

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Survey site:

The White House, Newton Lane, Whiteparish, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 2QQ

Client:

Kate Brosnan

Survey date:

10/01/2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the Wiltshire Council. The proposal is described as:

The construction of a stable block, access track and menage.

[Unsubmitted]

PEA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024.](#)

Executive summary
Biodiversity net gain Planning application must be accompanied by a landscaping/habitat creation and enhancement strategy, biodiversity net gain calculations and a habitat management and monitoring plan to ensure the proposed development delivers a 10% net gain. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites Due to the presence of designated sites within 10km, the LPA may be required to undertake a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). Bats Artificial lighting The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats or the retained building without mitigation. This may disturb commuting bats. Reptiles, amphibians, badgers and hedgehogs Precautionary working methods. Please see relevant sections for details. Biodiversity enhancements Please see relevant sections for details.
Site Location and Context
The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference SU 23828 22810 and has an area of approximately 0.198ha. It is situated within a rural setting ~0.9km southwest of Whiteparish, Salisbury. The site comprises two fields bounded by native hedgerow and trees. One field is mowed for hay, the other for equestrian use. A stable block (B1-3) and small storage barns (B4-5) are located adjacent the northwestern boundary. The trees and hedgerows located along the boundary of the site extend into the local landscape which maintains connectivity from the site to local areas of arable grassland, woodland, treelines and hedgerow. Aerial imagery shows the local landscape contains a network of arable fields, treeline and parcels of scattered woodland and in close proximity to the site. Whilst no large waterbodies are present, a tributary of the River Blackwater and small ponds are located within 500m of the site. Such features likely enhance the area for a variety of species, including bats, amphibians and reptiles.
Survey Details
The site survey was undertaken by Rebecca Gane BSc (Hons) Graduate Ecologist, an Accredited Agent on a Natural England survey licence for bats [2018-33540-CLS-CLS (Class 1)].

Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
10/01/2025	0	87	0	0	None
Survey limitations					
It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to describe the baseline conditions within the survey area, and evaluate these features, this report does not provide a complete characterisation of the site. This assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species being present. This is based on suitability of the habitats on the site and in the wider landscape, the ecology and biology of species as currently understood, and the known distribution of species as recovered during the searches of historical biological records. A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given the location of the site, the nature of the habitats present and the assessed suitability of the site for protected or notable species, it is not anticipated that the purchase of biological records data will add any significant weight or alter the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report. Due to seasonal limitations, further surveys within the optimal season for surveying vegetation would normally be required to obtain accurate habitat classification and condition assessment data. However, in the case of this site, the delays involved would likely be disproportionate to the predicted likely value of the habitat. As such, a “worst case scenario” precautionary assessment is applied in line with Statutory Guidance within Biodiversity Net Gain Condition Assessment Criteria. In the interests of proportionality, this assessment is realistic, but where information cannot be determined due to time of year, the best possible habitat condition is assumed. Similarly, due to the construction of the stable block and track, the previous habitat could not be identified during the survey. However, anecdotal and photographic evidence as well as aerial imagery confirm that the habitat originally in-situ was grassland, most likely resembling the area adjacent.					

Ecological Survey Factor	Detailed using desk study and site survey (carried out under good weather conditions). Any specific limitations noted within relevant section. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.
Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations	
Habitats and plants (see habitat map in appendix 1, location plan in appendix 2, proposal plan in appendix 3 and photos in appendix 4). Botanical species are described with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i> <i>(UKHab codes used)</i>	The site contains native hedgerow which is listed as a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). The site also contains trees which are of good quality and could be of value to local wildlife populations (as detailed in subsequent sections of this table). Other habitats within the site are common and widespread and have low ecological value. Further notable habitats are present within 2km.

	On-site habitat descriptions (Please see appendix 5 for full condition assessments) <u>u1b5 – Buildings</u> A stable block and small open-sided storage barns are located along the northern boundary. Bat and bird value is discussed in the relevant sections of this report. Condition assessment: N/A <u>u1c – Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface</u> A crushed tarmac track runs along from the access gate along the northern boundary and continues into the stable block area. Condition assessment: N/A <u>g3c – Other neutral grassland with line of trees [33]. Horse-grazed [103]</u> The site comprises of two fields. The northernmost field (field 1) is used for grazing horses, with the northeastern, southeastern and southwestern perimeter used for riding. The grassland within field 1 is predominantly grazed to a short sward height and has a low species diversity. An area of grassland along the northwestern boundary is managed to a lesser extent (i.e. ungrazed). Species composition within field 1 is heavily dominant with grasses including (A) common bent, red fescue, Yorkshire fog, (F) ragwort, (O) cock'sfoot, bramble, (R) Canadian fleabane, hoary willowherb, red clover, pendulous sedge and mouse ear chickweed. A line of trees runs the partial length of the northwestern boundary, which consists of elm ash and hazel. The trees have recently undergone management by a utilities company, who has fully pollarded the ash tree, removing all of the canopy. A line of oak trees is located along the southeastern boundary of field 1, and scattered trees are located within the partition of the two fields. As the stable block and track has been constructed, is it assumed that this area previously contained the same species. Neutral grassland condition assessment (field 1): Poor Neutral grassland condition assessment (parcel 1): Moderate Line of trees condition assessment (northwestern boundary): Poor Line of trees condition assessment (southeastern boundary): Moderate
--	--

