

Land at Old Sarum, Salisbury

Ecological Impact Assessment

July 2024

A report on behalf of Persimmon Homes Wessex

Ref: 2156-EcIA-LT

Site Details

Site Name	Land at Old Sarum
Site Location	Salisbury
Central OS Grid Reference	SU 15156 33956
Client	Persimmon Homes Wessex

Quality Assurance

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A Glossary of the terms used in this report is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Planning Background.....	1
2	Aims	1
3	Methods	1
3.1	Desk Study	1
3.2	Update Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey	1
3.3	Survey Limitations	2
4	Results	2
4.1	Designated Sites.....	2
4.2	Habitats & Flora	3
4.3	Fauna.....	4
5	Further Survey Work	5
6	Impacts and Mitigation.....	6
6.1	Designated Sites.....	6
6.2	Habitats and Flora	6
6.3	Fauna.....	7
7	Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	9
8	Enhancements	9
9	Monitoring	10
10	Conclusions	10
11	References	11

Figures

- 1: UK Habitat Classification Survey
- 2: On-Site Post-Development BNG Plan

Appendices

Appendix 1 – General Glossary of Terms	14
Appendix 2 – Planning Policy and Legislation.....	15
Appendix 3 – Site Photographs	17
Appendix 4 – List of Flora and Fauna Recorded	19

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an updated Ecological Impact Assessment at Land at Old Sarum, Salisbury (central OS grid reference: SU 15156 33956) in relation to a detailed planning application for the construction of up to 41 dwellings with associated infrastructure and Public Open Space (POS). The surveys were commissioned by Persimmon Homes Wessex.

The area within the application boundary is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.

1.1 Planning Background

The Site is part of a wider area which benefits from outline planning consent for a mixed-use scheme (planning ref. S/2005/0211) comprising residential, employment, retail and a local centre. An application for the construction of 41 new dwellings was made in 2021 (planning ref. PL/2021/04084) to which this EcIA relates.

2 AIMS

The purpose of this updated EcIA is to refresh the information that was produced to inform that application and provide updated mitigation strategies as appropriate to reflect amended proposals for the Site and up to date planning policy and guidance.

The aims of this report are to:

- 👉 Identify and describe the habitats and species likely to be affected by the proposed development and assess the ecological value of these features;
- 👉 Identify key ecological constraints to the proposed development and evaluate the significance of any potential effects; and,
- 👉 Provide recommendations for mitigation and enhancement opportunities in accordance with relevant planning policy, legislation and other published guidance (see **Appendix 2**).

3 METHODS

3.1 Desk Study

A desk-based study was undertaken in October 2023 whereby:

- 👉 The Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) was contacted for records of protected/notable species and sites designated for nature conservation value within a 2km radius of the Site boundary, extended to 4km for bat species;
- 👉 MAGIC (www.magic.gov.uk) was searched for National Site Network (European) designated sites within 10km and Priority Habitats and Protected Species licences within or adjacent to the Site;
- 👉 Previous reports completed by Tyler Grange in March 2021 were reviewed with any relevant results provided in the appropriate sub-sections; and
- 👉 Aerial photography of the wider area was reviewed to identify possible important habitat features.

3.2 Update Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey

A site walkover was undertaken on 24 October 2023 by Lindsay Taylor BSc MSc ACIEEM and Ella Bond when weather conditions were dry with good visibility.

All habitats within the Site were identified, described and mapped during the field survey in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) (Butcher et al. 2020) for area habitats and Biodiversity Metric 4.0 classifications for hedgerows (Natural England, 2023a), with other linear and point features mapped

using Phase 1 Habitat Survey symbology (JNCC 2010). Secondary UKHab codes have not been mapped but are described within the text.

Habitat condition was assessed following Biodiversity Metric condition assessment criteria (Natural England, 2024). A non-exhaustive botanical species list compiled, with plant names following Stace (2019). The survey was extended to highlight the potential presence of protected and priority species in accordance with CIEEM's Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2017). This involved a search to identify the presence or potential presence of notable and protected species such as breeding birds, badger, dormouse, bats, reptiles and amphibians. Target Notes (TNs) were used to record any features or habitats of ecological interest.

