

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

25th August 2025

Land at East Grafton - Plot A, East
Grafton, Wiltshire, SN8 3DB

On behalf of: Ms Pip Browning

Agent: Fowler Architecture & Planning Ltd

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CIEEM's Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (CIEEM, 2017) and Biodiversity Net Gain Report & Audit Templates (CIEEM, 2021).

This report may contain sensitive data pertaining to particularly vulnerable species. It is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority to determine whether data and information contained within his report is made publicly available.

At the time of writing, standard methodologies have been used which are accepted by Natural England and other statutory bodies. No responsibility will be accepted where standard methodologies change and where Government, national bodies and industry subsequently modify standards.

This report has been produced using all reasonable skill and care, and a Quality Assurance (QA) review process has been conducted prior to issue of this report.

SURVEY DATA LIFESPAN AND VALIDITY OF THIS REPORT:

Unless otherwise explicitly stated, survey data contained within this report is valid for 12 months from the survey date in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Advice note (CIEEM, 2019) due to the presence of and/or potential for mobile species to be present within the site. However, should the condition on-site change substantially during this 12-month period, and/or if the nature/extent of the development changes, then this report may not be valid, and a reassessment of the site may be required.

This report has been prepared to identify the presence of protected species and habitats within the site, where this falls within the scope of the agreed works.

Survey data has a limited lifespan for mitigation licence applications with Natural England. Update surveys may be required e.g. in the event a bat licence is required; survey data must be sought from the then current survey season (May to August).

The results of the surveys and this assessment are representative at the time of the surveys taking place.

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- ◆ ABR Ecology Ltd were commissioned by Ms Pip Browning to produce an Ecological Assessment for Land at East Grafton – plot A, Wiltshire, SN8 3DB. This report was requested to inform a planning application for the construction of a new dwelling with associated access and landscaping.

Survey background:

- ◆ A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was undertaken on the 21st February 2025 by experienced Natural England class 2 licensed bat ecologist Becci Smith MCIEEM, assistant ecologist Emily Parsons and graduate ecologist Jonathan Cornish.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG):

- ◆ Biodiversity net gain has not been considered as part of this report as the applicant's agent has advised that the new dwelling will consist exclusively of a dwelling that is self-build or custom housebuilding as defined in section 1(A1) of the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015; therefore, the application is exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) under the Environment Act 2021.

Habitats:

- ◆ Habitats on-site include modified grassland (g4 128 510 839) and a species rich native hedgerow (h2a5 516) along the southern boundary. No watercourses are present on-site.
- ◆ No statutory or non-statutory were identified within the search areas and no impacts on are anticipated.
- ◆ No Priority Habitats were recorded on-site. The nearest Priority Habitats are 'Deciduous woodland' directly over the road to the southwest of the site and wood pasture parkland approximately 210m east. No impacts on these habitats are anticipated.

Badgers:

- ◆ Badgers have been recorded within the local area. A badger mitigation strategy is detailed in Section 4.

Barn owls:

- ◆ Barn owls are not considered to be impacted by the proposals, and no further action is recommended for this species.

Bats:

- ◆ There are no trees or buildings on site. The site is deemed to hold **‘negligible potential’** for roosting bats due to a lack of suitable potential roosting features. Therefore, no impacts on roosting bats are anticipated.
- ◆ There are bat records within 1km of the site and the site possesses suitable foraging habitats for bats. A ‘bat-friendly’ lighting strategy is detailed in Section 4 to ensure the proposed works do not impede foraging and commuting bats which may be using the gardens and general surrounding area.

Dormice:

- ◆ The hedgerow along the southern boundary holds limited potential for dormice. The risk of encountering a dormouse is therefore considered to be low. A method statement for vegetation clearance and a hedge protection plan is detailed in Section 4.

Great crested newts (GCN):

- ◆ The site features limited potential for GCN. A precautionary method statement for vegetation clearance and Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) to mitigate for potential impacts on this species are detailed in Section 4.

Nesting birds:

- ◆ There is potential for nesting birds to be present within the hedgerow on-site. Mitigation for nesting birds is detailed in Section 4.

Hedgehogs:

- ◆ Hedgehogs have been recorded within the local area, and the site consists of suitable habitat for this species. A mitigation strategy is detailed in Section 4.

Reptiles and common amphibians:

- ◆ The hedgerow along the southern boundary and taller tussocky grassland on the western and northern side of the site holds limited potential for reptiles and amphibians. A method statement for vegetation clearance is detailed in Section 4.

Biodiversity enhancements:

- ◆ To ensure compliance with planning policy, biodiversity enhancements will include one bat tube and bird nesting boxes within the new dwelling and planting of 11 new native

trees. A species rich native hedgerow on the eastern and northern site boundaries will also be planted which will connect with the existing hedges on-site. Details are provided in Section 4.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 ABR Ecology Ltd were commissioned by Ms Pip Browning to produce an Ecological Assessment informed by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA). This assessment was requested to inform a planning application for construction of one new dwelling on Land at East Grafton – Plot A, Wiltshire, SN8 3DB (central grid reference: SU 25415 60576) (herein referred to as ‘the site’ / ‘on-site’).
- 1.2 This assessment is informed by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) including a site visit conducted on the 21st February 2025 by experienced Natural England class 2 licensed bat ecologist Becci Smith MCIEEM, assistant ecologist Emily Parsons and graduate ecologist Jonathan Cornish.
- 1.3 A site location plan is provided in Appendix A and proposed plans are provided in Appendix B.

Site context

- 1.4 The site is situated in East Grafton, Dorset a rural village within Wiltshire, England, surrounded by an ecologically diverse landscape of farmland, woodlands, and rolling hills. The site consists of modified grassland approximately 0.22 hectares (ha) with areas of tussocky grassland close to the fence on the western and northern site boundary; a species rich native hedgerow is present on the southern boundary, and the site adjoins agricultural fields to the north.
- 1.5 This area is part of the Marlborough Downs National Character Area (NCA), a region known for its chalk grassland habitats that support a variety of species, including rare orchids and invertebrates. The surrounding land is primarily used for agriculture, though there several small residential settlements. This will undoubtedly influence local species composition and habitat connectivity, though the surrounding woodlands, hedgerows and grasslands provide important ecological corridors and stepping stones for wildlife.

Purposes and aims of this assessment

- 1.6 This assessment primarily aims to determine the biodiversity value of the site and looks to identify the presence/likely absence of protected and vulnerable species onsite. This report also aims to evaluate whether there will be any potential development impacts on protected species and habitats and identifies whether

mitigation and/or protected species licensing is required to ensure the development complies with legislation and national and local planning policy.

Relevant planning policy and legislation

1.7 Full details of relevant planning policy and legislation are provided in Appendix C of this report; the following policy and legislation in respect of biodiversity is applicable to this application:

- ◆ *The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 – Section 15*
- ◆ *The Environment Act 2021 – Schedules 7a and 14 Parts 1 and 2*
- ◆ *Annex II and IV of the EC Habitats and Species Directive 1992*
- ◆ *The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*
- ◆ *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) – Section 1 and Schedules 5 and 9*
- ◆ *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – Sections 40 and 41*
- ◆ *Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System*
- ◆ *The Wiltshire Core Strategy (Wiltshire Council, 2015)*

1.8 It is the responsibility of the applicant(s) to ensure that the proposed development proceeds in full compliance with legislation, national and local policy, and in accordance with all conditions of the obtained planning consent.

2. METHODOLOGY

Desktop data search

- 2.1 Internationally protected sites including Ramsars, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) were identified within a 7.5 kilometre (km) radius and nationally designated sites including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) were identified within a 2km radius of the site using the Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside website (MAGIC, 2025).
- 2.2 Wiltshire Biological Records Centre (WSBRC, 2025) were contacted to provide records of any protected, vulnerable and notable species and any locally designated sites such as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) within a 1km radius of the application site.
- 2.3 A search was also conducted on MAGIC (2025) to identify the presence of nearby priority habitats, European Protected Species (EPS) licences and known great crested newt breeding ponds.
- 2.4 This information was used to evaluate the potential of the site for protected and vulnerable species, and to determine whether there is potential for development impacts on these species, surrounding habitats and protected sites.