	<u>g3c – Other neutral grassland. Hay [109]</u> The southernmost field (field 2) is primarily used for hay production. Species composition within this field is very low and contains a dense sward of (D) cock'sfoot, (F) red fescue, common bent, (O) creeping buttercup and (R) creeping thistle and (R) ragwort. Whilst the survey was undertaken within the suboptimal period for plant identification, the dense sward of grass species, homogenous dense sward and current management process most likely does not allow for other species to thrive. Therefore it is likely that the species diversity remains low, even within the optimal season. Neutral grassland condition assessment (field 2): Poor <u>w1g – Other broadleaved woodland</u> A thicket of <i>Prunus</i> spp trees is located on the northwestern boundary of field 2. This area is devoid of ground flora and is left unmanaged. Woodland condition assessment: Poor <u>h2a – Native Hedgerow with line of trees [33] and scattered trees [32]</u> A native hedgerow consisting predominantly of elm but also containing holly, hawthorn, blackthorn and willow is located on the northwestern boundary of field 1. The ground layer of the hedgerow consists of ivy, common nettle, cow parsley and cleavers. A line of trees is also located along the northwestern boundary, which consists of elm, ash and hazel. The ash has recently been pollarded by utilities management. Similarly, a native hedgerow consisting predominantly of blackthorn on the northeastern boundary of field 2, which contains mature hawthorns and single oak trees with diameter at breast height (DBH) <30cm (small). Native hedgerow condition assessment (northwestern boundary – field 1): Good Native hedgerow condition assessment (northeastern boundary – field 2): Good Scattered trees condition assessment: Good <u>h3a – Blackthorn scrub</u> A stretch of blackthorn scrub is located on the northeastern boundary of field 1. Some bramble is located within this area however the area is dominated by a dense thicket of blackthorn. Blackthorn scrub condition assessment: Poor
--	--

	<u>h3d – Bramble scrub</u> Bramble scrub is located in various areas along the site boundaries. Substantial and dense areas are located along the northeastern boundary of field 1 and along the southwestern boundary of field 2. Other areas of scattered bramble scrub are located near the access gate and along the southeastern boundary of field 1 and the partition between the two fields. Condition assessment: N/A <u>h3h – Mixed scrub</u> An area of mixed scrub is located along the southwestern boundary. This area contains hazel, oak, dog rose, bramble, field maple and hawthorn. Mixed scrub condition assessment: Moderate Local notable habitats Patches of lowland mixed deciduous woodland (LMDW) are present in close proximity to the site. The closest is a cluster of smaller parcels located ~0.05km to the south, with a second patch of LMDW ~0.24km to the west. The trees on-site likely have functional connectivity to these patches of woodland, given their proximity to the site and the presence of numerous trees throughout the garden landscape. LMDW is classed as a priority habitat under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006. Further priority habitats are present within 2km of the site, including ancient woodland (~0.36km west), lowland meadows (~0.3km south), and traditional orchards (~0.76km east).
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	On-site habitats The habitats on-site are widespread and not notable. The proposed menage will result in the loss of ~0.22ha poor condition neutral grassland. Whilst the stable block and unsealed surface (~0.145ha) are already in situ, it is unlikely that this has had any significant ecological impact, given the field's current and previous use as equestrian grazing and hay production. No trees or hedgerow are to be removed with the proposed development. Notable habitats No impacts to any notable habitats are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such habitats.
<i>Recommendations</i>	On-site habitats To compensate for the proposed habitat losses at the site, the following habitat creation measures could be incorporated:

