HalpinRobbins

Ecology & Environmental Services

Ecological Impact Assessment

Mill Farm, Teffont Evias, Wiltshire, SP3 5RP
SU 00038 30651



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CONTENTS

AUTHOR AND QUALITY ASSURANCE I

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1

1 INTRODUCTION 2

1.1 Background and Purpose of Survey 2
1.2 Site Location and Description 2
1.3 Proposed Development 2

2 METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS 3

2.1 Scope and Assessment 3
2.1.1 Zone of Influence 3
2.1.2 Impact Assessment 3
2.2 Desk Study 4
2.3 Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey 5
2.4 Personnel 6

3 BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS 7

3.1 Relevant Ecological Information from Planning Portal 7
3.2 Designated Sites 7
3.2.1 Statutory Designated Sites 7
3.2.2 Non-Statutory Designated Sites 8
3.3 Habitats 9
3.3.1 g3c(17, 73) – Other neutral grassland (ruderal/ephemeral, bare ground) 9
3.3.2 h3 – Dense Scrub 10
3.3.3 u1e(69) – Built linear feature (fence) 10
3.4 Flora and Invertebrates 10
3.5 Amphibians – including Great Crested Newt 10
3.6 Reptiles 10
3.7 Birds 11
3.8 Badgers 11
3.9 Bats 11
3.10 Hazel Dormice 11
3.11 Other Notable Mammals 12

4 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS, MITIGATION AND COMPENSATION MEASURES 13

4.1 Designated Sites 13
4.1.1 Potential Impacts 13
4.2 Habitats 13
4.2.1 Potential Impacts 13

4.3 FLORA AND INVERTEBRATES 13
4.3.1 Potential Impacts 13
4.4 AMPHIBIANS (INCLUDING GREAT CRESTED NEWT) 13
4.4.1 Potential Impacts 13
4.4.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures 13
4.4.3 Residual Effects 14
4.5 REPTILES 14
4.5.1 Potential Impacts 14
4.5.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures 14
4.5.3 Residual Effects 14
4.6 BIRDS 15
4.6.1 Potential Impacts 15
4.6.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures 15
4.6.3 Residual Effects 15
4.7 BADGERS 15
4.7.1 Potential Impacts 15
4.8 BATS 15
4.8.1 Potential Impacts 15
4.9 HAZEL DORMICE 15
4.9.1 Potential Impacts 15
4.10 OTHER NOTABLE MAMMALS 16
4.10.1 Potential Impacts 16
4.10.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures 16
4.10.3 Residual Effects 16

5 ENHANCEMENT MEASURES 17

6 CONCLUSIONS TABLE 18

7 REFERENCES 20

8 SITE PHOTOS 21

APPENDIX A – FIGURES 22

APPENDIX B - PROPOSED SITE PLANS 25

APPENDIX C - RELEVANT WILDLIFE LEGISLATION AND POLICIES 26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HalpinRobbins Limited was commissioned to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment of Mill Farm, Teffont Evias, Wiltshire in support of a planning application for the construction of a solar array at the site.

An Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey was undertaken on 05 May 2023. The table below summarises the proposed impacts of the development and the recommended mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures.

Ecological Feature	Potential Effect	Significance in the absence of mitigation	Mitigation/Compensation and Enhancement	Residual Effect
Designated Sites	No impact.	-	-	-
Habitats	No significant impact.	-	-	Negligible.
Flora and Invertebrates	No significant impact	-	Wildflower seed mix around solar array.	Positive.
Amphibians (including GCN)	Harm during construction.	Minor, negative temporary impact at site level.	Allow animals to disperse of their own accord. Contact ecologist immediately if great crested newt is identified.	Negligible.
Reptiles	Harm during construction.	Minor, negative temporary impact at site level.	Allow animals to disperse of their own accord.	Negligible.
Birds	Harm during construction.	Minor, negative impact at site level.	Nesting bird check immediately prior to works.	Negligible.
Badgers	No significant impact.	-	-	Negligible.
Bats	No significant impact.	-	-	Negligible.
Hazel Dormice	No significant impact.	-	-	Negligible.
Other Notable Mammals	Harm during construction.	Minor, negative impact at site level.	Allow animals to disperse of their own accord.	Negligible.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Purpose of Survey

HalpinRobbins Limited was commissioned to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment of Mill Farm, Teffont Evias, Wiltshire in support of a planning application for the construction of a solar array within the site.

