

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Jenna Buss
Date:	07/11/2025
Application number:	PL/2025/07278
Proposal:	Extension to Brickworth Quarry (Sandland) to allow the extraction, processing and export of sand followed by backfill with imported inert materials and quarry waste; Importation and blending of sand; Retention and continued use of site compound and buildings, plant site and storage areas; Restoration to commercial forestry and agriculture at original ground levels together with long-term biodiversity enhancements
Site address:	Brickworth Quarry, Whiteparish, Salisbury, SP5 2QE
Case officer:	Timothy Fumidge

Recommendations:

	No Comment
	Support
	No objection
	Condition (no objection subject to conditions)
x	Objection - further information required
	Objection in principle
	HRA completed/required

Further Information Required:

	Issue	Policy/Legislative Compliance	Date information requested & Further information required	Satisfactorily addressed (Document & Date)
1	GCN – European Protected Species	Habitat Regulations, Core Policy 69	GCN Rapid Risk Assessment and supporting mitigation strategy where required	
2	Dormouse-European Protected Species	Habitat Regulations, Core Policy 69	Dormouse Mitigation Strategy	
3	LEMP	Core Policy 50- no net loss	Production of a LEMP to support dormouse and GCN habitat at restoration	
4	BNG	Environment Act	Amended baseline to support the existing site plan.	

The outstanding document(s) listed above are needed to enable the council's ecology team to consider all the relevant impacts and benefits of the proposed scheme. The council's ecologists will provide a further response once all the above information has been submitted via the case officer.

Please Note: When resubmitting a revised document, ALL changes must be highlighted to enable review.

I have reviewed the application and supporting documents against OS Maps and aerial photography of the site and surrounding area, together with GIS layers of statutory and non-statutory sites and existing records of protected species.

The following submitted documentation was reviewed to inform this response:

- Site location plan 3404-5-2. August 2025. David Jarvis Associates
- Environmental Statement. September 2025. Raymond Brown
- Restoration Scheme 3404-5-2. September 2025. David Jarvis Associates
- Environmental Statement Chapter 7: Ecology. September 2025. Raymond Brown
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement. Wessex Woodland Management
- Statutory Biodiversity Metric. August 2025. Georgie Starkie
- Existing Site Plan 3404-5-2. August 2025. David Jarvis Associates

Protected and Notable Species/Habitats

It is noted that the proposals will result in the loss of an area of cropland and neutral grassland with potential impacts on bracken dominated field margins. Boundary features are assessed to include woodland edges, scrub, and a mature oak tree which are not proposed to be impacted by the scheme. It is anticipated that following quarrying activities a restoration programme will be implemented.

GCN

A pond lies approximately 60m south east which was recorded to support a small population of GCN. The grassland and field margins within this development proposal provide some terrestrial habitat suitable to support GCN and although the pond won't be directly impacted by the scheme, impacts to GCN cannot be ruled out.

We would advise that the Natural England rapid risk assessment for impacts on newts is undertaken and where an impact is predicted, the applicant may wish to consider District Level Licensing (DLL). Instead of carrying out site-specific mitigation and compensation, the applicant can apply to Natural England to determine whether the scheme is eligible for DLL. Once the scheme is accepted under the District Level Licensing Scheme for Great Crested Newts, the *Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate (IACPC)*, which must be signed by the applicant and countersigned by Natural England is submitted to the LPA.

Please note: 'Annex 3: Site Location' must also be submitted with the IACPC and correspond with the red line site boundary submitted with the planning application.

Dormice

Dormice are afforded stringent protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and as such are a material consideration within the planning process. Dormice are known to be present within the wider quarry site. Suitable habitat in the form of woodland, hedgerow and scrub habitat lies within the proposed red line boundary, there is therefore potential for dormice and their habitats to be impacted by the proposal.

Although the arboricultural report states that boundary feature will be retained, sufficient and appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that dormice are not adversely affected as a result of the proposed development must be submitted as part of the proposal and shown on development drawings. This should comprise of a dormouse mitigation strategy which outlines the areas of habitat suitable to support dormice, the measures to be taken to protect and enhance these habitats during both operation and restoration.

The current proposal conflicts with Core Policy 50 of the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015 and Paragraphs 192 (b) and 193 (a) of the National Planning Policy Framework December 2024,

because mitigation to demonstrate that dormice will not be impacted has not been included in the proposal.

In carrying out its statutory function, the LPA must be reasonably sure that the proposal will not result in significant adverse effects on protected habitats or species. The information outlined above must therefore be submitted and reviewed by the LPAs ecology team prior to determination of the application.

Ground nesting birds

A total of 3ha of habitat will be temporarily affected by the proposals which represents a small proportion of the land within the ownership. The active area has been subject to prolonged working and disturbance and therefore this extension is unlikely to significantly increase disturbance levels in the nearby area. It is noted that large areas have already been restored or are in the process of being restored which could form suitable dispersal habitat for any ground nesting birds impacted by these proposals.

Habitats

No tree reductions or removals and no incursions into root protection areas are proposed as outlined within the Arboricultural Report. Adherence to these recommendations must be provided in the form of a construction environment management plan (CEMP) with detailed mapping demonstrating the proposed exclusion areas and fencing to ensure protection of the retained vegetation. This will also be supported with the dormouse mitigation strategy.

Restoration

We welcome the restoration scheme submitted in support of the application and note the proposed scrub belt along the haul road and swales. The scrub habitat will provide functionally connected habitat for dormice on site post operation. We note that these habitats are included within the metric for net gain and will be secured through an HMMP. However, suitable habitat to support protected species will need to be secured in perpetuity and in line with Core Policy 50 and therefore we advise that a detailed scheme of restoration is included within a LEMP. This should support the submitted restoration plan with a focus on the habitats proposed that would benefit the protected species currently utilising the site (dormouse and GCN). This LEMP should be submitted prior to determination for agreement with the LPA.

New Forest protected sites: 13.8km Zone of Influence

The site lies within the New Forest Protected Sites. A test of likely significance has been carried out by the relevant Competent Authority (Wiltshire Council) as required by Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This concluded that given the scale and nature of the development there is no mechanism for adverse effect **The HRA has concluded that the application is not likely to have significant impacts on the SAC and subsequently the application is screened out of Appropriate Assessment**

River Test Catchment: Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.

The site lies within the River Test Catchment and the underlying chalk at the site is a major regional aquifer supporting public water supplies. Surveys have revealed that groundwater flow is in a north-easterly direction towards the River Test, which passes 10km to the east of the site. It has been concluded that there will be no risk of intercepting the water table during the operational life of the quarry and therefore there are likely to be no significant impacts upon the protected site. It is noted that local groundwater levels will continue to be monitored via the installed boreholes on site.

A test of likely significance has been carried out by the relevant Competent Authority (Wiltshire Council) as required by Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This concluded that given the scale and nature of the development there is no mechanism for adverse effect **The HRA has concluded that the application is not likely to have significant impacts on the SAC and subsequently the application is screened out of Appropriate Assessment .**

BNG

Under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021) this application is required to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The Biodiversity Gain Plan condition will automatically apply if approval is forthcoming.

A completed statutory metric calculation (Statutory Biodiversity Metric. August 2025. Georgie Starkie) confirming the baseline and predicted post- development biodiversity units of the site has been submitted. However, it would appear that the red line boundary and existing site plan do not align with the habitats included within the metric. The red line boundary and habitat types used for the BNG assessment must align with the development boundary and associated existing site plans. These issues must be addressed prior to determination.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist Jenna Buss	Date 06/11/2025
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