	Neutral grassland improvement. This can be achieved through sowing of a seed mixture appropriate for the context (pH and soil constituents) to achieve a higher level of biodiversity. Notable habitats None required. Biodiversity net gain The Environment Act (2021) requires all developments (excluding exemptions) to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity. This is mandatory for larger developments and comes into force for smaller developments on 2nd April 2024. Therefore, the planning application must be accompanied by a landscaping/habitat creation and enhancement strategy, biodiversity net gain calculations and a habitat management and monitoring plan to ensure the proposed development delivers a 10% net gain.
Locality and Designated Sites	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	On-site designations The site is not subject to any designation. Statutory designated sites (within 2km) There are 5 statutory sites within 2km of the site, as detailed below: Langley Wood National Nature Reserve (NNR) – ~0.9km south Langley Wood is a large area of ancient oak woodland that marks the northern tip of the New Forest. New Forest (Rianne Moor Lane Meadow West (002) Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) – ~0.6km south This unit of the New Forest SSSI is situated adjacent a tributary of the River Blackwater. It contains an area of open, grassland on the northern spur, occupying about a quarter of the area. The bulk of the unit to the west is dominated by secondary alder wet woodland with lesser pond sedge beneath, which has encroached further over the more open mire grassland habitats since the land was designated. New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – ~0.8km east and ~1.1km south The New Forest SAC is designated for it's annex I habitats, including: - Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) - Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>

	- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> - European dry heaths - Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) - Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> - Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>) <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests - Bog woodland - Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains - Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) As well as annex II species including: - Southern damselfly - Stag beetle Whiteparish Common SSSI – ~0.9km east An ancient semi-natural woodland containing predominantly beechwood with pedunculate oak and ash, but also exhibits a large number of other woodland types. It supports an exceptionally diverse woodland flora and some uncommon butterfly species including one of nationally restricted distribution. Langley Wood and Homan's Copse SSSI – ~0.8km south An ancient woodland that appears to have had no continuous history of grazing or coppicing, and to have been modified by man to a lesser degree than most woodland in lowland England. Several species of tree and shrub are present in Langley Wood and Homan's Copse are now rare or extinct in the New Forest, such as, small-leaved lime. The epiphyte liche flora within the woodland is particularly rich with many 'old forest' species present. There is a very wide range of breeding birds including buzzard, sparrowhawk, nightingale, nightjar, redstart, wood warbler, woodcock and lesser-spotted woodpecker. The site lies within the impact risk zone for the New Forest and Whiteparish Common SSSI. Non-statutory designated sites The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre.
Foreseen Impacts	On-site designations No impacts foreseen.

	Statutory and non-statutory designated sites No impacts to designated sites are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such sites (where known) as well as the urban location of the site with surrounding physical barriers. SSSI Impact zone The site lies within the impact risk zone for the New Forest and Whiteparish Common SSSI. The proposed development type is not listed as a possible high risk for this designation.
<i>Recommendations</i>	On-site designations None required. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites Due to the presence of designated sites within 10km, the LPA may be required to undertake a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA).
Invasive / Non-native species	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No problematic invasive and non-native species recorded on site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	N/A
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys but remain vigilant.
Invertebrates	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The habitats present on-site, including grassland, hedgerow, scrub and trees, as well as two small log piles along the northern boundary, likely provide common invertebrates with opportunities to forage and shelter. The site contains no further notable habitats which may provide niches for specialised or protected invertebrates.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Poor condition neutral grassland that is maintained at a short sward height is due to be removed during development. As such, no impacts to rare assemblages of invertebrates are foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The site could be further enhanced via the provision of native wildflowers or wildflower turf, which would provide foraging opportunities for invertebrates.
Bats	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL data

	A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted EPSLs within a 2km radius of the site has been completed. Displaced bats from licensed sites <2km away from the survey site will find alternative habitat either within the mitigation measures implemented as part of the licence or will relocate to other known roosts sites in close proximity to the licensed site. There is 1 EPSL within a 2km radius of site as detailed below: <table><tr><th>EPSL reference</th><th>Bat species affected</th><th>Distance from site</th><th>Impacts allowed by licence</th></tr><tr><td>EPSM2010-2148</td><td>Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and brown long-eared.</td><td>~1.4km northeast</td><td>Destruction of a breeding site.</td></tr></table> There is 1 SAC designated for bats within 10km of the site: Mottisfont Bats - ~7.5km northeast The Mottisfont woodland supports an important population of the rare annex II barbastelle. It is one of only six known maternity sites in the UK (2002 data) and the only one in Hampshire. Foraging and commuting habitat - onsite Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging and commuting opportunities for bats in the form of species-poor neutral grassland, arable land, scattered scrub, native hedgerow and trees. These habitats are likely to provide micro-climatic conditions that support invertebrates that will in turn provide foraging opportunities for local bat populations. Most notably, the hedgerows on site are mature and extend beyond the site adding to the continuity of vegetated linear features present in the wider landscape. Bats are well known to utilise linear features to aid navigation whilst travelling between foraging resources and roost sites. Foraging and commuting habitat – offsite The wider landscape contains areas of mixed woodland, arable land, small running waterbodies and ponds. These areas, particularly areas of ancient woodland and linear connecting features provide suitable foraging and commuting habitat for local bat populations. Roosting habitat No trees or buildings are to be affected by the proposed development.	EPSL reference	Bat species affected	Distance from site	Impacts allowed by licence	EPSM2010-2148	Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and brown long-eared.	~1.4km northeast	Destruction of a breeding site.
EPSL reference	Bat species affected	Distance from site	Impacts allowed by licence						
EPSM2010-2148	Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and brown long-eared.	~1.4km northeast	Destruction of a breeding site.						
Foreseen Impacts	Roosting habitat No impacts to roosting habitats are foreseen.								