This report has been prepared by Bethan Withey, Senior Ecologist, ACIEEM who has ten years ecological consultancy experience and holds survey licences for bats, dormice and barn owl.

The methodology used for the assessment has been designed to examine the ecology of the site based on a field survey and an appraisal of the surrounding biodiversity using data obtained from a variety of sources to meet the following objectives:

- Establish the ecological baseline of the site by describing existing habitats
- Identify and describe all potentially significant ecological effects associated with the proposed development
- Identify and describe the mitigation and compensation measures required to ensure compliance with nature conservation legislation and address the potentially significant ecological effects
- Identify ecological enhancement measures appropriate to the project

Nature conservation legislation and policies relevant to the project are provided in Appendix C.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The development site is centred upon Ordnance Survey (O.S.) Grid Reference SU 00038 3065, c.1.2km to the southeast of the village of Teffont Evias in Wiltshire. The location of the site is shown at Figure 1, Appendix A.

The site comprises a small area of grassland bordered by dense scrub and sits adjacent to an empty building. The site is accessed from across the railway track that borders the site to the north via the entrance to Mill Farm.

1.3 Proposed Development

The client is seeking planning permission for the installation of a small solar array within the site. Design plans have been provided by E3 Consulting Engineers (Drawing Ref. 4693 SK09). Proposed plans are shown at Appendix B.

2 METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS

2.1 Scope and Assessment

2.1.1 Zone of Influence

The 'zone of influence' of a project is the area within which ecological features may be impacted by the proposed works. This may often extend beyond the site boundary due to the distance that certain species travel, the nature of the potentially affected habitats and the site's location in relation to important ecological sites.

For this assessment the following zones have been considered:

- 5km surrounding Statutory Conservation Designations relating to bats (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)).
- 1km surrounding other Statutory Conservation Designations and Non-Statutory sites of importance to biodiversity (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI).
- 1km surrounding known records of protected and notable species.
- The site and its immediate surroundings.

2.1.2 Impact Assessment

Impact assessment has been carried out based on the outline proposals provided (detailed in Section 1.3 and shown in the Proposed Plan at Appendix B) using the findings of the desk study and field survey.

Ecological features have been scoped in and out as appropriate based on the baseline conditions of the site; i.e. what ecological features the site is likely to support, and as appropriate to the scale of the proposals.

An assessment of the potential project impacts on each ecological receptor (i.e. designated sites, protected and notable habitats and species) is provided, including the magnitude, duration and significance of the anticipated effects to each receptor. An assessment of significance has been undertaken considering the local, national and international value to ecological features as informed by the desk study.

Table 1 below includes details on how the significance has been determined.

Table 1 – General criteria for significance

SIGNIFICANCE	CRITERIA
Major	Change resulting in breaches of legislation or exceeding statutory objectives.
	Likely to impact on sites designated for national or international importance.
	Likely to affect a large-scale area or a large number of species or populations on frequent or permanent basis.
	May result in an irreversible decline or rise.
Moderate	Unlikely to cause a breach of legislation but likely to impact on a site of regional or local importance.
	Likely to affect a small number of species or populations on a permanent basis.
Minor	Likely to impact an area or feature of local interest or importance.
	Likely to have a temporary impact on a small number of species or populations or be a recoverable impact.
Negligible	Indiscernible impact predicted.