Botanical survey (UKHab)

- 2.5 A botanical survey of the site was conducted on 21st February 2025 by experienced botanist Becci Smith MCIEEM, assistant ecologist Emily Parsons and graduate ecologist Jonathan Cornish.
- 2.6 Prior to the site visit, a geopackage was created in QGIS version 3.34.7-Prizren (QGIS.org, 2024) for export into Coreo (Coreo, 2024) for digital mapping and data collection in the field. A red line boundary for the site was created based on a georeferenced site plan ('Existing Site Plan' provided by PWCR as shown in Appendix A), and relevant vector and raster layers added.
- 2.7 The survey involved a detailed flora survey of habitats, and each flora species was allocated an abundance in accordance with the DAFOR scale, using local (L) as a pre-fix where a species was restricted in distribution across the habitat:

D – Dominant

- A** – Abundant
- F** – Frequent
- O** – Occasional
- R** – Rare

- 2.8 Habitats on site were classified and coded in accordance with the UKHab Classification System, using the UK Habitat Classification Definitions document Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd, 2023¹) and UKHab Field Key Version 2.1 (UKHab Ltd, 2023²). Other features of ecological interest were identified using ‘target notes’.
- 2.9 All mapping was undertaken digitally within the Coreo app and the geopackage was then imported back into QGIS.

Hedgerow Regulations Assessment

- 2.10 An assessment was conducted on any hedgerows within or immediately adjacent to the application site boundary, using the criteria set out under The Hedgerows Regulations (1997). A hedgerow was classified as ‘important’ under the Regulations where it was identified that the hedgerow was at least 30 years in age, was within a rural setting and comprised at least one of the following criteria:
- ◆ The hedgerow features at least seven native ‘woody’ species and is at least 30m in length.
 - ◆ The hedgerow features at least six native ‘woody’ species, is at least 30m in length and possesses at least 3 ‘features’.
 - ◆ The hedgerow features at least six native ‘woody’ species, is at least 30m in length and possesses any one tree of *Populus nigra ssp betulifolia*, *Tilia platyphyllos*, *Tilia cordata* or *Sorbus torminalis*.
 - ◆ The hedgerow features at least five native ‘woody’ species and possesses at least four ‘features’.
 - ◆ Or if adjacent to a footpath/bridleway, has at least four native ‘woody’ species and possesses at least two features.

Protected species assessment

Badgers

- 2.11 A walkover was conducted during the site visit looking for potential evidence of badgers *Meles meles*. Evidence of badgers can include the presence of setts

(underground burrows), ‘snuffle marks’ (nose marks and scratches from badger foraging within the earth), latrines (territorial marking sites), scats, hair, footprints and well-worn paths.

Barn owls and other nesting birds

- 2.12 A search was conducted for evidence of barn owl *Tyto alba* and other nesting birds within and around the buildings and vegetation during the site visit. Evidence of nesting birds can include the physical presence of chicks and/or adult birds, nesting material, eggs and/or egg casings, feathers, white splashing (droppings), and pellets (for barn owls).

Bats

Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW)

- 2.13 A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) survey was conducted to assess the site and record any habitats suitable for roosting and foraging bats. No buildings or trees are present on-site; however, an assessment of suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats was undertaken.

Survey conditions, equipment and timings

- 2.14 Survey information for the DBW is provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Weather conditions, equipment and timings for survey

Survey date	Time of survey	Surveyor(s)	Equipment available for use	Weather conditions		
21/02/2025	11:00am	Becci Smith MCIEEM, Emily Parsons and Jonathan Cornish	High-powered torch, mirrors, sealable bags, FFP3 face masks, gloves, extendable ladder, endoscope, binoculars	Temp:	Okta cloud cover:	Beaufort wind force:
				13°C	6/8	2/12

- 2.15 The surveying ecologists have received training in Working at Heights (and in-house training in the use of ladders for PRA surveys), Manual Handling, and Emergency First Aid At Work to ensure compliance with Health and Safety legislation (The Work at Height Regulations 2005, Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992, The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981).

Dormice

- 2.16 An assessment was conducted to evaluate the suitability of the habitats on site for the dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, a small, nocturnal mammal which occupies habitats such as hedgerows, scrub, woodland and treelines. The dormouse requires good habitat connectivity and suitable food resources providing fruit, nuts, nectar and/or insects throughout the year.

Great crested newts (GCN)

- 2.17 The habitats on site were assessed for their potential to support the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN). GCN occupy both aquatic and terrestrial habitats, spending most of their life cycle on land and a short period of the year for breeding and egg-laying. Suitable terrestrial habitats can include grassland, woodland, hedgerows, scrub, and tall herb communities; and suitable overwintering (hibernation) sites can include piles of materials such as rubble/logs and at the base of buildings/stone walls.
- 2.18 GCN are known to travel up to 500 metres (m) from their breeding sites; for this reason, an aerial assessment was made prior to the site visit to determine if any waterbodies were present on-site and around the site (off-site). Any accessible waterbodies were assessed under the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) (Oldham et al, 2000, 2008) to determine the suitability of the waterbody to support great crested newts.

Reptiles and common amphibians

- 2.19 An appraisal of the habitats on site was conducted to evaluate their suitability for common British reptiles, such as slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder *Vipera berus*, and common amphibians such as common frog *Rana temporaria*.
- 2.20 Suitable habitats for reptiles and amphibians include those with a varied structure, offering a range of niches for basking and foraging. Typical habitats include rough and unmanaged grassland with shorter margins, heathland, woodland, scrub and ruderal vegetation. Potential overwintering (hibernation) sites can include piles of materials such as rubble/logs, rockeries and at the base of buildings/stone walls.

Survey limitations and assumptions

PEA and UKHabs survey

- 2.21 The UKHabs habitat survey was conducted at an optimal time of the year (spring/summer) for general botanical survey. However, the vegetation on-site is regularly managed, which may have removed some identifiable features from flora.
- 2.22 An aerial search for waterbodies can be constrained by the accuracy of online maps. Several websites were accessed to minimize the chances of missing waterbodies, however, garden ponds within residential properties are very rarely mapped and it is possible that waterbodies have been overlooked as part of this assessment.
- 2.23 The site visit provides a 'snapshot' of the site and does not take into account seasonal variation. Flora species may have been overlooked due to the constraints of the season and time in which the survey was undertaken.
- 2.24 Certain species, such as bats and nesting birds, are highly mobile and it is therefore possible for these species to occupy the site at any time in the future, particularly if any alterations/changes occur to the site. The survey only provides a 'snapshot' in time and does not account for seasonal variation. As such, it is not possible to have complete certainty that species are not present, rather, there was no indication of their presence at the time of survey.

Reporting and survey lifespan

- 2.25 The data within this report should not be seen as comprehensive. Data obtained from the data search (WSBRC, 2025) is unlikely to provide a complete record of species within the search area. It is possible that a species may occur within the vicinity of the site that has not been identified within the data search.
- 2.26 Survey data is considered valid for 12 months from the survey date in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Advice note (CIEEM, 2019) due to the presence of and/or potential for mobile species to be present within the site.
- 2.27 **Survey data is only intended for the proposals outlined within this report.** If any material changes to the site occur and/or if the nature and/or extent of the proposed development changes, an update visit to reassess the site will be required, and any conclusions provided herein may not be relied upon.

3. RESULTS

Desktop data search

Internationally, nationally and regionally protected (statutory) sites

- 3.1 MAGIC (MAGIC, 2025) was used to identify any international statutory sites located within 7.5km of the application site and national/local sites within 2km of the site. The site falls within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape; relevant policies relating to this site should be followed.