	Foraging and commuting habitat No impacts to roosting habitats are foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Roosting habitat [Trees] No further surveys or recommendations. Foraging and commuting habitat No further surveys or recommendations. Artificial lighting The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats or the retained building without mitigation. This may disturb commuting bats. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The installation of one bat box on a mature tree at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats. It will be suitable for crevice dwelling species such as pipistrelles (which have been identified locally through EPSL data). Suitable bat boxes include Habibat Bat Box, Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box or similar alternative brand. Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light.
Birds	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	Buildings Evidence of nesting birds was identified within the stable block. The nest was identified as a swallow nest, therefore the stable block is considered suitable for nesting for such species. Trees and vegetation No bird nests were identified within the trees on-site; however they all offer nesting opportunities and nest-building resources for birds. Barn owls The site does not appear to provide any suitable nesting sites for barn owls.

	Overwintering birds Due to the size of the site and the extent and type of the habitats recorded, the site is considered suitable to support overwintering birds such as fieldfares and redwings, particularly at the boundaries within the scrub and hedgerow habitat within field 1 and within the wooded areas and boundary scrub and trees in the lower field. Brent geese are known to utilise low-disturbance fields within the later part of winter when coastal resources are depleted. However due to the distance from the coast (~13km), and the likelihood of habitat closer to the coastline, it is unlikely that Brent geese will utilise the site for foraging.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Buildings/trees No impacts are anticipated on nesting birds as a result of the proposed development. Barn owls None foreseen. Overwintering birds None foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Buildings/trees No further surveys or recommendations. Barn owls None required. Overwintering birds None required. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The installation of a minimum of one bird boxes on mature trees around the site boundaries will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g. Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes (trees) Schwegler 2H Robin Boxes (trees) Woodstone Nest Box (buildings or trees) Or a similar alternative brand.

	Tree boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Small-hole boxes are best placed approximately 1-3m above ground on an area of the tree trunk where foliage will not obscure the entrance hole.
Reptiles	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL data A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for protected reptiles within 2km of the site. Habitat suitability Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging, commuting, basking and refuge opportunities for reptiles. The scrub and grassland within field 2 provide suitable habitat for reptiles as these habitats contain structure for refuge around the perimeter, whilst also providing foraging and commuting opportunities. Within field 1, the grassland adjacent the native hedgerow, along the northern boundary, has a more varied sward height when compared to the grazed grassland, and contains log piles that could be used as refugia. Similarly, a large muck heap is located in the northern corner, likely to generate heat and contain insects, making it a suitable refuge and foraging point. The remaining grassland within field 1 is heavily grazed and the eastern, southern and western perimeters are managed to maintain a short sward height where horses are ridden, and footpaths/tracks are present. Nevertheless, the boundaries of the whole site have good connectivity to further suitable reptile habitat in the wider landscape via woodland and hedgerow the scrub habitat located around the perimeter, therefore the presence of reptiles on site cannot be discounted, albeit likely limited to low numbers within peripheral scrub and southern field. The area of the site that is to be impacted by the proposed development is dominated by grazed grassland, of limited value to reptiles. The proposed area of development (the menage) is grazed by horses to a very short sward height, with no nearby habitat that could be used for refuge. This makes basking unlikely, due to high foot traffic and exposure to predators. Wider landscape The adjacent sections of the woodland and arable fields are of elevated ecological value within the wider landscape and may represent important resources for local reptile populations. These adjacent habitats provide optimal foraging, commuting, and refuge opportunities for reptiles and are well connected to further suitable habitat in the wider landscape. The presence of reptiles utilising these adjacent habitats cannot be discounted.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on reptiles as a result of the proposed development.