Where possible significant ecological effects will be avoided through careful design and application of the mitigation hierarchy:

- Avoidance
  Seek options that avoid harm to ecological features.
- Mitigation
  Adverse effects should be avoided or minimised through mitigation measures, either through the design of the project or subsequent measures that can be guaranteed. Mitigation is relevant for negative impacts assessed as being potentially significant (before mitigation) or where required to ensure compliance with legislation.
- Compensation
  Where there are significant adverse ecological effects despite the mitigation proposed, these should be offset by appropriate compensatory measures. Compensation is relevant for negative impacts assessed as being significant or where required to ensure compliance with legislation.
- Enhancements
  Seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity over and above requirements for avoidance, mitigation or compensation.

2.2 Desk Study

Biological records from the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) were obtained comprising protected and notable species records and Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Designations within a 1km radius of the site.

Data search results only give an indication of species presence in a location. The absence of recent records for certain species in an area may be due to low levels of biological recording

or the non-submission of records, rather than absence. Many species records are also at low geographical resolution and do not indicate their exact location and often provide little detail about abundance.

Web-based DEFRA resource Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) was consulted to identify Statutory Nature Conservation Designations within a 1km radius of the site surveyed, and for Statutory sites designated for bats within a 5km radius of the site. A search for granted European Protected Species Licences (EPSLs) within a 1km radius relating to great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*, 2km radius relating to hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* and 5km radius relating to bats was also undertaken. Additionally, a search for great crested newt presence within a 1km radius of the site confirmed via data from Natural England Class Survey Licence Returns and 2017-2019 Pond Surveys as published on the MAGIC website was undertaken. OS Maps were also used to check for ponds within a 250m radius of the site.

A review of the Wiltshire planning portal was undertaken in May 2023 to identify any previous applications and ecological findings relevant to the current proposals.

2.3 Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey

A field survey identifying the habitats, legally protected and notable species and the site's potential for supporting these species was undertaken. The potential for habitats to support legally protected species is important as legal protection of some species extends to the habitats they depend on, as well as the individuals themselves.

The field survey used UK Habitat Classifications (UKHab) combined with species specific field observation techniques. The UKHab Professional edition was used with a Minimum Mapping Unit (MMU) of 25m^2 and habitats were classified to level 5 where possible with all secondary codes reported as necessary. Where given, habitat measurements are appropriate and based on satellite/georeferenced maps.

The nature conservation value of ecological features that may be affected by development (ecological receptors) is adapted from the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017).

This report records the habitats, flora and fauna evident on the day of the site visit. It does not record any flora or fauna that may appear at other times of the year, and as such, were not evident at the time of the field survey. The process is not intended to produce a comprehensive list of plants and animals but to evaluate the ecological resources within the site and thus identify potential issues of ecological relevance to the proposed works.

2.4 Personnel

The survey was undertaken by Bethan Withey, Senior Ecologist, ACIEEM, Natural England Bat Class Licence CL18 (Level 2) 2016-20644-CLS-CLS, Natural England Dormouse Class Licence CL10a (Level 1) 2019-40566-CLS-CLS, Natural England Barn Owl Class Licence CL29 - CL29/00565 on 05 May 2023.

3 BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

3.1 Relevant Ecological Information from Planning Portal

A review of the Wiltshire planning portal identified a previous application at Mill Farm including house demolition and rebuild located c.80m to the south of the site. Ecological features noted within the accompanying ecology report for application ref. PL/2022/03969 included bat roosts and great crested newts (HalpinRobbins, 2022). Due to the small size and nature of the proposed solar array, ecological features associated with the above application are considered unlikely to be of relevance to the current proposals.

3.2 Designated Sites

3.2.1 Statutory Designated Sites

There are six statutory designated sites within a 1km radius of the site. Details are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Statutory Nature Conservation Designations within 1km of the site. Source: WSBRC.