Impacts on statutory sites

- 3.2 No impacts on statutory sites are anticipated provided that relevant policies relating to the North Wessex Downs National Landscape are followed; no other statutory sites were identified within the search area.
- 3.3 Therefore, no mitigation is advised in relation to statutory sites.

Locally designated (non-statutory) sites

- 3.4 WSBRC (2025) were consulted to provide results of any locally designated sites within 1km of the site. The results are presented in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Locally designated (non-statutory) sites

Site name	Distance from site	Designation	Area (ha)	Site description
Suddene Park Farm - Railway Line	770m northwest	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	2.06	Disused railway line east of Burbage. Scrub & woodland on the sides with calcareous grassland in some central areas.

Impacts on non-statutory sites

- 3.5 No impacts on non-statutory sites are anticipated due to sufficient distance and presence of landscape buffers between the application site and the locally designated site.
- 3.6 No further mitigation is recommended in relation to locally designated sites.

Priority habitats (S.41 NERC Act 2006)

- 3.7 No Priority Habitats were recorded on-site. The nearest Priority Habitats are 'Deciduous woodland' directly approximately 16m southwest of the site and wood

pasture parkland approximately 210m east (MAGIC, 2025). No impacts on these habitats are anticipated as a road intersects the site and the woodland and due to the localised nature of the proposals.

Protected, rare and vulnerable species

- 3.8 WSBRC (2025) was consulted to provide any records of protected/vulnerable species of interest as presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Records for protected/vulnerable species of interest

Species	Scientific name	Number of records	Latest record	Nearest record to site
Bats				
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	1	2007	Within 1km
Pipistrelle sp.	<i>Pipistrellus</i> sp.	1	2003	Within 1km
Birds				
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	9	2021	80m southeast
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	1	2020	Within 1km
Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	6	2020	Within 1km
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	7	2021	80m southeast
Eurasian stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	1	2020	Within 1km
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	94	2021	80m southeast
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	2	2020	Within 1km
Hen harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1	2021	Within 1km
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2	2020	840m northeast
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	223	2021	80m southeast
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	19	2021	80m southeast
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	4	2020	80m southeast
Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	1	2021	Within 1km
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	8	2021	Within 1km
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	248	2021	80m southeast
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	69	2021	80m southeast
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	5	2021	80m southeast
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	66	2021	80m southeast
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2	2020	Within 1km
Stone curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	1	2020	Within 1km
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	90	2021	80m southeast
Other mammals				
Brown hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	4	2017	310m west
European badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	1	2007	700m northwest
West European hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	16	2020	50m south
Flowering plants				
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	2	1984	Within 1km
Corn buttercup	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	2	2005	440m southeast
Invertebrates				
Black oil beetle	<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>	1	2022	970m south

Shrill carder bee	<i>Bombus sylvarum</i>	1	1991	1km north
Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	1	2006	Within 1km
Reptiles				
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	1	1970	Within 1km

Botanical survey (UKHab)

Habitats recorded on-site

- 3.9 The following habitats were recorded within the site (habitat map with species lists for each habitat are provided in Appendix D and photographs provided in Appendix E of this report) (Table 4), all mappable habitats (including those without a primary UKHab code, were included within the assessment):

Table 4: Habitats recorded on-site

Habitat	Primary UKHab code	Secondary UKHab code(s) ¹	Description	Area of the site
Modified grassland	g4	128, 510, 839	The field is comprised of modified grassland. A track on the eastern side contains some areas of bare ground from vehicular access. A depression on the site results in a large pool of water collecting at this point as shown in the photographs in Appendix E.	Majority of the site
Species-rich native hedgerow	h2a5	516	A species-rich native hedgerow in good condition runs along the southern site boundary and is actively managed.	Southern boundary

1: See Appendix D for list of UKHabs secondary codes

Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 3.10 A Hedgerow Regulations Assessment (1997) was conducted on the species-rich native hedgerow on site, and the hedge does not qualify as ‘important’ under the Regulations. The results are displayed in Table 5 below:

Table 5: Hedgerow Regulations Assessment

Criteria	BA-H1
Bridleway/footpath	No
No of woody species per 30m stretch	5
+/- 30m	Yes
3 ‘valuable’ ground flora spp.	No
Trees	No

Rare trees (Pn, Sot, Tic and Tip)	No
Bank/wall	No
Intact	Yes
Ditch	No
Parallel hedge	No
+ 4 connection points	No
Result =	Not 'important'

Impacts of development on habitats

- 3.11 The proposed development will involve the construction of a new dwelling (u1b5 818) with a garage (u1b5) and creation of a driveway and garden with the associated landscaping (u1b6/u1 827) which will result in the loss of modified grassland (g4 128 510 839) currently on-site. The hedgerow (h2a5 516) on-site will be largely retained with a small section removed to wider the existing access; new native species-rich hedging and tree planting will be provided.
- 3.12 Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain has not been considered as part of this report as the applicant's agent has advised that the new dwelling will consist exclusively of a dwelling that is self-build or custom housebuilding as defined in section 1(A1) of the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015; therefore, the application is exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) under the Environment Act 2021.

Protected species assessment

Badgers

- 3.13 There is a badger record approximately 700m northwest of the site (WSBRC, 2025). No evidence of badgers was recorded on-site; however, the site does possess suitable foraging habitats for badgers. Therefore, a precautionary mitigation strategy is included in Section 4 of this report.

Barn owls and other nesting birds

- 3.14 No evidence of barn owls was present on-site, and this species is not considered to be impacted by the proposals; the grassland on site lacks a deep thatch layer required for foraging barn owls. Therefore, barn owls are not discussed further in this assessment.
- 3.15 There is potential for nesting birds to be present within the hedgerow on-site. Therefore, mitigation for nesting birds is detailed in Section 4.

Bats

Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW)

Trees

- 3.16 There were no trees on-site, hence no further action is recommended in relation to roosting bats and trees.

Artificial lighting and bats

- 3.17 It is likely that bats are commuting and foraging across the general site, particularly along the hedgerow on-site and across the grassland. Bats are very sensitive to artificial lighting, which can impede their ability to successfully forage and can alter flightpaths (BCT & ILP, 2023). As bats may be using the site during nocturnal hours, it is essential that new lighting is designed to minimise impacts on foraging bats, particularly around areas with mature vegetation such as trees and hedges. Light spill can extend beyond the site boundary and may therefore also impact bats using neighbouring land.
- 3.18 Specifications for new lighting designed to reduce impacts on bats are detailed in Section 4.

Dormice

- 3.19 The species-rich native hedgerow on the southern boundary provides some potential habitat for dormice. There is some connectivity from this hedgerow to the wider environment and areas of significant habitat for dormice, such as woodland immediately over the A338.
- 3.20 Although no dormouse records exist within 1km of the site (WSBRC, 2025) and the nearest European Protected Species (EPS) licence is located approximately 9.7km northwest of the site (MAGIC, 2025), this species is often under-recorded due to their reclusive nature and lack of local surveys. As there is low potential for dormice to be using the site, protective works measures are included in Section 4 of this report to ensure protection of the remaining retained hedgerow.

Great crested newts (GCN)

- 3.21 The site lies partly within an 'Amber Risk Zone' for GCN (Natural England, 2025). The hedgerow on the southern boundary and the taller tussocky grassland on the western and northern side of the site holds limited potential for GCN.
- 3.22 There are no ponds on-site, however, an aerial assessment revealed one waterbody within 250m of the site (MAGIC, 2025). This waterbody was evaluated using the

Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) and determined to be of 'poor' suitability for GCN; see Table 6 below.

