise impacts of the railway.



Photograph - Calcareous grassland



Photograph - Woodland edge and scrub planting

Key

- Woodland
- Woodland edge
- Scrub - woodland pasture transition
- Calcareous grassland
- Wet grassland
- Water body / aquatic
- Indicative location of reptile basking banks
- Indicative location of habitat mounds (hibernaculum)



Site plan - Planting and habitat types

Landscape and Habitat Design

You said: “Is there any guarantee the wildlife will return after being moved from its current habitats?”

We did:

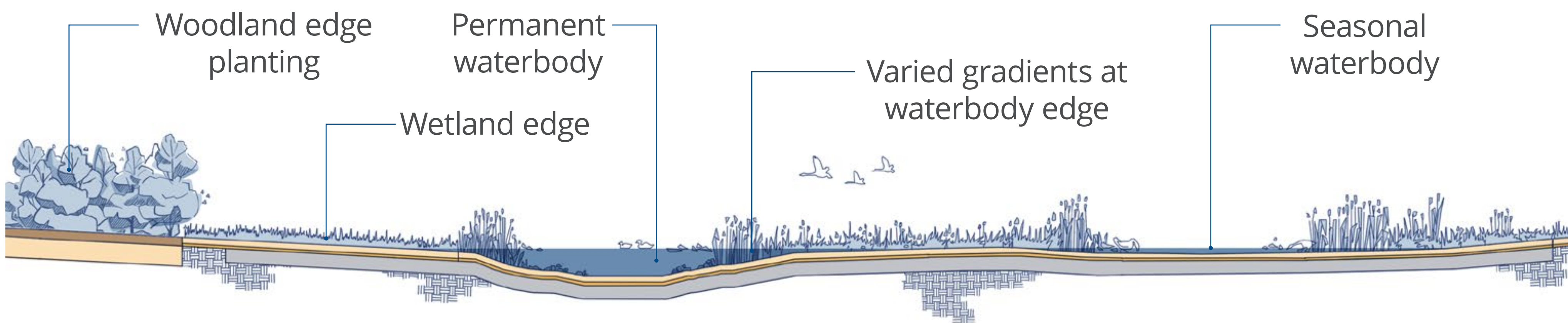
Create opportunity for greater wildlife diversity

Our proposals are designed to create the most diverse and valuable habitats possible. This includes extensive areas of calcareous grassland and waterbodies which are two of the most species-rich habitats. We will maintain the site using low-intensity conservation grazing, which will be the key management tool for the habitats on site.

