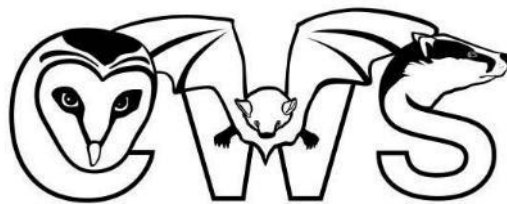


Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) for Land off Southampton Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire



Cotswold Wildlife Surveys

September 2025

Planning Reference No. PL/2024/09976

QUALITY CONTROL

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The information in this report has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct. The conclusions and recommendations expressed are reasoned judgements based on the evidence.

Every reasonable attempt has been made to comply with BS42020:2013 *Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development*, *CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing* (CIEEM, 2017) and Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th edition, Collins, 2023). If there has been deviation from recognised practice, justification/explanation has been given.

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SUMMARY

On land off Southampton Road in Alderbury near Salisbury in Wiltshire, outline planning permission is being sought for a residential development of up to 47 dwellings, along with associated public open space, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements and a car park to serve the community allotments (Planning Reference No. PL/2024/09976).

As part of the consultation, the County Ecologist has requested an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) to assess the impacts of the proposals on adjacent designated sites and the habitats and species recorded on site, particularly with regards to increased access post development and the impact of domestic pets on small mammal and bird populations.

This report details the measures that will be undertaken to protect and mitigate for habitats and species during and after the development.

1. BASELINE

1.1 Designated sites

There are no statutory sites within the search area, although there are four non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

The closest of these is Ivychurch Copse LWS, 170 metres to the northwest. This is a site of lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

Hightrees Wood LWS is 190 metres southwest, and is also a lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

Alderbury Canal LWS is situated 290 metres southeast, and comprises lowland meadow with wet woodland and open water.

Whaddon Meadow LWS is 660 metres south and is lowland meadow with Purple Moor Grass *Molinia caerulea* and rush pasture.

1.2 Botanical

Across the site four types of grassland were identified.

Mown 'modified grassland' is of low ecological value and occurs on the pedestrian access route to the allotments. Two sub-types of 'other neutral grassland' were distinguished: tall, bulky grassland on the edges of the site has a low plant species diversity, with Common Nettles *Urtica dioica*, Brambles *Rubus fruticosus*, Common Cleavers *Galium aparine* and Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius* usually present and often obvious. One parcel of bulky other neutral grassland is in Good Condition, two are in Moderate condition and two are in Poor condition.

Shorter meadow 'other neutral grassland' occurs in a block near the allotments on well drained soil; it has moderate plant diversity and is in Moderate condition.

An area of Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*-Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* neutral grassland forms a zone at the bottom of the slope in the west field parcel where the soil is damp for much of the year. The habitat is distinctive because it has abundant rushes: it has good plant species diversity and is in Moderate condition.

The west field parcel also has an area classified as wetland rather than grassland because it is dominated by Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus* rather than grasses. The soil is either damp, wet or waterlogged and the community contains a range of distinctive herbaceous species. This habitat parcel is a Priority Habitat in Good condition.

Grassland across most of the east field parcel has characteristics that conform to the UK Habitat definition of lowland meadow, which is a Priority Habitat.

Plant species typical of agricultural improvement are scarce and achieve only very low cover while herbs and sedges usually cover at least 30% of the ground area.

There is an appropriate suite of grass species as well as six plant species from the UKHab list of lowland meadow ‘indicators’: of these, Blue (Glaucous) Sedge *Carex flacca*, Bird’s-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* are found regularly. Additional lowland meadow indicator species are present although Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* is only on the field margin.

There are two sub-areas of lowland meadow habitat: a typical community type on the better draining soils in the south and southeast with Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense* and some Black Knapweed, and an atypical community on less well drained soil characterized by areas of bare ground, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Ragged Robin and abundant sedges.

The fields were enclosed by species rich, intact hedgerows. These contained Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Butterfly Bush *Buddleia davidii*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*.