NAME	DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM THE SITE	DESCRIPTION
River Avon System	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	c.110m south	Part of the Avon Valley and New Forest RAMSAR Sites and two Special Protection Areas (SPA). Site consists of stretches of the River Avon and its tributaries, with more than 180 species of aquatic plants one of the most diverse fish species in the country, including rich invertebrate and mammal fauna like water shrews and voles.
River Avon	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	c.110m south	Large, lowland river system that includes transitioning sections running through chalk and clay. Selected for its five *Ranunculus* species and high aquatic fauna diversity.
Teffont Evias Quarry/Lane Cutting	SSSI	c.610m northwest	3.6hectare geological site, key for its paleontological history. Teffont Evias quarry includes fossils from the early Cretaceous period, whilst Teffont Evias

NAME	DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM THE SITE	DESCRIPTION
			Lane Cutting a key site in preserving rare, fossilised insects, and exhibits the best exposure of the Purbeck beds.
Dinton Quarry	SSSI	c.115m south	Long disused quarry of Middle Purbeck Limestone, a key geological site for its source of late Jurrassic fossil insects.
Dinton Railway Cutting	SSSI	c.570m east	Geological Site.
West Wiltshire Downs & Cranborne Chase	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Lies within the application site boundary.	Diverse natural landscape with a rich archaeological and historical significance, consisting of rare chalk grasslands, scientifically important ancient woodlands and chalk escarpments.

The site also lies within the Consultation Zone of the Chilmark Quarry Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated for its important greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* and Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii* roosts. The site is within the Core Area surrounding the SAC which comprises important networks of features used by the designated bat populations (Natural England & Wiltshire Council, 2015).

3.2.2 Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Four Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) were identified within a 1km radius of the site. Details are provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Designations within 1km of the site. Source: WSBRC.

NAME	DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM THE SITE	DESCRIPTION
Dinton Woods	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	c.660south	An area of ancient woodland with substantial conifer plantings, formerly an RAF munitions store, now used as commercial storage including hazardous items such as fireworks.
Dinton Meadows North	LWS	c.1km southeast	A small area of unmanaged fen and wet grassland adjacent to the river Nadder.
Dinton Meadows South	LWS	c.1km southeast	Three small, damp pasture fields adjacent to the river Nadder supporting moderately species-rich grassland.
Fovant and Compton Woods	LWS	c.1km southeast	A large block of semi-natural ancient woodland, with areas of conifer and beech plantation.

3.3 Habitats

The small site is approximately 280sq.m in size and comprises 3 UK Habitat Classification types (secondary codes have been added where applicable):

g3c(17,73) – Other neutral grassland (ruderal/ephemeral, bare ground);
h3 – Dense Scrub; and
u1e(69)– Built linear feature (fence).

A map of the habitats within the site and associated Target Notes (TN) are provided in Figure 2, Appendix A.

3.3.1 g3c(17, 73) – Other neutral grassland (ruderal/ephemeral, bare ground)

The area of grassland within the site comprises c.200sq.m, and species comprise yarrow *Achillea millefolium,* cocksfoot grass *Dactylis glomerata,* common nettle *Urtica dioica,* ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea,* ivy *Hedera helix,* bramble *Rubus fruticosus,* herb robert *Geranium robertianum* and lords-and-ladies *Arum mataculum.* At the time of survey, the sward was short having recently been mown, with small areas of bare ground present.

3.3.2 h3 – Dense Scrub

Scrub within the site is situated along the northern edge and species comprise elder *Sambucus nigra,* hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna,* bramble *Rubus fruticosus,* rose *rosa rubiginosa,* apple *Malus pumila* and acer sp.

3.3.3 u1e(69) – Built linear feature (fence)

A metal and concrete post fence borders the site to the south, east and west. A brick building (outside of the site boundary) is located to the north.

3.4 Flora and Invertebrates

A total of 90 records of notable plant and invertebrate species were identified within a 1km radius of the site.

No notable invertebrate or plant species were identified within the site. The site is considered to support common and widespread flora and invertebrate species.