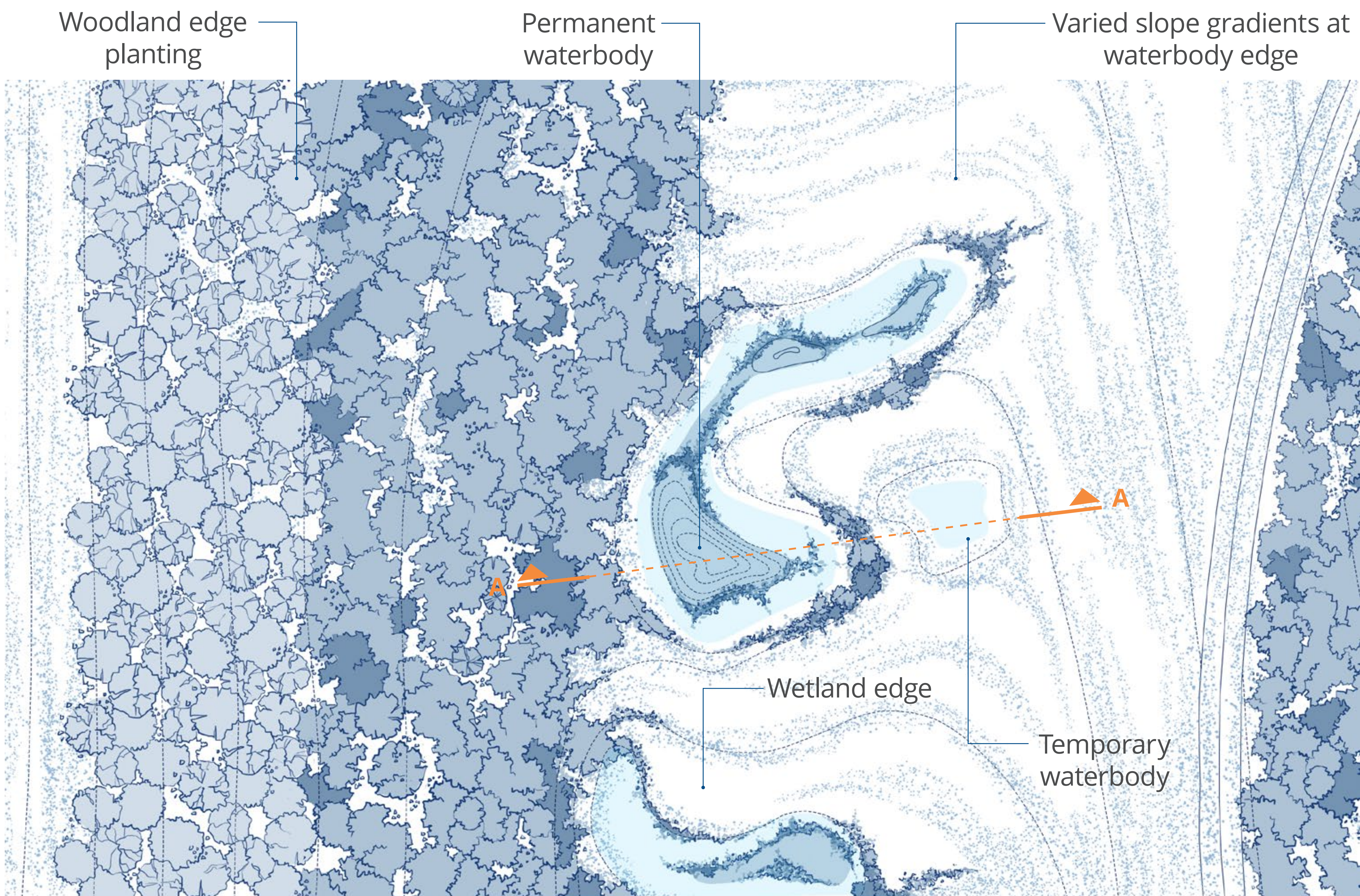
To encourage and promote the return of wildlife we will also be creating a range of other ecological features including banks for reptiles to bask and habitat mounds created from earth, timber and rubble (known as hibernaculum).



Photograph - Conservation grazing on calcareous grassland



Section - Section A-A through ecological water bodies



Plan - Example of proposed ecological wetland habitat

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You said: “It is vital that the wildlife habitats are connected up...wildlife has corridors and these need to be integrated and sensibly planned.”