Recommendations	A precautionary working method will be implemented for widespread reptiles during construction, including the following measures: • Vegetation will be maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage reptiles. • Should the vegetation be allowed to establish a longer sward (>15cm), staged approach will be adopted for vegetation clearance, whereby the vegetation will be strimmed to 15cm and left overnight to allow any reptiles to disperse. The vegetation can then be cleared to ground level and must be maintained at this level for the duration of construction to deter amphibians from the working area. • If any reptiles are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. • In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The site could be enhanced for reptiles post-development with the inclusion of log piles close to existing suitable habitat to provide sheltering opportunities.																					
Amphibians																						
Summary of Survey Findings	EPSL and survey data A review of the MAGIC database returned 1 EPSL record for great crested newts within 2km of the site (~0.8km north) as well as GCN class license returns (detailed below). The MAGIC database returned 1 survey indicating the presence of great crested newts resulting from historic pond surveys undertaken in 2018 (~0.6km southeast), however this survey was deemed inconclusive. <table><tr><th colspan="3">GCN class license returns</th></tr><tr><th>Date</th><th>Grid ref</th><th>Distance from site</th></tr><tr><td>20/03/2014 - 08/05/2015 (13 returns)</td><td>SU224224</td><td>~1.3km west</td></tr><tr><td>25/03/2014</td><td>SU229231</td><td>~1km west</td></tr><tr><td>25/03/2014</td><td>SU228232</td><td>~1km west</td></tr><tr><td>17/04/2015 and 01/05/2015</td><td>SU228233</td><td>~1km west</td></tr><tr><td>05/05/2015 - 31/05/2015 (6 returns)</td><td>SU246235</td><td>~1km northeast</td></tr></table> Great crested newts (GCN) exist in metapopulations and are known to utilise ponds and their connecting terrestrial habitat during their life cycle; great crested newts are typically found within terrestrial habitats up to 500m from breeding ponds (Langton et al. 2001).	GCN class license returns			Date	Grid ref	Distance from site	20/03/2014 - 08/05/2015 (13 returns)	SU224224	~1.3km west	25/03/2014	SU229231	~1km west	25/03/2014	SU228232	~1km west	17/04/2015 and 01/05/2015	SU228233	~1km west	05/05/2015 - 31/05/2015 (6 returns)	SU246235	~1km northeast
GCN class license returns																						
Date	Grid ref	Distance from site																				
20/03/2014 - 08/05/2015 (13 returns)	SU224224	~1.3km west																				
25/03/2014	SU229231	~1km west																				
25/03/2014	SU228232	~1km west																				
17/04/2015 and 01/05/2015	SU228233	~1km west																				
05/05/2015 - 31/05/2015 (6 returns)	SU246235	~1km northeast																				

	Aquatic habitat suitability (including ponds within 500m) There are no ponds on the site, but a review of aerial imagery (MAGIC and OS Maps) indicates the presence of a singular pond within 500m; the pond (P1) is located ~380m south of the site and is situated on the far side of the A36 (Salisbury Road). This landscape feature is likely to represent a significant barrier to dispersal due to heavy traffic flow, eliminating connectivity to the site for great crested newts, particularly as there is ample habitat available on the southern side of this main road. Terrestrial habitat suitability Areas of scrub and grassland at the boundaries of field 1 and within field 2 may provide foraging and sheltering opportunities for common amphibians. No hibernation opportunities were identified on-site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Great crested newts Given the lack of ponds onsite and suitably connected breeding ponds within 500m, the presence of GCN within the area of proposed development is considered unlikely and therefore impacts to great crested newts as a result of the proposed development are deemed to be acceptably low. Common amphibians Due to the condition of the grassland proposed to be removed during development, it is highly unlikely that individual common amphibians will be affected and in turn, local populations will remain unaffected.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to great crested newts, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented for common amphibians during construction, including the following measures: • Vegetation will be maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage amphibians. • A staged approach will be adopted for vegetation clearance, whereby the vegetation will be strimmed to 15cm and left overnight to allow any amphibians to disperse. The vegetation can then be cleared to ground level and must be maintained at this level for the duration of construction to deter amphibians from the working area. • Any rubble piles will be dismantled by hand and debris and brash will be stored on pallets or removed from the site to prevent amphibians from utilising these areas. • Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby aquatic habitats that amphibians could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.