3.5 Amphibians – including Great Crested Newt

A total of 4 records of common toad *Bufo bufo*, a UK Priority species, were identified within 1km of the site. No protected species mitigation licences have been granted in relation to great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* within 1km of the site. The site lies on the edge of the Amber Zone of the GCN Risk Zones for Swindon and Wiltshire (Natural England, 2022). A single pond is located c.180m to the southwest of the site which was surveyed by HalpinRobbins in May 2023; the pond was dry and a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment provided a score indicating 'Below Average' habitat quality for GCN.

The site is not considered likely to support GCN due to a lack of local records, sub-optimal condition of the nearby pond and general small size of the site making occupation by this species unlikely.

3.6 Reptiles

A total of 5 records of reptiles were identified within a 1km radius of the site including slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder *Vipera berus.*

Due to the size of the site, it is considered possible that individual reptiles such as slow worm likely pass through/ occupy the site on occasion. The site is considered too small to support a population of reptiles.

3.7 Birds

A total of 48 records of birds was identified within a 1km radius of the site including species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act which receive additional protection when nesting such as barn owl *Tyto alba*.

Scrub within the site provides suitable nesting habitat for bird species. The site does not comprise suitable nesting or foraging opportunities for barn owl.

3.8 Badgers

No records of badgers *Meles meles* were identified within a 1km radius of the site and no evidence of badger was identified within the site. Due to the fenced perimeter, it is considered unlikely that badgers would occupy or pass through the site.

3.9 Bats

A total of 153 records of bats were identified within a 1km radius of the site. Species recorded include barbastelle (1), Bechstein's bat (1), Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* (6), Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri* (6), whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus* (5), brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* (31), common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (17), soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (18), greater horseshoe bat (4), lesser horseshoe bat (9), noctule *Nyctalus noctula* (9), serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* (16), unidentified *Myotis* species *Myotis sp.* (3), unidentified long-eared species *Plecotus sp.* (7), unidentified pipistrelle species *Pipistrellus sp.* (9) and unidentified bat species (11).

A further 6 records of granted European Protected Species Licences (EPSLs) for bats were identified within a 5km radius including barbastelle, Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat, brown long-eared bat, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, greater horseshoe bat and lesser horseshoe bat.

The site does not comprise any potential roosting opportunities for bats. The building located immediately to the north and outside of the site was inspected at the time of survey for completeness and was assessed as having some low-moderate bat roost suitability. Due to the small size of the site, it is not considered to provide foraging opportunities of any importance to bat species.

3.10 Hazel Dormice

No records of hazel dormouse were identified within a 1km radius of the site. The site is not considered suitable to support dormice given the limited availability of suitable habitat comprising only an isolated patch of scrub.

3.11 Other Notable Mammals

A total of 7 records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*; a UK Priority species were identified within a 1km radius of the site.

Grassland and scrub within the site provide suitable habitat for hedgehogs, however given the site's small size, it is considered unlikely to provide habitat of importance for this species within the context of the local area.

4 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS, MITIGATION AND COMPENSATION MEASURES

The mitigation and compensation recommendations provided are based on the principles of established best practice guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), the local planning authority and other relevant organisations. Where applicable, the cumulative effects potentially arising from other developments are discussed in this section.

4.1 Designated Sites

4.1.1 Potential Impacts

Site proposals are not considered likely to impact nearby designated sites due to the small scale and nature of the development.

4.2 Habitats

4.2.1 Potential Impacts

The removal of a small area of c.280sq.m of neutral grassland and scrub to construct a solar array is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts.

4.3 Flora and Invertebrates

4.3.1 Potential Impacts

The small site is considered likely to support common and widespread flora and invertebrate species. There are no anticipated impacts to these species.

4.4 Amphibians (including Great Crested Newt)

4.4.1 Potential Impacts

The removal of a small area of c.280sq.m of neutral grassland and scrub to construct a solar array is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts to amphibians, including great crested newt. There is some low potential for construction works to harm common toad if present at the time of works; this is considered minor negative temporary impact at a site level.