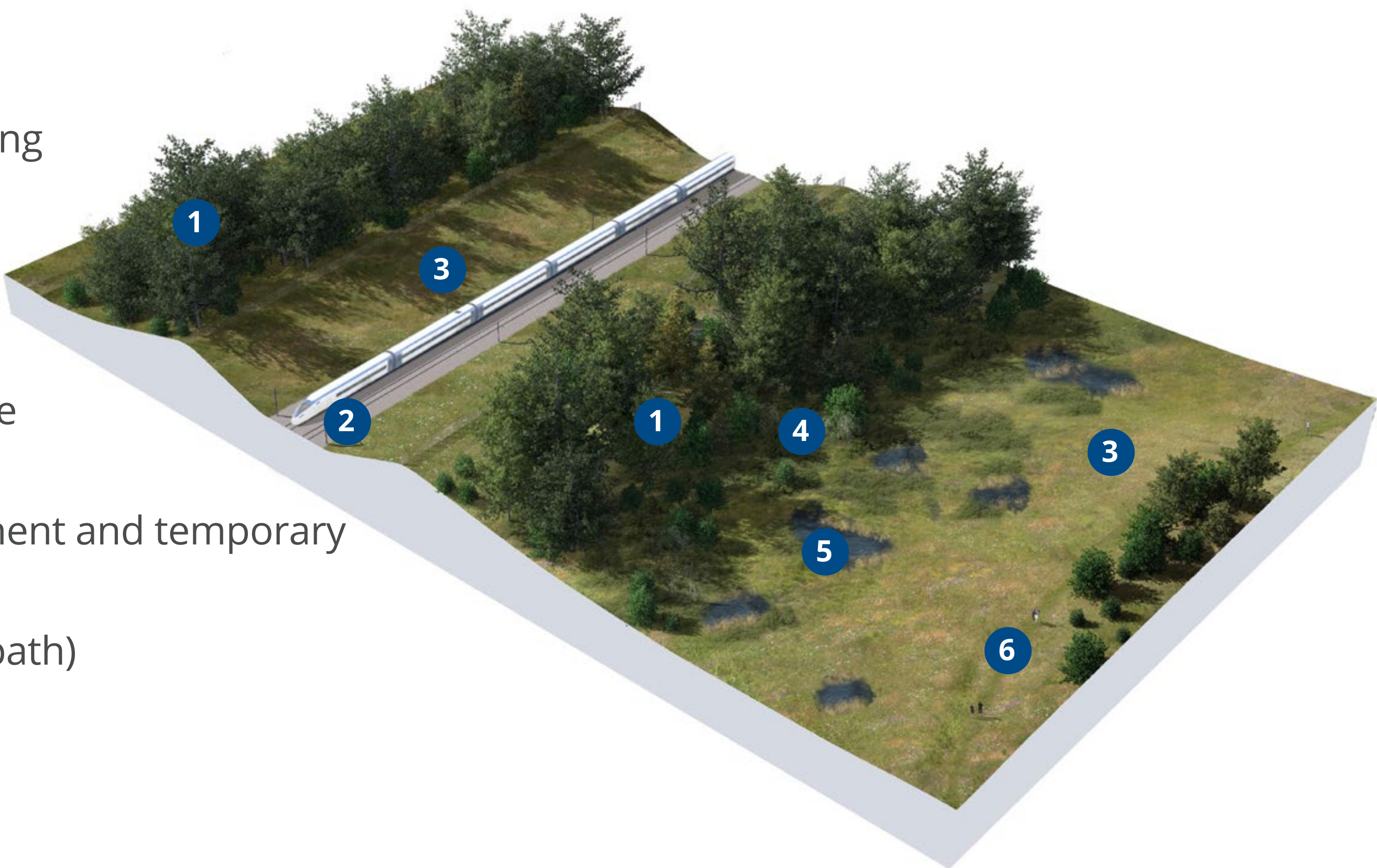
We did:

Create a mosaic of interconnecting habitats

Our proposals will create linked woodlands, hedgerows, scrub and waterbodies set within substantial areas of calcareous grassland. These habitats will be connected to existing vegetation and wildlife corridors which extend around the site and into adjacent areas to establish a comprehensive habitat mosaic.

Key

- 1 Woodland edge planting
- 2 HS2 rail alignment
- 3 Calcareous grassland
- 4 Scrub / woodland edge planting
- 5 Waterbodies - permanent and temporary ponds
- 6 Public access (mown path)



Visualisation - View from the Old Orchard Pub at Harefield looking west (Year 15)

Landscape and Habitat Design

You said:

"Are you using established plants/trees or 60cm saplings that take 20 years to grow?"

