

“We are still planning to submit the planning application this summer and are fully committed to the project.

“We are awaiting the results of the final access ecological studies which needed to be done in the spring, during the main breeding season, to ensure we collect a complete set of ecological data that relates to the proposed new access route.

“We appreciate that some trees in the area have preservation orders on them and have undertaken detailed studies to determine where best to widen existing roads and place new access roads in order to minimise any impact on trees. Any proposals will require the full support of the local highways authority and details will be in the planning application.

“We have consulted with the local community and others every step along the way and inevitably, as we have responded to concerns raised, the project has been delayed. This is very common with developments of this nature and scale but we are working hard to produce a scheme that both minimises the impact on the local roads and ecology and is practical to build.”