Through the centre of the site running east-west, there was a small watercourse lined by a hedgerow with mature trees. Tree species included Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and Pedunculate Oak. Two of the latter were veterans. Mature trees, including a Black Pine *Pinus nigra*, were growing along the western boundary.

Off the central watercourse ran a small section of wet woodland. This consisted largely of Grey Willow, with a diverse ground flora of Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre*, Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, St John’s Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Common Nettle, Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, Broad-leaved Willowherb *Epilobium montanum* and Common Cleavers.

An area of allotments was also included at the southern end of the site. This was largely vegetable plots with mown semi-improved grassland between.

At the western side of the site there was a block of dense, scrubby woodland dominated by Grey Willow, with Silver Birch, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Holly and Hawthorn. The understorey included Common Nettles, Brambles, Field Rose *Rosa arvensis*, Lords and Ladies, Male Fern, Wood Dock, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Ivy *Hedera helix*, Pendulous Sedge, and Enchanter’s Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*.

1.3 Bats

Bat species recorded within 1.0 km of the site included Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, Natterer’s *Myotis nattereri*, Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Soprano Pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*, Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, Greater Horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and Lesser Horseshoe *R. hipposideros*.

There were three Greater Horseshoe Bat records, all of which were from 2008. Two of the records were for individual animals, whilst the third was for 21 droppings.

Given the above, and as the site was thought to be of moderate value to foraging or commuting bats, three bat activity surveys were carried out on the evenings of 21st August, 22nd September and 7th October 2022, with a further three visits undertaken on 28th May, 22nd June and 15th August 2023.

The surveys revealed the majority of bat activity to be along the central hedgerow and watercourse, and around the wet woodland area. Species recorded included Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii*, Natterer's, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule, Leisler's *Nyctalus leisleri*, Serotine and Barbastelle.

No bats emerged from the aforementioned veteran oaks along the northern hedgerow.

1.4 Birds

A total of 15 species of bird were observed during the visit, of which four are Species of Medium Conservation Concern (Amber list); Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* and Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. The rest are all Species of Low Conservation Concern (Green list).

No old or in use birds' nests were found, although the hedgerows and trees did provide some suitable habitat for nesting.

1.5 Hazel Dormouse

The ecological data search for the area revealed records of Hazel Dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* in several of the large woodland blocks around the area, with the closest observations concerning a juvenile in a garage on 1st September 2021, 112 m to the west of the application site, and an adult in a garden along Clarendon Road 190 m to the northwest on 18th May 2018. The records from the wider area lay beyond significant barriers to dormouse dispersal.

The application site itself was potentially suitable for dormice as there were mature, interconnecting hedgerows, an area of wet woodland, and a block of scrubby woodland on the west side of the site.

Given the above, a survey for Hazel Dormice was undertaken in 2023. No evidence of dormouse presence was recorded, and at the time the species was assumed to be absent on the site.

The tubes were retained on the site, as some were being used by roosting birds, and they had value as winter food caches by mice.

A check of a tube along the northern hedgerow/tree line by an ecologist from Cornwall Environmental Consultants on 6th May 2024 subsequently revealed two Hazel Dormice inside, thereby confirming the presence of the species on site.

No signs of dormouse activity were found in a check of the tubes on 8th August 2025.

1.6 Hedgehog

A total of 19 Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* records were returned for the area, these between 2006 and 2021. The hedgerows and grassland may provide suitable habitat for foraging Hedgehogs, and there is also potential for shelter.

1.7 Reptiles

The ecological data search revealed only four reptile records in total, these of Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* and Grass Snake *Natrix natrix* between 2006 and 2010. These appeared to be from within Ivychurch Copse just to the northwest of the site on the opposite side of Clarendon Road.

The application site itself was potentially suitable for reptiles as there were basking areas and foraging opportunities. However, there were no obvious refugia or hibernacula and no reptiles were observed during the site visits.

Given the above, a full reptile survey was carried out in 2025 to determine the presence or absence of reptiles.

A number of Slow-worms and Grass Snakes were found during the survey period, these distributed across the site. No amphibians were found under any of the artificial refugia.

2. CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

2.1 Designated sites

It is considered that none of the designated sites will be impacted by the proposed development, as they are separated from the application site by residential areas and main and local roads which create significant barriers to wildlife dispersal. There is some connectivity to Alderbury Canal, but this is beyond a lane and grazed field. Furthermore, the majority of the habitat within the designation is on the far side of the canal itself which acts as a barrier.

The construction will be carried out with due regard to noise, dust, run-off and waste control. Protection measures will be implemented through an appropriate Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP).

2.2 Botanical

The boundary hedgerows and trees, wet woodland and scrubby woodland will all be retained and protected during the construction phase to ensure they are not impacted by plant or other machinery, vehicle movements around the site, or storage of building materials or waste.

The development will impact on large areas of grassland, including Priority Habitat.

The loss of habitat has been calculated, and will be offset by enhancing retained grassland on the site and by the purchase of offsite habitat credits under the Biodiversity Net Gain scheme.

Retained grassland on site will be protected with Heras fencing to ensure it is not damaged during the construction phase.

2.3 Bats

Bats are sensitive to light and will only forage and roost in dark areas, it is therefore important to eliminate any excess light and to ensure that any lighting is task orientated. The following strategy will allow bats to continue foraging and commuting around and across the site during the development.

1. During the construction phase, night working will be avoided where possible and lighting used during the construction phase will be directed away from the retained trees, in order to safeguard these features as foraging and commuting corridors.
2. No artificial lighting will be placed near to any new bat roost features, or focus on existing foraging habitat to be retained.
3. All external lighting will be hooded or be “full cut-off” to prevent any light spill above the horizontal.

4. External lights will be triggered by a movement sensor with a timer so lights are not left on accidentally.
5. Use LED luminaires.
6. Use warm-white light spectrums rather than 'bright-white'.
7. External lights to be a maximum of 1000 lumens output.
8. All external lighting will be fitted at as low a level as possible, and always below 2.5m above ground level.
9. Internal luminaires will be set back from the windows towards the interior of any rooms.

The external lighting scheme will respond to the areas of sensitivity by using bat sensitive lighting luminaires, layout and fixing positions on the elevations to ensure pools of dark between each light.

New lighting will meet the minimum recommendations of the Guidance Note GN08/23 - Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night, published in 2023 by the Institution of Lighting Professionals and the Bat Conservation Trust.

2.4 Birds

Since all in-use bird's nests and their contents are protected from damage or destruction, any tree or shrub removal that is required, e.g. to construct the footpath through the central hedgerow, will be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August inclusive. If this time frame cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the trees and/or shrubs to be removed will be undertaken by an experienced ecologist prior to clearance.

Work will not be carried out within a minimum of 5.0 metres of any in-use nest, although this distance could be more depending on the sensitivity of the species. Any eggs or chicks in an in-use nest will be allowed to fledge before the nest site is disturbed or removed.

2.5 Hazel Dormouse

The northern hedgerow and woodland areas will not be impacted by the proposed scheme, so there will be no direct loss of places of rest and refuge for dormice.

However, connectivity to the central hedgerow that will be affected does exist, as this will be severed by a footpath link. Furthermore, the construction zone will extend close to the boundaries where disturbance of hedgerows and woodland will also occur.

Removal of the hedgerow section has the potential to lead to killing and injuring any dormice present and displacement of any dormice in the affected area.

Other potential impacts arise through indirect damage and disturbance to dormouse habitat during the construction phase, including inappropriate management, accidental damage, deliberate or reckless damage, and pollution (dust, chemicals, light and noise).

Key potential effects on dormice resulting from these impacts are damage to and degradation of dormouse habitat, fragmentation of dormouse habitat and isolation of dormice populations in dissected hedgerows.

Removal of the section of hedgerow will be completed under a European Protect Species Licence (EPSL), whereby all works will be completed under the supervision of an appropriately experienced, licenced ecologist.