3.3 Survey Limitations

Care has been taken to ensure that balanced advice is provided on the information available and collected during the study period (s), and within the resources available for the project. However, the possibility of important ecological features being missed due to survey timings, absence during surveys or the year of survey cannot be ruled out. In addition, the lack of evidence or records of protected species on Site does not preclude their presence from Site.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Designated Sites

A summary of designated sites within the search area is provided in **Table 1**.

The Site lies within the catchment of the River Avon SAC in relation to phosphates and nutrient neutrality.

Table 1: Designated sites records within 2km of Site boundary, 10km for European sites

Site Name	Proximity to Site	Description
<i>National Site Network ('European sites')</i>		
River Avon SAC	1.3km south-east and 2.4km west	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> 1095 Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> 1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> 1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>
Salisbury Plain SAC	4.1km east	Annex habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (*important orchid sites) Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site 1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)
Salisbury Plain SPA	9.0km northeast	Important populations of stone curlew <i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i> and hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>.
Porton Down SPA	4.1km east	- Constituent part of the Salisbury Plain SAC. - Important breeding site for stone curlew.
<i>Statutory Designated Sites</i>		

Site Name	Proximity to Site	Description
River Avon System	1.6km east	SSSI is a tributary to the River Avon SAC therefore similar reasons for designations including; Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> 1095 Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> 1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> 1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>
Local Wildlife Sites		
Winterbourne Earls Meadows	1.4km east	Former water-meadow adjacent to the River Bourne supporting a mosaic of neutral grassland and fen communities.
Old Sarum	1.6km south-west	Hill fort with Roman and Norman archaeology with unimproved calcareous grassland on grazed ramparts, neutral grassland on mown areas within and rank mesotrophic grassland, scrub and scrub woodland elsewhere.

The Site lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of the River Avon System SSSI however small residential developments of fewer than 100 houses or under 1ha are not considered a likely impact.

4.2 Habitats & Flora

The extended Phase I survey undertaken by Tyler Grange in 2019, using the JNCC Phase I classification system, identified the following habitats on Site: poor semi-improved grassland; hardstanding; and scrub. A line of trees was also identified offsite to the west. The update survey undertaken by GE in 2023 confirmed the Site is dominated by modified grassland (see **Appendix 3** for details and species list) with patches of bare ground, scrub and tall forb vegetation with some piles of rubble/wood towards the north.

The grassland has been heavily managed to a very short sward, <5cm on the whole. A narrow treeline with scrubby understorey runs along the western boundary. No boundary features are present on the other three boundaries, with the grassland lying directly adjacent to the paving of the surrounding residential development.

Whilst the survey was undertaken at a sub-optimal time of year when all plant species may not be visible, a review of historical aerial photography shows that up until at least 2005, the Site appears to have been an arable field used intensively for crop culture. In 2014, it appears that the Site had been cleared and planted with amenity grassland, with the compound for the surrounding development located in the northern section of the Site, including hardstanding and several temporary buildings within this area. This remained in situ until 2018 where the compound was removed, and the Site was left unmanaged. Considering the history of the Site and the assessment undertaken by Tyler Grange, it is considered unlikely that any habitat of high distinctiveness has been able to establish in the intervening period and as such modified grassland is the most appropriate habitat type to assign to the grassland.

In addition, whilst the areas of bare ground may display some species/ features characteristic of "Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land", the criteria within the UKHab guidance released in 2023 specifies that in order to classify an area as this habitat type, it must be greater than or equal to 0.25ha. The area in question measures approximately 0.12ha and therefore does not qualify for this habitat type.

Photographs and further details are provided in **Appendix 3**.

4.3 Fauna

Table 1 lists the fauna considered likely to be present on Site.