Table 6: Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment

Waterbody ref:	Pond
SI1 – Location	1
SI2 – Pond area	0.2
SI3 – Pond drying	0.9
SI4 – Water quality	0.33
SI4 – Shade	1
SI6 – Fowl	0.01
SI7 – Fish	0.7
SI8 – Ponds	0.85
SI9 – Terrestrial habitat	0.33
SI10 – Macrophytes	0.01
HSI SCORE =	0.26

3.23 There are no known records for GCN within the local area (WSBRC, 2025) and the nearest known waterbody with confirmed GCN presence is approximately 2.5km northwest of the site (MAGIC, 2025). As the suitable terrestrial habitat on site is considered to be limited to the site verges, Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) will be followed, and 'Heras' fencing will be installed around the site boundaries to prevent any damage coming to fringe habitats. Details are provided in Section 4.

Hedgehogs

3.22 16 hedgehog records are present within the local area with the closest being approximately 50m south of the site (WSBRC, 2025). The site possesses suitable foraging and commuting habitat for hedgehogs. It is therefore considered likely that hedgehogs utilise the site; hedgehogs are a priority species due to their rural population decline (Wembridge, D. *et al*, 2022). Therefore, mitigation for hedgehogs is provided in Section 4 of this report.

Reptiles and common amphibians

3.23 The site features limited habitats for reptiles and common amphibians around the boundaries in the hedgerow to the south and the taller, tussocky grass on the western and northern margins. However, the majority of the site comprises shorter

grassland lacking adequate protective cover. The method statement and RAMs outlined in Section 4 will address the low potential for impacts on reptilian and amphibian species during the works.

4. BIODIVERSITY MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Foraging bats - Artificial Lighting at Night (ALAN)

4.1 There are records of bats within the locale and the site likely supports commuting and foraging bats. The following specifications for lighting must be adhered to and are based upon the 'Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night' Guidance Note BN08/23 (BCT & ILP, 2023):

- ◆ Preferably, no new external light fixtures will be installed. If external lighting is required, this will be installed where required for safety purposes only. No external luminaires will be installed where these will cast light spill onto surrounding vegetation, such as mature trees and the on-site hedgerow in the south.
- ◆ All luminaires will lack UV elements when manufactured. Metal halide, compact fluorescent sources will not be used.
- ◆ LED luminaires only will be used due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.
- ◆ A warm white light source (2700Kelvin or lower) will be adopted to reduce blue light component.
- ◆ Light sources will feature peak wavelengths higher than 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats (Stone, 2012).
- ◆ Internal luminaires will be recessed only (as opposed to using a pendant fitting) where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill.
- ◆ Column heights must be carefully considered to minimise light spill and glare visibility. This must be balanced with the potential for increased numbers of columns and upward light reflectance.
- ◆ Only luminaires with a negligible or zero Upward Light Ratio, and with good optical control, will be used.
- ◆ Luminaires must always be mounted horizontally, with no light output above 90° and/or no upward tilt.
- ◆ External security lighting will be set on motion sensors and set to a 1-minute (or less) timers.

- ◆ Bollard or low-level downward-directional luminaires will not be installed. This is due to a considerable range of issues, such as unacceptable glare, poor illumination efficiency, unacceptable upward light output, and increased upward light scatter from surfaces.
- ◆ Only if all other options have been explored, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres can be used to reduce light spill and direct it only to where it is needed. However, due to the lensing and fine cut-off control of the beam inherent in modern LED luminaires, the effect of cowls and baffles is often far less than anticipated and must not be relied upon solely.
- ◆ No external lighting will be installed within 6m of the on-site southern hedgerow.

Vegetation clearance – dormice, great crested newts, nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians

- 4.2 The hedgerow on the southern boundary and tussocky grassland along the western and northern boundaries are considered to provide potential habitat for dormice, nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians. A small section of hedgerow and the tussocky grassland will be lost as part of the works. The following method for site works will be followed to minimise any impact on these species given the low potential for these species to be using the areas being lost.

Tussocky grassland

- 4.3 Firstly, a pre-works check of the tussocky grassland will take place by a suitably qualified ecologist to see if species such as nesting birds are using this area. If works take place during the nesting bird season (February to August) and birds are found to be using the tussocky grassland edge, the area must be cordoned off and no vegetation clearance in that area will be able to take place until the nesting birds have fledged and the nest is no longer active.
- 4.4 If no nesting birds are using the tussocky grassland areas, sensitive and phased clearance of vegetation to make habitats less suitable for dormice, great crested newts, nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians will take place within areas which are to be cleared/soil stripped; first cut any scrub and other tall vegetation to a height of c.250mm with all arisings removed; 48hrs later cut remaining vegetation to a height of c.150mm. The second phase will be undertaken in a directional manner, moving towards the suitable areas of retained habitat, in the northwestern corner (comprising

the log pile) with arisings removed. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken during the active season for dormice, amphibians and reptiles, typically April to October inclusive when temperatures are >5 degrees centigrade and will avoid prolonged periods of hot dry weather (>25°C) when these species activity is reduced.

- 4.5 The working area will then be kept as bare ground/>5cm vegetation height throughout the works phase.
- 4.6 **If a dormouse, reptile/amphibian and/or bird's nest is discovered during the course of any unsupervised works, the ecologist will be contacted immediately for further advice. If a dormouse or GCN is discovered at any stage, all works will cease and a mitigation licence / District Level Licence (for GCN) will be sought prior to works continuing.**

Hedgerow removal works (6m on the eastern side)

- 4.7 The following strategy will address the protection of any potential dormice, nesting birds, reptiles and great crested newts (GCN) within the hedgerow on-site, a small section of which is to be removed to widen the access to the new dwelling. A suitably qualified ecologist will be required to supervise the removal of the hedgerow for these species, and the following protocol adhered to.
- ◆ Supervision of the works will be undertaken by an experienced dormouse and GCN licensed worker which will be provided alongside a 'toolbox talk' on dormouse, reptile and GCN/reptile ecology. The talk will inform the site contractors on when to stop at signs of hibernating dormice, what to do if a GCN/reptile/dormouse is found (which will include leaving a 5m buffer around the nest and receiving advice from the licensed ecologist) and measures of best practice to reduce any harm to dormice and reptiles/GCN within the area.
 - ◆ Ideally, single stage clearance in relation to dormice should be undertaken in the Spring or Autumn, coinciding with periods of natural dispersal and avoiding the breeding period. Normal timings for Spring are May (sometimes April with appropriate justification) and autumn (mid-September to the end of October sometimes into November with appropriate justification).
 - ◆ The licensed worker will undertake a pre-works survey of the area which will include a fingertip search of any holes in trees and careful checks of the stumps looking for dormice. If a dormouse is recorded at this stage works must stop and a licence must be sought from Natural England, following any required survey work.

- ◆ To prevent harm to any dormice within the local area, the hedge sections will be felled to ground level in the direction of any retained habitats to allow for dispersion of the dormice into retained habitat. These timings will also ensure protection of any potential reptiles/GCN leaving the stumps in-situ.
- ◆ To prevent harm to hibernating dormice and reptiles/GCN this will be done by hand where possible with limbs being removed in sections and lowered to the ground rather than by machine which can kill any animals.
- ◆ The stumps will be removed in the same timeframes as above when the temperatures are above 10°C by machine following a direct search of the stumps for dormice nests and reptiles/amphibians by a licensed worker. The dormice, if present, will then be active and will have moved from the area to suitable adjoining habitat. Any reptiles/amphibians during this period will be active and will be encouraged into the adjoining hedgerow section.
- ◆ Any areas of longer vegetation/grassland around the hedge will be strimmed to a height of 250mm then 150mm and will take place in one direction towards the nearest area of retained habitat. Once vegetation has been cleared, the topsoil will then be removed under the supervision of the ecologist. Any reptiles and/or GCN found will be relocated to a retained area of habitat.
- ◆ If an active bird's nest is encountered, works will cease immediately, and the nest will be left undisturbed. The ecologist will instate a minimum 5m works exclusion buffer zone marked out with red/white hazard tape and a second site visit by the ecologist to check the status of the nest will be required before works can continue in this area. Works may only continue when the nest is deemed to be unoccupied/no longer active by the ecologist.
- ◆ All storage of materials/waste will be undertaken on areas of hard standing or bare ground such as areas which have been cleared as above. Waste will be stored in skips or removed off site as soon as possible and away from suitable retained or off-site habitat to avoid creating refuges which could be colonised by newts. Mounds of soil can be compacted around the base to avoid creating refuges which newts could occupy.
- ◆ Any trenches created will be backfilled at the end of each working day and/or covered over to prevent creating temporary waterbodies which are attractive to newts.