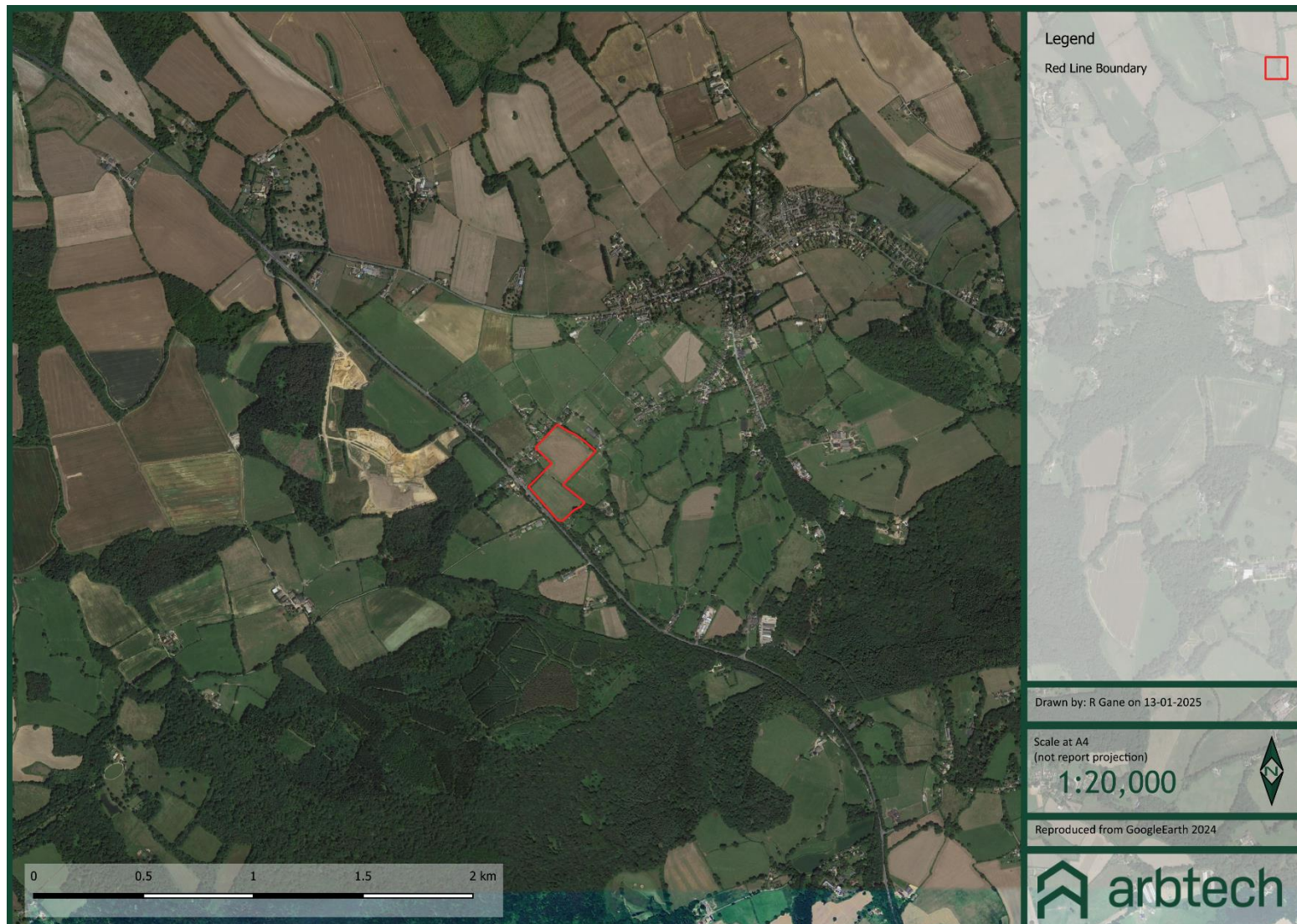
	- If any common amphibians are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. - In the unlikely event that a great crested newt is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The site could be enhanced for amphibians post-development through creation of log piles situated within suitable foraging and commuting areas, that can be used as hibernacula. Information on how to construct a hibernaculum can be found here: https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/hibernaculum
Badger	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No badger setts were noted on site or within a 30m radius of the site. Further, no evidence of foraging badgers was noted within the development area. However, the site was considered suitable for badger sett excavation and foraging habitat due to its setting, substantial size as well as onsite and connecting habitat.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No works will be undertaken within 30m of a badger sett. Poor condition neutral grassland will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local badger populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of badgers, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to badgers, further badger surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures: - Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. - The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which badgers could use. - Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. Suggested biodiversity enhancements Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities for badgers.
Riparian animals	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for otters or water voles within 2km of the site. There are no water courses on or connected to the site. There are also no riparian habitats present on site or within an influencing distance.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None required.