All retained and newly created habitats suitable for dormice will be managed under a comprehensive Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) or Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) to ensure their long-term protection.

The management plan will ensure that hedgerows are managed specifically for wildlife including sensitive trimming of hedgerows in an 'A' profile to promote wide hedge bases and planned management will take place between late September to February to avoid both the bird nesting season and the period when dormice are likely to have dependant young.

Management practice will ensure that fruiting bodies and nut provisions are optimised, providing a diverse range and food during the active seasons.

During the construction phase, 'Heras' type fencing will be installed adjacent to all retained hedgerows and woodland areas (broadly in-line with the root protection area requirements of BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*, and contractors will be briefed on the sensitivity of retained habitats.

Connectivity between the site and suitable dormouse habitat within the surroundings will be enhanced with additional planting, whilst native species planting across the wider site will also benefit dormice.

The EPSL will include a Method Statement, which will further seek to avoid any adverse impacts in respect of damage or destruction to breeding sites and resting places.

It is proposed that the length of hedgerow requiring removal for the footpath is to be severed using appropriate mitigation, depending on the season.

Two-stage removal seeks to manage the above ground canopy component within which individuals could potentially build breeding nests by coppicing to 1.0 m at a time when dormice would be hibernating (November to end of March) and subsequent removal of the basal habitats (root balls, herbage, etc.) at a time when dormice would not be utilising ground hibernation nests.

Single-stage removal where small amounts of canopy vegetation is removed each day, allows animals time to escape, before a period of at least 24 hours is allowed to pass before the associated basal vegetation is then removed from site.

At this site, clearance using the single-stage method will be undertaken within best practice timing of April-May (inclusive) and/or mid-September-October (inclusive).

The single-stage clearance will comprise:

- ❑ A search for dormouse nests undertaken by a suitably experienced/licensed ecologist in the above ground canopy portion of vegetation. All vegetation that is scheduled for removal will be checked for birds' nests prior to removal. The canopy vegetation will then be coppiced down to 150-300 mm in height using handheld tools e.g. chainsaws, handsaws and handheld loppers under close supervision of the ecologist;
- ❑ Following this, a 24-hour period will be allowed to pass before the remaining basal vegetation is then searched for dormouse nests by a suitable experienced ecologist. Once the area has been searched the vegetation may then be removed under close supervision of the ecologist;
- ❑ No more than 0.25 ha of hedgerow shall be removed in any one day to allow dormice present sufficient time to move into retained habitat;
- ❑ All hedgerow management (coppicing) will be completed using hand tools only i.e. brush cutter, hedge trimmer, lopper etc. and extreme care will be taken to limit potential damage and disturbance to the ground. Any, less woody shrub layer (Bramble, Dog Rose, etc.) will be reduced using hand tools to an appropriate height that can be advised by the attendant ecologist. This vegetation will be extensively searched for the presence of nests by the suitably experienced, licenced ecologist prior to commencement of works;
- ❑ All arisings will be removed from the working area and either chipped and left in appropriate locations on site; or removed from site;
- ❑ All vehicles except for a tracked or wheeled chipper will remain parked at a sensible distance from the hedgerow and working area or preferably on gravel/hardstanding near the entrance to the site to prevent unnecessary damage or disturbance to the ground. Extreme care will be taken to limit potential damage and disturbance to the ground, although both canopy and basal habitats will be extensively searched for the presence of nests by the suitably experienced, licenced ecologist prior to commencement of works;
- ❑ Vegetation clearance works will only be undertaken following receipt of permission from the site manager.

2.6 Hedgehog and other small mammals

Prior to the commencement of ground clearance works, a check will be made by an experienced ecologist to ensure that no Hedgehogs are present. This may not be possible in the denser areas without the removal of some vegetation. The ecologist will therefore supervise any strimming required to open up the vegetation. The vegetation will not be cut lower than 250 mm to ensure that no small mammals and/or other wildlife is harmed.

When sufficient vegetation has been removed, a thorough search will be carried out to confirm the presence or absence of Hedgehogs across the site.