Other works to the hedgerow:

- ◆ Any hedge pruning works should preferably be conducted outside of the nesting season which is considered to run from February to August to avoid the time of year when birds are most likely to be nesting.
- ◆ **If a bird's nest, dormouse, great crested newt and/or reptile is encountered at any other unsupervised time, all works must cease immediately, and the ecologist must be contacted immediately to provide further advice.**

Hedgerow protection during works/construction

- 4.8 The remaining hedgerow along the southern boundary will be retained and protected by use of 'Heras' fencing. This will ensure machinery does not accidentally track into hedges potentially disturbing/damaging nests. The 'Heras' fencing will allow for a minimum 2m construction buffer (to be increased where necessary in line with BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (British Standards Institution, 2012) to ensure Root Protection Zones) and will remain in place throughout the duration of the works. This fencing will only be removed post-construction.

Hedgehogs and badgers

- 4.9 The site likely supports hedgehogs and badgers due to the suitability of the surrounding habitats and the presence of nearby records, with a record for hedgehogs within 50m of the site boundary. The following measures will be followed to ensure hedgehogs and badgers are protected during works and to ensure habitat connectivity is maintained:
- ◆ Any new close-boarded fencing and boundaries proposed around the gardens will feature a minimum of one hedgehog highway (130mm x 130mm hole) along every boundary to ensure habitat connectivity for hedgehogs/badgers (Appendix F); this can comprise either a specialised mammal highway gravel board (<https://www.garden-fence-panels.co.uk/concrete-posts-bases/concrete-gravel-boards/hedgehog-friendly-concrete-base-panel-plain/>) or if timber gravel boards are used a custom-made hole.
 - ◆ A hedgehog highway sign will also be installed above each highway to encourage any future occupiers to keep these open for hedgehogs (can be purchased from <https://shop.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/product/hedgehog-highway-sign/>).

- ◆ During works, any trenches/pits will be boarded over at the end of each working day or alternatively a 130mm wide ramp/board will be installed in each trench/pit to allow hedgehogs/badgers to escape.
- ◆ Materials must be stored on pallets raised off the ground and away from surrounding vegetation to discourage hedgehogs or badgers from taking refuge within them.

Biodiversity enhancements

5.1 Features will be included within the proposed development to enhance the site for biodiversity (Appendix F for plan and specifications). The new dwelling will feature the following:

- ◆ Three ‘Manthorpe Swift Brick’ or similar approved will be installed at the eaves in the northern elevation of the new house (<https://www.nhbs.com/manthorpe-swift-brick>)
- ◆ One ‘Vivara Pro UK Build-in WoodStone® Bat Box’ or similar approved will be installed near the apex of the northern gable of the new house (<https://www.nhbs.com/build-in-woodstone-bat-box-uk-brick-size>)
- ◆ A minimum of two fruit trees will be planted in the grounds of the newly built house to provide nesting/roosting and foraging opportunities for local birds and bats and support invertebrate populations benefitting biodiversity.
- ◆ In addition, as part of the plans, two new species rich hedgerows (containing more than five different UK native species) will be planted along the northern and eastern boundaries, benefitting biodiversity by supporting a wide range of species through providing valuable forage, habitat and commuting corridors.

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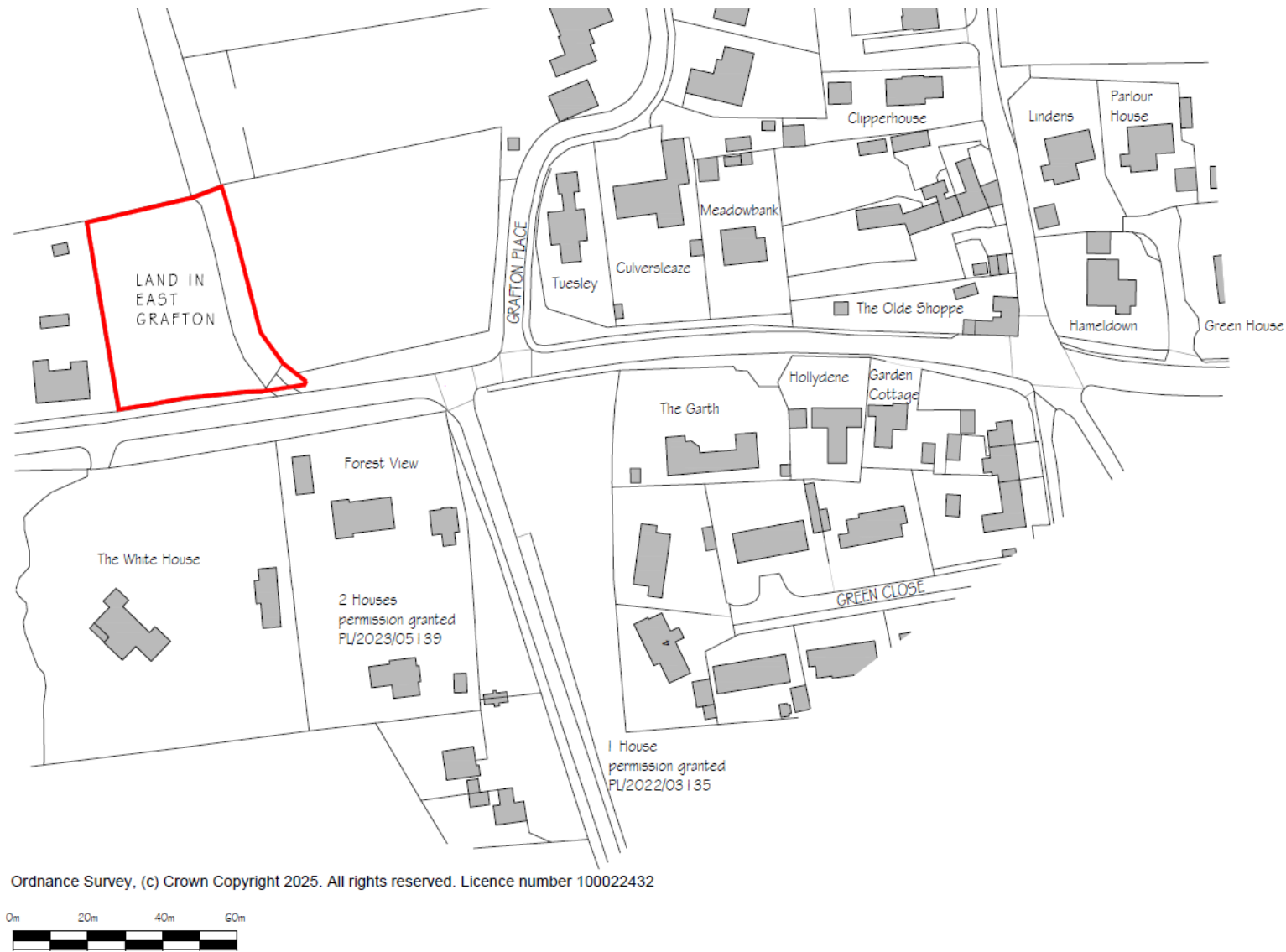
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Appendix A – Site location plan



revisions	initial	date
Contractors, Sub Contractors and Suppliers are to check all relevant dimensions and levels of site and buildings before commencing any shop drawings or building work.		
This drawing is copyright and may not be reproduced in any part of form without the written consent of Fowler Architecture and Planning		
project		
LAND IN EAST GRAFTON		
East Grafton		
Wiltshire SN8 3DB		
drawing		
Location Plan		
scale	drawn by	date
1:1250 @A3	EG	Jun '25
250103-01		
drawing no		rev