4.4.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures

The following mitigation measures will be incorporated to avoid, mitigate and compensate the identified impacts to amphibians, including great crested newt:

- Vegetation clearance within the site to facilitate construction will be undertaken under a precautionary manner to avoid impacts to common toad. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken in two stages by hand and comprise a single cut to 200mm height followed by a second cut to ground level after a period of 24 hours to allow any animals to disperse into adjacent retained habitats.

- In the unlikely event that any common or widespread amphibian is found, it will be left to disperse of its own accord.

- In the unlikely event that a great crested newt is found, works must cease immediately, and a competent ecologist will need to be contacted for further advice.

4.4.3 Residual Effects

The above measures will address the anticipated impacts of the proposals to amphibians, including great crested newt; there are no expected residual effects.

4.5 Reptiles

4.5.1 Potential Impacts

The removal of a small area of c.280sq.m of neutral grassland and scrub to construct a solar array has some low potential to harm individual reptiles, this is considered a minor temporary negative impact at a site level.

4.5.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures

The following mitigation measures will be incorporated to avoid, mitigate and compensate the identified impacts to reptiles:

- Vegetation clearance within the site to facilitate construction will be undertaken under a precautionary manner to avoid impacts to reptile species. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken in two stages by hand and comprise a single cut to 200mm height followed by a second cut to ground level after a period of 24 hours to allow any animals to disperse into adjacent retained habitats.

- In the unlikely event that a reptile is found, it will be left to disperse of its own accord.

4.5.3 Residual Effects

The above measures will address the anticipated impacts of the proposals to reptiles; there are no expected residual effects.

4.6 Birds

4.6.1 Potential Impacts

Scrub removal has low potential to damage/ destroy the nests of wild birds, resulting in a minor adverse impact at a site level.

4.6.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures

The following mitigation measures will be incorporated to avoid, mitigate and compensate the identified impacts to birds:

- Works which have potential to impact nesting birds (scrub removal) must be undertaken outside of the main bird nesting season (i.e. avoiding the period March to mid-September). If works cannot be timed sensitively, a check by an ecologist for nesting birds the day before works are due to commence will be required. Any active bird nests identified will be left in situ until the young have fully fledged.

4.6.3 Residual Effects

The above measures will address the anticipated impacts of the proposals to birds; there are no expected residual effects.

4.7 Badgers

4.7.1 Potential Impacts

Development proposals are not anticipated to impact upon badgers.

4.8 Bats

4.8.1 Potential Impacts

Development proposals are not anticipated to impact upon roosting or foraging/commuting bats. The construction of a solar array is also considered unlikely to impact any roosting bats that may be present within the nearby building.

4.9 Hazel Dormice

4.9.1 Potential Impacts

Development proposals are not anticipated to impact upon hazel dormice.

4.10 Other Notable Mammals

4.10.1 Potential Impacts

Scrub and grassland removal to facilitate development has some low potential to harm hedgehogs, likely to result in a minor negative temporary impact at a site level.

4.10.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures

The following mitigation measures will be incorporated to avoid, mitigate and compensate the identified impacts to hedgehogs:

- Vegetation clearance within the site to facilitate construction will be undertaken under a precautionary manner to avoid impacts to hedgehogs. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken in two stages by hand and comprise a single cut to 200mm height followed by a second cut to ground level after a period of 24 hours to allow any animals to disperse into adjacent retained habitats.

- In the unlikely event that a reptile is found, it will be left to disperse of its own accord

4.10.3 Residual Effects

The above measures will address the anticipated impacts of the proposals to hedgehogs; there are no expected residual effects.

5 ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

Enhancement measures are recommendations over and above the mitigation required, which aim to enhance biodiversity in line with national and local planning policy and are deemed appropriate for the site and its proposals.

- The area surrounding the solar array within the site should be seeded with a suitable wildflower seed mix to provide an ecological enhancement for pollinating insects. For example, Emorsgate Seeds Standard General Purpose Wild Flowers EM2F, or similar.