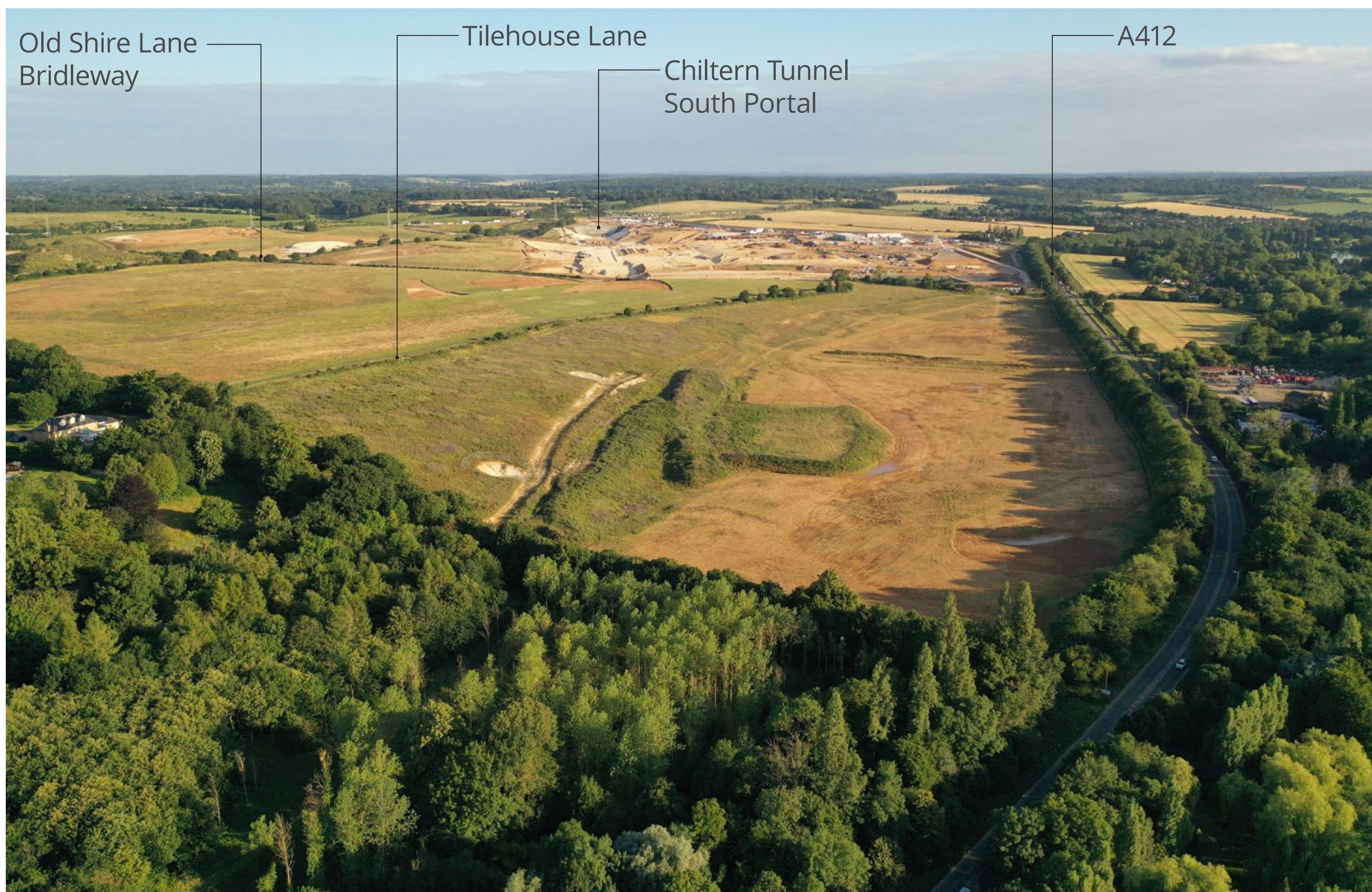
"Ensure there are more trees than before construction, the sounds of these trains must be absorbed as best as possible."