Hazel dormouse	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL data A review of the MAGIC database returned 1 granted EPSL record for hazel dormice within 2km of the site, ~0.8km west. Habitat suitability Dormice typically utilise a three-dimensional habitat structure as to commute between feeding and breeding sites whilst avoiding predation. As such habitats on site are considered unsuitable for hazel dormice and therefore the likelihood of this species being present on site is considered acceptably low. Furthermore, for isolated habitats in the UK, research indicates that dormice require 20ha of woodland habitat to support a viable population (Bright <i>et al.</i> 1994). Although 20ha of woodland is not present on or directly adjacent to the sites, the hedgerows present are connected to an extensive hedgerow network within the wider landscape, which in turn, are connected to multiple woodland pockets. Habitats on site are assessed to provide foraging, commuting, and nest building opportunities for dormice in the form of scrub and native hedgerows with trees along the northwestern and northeastern boundary of field 1. The bramble scrub located on the southeastern boundary is fragmented, and unlikely to accommodate hazel dormouse. A substantial area of scrub is located within field 2, particularly on the southwestern boundary, which continues into the local landscape.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No suitable habitat is being removed there no impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None foreseen.
Other e.g. hedgehog	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The grassland and hedgerow onsite provide foraging and commuting opportunities for hedgehogs. The site is also suitably connected to offsite foraging and commuting habitat, making it highly likely that hedgehogs are present within the area.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on hedgehogs as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None required. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs: - Planting fruit bearing trees and species-rich grassland to increase foraging opportunities. - Creation of brash piles or installation of hedgehog houses in shady areas.

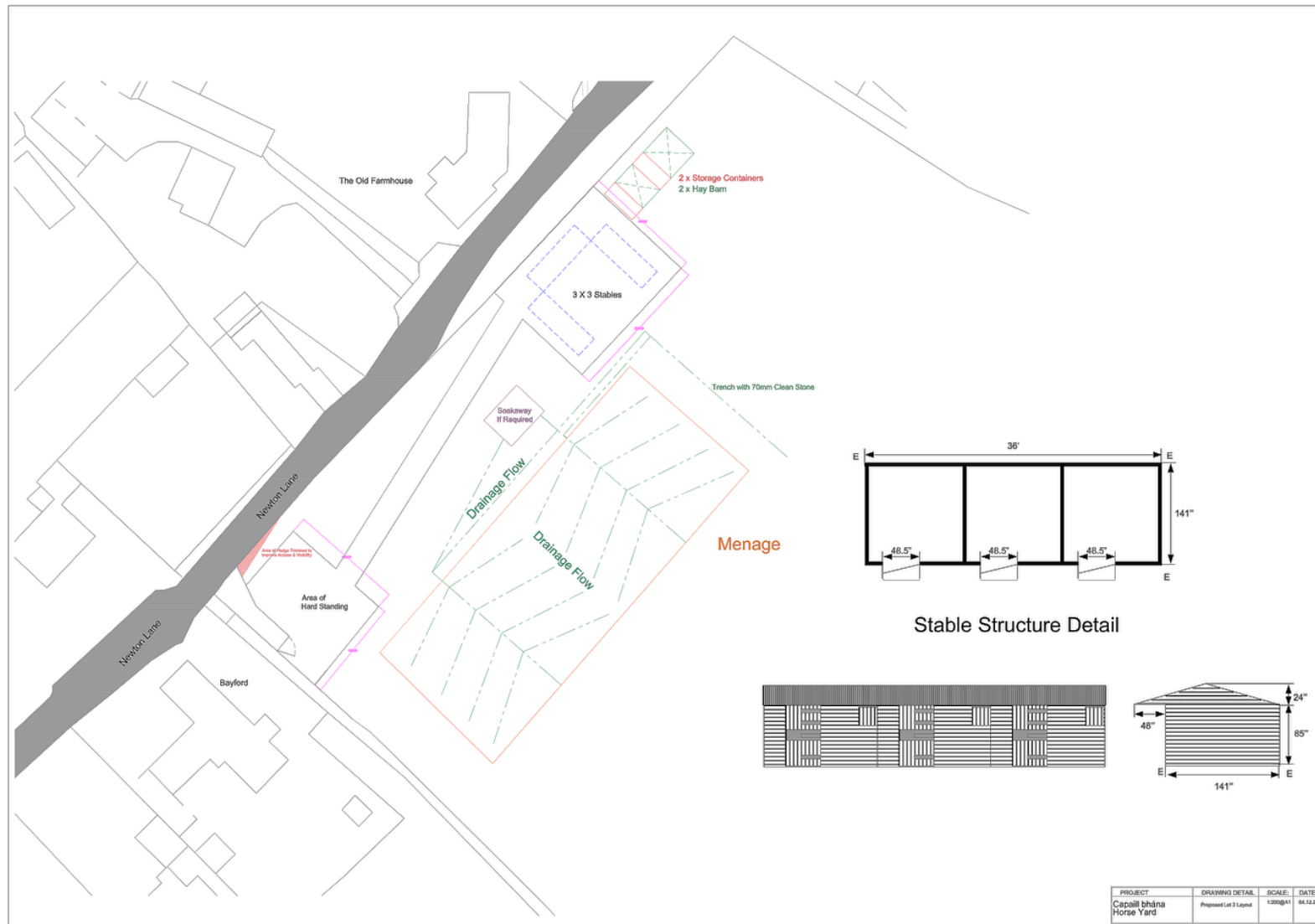
Appendix 1: Survey/Habitat map



Appendix 2: Location map



Appendix 3: Proposed plan



Appendix 4: Habitat Photos

Buildings	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 1: Stable block
	Figure 2: Storage barns



