

9 Landscape and ecology

Long Ashton sits within a gently undulating landscape with Ashton and Failand Hills to the north and the railway cutting to the south. Long distance views into the site are limited. Within Long Ashton itself however, the opposite sides of the valley (i.e the ridge within the University site and the hill to the east) are clearly major visual features.

The Ashton Brook flows through the proposal site and along some of its length there is a water reservoir which provides retention capacity for drainage and a good fishing environment. Most of this forms a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI).

To protect and preserve the ecology of the SNCI we propose that the whole of the Ashton Brook route is enlarged to form a wide public park, allowing sufficient space for recreation whilst not disturbing the nature within.

In addition footpaths, cycle ways, play areas and allotments are distributed evenly throughout the development area and offer easy access to the facilities as well as the countryside beyond.