Any Hedgehogs encountered will be caught carefully by hand and relocated into suitable undisturbed habitat nearby.

As soon as the land has been declared free of Hedgehogs, ground works can commence. These will be supervised by an ecologist. All remaining vegetation will be removed, followed by topsoil scraping and re-profiling.

Deep holes and open trenches could potentially trap Hedgehogs and other wildlife, especially if these fill up with water. Escape routes will therefore be provided if holes and/or trenches cannot be infilled immediately.

2.7 Reptiles

Prior to work commencing on site, all contractors and other personnel will be given a 'toolbox talk' about reptiles by a suitably qualified ecologist.

The talk will raise awareness of the presence of reptiles, and will instruct contractors on what to do should an animal be unexpectedly encountered. This vigilance will be particularly important when dismantling potential refugia such as rubbish and/or brash piles, stone or rubble heaps, and lifting debris.

As it is intended to remove all Slow-worms and Grass Snakes from the development site, it will be fenced off with a temporary exclusion barrier and then trapped for 30 days in suitable weather conditions and at the appropriate time of year, i.e. not during the hibernation period (considered to be November to March inclusive).

The exclusion barrier will be installed by a specialist ecological contractor and under the supervision of the suitably qualified ecologist. The fence will be sturdy enough to be retained for the whole construction period.

Road access and footpath links will require simple 'gates' in the fence to allow for movement of vehicles, etc.

Sections of drift fencing will also be required to divide the site into smaller areas to improve the chances of catching animals.

The installation of the fence may require the removal of some Bramble and shrubs, and if so these will be checked in advance to ensure that no nesting birds are present.

Along the internal boundaries and drift fencing artificial refugia (0.5 m² felt mats) will be set out at 5 m intervals to provide cover and increase the opportunities for basking. These refugia will be allowed at least a week of bedding-in before checks commence.

As soon as the refugia have been set out, a 30-day trapping period will start, provided the weather conditions are suitable for active reptiles, i.e. daytime temperatures generally around 12-16°C, with overnight temperatures above 7-10°C.

Checks of the refugia will be carried out by an ecologist.

Any reptiles discovered will be carefully lifted and placed into a bucket, avoiding handling the tail which is likely to be shed if grasped. All animals caught will be translocated to the receptor site and released into long vegetation so they are not exposed to predators.

The receptor site is all areas outside the exclusion fence except the section running along the road frontage.

The trapping programme will continue until there have been five consecutive days with no captures, in suitable weather conditions.

At the end of the trapping period and prior to site clearance, the land will be examined by an ecologist to check for any signs of reptiles (or small mammals). This will include the hand lifting of objects and the hand dismantling of any potential refugia.

Again any animals found will be caught and translocated to the receptor site.

As soon as all refugia and internal drift fencing have been removed, the vegetation will be mown/strimmed to height of approximately 150-200 mm, and areas will again be inspected by the ecologist to ensure no animals are present.

The cut areas will then be left for at least two to three hours in suitable weather conditions (warm with no precipitation) before the vegetation is cut to a height of 30 mm. The areas will again be inspected by the ecologist to ensure no animals are present.

The topsoil will then be stripped and stored as necessary. Any unwanted building materials will either be removed from site or placed on pallets on existing hardstanding or bare ground areas. The same will apply to new materials brought onto site.

During the construction period, any trenches excavated will be covered at the end of the working day to avoid animals falling into the trench.

If this is not possible escape routes will be provided. These can be in the form of branches or boards placed on the bottom of the trench, with their upper ends above ground level and touching the sides, or sloping ends left in trenches.

Checks will also be made of the exclusion fence to ensure that it is fit for purpose and acting as a barrier to reptiles.

As such, inspections will be undertaken throughout the construction period, these carried out weekly by the site manager. Any damage to the fence will be repaired immediately to prevent animals re-entering the site.

At the end of the construction and landscaping period, the fence will be removed.

No licence from Natural England will be required for the trapping programme.

3. OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

3.1 Designated sites

Post-works there will be 100 or more new residents, some of whom will want to explore the local footpath network for informal recreation and probably dog walking.

There are no public rights of way crossing Alderbury Canal LWS or Whaddon Meadow LWS, but there are access points into Hightrees Wood LWS and Ivychurch Copse LWS, although the latter appears to be a private woodland and the access point is gated and signed.

There are numerous footpaths in the wider area, in particular around Salisbury and in extensive woodlands to the northeast.

Given the above, it is considered that there will be limited recreational impact on the local wildlife sites arising from the occupation of the development.

3.2 Botanical

The green spaces within the site will be accessible to the public, although none of them will be suitable for ball games. Nevertheless, residents will be able to walk across the grassland areas and around the new tree clumps. This will include people with dogs.

As all the new houses have front and rear gardens, thereby taking the pressure off the public green spaces, it is unlikely there will be excessive trampling of the grassland areas. Indeed, given experience of other similar spaces, it is likely that desire lines will be created around the edges of the grassland which will become the favoured walkways.

3.3 Bats

All the boundaries are buffered by the rear gardens of the 47 new plots, with areas of green space through the centre of the site and along the eastern side. There is also a margin of green space buffering the northern boundary hedgerow and the scrubby woodland to the west.

These will create darkened corridors around and across the site which will minimise the impacts on bat foraging and commuting.

Post sale there will be no control over residents' plans for illumination of their houses and gardens, although it is not anticipated that all properties will have extra lighting, and it is expected that dark areas will be retained.

For those residents wishing to install additional lighting, the use of LED luminaires, with warm-white light spectrums and a maximum of 1000 lumens output will be encouraged. PIR sensors on short timers will also be recommended. These recommendations will be included in the sales particulars.

3.4 Birds

Given the buffering of the boundary hedgerows and trees, and no access to the scrubby woodland on the western side, there will be little disturbance to birds which decide to nest on the site, and there is an abundance of potential nesting places in the wider area.

Furthermore, it is anticipated that some residents will erect nest boxes and put out feeders, so there will be an increase in bird nesting and foraging opportunities.

3.5 Hazel Dormouse

There is unlikely to be any impact on dormice by the residents themselves, as the mammal is primarily nocturnal and largely arboreal. At this site evidence suggests that dormice move along the boundary hedgerows and presumably through the wooded areas, all of which are being retained and protected and mostly with no public access.

Instead, the main impact will arise from domestic cats hunting through these habitats.

There is already likely to be some effect of cats on local wildlife, as the site is surrounded on three sides by residential development, and cats are presumed to be currently accessing the woodlands and grassland from neighbouring properties.

Although new cats will add to the pressure on small mammals, there will be establishment of new territories, with some cats no longer 'permitted' to hunt on the site by the newcomers (or vice versa), so overall it is considered that the extra feline presence will not have a significant detrimental impact on dormice over and above that already existing.

3.6 Hedgehog

To ensure that Hedgehogs can continue foraging through the gardens and across the site, Hedgehog holes will be installed at the base of boundary fences. These will measure 150 mm by 150 mm thereby preventing dogs from escaping but allowing the free movement of Hedgehogs and other small animals.

Three hedgehog houses will also be incorporated into the north, west and eastern boundaries, away from the road, in the bottom of the hedgerows and will be covered with dried leaves, twigs and other vegetation.

3.7 Reptiles

Once the construction and landscaping phase has been completed, the exclusion fence will be removed and reptiles will be allowed to re-occupy the whole site.

It is likely that reptiles will keep to the boundary hedgerows and woodland edges, as well as less disturbed areas of grassland. However, as the new gardens mature, they will begin to occupy the domestic areas, especially as some will contain potential hibernation sites and general places of shelter.

There is likely to be some predation by cats, and possibly dogs, but given the abundance of suitable habitat on and around the site and in the wider area, the impact of domestic pets on reptiles is considered to be minor.

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Land off Southampton Road, Alderbury – Ecological Impact Assessment

To: Formula Land (Alderbury) Limited

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