Table 1: Assessment of Fauna on Site

Species/ Group	Potential Presence?	Location & Rationale
Amphibians	X	One record for common toad was returned from c. 1.8km to the south-west. No records for great crested newt were returned from within 2km. There are no waterbodies present on Site. One waterbody c. 0.2km to the west was noted on aerial mapping however, this appears to be part of a SuDS/drainage system likely created as part of the construction of the surrounding development. The system comprises a series of swales and basins, some of which were wet at the time of survey, however no aquatic vegetation was observed. It is therefore likely to be dry for most of the year and as such is unlikely to support breeding populations of amphibians. Suitable habitats on Site are limited to the small piles of rubble/wood and patches of taller grass and tall forb vegetation in the north of the Site. Due to the lack of suitable breeding habitat and limited terrestrial habitat, it is considered that the Site is of Negligible importance for amphibians. As such, this species group is not discussed further within this report.
Badger	✓	WSBRC returned 8 records for badgers, with the closest being c. 0.2km to the south-east. The Site supports limited suitable habitat for badger, mainly restricted to foraging habitat within the grassland and scrubby treeline. Badgers are not listed as a species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and have therefore not been assigned a scale of importance in this case but will be considered further in this assessment in relation to their legal protection only.
Bats	✓	WSBRC returned numerous records for seven species of bat including brown long-eared bat, common pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, <i>Myotis</i> spp., noctule, serotine, soprano pipistrelle and whiskered bat. Roost records were also returned for:  Lesser Horseshoe bat (c. 4.4km to the southwest),  Brown long-eared bat (nearest c. 1.7km to the east),  Common pipistrelle (nearest c. 2.2km to the southwest),  <i>Myotis</i> spp. (c. 4.1km to the north),  Noctule (nearest c. 2.9km to the south),  Natterer's (nearest c. 1.7km to the east),  Serotine (nearest c. 1.9km to the south),  Soprano pipistrelle (nearest c. 1km to the west),  Whiskered (nearest 4km to the southwest). No potential roosting features were observed during the survey therefore the Site is considered to be of Negligible roosting potential for bats. Suitable commuting and foraging habitats are extremely limited by the surrounding residential development and the adjacent football ground, both of which are likely to exhibit very high levels of artificial

		light. It is considered that all but the most light-tolerant species (such as the pipistrelle species) are unlikely to be utilising the Site. The Site is therefore considered to be of Negligible importance for commuting and foraging bats.
Birds	✓	Numerous records for birds were returned from WSBRC including those listed on the red list, SPIs and Schedule 1. The closest records to the Site are for red kite, lapwing and skylark, however the habitats on Site are not considered suitable for breeding or foraging for these species. The western treeline is likely to support breeding birds of common urban fringe species only. As such, the Site is considered to be of up to Local importance for breeding birds.
Dormouse	X	No records returned from within 2km of the Site. The western treeline does support suitable habitats for dormouse however it is very isolated within the residential setting, with no connectivity to other suitable habitats. It is therefore considered that the Site is of Negligible importance to dormouse and the species is not discussed further within this report.
Hedgehog	✓	WSBRC returned 113 records for hedgehog, with the closest being c. 0.1km to the southeast. The Site supports suitable resting, sheltering and foraging habitats for hedgehogs within the western treeline. The grassland is limited to foraging suitability. It is likely that hedgehogs are present within the locality due to their propensity for garden habitats therefore it is considered that the Site is of up to Local importance for hedgehogs.
Invertebrates	✓	WSBRC returned 59 records for invertebrates, however none were associated with the Site or adjacent habitats. The habitats on Site may provide limited foraging and breeding opportunities however, it is likely that an assemblage of common species is present. The is therefore considered to be of up to Local importance for invertebrates.
Reptiles	✓	WSBRC returned 7 records for slow worm (nearest c. 0.9km to the south), grass snake (c. 1.8km to the east), and 3 records for common lizard (nearest c. 1.8km to the southwest). Habitats suitable for reptiles are restricted to the longer areas of grass and tall forb vegetation, as well as the small rubble/wood piles, however suitability is limited to common species of reptile, particularly slow worm. As such it is considered that the Site is of up to Local importance for reptiles.
Other notable species	X	WSBRC returned 4 records for otter (nearest c. 1.5 km to the southeast), all of which were either on or adjacent to the River Bourne. 119 records of Water Vole were returned (nearest c. 1.2km to the southeast) with the majority on the River Bourne and a couple on the River Avon. There are no suitable habitats on Site for either of these species therefore they are not considered further within this report.