6 CONCLUSIONS TABLE

Table 4. Summary of ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures for the site: Proposed Solar Array, Mill Farm.

Ecological Feature	Potential Effect	Significance in the absence of mitigation	Mitigation/Compensation and Enhancement	Residual Effect
Designated Sites	No impact.	-	-	-
Habitats	No significant impact.	-	-	Negligible.
Flora and Invertebrates	No significant impact	-	Wildflower seed mix around solar array.	Positive.
Amphibians (including GCN)	Harm during construction.	Minor, negative temporary impact at site level.	Allow animals to disperse of their own accord. Contact ecologist immediately if great crested newt is identified.	Negligible.
Reptiles	Harm during construction.	Minor, negative temporary impact at site level.	Allow animals to disperse of their own accord.	Negligible.
Birds	Harm during construction.	Minor, negative impact at site level.	Nesting bird check immediately prior to works.	Negligible.
Badgers	No significant impact.	-	-	Negligible.
Bats	No significant impact.	-	-	Negligible.
Hazel Dormice	No significant impact.	-	-	Negligible.

Ecological Feature	Potential Effect	Significance in the absence of mitigation	Mitigation/Compensation and Enhancement	Residual Effect
Other Notable Mammals	Harm during construction.	Minor, negative impact at site level.	Allow animals to disperse of their own accord.	Negligible.

7 REFERENCES

CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Natural England & Wiltshire Council (2015). Bat Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): Planning Guidance for Wiltshire. Issue 3.0 10 September 2015.

HalpinRobbins (2022). Ecological Impact Assessment: Mill Farm. June 2022.

8 SITE PHOTOS



Plate 1. View of the site looking west.



Plate 2. Scrub along the northern boundary.



Plate 3. View of the site looking east.



Plate 4. Fenced southern boundary, building behind visible.

APPENDIX A – FIGURES

On following pages.



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Key:

Site location

Figure 1.
Ecological Impact Assessment, Mill Farm Solar Array
Site location in the wider landscape

Project No.:	01/042/007/08
Date:	27/06/2023



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Key:

- Site boundary
- g3c (17, 73) – Other neutral grassland (ruderal/ephemeral, bare ground)
- h3- Dense scrub
- u1e (69)- Built linear feature (fence)

Figure 2.
Ecological Impact Assessment, Mill Farm Solar Array
UK Habitats Map
05 May 2023