We did:

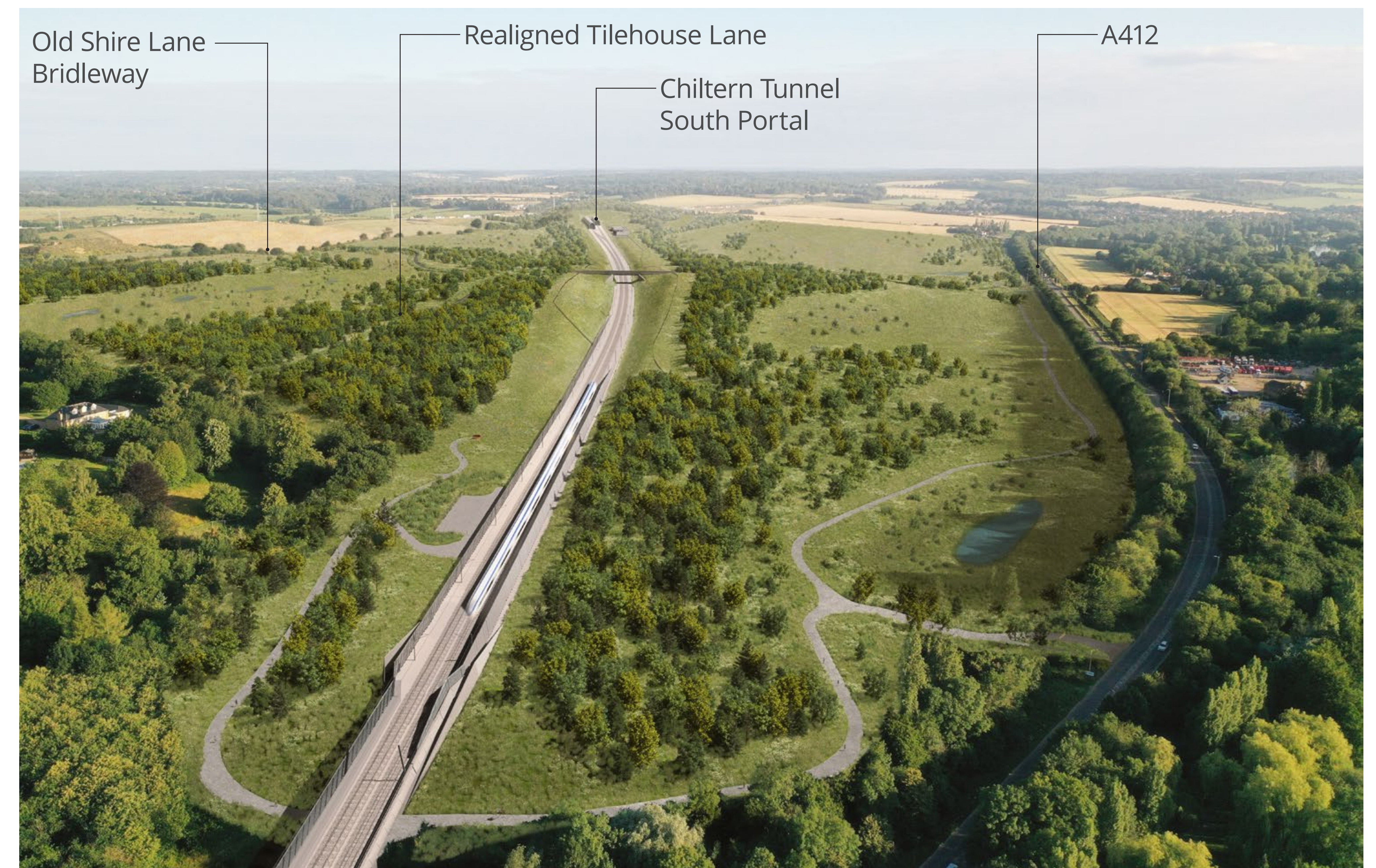
Retain trees where practicable

The majority of the trees around the site have been retained and we will be planting approximately 70,000 new trees. These will be planted as small trees as they are much more likely to establish and have lower maintenance requirements.

Trees have a limited effect in mitigating operational noise. Our earthworks and fencing plans provide for noise mitigation.



Photography - Drone photography of CVWS looking north, September 2020



Visualisation - Drone view over the CVWS looking north west (Year 15)