5 FURTHER SURVEY WORK

No further ecological survey work is considered necessary for this application; however any changes to the proposed masterplan or if any significant amount of time has passed since the date of this report, a re-appraisal may be required.

6 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

6.1 Designated Sites

6.1.1 River Avon SAC

The Site lies within the catchment area for the River Avon SAC in relation to nutrient neutrality for the Hampshire Avon. According to guidance on Wiltshire Council's website "*any proposal for a net addition of overnight accommodation is affected. This includes housing, retirement homes, care homes and overnight tourism*". For developments within the Hampshire Avon area, proposals sitting within settlement boundaries (Core Policies 1 and 2) are classed as 'planned development' and therefore fall under Wiltshire Council's strategic approach to nutrient neutrality. The Site lies within the Principal Settlement of Salisbury¹ therefore this approach applies.

Wiltshire Council state that:

"Strategic mitigation is delivered by the council on behalf of developers, providing that burdens are avoided and mitigated on site as far as practicable. This can be achieved by certain types of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS)."

In order to minimise the levels of phosphorous arising from urban run-off, the SuDS within the proposed development must be in accordance with the latest CIRIA guidance². Providing this requirement is met, and the strategic approach adopted, it is considered that there will be no impacts to the River Avon SAC.

6.1.2 Salisbury Plain SAC & SPA

The Site lies outside of the 6.4km recreational impact zone for the Salisbury Plain SPA therefore no impacts are anticipated.

No consultation zones are in existence for the Salisbury Plain SAC. Due to the distances involved and reasons for designation, no impacts are predicted to the site as a result of the proposed development.

6.1.3 Porton Down SPA

The Site lies outside of the 1.5km visual disturbance zone for stone curlew at the Porton Down SPA therefore no impacts are anticipated.

6.1.4 Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Given their distance from the Site and the small scale of the proposed development, no impacts are predicted to affect designated sites and they are not considered further in this report.

6.2 Habitats and Flora

All grassland, bare ground, bramble scrub and tall forb vegetation will be lost as a result of the development, as well as eleven trees from within the western treeline.

Proposals include the provision/ creation of new habitats within the development including areas of species-rich grassland (Hedgerow Grassland Seedmix – Emorsgate EH1 and Wet Meadow Mixture –

¹ <https://wiltscouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8175cb711fd94b338e2b9f748c4e91f2>

² Using SuDS to reduce phosphorous in surface water run-off (C808F). CIRIA, 2022.

Emorsgate EM8), modified/amenity grassland in the form of turf and ornamental planting within the POS. In addition, thirteen specimen trees will be planted throughout the development.

All retained trees will be safeguarded in line with best arboricultural practice during construction and all existing and newly created habitats, including those within the offsite area, will be managed to maximise biodiversity. It is recommended that measures to restore and enhance existing habitats, to ensure successful establishment of new habitats, and to maintain the value of all ecological features in the long-term are detailed within a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) which could be controlled through an appropriately worded planning condition.

Some of the habitats present within the Site require further consideration in relation to supporting protected and notable species as further discussed below.

6.3 Fauna

6.1.5 Badger

Badgers and their setts receive protection under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which protects them from deliberate harm and injury.

No badger setts or evidence of badger activity were found on Site, therefore it is considered that the species doesn't currently pose a constraint to the proposed development. However, mindful that badgers are highly mobile and frequently establish new setts, suitable habitats which are to be affected by development, such as hedgerows and the dry ditch, could support badger setts in the future.

The following precautionary measures are therefore recommended:

-  Update survey of affected habitats, no less than one month prior to works commencing;
-  Exclusion of badgers under a Natural England badger licence should any active setts be discovered that require removal/ disturbance during works; and
-  Good practice construction measures to ensure badgers are either unable to access the construction site or cannot become trapped in excavations (e.g. through covering up at night or inserting an 'escape ramp').