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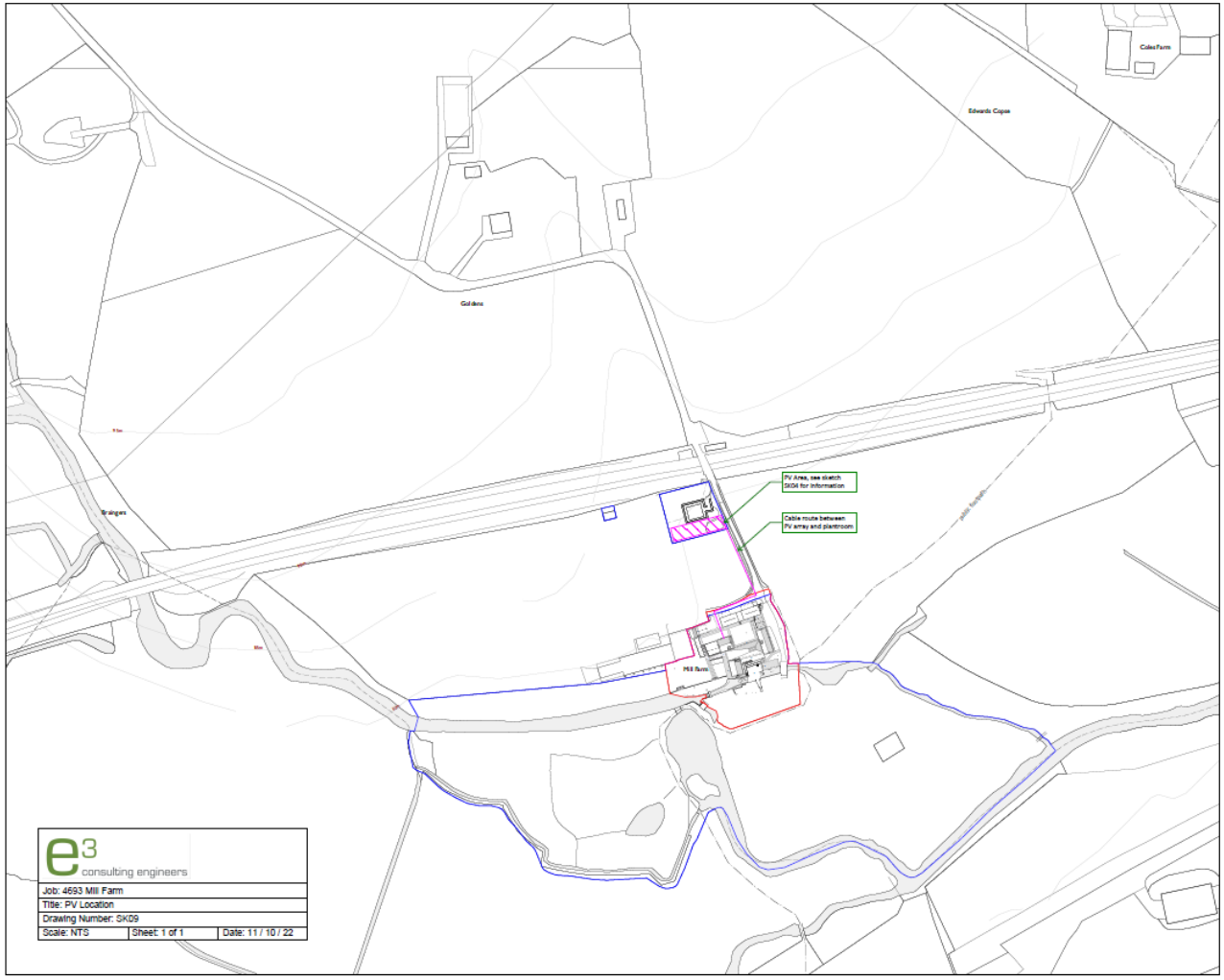
APPENDIX B - PROPOSED SITE PLANS



Drawing provided by E3 Consulting Engineers: 4693 Mill Farm SK09.

APPENDIX C - RELEVANT WILDLIFE LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

Ecological Feature	Legislation / Policy
Great crested newts	Great crested newts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. This makes it an offence to kill or injure great crested newts or damage or destroy a place of shelter or protection. Deliberate or reckless disturbance of great crested newts which could affect the ability of any significant group of animals to survive or breed may also result in an offence.
Reptiles	Reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill or injure reptiles.
Birds	Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is illegal to take, damage or destroy the nests of wild birds whilst being built or in use. Bird species also listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) receive additional protection including protection from intentional or reckless disturbance when they are nesting or rearing dependant young.
Badgers	Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under this legislation, it is an offence to kill or injure a badger, damage or destroy a sett or disturb a badger whilst it occupies a sett.
Bats	British bat species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. This makes it an offence to kill or injure bats or damage or destroy a place of shelter or protection. Deliberate or reckless disturbance of bats which could affect the ability of any significant group of animals to survive, breed, rear or nurture their young may also result in an offence.
Hazel Dormice	Dormice are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. This makes it an offence to kill or injure dormice or damage or destroy a place of shelter or protection used by this species. Deliberate or reckless disturbance of dormice which could affect the ability of any significant group of animals to survive or breed may also result in an offence.

Ecological Feature	Legislation / Policy
UK Priority Species/ Habitats	UK Priority Species/Habitats are those that have been identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action.
Biodiversity Net Gain	The Environment Act 2022 and the National Planning Policy Framework require all developments to show a net gain for biodiversity.