Figure 3: Swallow nest

Other neutral grassland

Photograph



Figure 4: Grazed fields within F1

Description



Figure 5: F2



Figure 6: The perimeter of F1

Bramble scrub	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 7: Bramble scrub on the northeastern boundary of F1
	Figure 8: Fragmented bramble scrub on the southeastern boundary of F1

		Figure 9: Bramble scrub on the southwestern boundary of F2
Blackthorn scrub		
Photograph		Description
		Figure 10: Blackthorn scrub on the northeastern boundary of F1

Native hedgerow	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 11: Blackthorn hedgerow along northeastern boundary of F2.
	Figure 12: Mixed native hedgerow along northwestern boundary of F1.

Line of trees	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 12: Mixed line of tree located on the northwestern boundary of F1
	Figure 14: Line of oaks located on the southeastern boundary of F1

Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 15: Access track, facing west.

Appendix 5: Condition assessments

WOODLAND				
Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score
Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.	1
Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .	3
Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, and other invasive species <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ³ ≥10% cover.	3
Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species ⁴ across woodland parcel.	1
Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	3
Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted ⁷ .	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ . But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category ⁷ .	2
Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland ⁸ .	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland ⁸ .	1
Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .	3
Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.	1
Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots ¹¹ .	1
Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.	1
Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	3
Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	2

Kate Brosnan

Newton Lane, Whiteparish, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 2QQ

Total Score (out of a possible 39)		25
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)	
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)	
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)	

OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND – MULTIPLE PARCELS						
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed		Condition Assessment Result	Metric Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
		F1, F2	P1	Good	3	
A	"The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition"	N	Y	Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.		
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N	N	Moderate Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	2	✓
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	N	Y	Poor Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F."	1	✓
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Y	Y	Score achieved:	F1: Poor F2: Moderate	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA5) are present, this criterion is automatically failed."	N	Y			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only."	N	N			
Number of criteria passed		1	4			

NATIVE HEDGEROW						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Condition Assessment Result	Metric Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	✓
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Yes	Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	Yes	Score Achieved:		GOOD
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	Yes			
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	Yes			
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and recently introduced species.	Yes			
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	Yes			

LINE OF TREES						
Condition Assessment Criteria	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)		Metric Score	Condition Assessment Result	Score Achieved x/✓
		Northwestern boundary	Southeastern boundary			
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Yes	Yes	Good	Passes 5 criteria	
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Passes 3 or 4 criteria	✓
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No	Poor	Passes 2 or fewer criteria	✓
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	No	Yes	Score achieved:	Northwestern boundary: Poor Southeastern boundary: Moderate	
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	No	Yes			

SCRUB – Mixed, blackthorn						
Condition Assessment Criteria	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)		Metric Score	Condition Assessment Result	Score Achieved ×/✓
		Mixed scrub	Blackthorn scrub			
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). – At least 80% of scrub is native, – There are at least three native woody species ² , – No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	No	Good	Passes 5 criteria	
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Passes 3 or 4 criteria	✓
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	Yes	Poor	Passes 2 or fewer criteria	✓
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	No	Score achieved:	Mixed scrub: Moderate Blackthorn scrub: Poor	
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	No			

INDIVIDUAL TREES					
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed	Condition Assessment Result	Metric Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Good Passes 5 or 6 criteria	3	✓
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	Moderate Passes 3 or 4 criteria	2	
			Poor Passes 2 or fewer criteria	1	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	Y	Score achieved:	Good	
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Y			
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N			
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y			

Limitations and CopyrightLegal

Arbtech Consulting Limited has prepared this report for the sole use of the above-named client or their agents in accordance with our General Terms and Conditions, under which our services are performed. It is expressly stated that no other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report or any other services provided by us. This report may not be relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of Arbtech Consulting Limited. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are based upon information provided by third parties. Information obtained from third parties has not been independently verified by Arbtech Consulting Limited.

© This report is the copyright of Arbtech Consulting Limited. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited.

Version control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Rebecca Gane BSc, Graduate Ecologist	13/01/2025
Proof	0.2	Nicole Gullan BSc (Hons) MRSB TechArborA, Senior Ecological and Arboricultural Consultant	20/01/2025
Final	1.0	Rebecca Gane BSc, Graduate Ecologist	29/01/2025