The habitat creation and enhancement measures proposed above would maintain foraging opportunities for badgers post-development.

6.1.6 Bats

Roosting

No potential roosting features were observed on Site and, due to the nature of habitats present, opportunities for roosting are considered absent. As such, no impacts are anticipated.

Commuting/ Foraging

It is considered highly unlikely that the Site provides any important foraging or commuting habitat for bats due to the high levels of lighting and limited habitats. Furthermore, more optimal habitats lie within the wider landscape surrounding the settlement, which are more likely to support an assemblage of bats. It is therefore considered that the development is highly unlikely to impact upon the success of roosts and viability of populations within the locality.

It is possible that the more light-tolerant species such as pipistrelle bats may utilise the Site for foraging on occasion. Therefore provisions will be made to allow these opportunities to remain within the Site. As

such, any new external lighting will be in line with recommendations in the 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK' (ILP & BCT, 2018).

Lighting on and around the new buildings should also be minimised so as to avoid disturbance to bats opportunistically utilising the Site for commuting and foraging. It is recommended that outdoor lighting erected within the Site should be on motion sensors (where appropriate) and use low wattage rated bulbs which do not emit light from the UV end of the spectrum. It is also recommended that the bulbs are covered and positioned downwards so as to minimise light spill.

Between 1st April and 31st October, works during the construction phase should be undertaken starting no earlier than 30 minutes after sunrise and finishing no later than 30 minutes before sunset with no Site lighting overnight. Noise disturbance should also be kept to a minimum during this time.

The removal of habitats deemed necessary for the proposals, i.e. grassland, tall forb vegetation and trees will further reduce the limited foraging opportunities on Site. However, these minor losses will be compensated for through the planting of new trees, grassland and ornamental shrubs as part of the Site's landscaping strategy.

It is therefore anticipated that the enhancement measures described will maintain the Site's limited capacity to support bats. The future management of the Site under the provisions of a LEMP will ensure successful establishment and long-term management of these features and have the potential to increase their value to foraging and commuting bats.

6.1.7 *Birds*

All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), with certain species afforded additional protection measures.

Any removal of or disturbance to any vegetation on Site that is considered to offer potential nesting habitat for breeding birds (i.e. the trees and scrub), should be undertaken between September and February inclusive or following inspection for active nests by a suitably qualified ecologist. If nesting birds are found to be present then a buffer will be implemented around the nest, in which no works can take place until all birds have fledged.

6.1.8 *Invertebrates*

It is anticipated that impacts to invertebrates will be minimal due limited existing habitats. Nonetheless, the loss of the tall ruderal and longer areas of grass as well as the trees will reduce the opportunities on Site for common invertebrates. New tree planting however will include flowering and fruiting species which will allow the majority of any assemblage present to continue to utilise the habitats on Site.

Enhancement of the Site will be undertaken through planting of wildlife friendly species, such as native species or those selected from RHS Plants for Pollinators List as part of the soft landscaping scheme.

6.1.9 *Reptiles*

Common species of reptile, including slow worm and grass snake, are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it illegal to intentionally kill or injure them. In addition, all native species of reptile are SPIs under the NERC Act 2006.

During construction and enabling works there is considered to be a low risk of common species of reptile, such as slow worm, to be killed or injured which would be an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Suitable habitats on Site are limited to the small areas of longer grassland and tall ruderal in the north-western corner of the Site. As it is such a small area, it is considered only feasible to support a very small number of individuals of common species and widespread species, if present **at all**. **As such**, a precautionary approach to vegetation removal is considered appropriate in this instance. This will include sensitive timings and habitat clearance under the supervision of an ECoW.

- 👉 Works will be undertaken during the reptile active season which runs from March/ April (depending on the weather) through to September.
- 👉 Works will be undertaken under the supervision of an ECoW, taking the requirements for nesting birds (see above) into consideration.
- 👉 Habitat will be cleared using a two-stage cutting process. The first cut will take the vegetation down to no lower than 150mm (following a nesting bird check if necessary). This will reduce the suitability of the habitat whilst being high enough to reduce the risk of injury to any individual animals that may be present. If nesting birds are found, the area should be left as described above.
- 👉 The area will then be checked by the ECoW for the presence of reptiles. Any reptiles found will be moved to safety in surrounding suitable habitats, namely the open space to the north-west.
- 👉 The ECoW will undertake hand searches of any features (rubble/ log piles etc.) determined to be suitable for reptiles.
- 👉 The second cut will take the vegetation to bare ground.
- 👉 The arisings will be removed from Site so as not to create suitable habitat piles.
- 👉 These areas will be maintained at as bare ground until ground works commence. Should it be left to regenerate, the precautionary measures will apply again.

The western treeline will be protected during construction using Heras fencing (or similar) to ensure no storage or other activity is undertaken within the root protection areas. This could be controlled via the CEMP.

6.1.10 Other Notable Species

During the construction and enabling works, there is potential to harm hedgehogs. The measures outlined above for badgers and reptiles will also ensure that hedgehogs will be safeguarded. Any individuals encountered during enabling works will be moved to a place of safety, namely the southern boundary.

The residential gardens and POS will provide suitable foraging and resting habitat for hedgehogs during the operational phase. Hedgehog passes will be installed into garden fences throughout the development to ensure continued safe access through the Site.

7 BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

The Site baseline comprises 4.50 habitat units and 0.1 hedgerow/ linear units.

An indicative BNG assessment suggests that offsetting is likely to be required. Further details are provided in the BNG Statement and Assessment Report (Ref: 2156-BNG-AG), which provides the BNG information required to support the planning application under Article 7 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, and in the submitted statutory biodiversity metric (2156-SBM-AG).

8 ENHANCEMENTS

In accordance with NPPF, the development has been designed to enhance the Site for biodiversity. The newly created and enhanced habitats have been incorporated into existing corridors where possible, retaining access through and around the Site for a variety of species.

In addition, further enhancements for protected/ notable species are recommended. Emerging policies within the Wiltshire Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft³ recommend the following:

- 🦋 Two integrated bird boxes per dwelling;
- 🦋 Provision of integrated bat boxes (no number specified however due to the limited likelihood of bats using the Site, it is recommended that one bat box per three dwellings is installed. The box type should be suitable for crevice dwelling, light tolerant species such as the pipistrelles); and
- 🦋 Close board fencing should include frequent gaps at the base measuring a minimum of 13cm x 13cm to allow hedgehogs to move through the Site freely.

9 MONITORING

Monitoring should be undertaken to ensure that the mitigation described in this report has been undertaken to a satisfactory standard. This applies to both the construction and operation phases of the development.

10 CONCLUSIONS

In summary the Site was considered to be of relatively low ecological interest, with minimal adverse impacts predicted on important ecological features.

Avoidance measures and careful timing of works have been incorporated into the design to eliminate impacts protected and notable species and habitat creation has been included to compensate for habitat loss. These are illustrated in **Figure 1**.

Provided the avoidance and mitigation measures are carried out, the proposal is considered unlikely to have significant adverse effects on ecological features.

A number of enhancement measures have been recommended with the aim of providing a net biodiversity gain, contributing to the aims of National Planning Policy Framework and local policy.

³https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/11976/Wiltshire-Local-Plan-Pre-Submission-Draft-2020-2038-Regulation-19/pdf/Wiltshire_Local_Plan_Reg_19_web_accessible_version.pdf?m=1695730562743

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Legend:

- Site boundary
- Tall forbs
- Modified grassland
- Bramble scrub
- Developed land / sealed surface
- Bare ground
- Line of trees
- Urban tree



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Figure 1:
UK Habitats Survey

Project:
Land at Old Sarum, Salisbury

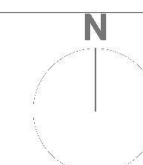
Client:
Persimmon Wessex

Date:
20/12/2023

Ref:
2156-EclA-F1

Drawn:
LT

Revision:
-





Legend:

- Site Boundary
- Introduced shrub
- Attenuation pond
- Other neutral grassland
- Modified grassland
- Vegetated gardens
- Developed land / sealed surface
- Buildings
- Ornamental Hedgerow
- Individual trees - Post-development
- Individual trees - retained



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Figure 2:
Post-Development BNG Plan

Project:
Land at Old Sarum, Salisbury

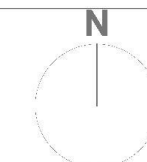
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Persimmon Wessex

Date:
20/12/2023

Drawn:
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Ref:
2156-EcIA-F2

Revision:
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Appendix 1 – General Glossary of Terms

Annex I	Threatened bird listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive/ Habitats listed on Annex I of the EC Habitats Directive
Annex II	Species of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of SACs
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BoCC	Bird of Conservation Concern
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
EPS	European Protected Species
EPSL	European Protected Species Licence
HPI	Habitat of Principal Importance required under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LEMP	Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NERC Act	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NVC	National Vegetation Classification Survey
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPI	Species of Principal Importance required under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended)
ZOI	Zone of Influence

Appendix 2 – Planning Policy and Legislation

Habitat and Species Legislation

Species and habitats receive legal protection in the UK under various legislation, including:

-  The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
-  The Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
-  The Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000;
-  The Hedgerows Regulations 1997;
-  The Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and
-  The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

Where relevant, this report takes into account the legislative protection afforded to specific habitats and species.

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Governments planning policies for England and how local planning authorities should incorporate them into their own policies and plans. Chapter 15 of the NPPF contains several policies targeted at enhancing the natural environment and requires local authorities to consider how impacts on biodiversity can be minimised and provide net gains in biodiversity. Paragraph 174 states that:

“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;*
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;*
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;*
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and*
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.”*

In addition, paragraph 179 (b) ensures that to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

“b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.”

Additional Planning Practice Guidance (PPGs) supports the NPPF and includes guidance on:

-  Landscape;
-  Biodiversity, ecosystems and green infrastructure; and

-  Brownfield land, soils and agricultural land.

Local Planning Policy

Wiltshire Council adopted the Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document in January 2015 which provides an overarching policy framework for Wiltshire up to 2026. Core Policies (CP) which were considered as part of this report include:

-  CP50: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
-  CP52: Green Infrastructure.

Appendix 3 – Site Photographs

Description	Photograph
Modified grassland dominates the Site with grass species comprising at least 85% of the species present and less than 6 species per m². Managed to a very short sward on the whole. Grassland is dominated by perennial rye grass and cock's foot (combined percentage of approximately 75-80%), with other species such as white clover, a fescue, ribwort plantain, spear thistle, lamb's ear, creeping buttercup, black medic, a vetch, yarrow, speedwell and creeping cinquefoil.	
Patches of bare ground with pioneer species colonising such as dandelion, bristly oxtongue, oxeye daisy, broad leaved dock and a hawkweed present.	
Tall ruderal towards the north-west of the Site with areas of coarser grass. Species include cow parsley, buddleja, willowherb, a brome, weld, ragwort, greater plantain, hogweed and poppy.	

Bramble scrub along the western boundary.		
Gappy narrow treeline towards the southern end of the western boundary.		
Western boundary treeline comprising hawthorn, rose, blackthorn, buckthorn, sycamore, ash and goat willow.		

Appendix 4 – List of Flora and Fauna Recorded

Flora

Common Name	Scientific Name (Stace 2019)
Barren Brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>
Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Common Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Rose species	<i>Rosa</i> sp.
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>

Fauna

Common Name	Scientific Name
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Common lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>
Common pipistrelle bat	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Common toad	<i>Bufo Bufo</i>
Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>
Grass snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
Lesser horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>
Myotis bat species	<i>Myotis sp.</i>
Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>
Noctule bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
Serotine bat	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>
Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>
Soprano pipistrelle bat	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>
Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>
Whiskered bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>