Appendix B – Proposed plans

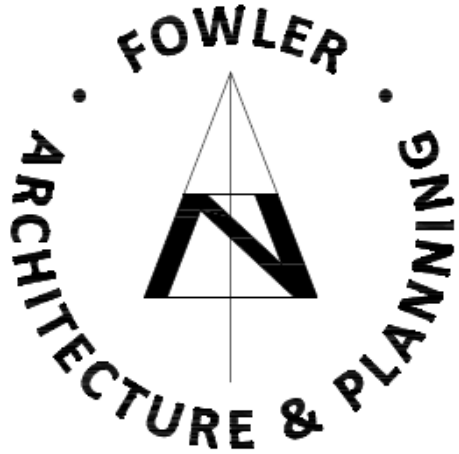


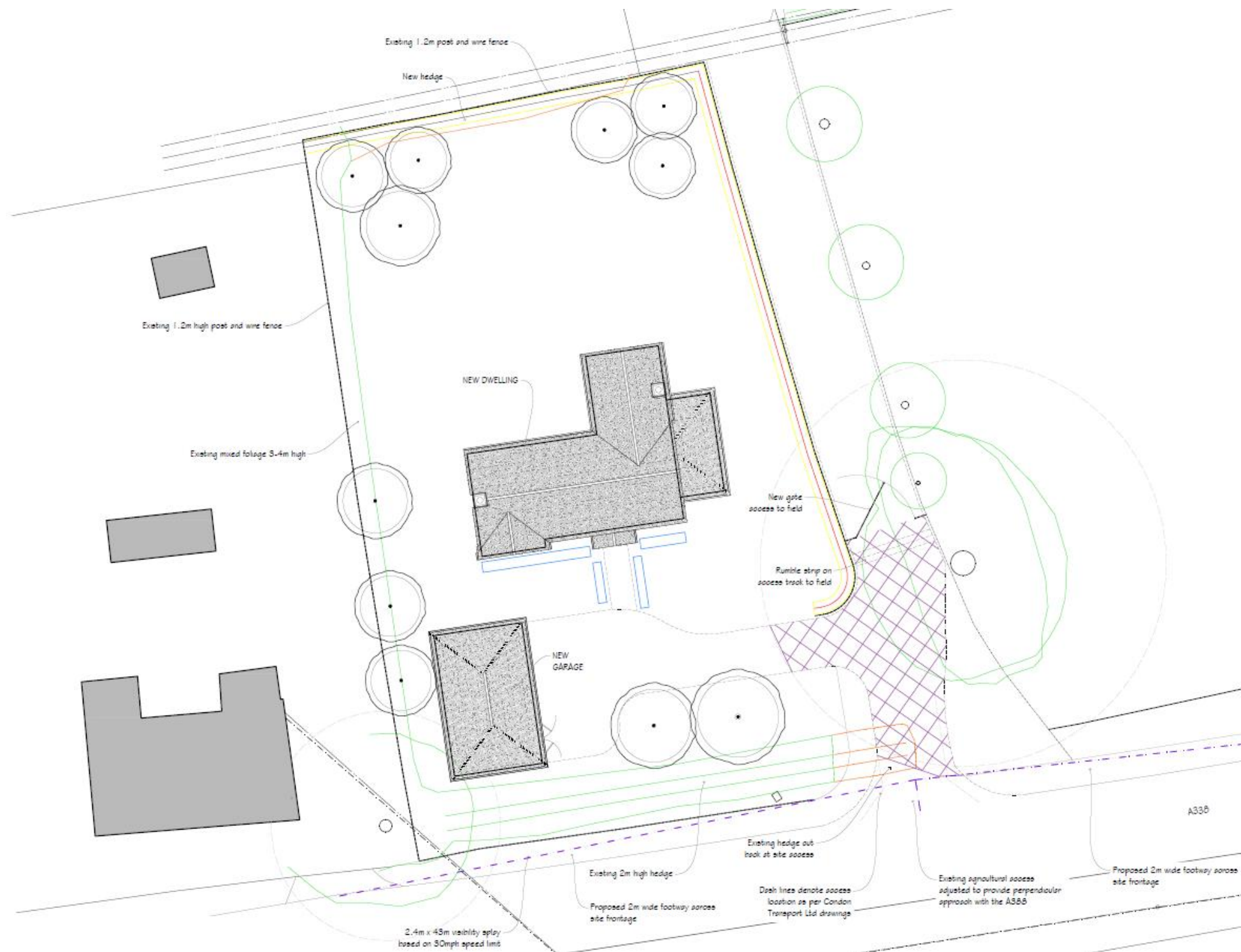
project
LAND IN EAST GRAFTON
East Grafton
Wiltshire SN8 3DB

drawing
Block Plan

scale 1:500 @A1 drawn by EG date May '25

250103-05 A
drawing no rev





Main house:



NORTH ELEVATION

1 : 100



EAST ELEVATION

1 : 100



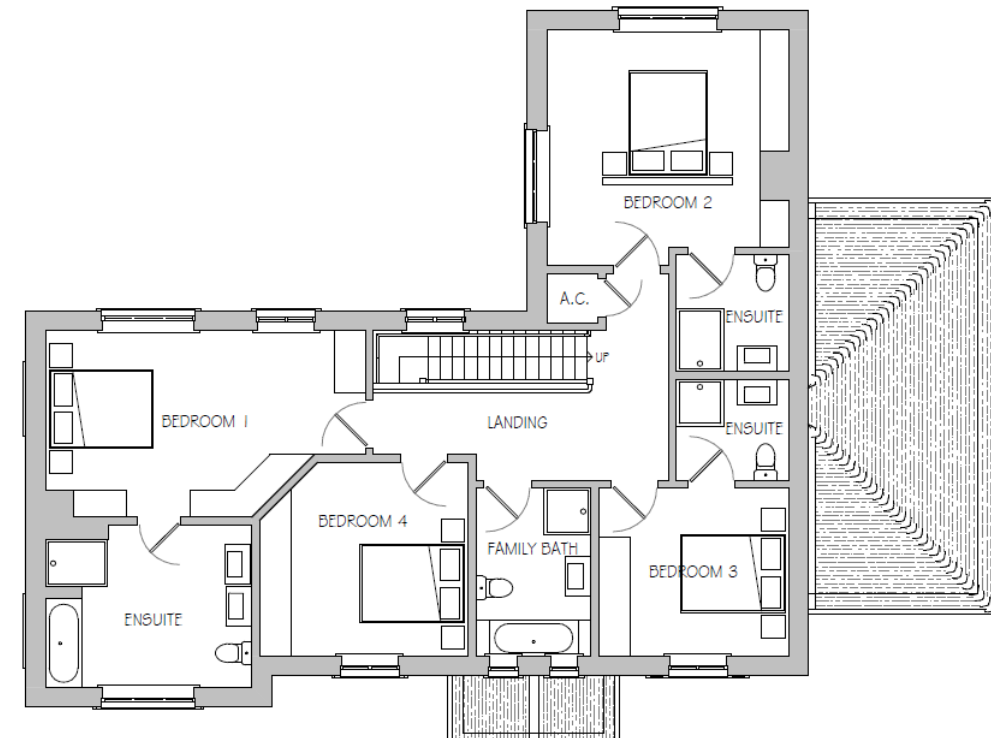
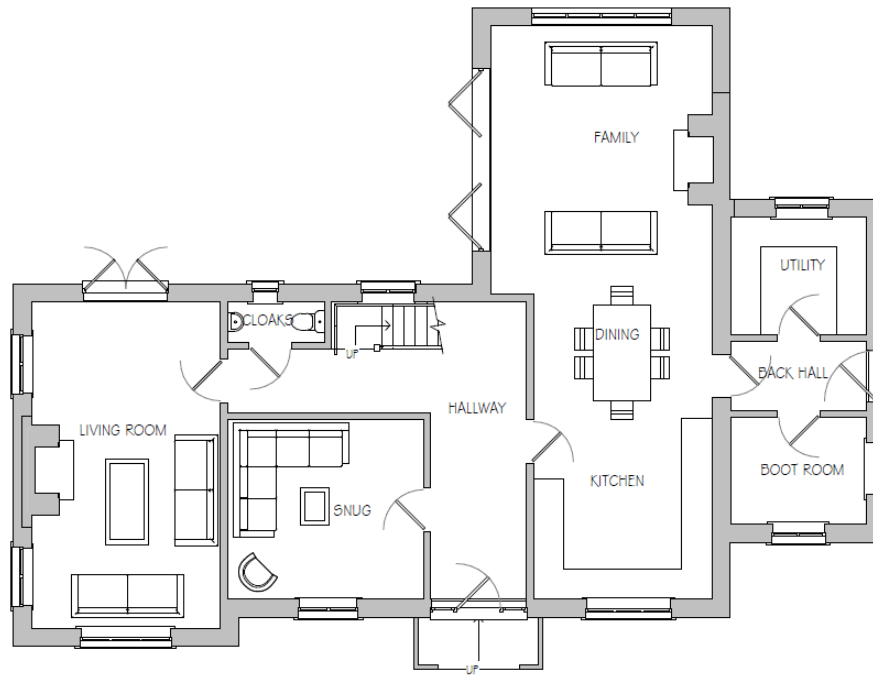
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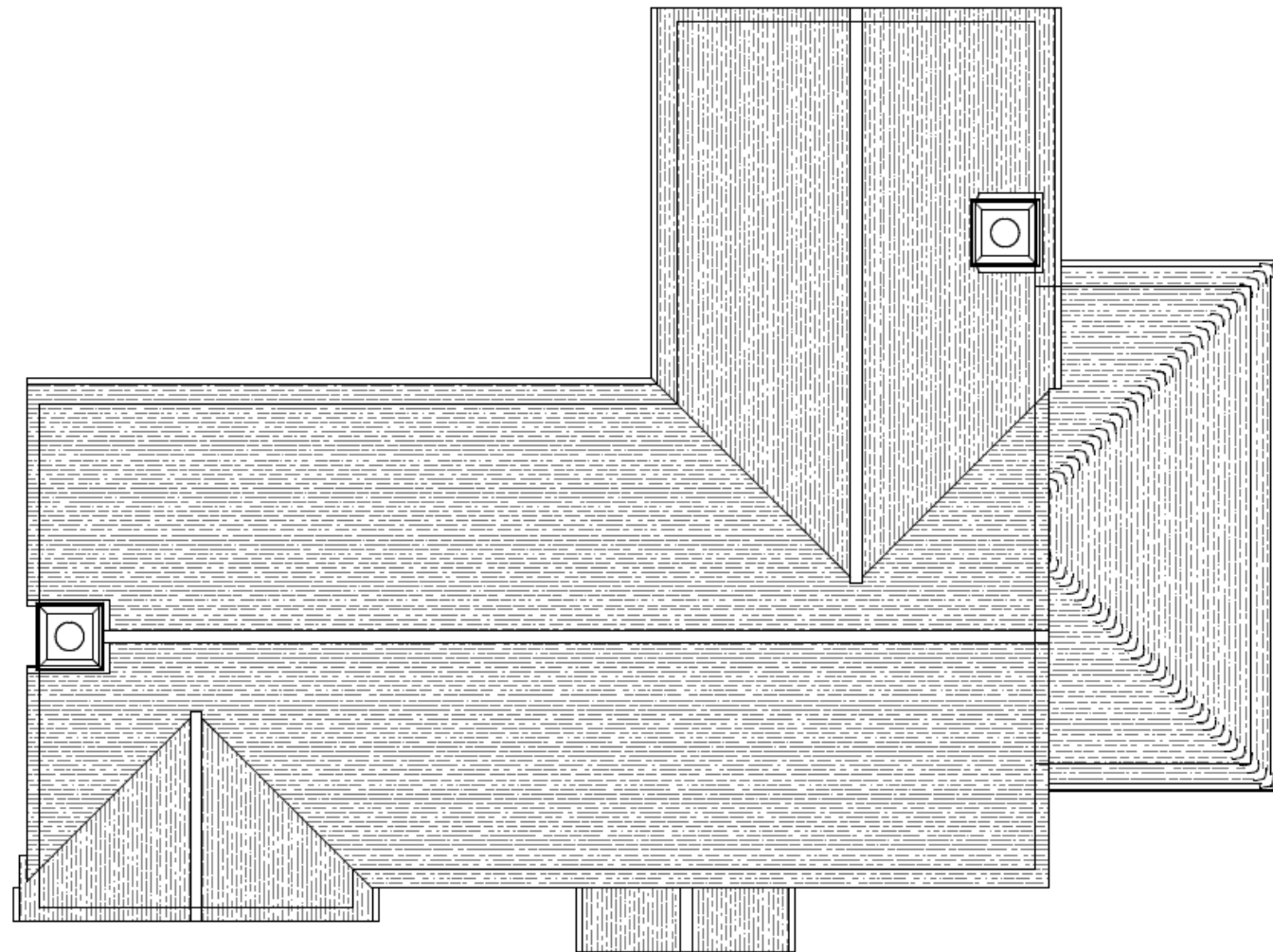
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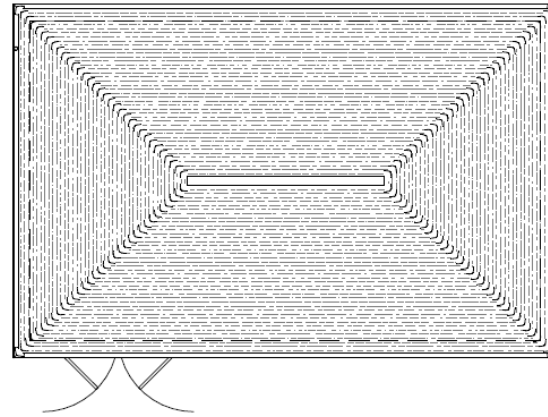
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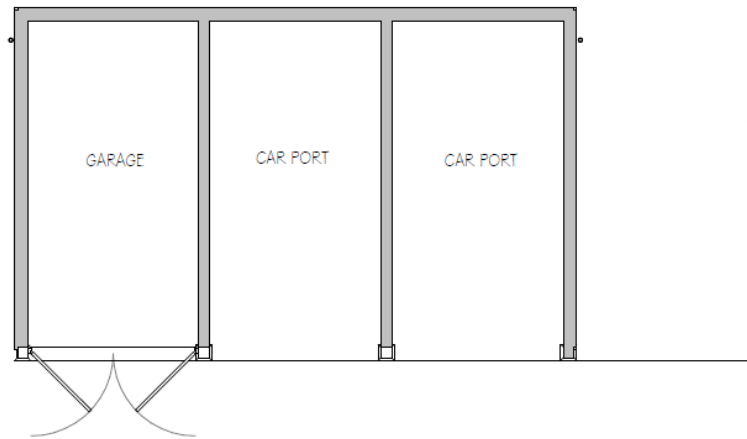




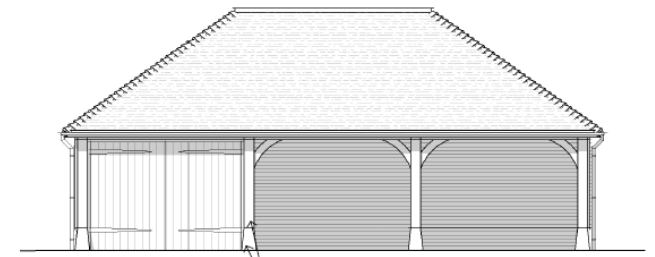
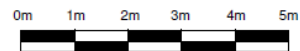
Garage:



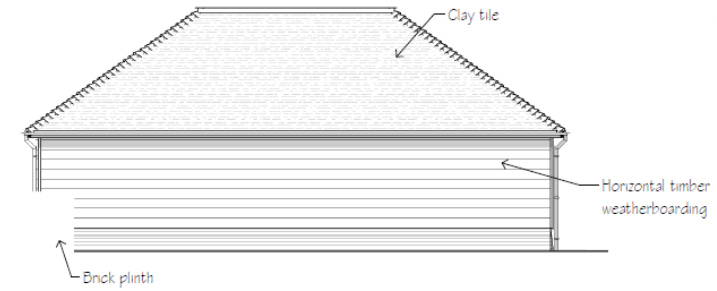
ROOF PLAN
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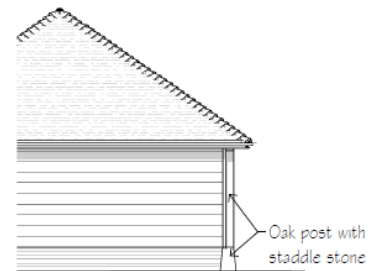
FLOOR PLAN
1 : 100



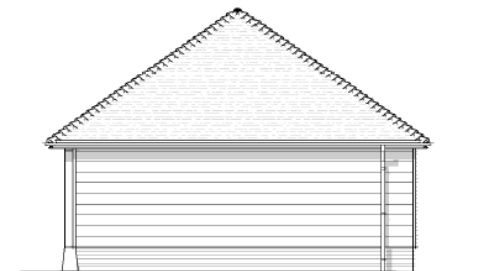
EAST ELEVATION
1 : 100



WEST ELEVATION
1 : 100



SOUTH ELEVATION
1 : 100



NORTH ELEVATION
1 : 100

Appendix C – Relevant legislation and planning policy

Legislation and UK BAP priority habitats/species

Legislation

In England, all bats, dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), otters (*Lutra lutra*), white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) and great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) are legally protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

A number of species are also listed under Annex II of the EC Habitats and Species Directive (1992), including barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), greater horseshoe (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*), lesser horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), great crested newt, white-clawed crayfish and otter.

The above-named species and adders (*Vipera berus*), slow worms (*Anguis fragilis*), grass snakes (*Natrix natrix*), common lizards (*Zootoca vivipara*), common frog (*Rana temporaria*), palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*), smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), water voles (*Arvicola amphibius*) and several invertebrate species are also protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981) (as amended). Schedule 9 of the WCA (1981) includes non-native, invasive species including (but not limited to) Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*). Badgers (*Meles meles*) are legally protected under The Protection of Badgers Act (1992).

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Section 1 of The WCA (1981) (as amended) and it is thus an offence, to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally take, and damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

A number of sites designated for nature conservation are afforded legal protection due to being of European importance. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) (protected under the EC Habitats and Species Directive (1992), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds (protected under the EC Birds Directive) and Ramsar (Ramsar Convention, 1975). Other protected sites include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Protected Road Verges which are designated under the WCA (1981) and strengthened by The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) (2006).

SPAs and SACs were previously included in the Natura 2000 sites and following amendments to the legislation, are now included under the 'National Site Network'. Ramsar sites do not form part of the 'National Site Network' however, are afforded the same protection. These changes allow the Government to continue commitment to the international commitments under the Bern Convention, the Oslo and Paris Conventions (OSPAR), Bonn and Ramsar Conventions.

Following a consultation in 2019, the Government announced that it would mandate Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for developments in England to reverse the widespread loss of biodiversity. The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 will be amended and the Environment Bill received Royal Assent on 9th November 2021; this legislation was enacted into UK law on 2nd April 2024 for small sites.

Schedule 14 Parts 1 and 2 of The Environment Act 2021 concerns BNG as a condition of planning permission.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, 2024) sets out requirements for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and this is supported within Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (updated July 2019). The Natural Environment PPG addresses principles targeting biodiversity conservation, including individual site and species protection through to supporting ecosystem services, and the use of Ecological Networks to support the national Nature Recovery Network. In particular, the PPG promotes the delivery of measurable BNG through the creation and enhancement of habitats alongside development.

UK BAP priority species and habitats

Several species and habitats are listed under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) (JNCC, 2016) as priority habitats/species due to their vulnerability or rarity as listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) and Section 40 places a duty on all public authorities to conserve biodiversity. These are known as habitats / species of ‘principal importance’ under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).

These include several terrestrial and freshwater habitats, including some hedgerows and streams, and several species such as hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*), barbastelle, Bechstein’s bat, both species of horseshoe bat, brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), water voles, white-clawed crayfish and otter.

National and local planning policy

NPPF – The National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, 2024) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied. In the context of this report, Section 15 of NPPF is relevant and applicable, Section 15 states:

‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by, minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.’

New developments and projects are supported where plans promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue measurable net gains for biodiversity.

To ensure this application is compliant with Section 15 of NPPF, habitat enhancements will be required to demonstrate a biodiversity net gain as an outcome of the development.

Section 15 of NPPF also gives consideration to sites with potential to impact on irreplaceable habitats, and states:

‘Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.’

To ensure this application is compliant with Section 15, this application should be accompanied by a suitable arboricultural report to assess the presence of potential ancient or veteran trees.

Wiltshire Core Strategy

The Wiltshire Core Strategy (Wiltshire Council, 2015) was adopted in January 2015 and includes the following relevant policy:

Core Policy 50: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Protection

Development proposals must demonstrate how they protect features of nature conservation and geological value as part of the design rationale. There is an expectation that such features shall be retained, buffered, and managed favourably in order to maintain their ecological value, connectivity and functionality in the long-term. Where it has been demonstrated that such features cannot be retained, removal or damage shall only be acceptable in circumstances where the anticipated ecological impacts have been mitigated as far as possible and appropriate compensatory measures can be secured to ensure no net loss of the local biodiversity resource and secure the integrity of local ecological networks and provision of ecosystem services.

All development proposals shall incorporate appropriate measures to avoid and reduce disturbance of sensitive wildlife species and habitats throughout the lifetime of the development.

Any development potentially affecting a Natura 2000 site must provide avoidance measures in accordance with the strategic plans or guidance set out in paragraphs 6.75-6.77 [refer to full strategy for details] above where possible, otherwise bespoke measures must be provided to demonstrate that the proposals would have no adverse effect upon the Natura 2000 network. Any development that would have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European nature conservation site will not be in accordance with the Core Strategy.

Biodiversity enhancement

All development should seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Major development in particular must include measures to deliver biodiversity gains through opportunities to restore, enhance and create valuable habitats, ecological networks and ecosystem services. Such enhancement measures will contribute to the objectives and targets of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or River Basin/Catchment Management Plan, particularly through landscape scale projects, and be relevant to the local landscape character.

Local sites

Sustainable development will avoid direct and indirect impacts upon local sites through sensitive site location and layout, and by maintaining sufficient buffers and ecological connectivity with the wider environment. Damage or disturbance to local sites will generally be unacceptable, other than in exceptional circumstances where it has been demonstrated that such impacts:

- i. cannot reasonably be avoided*
- ii. are reduced as far as possible*
- iii. are outweighed by other planning considerations in the public interest*
- iv. where appropriate compensation measures can be secured through planning obligations or agreements.*

Development proposals affecting local sites must make a reasonable contribution to their favourable management in the long-term.

It is the applicant's/landowner's responsibility to ensure that the proposed development proceeds in full compliance with this report and/or any update version report thereafter, that works are undertaken lawfully, in compliance with national and local policy, and in accordance with all conditions of the obtained planning consent(s).

Appendix D – Habitat map and species lists



Species lists for habitats:

Species common name	Species scientific name	DAFOR scale abundance
Modified grassland (g4 128 510 839) (BA-A):		
Barren brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Locally frequent
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Locally frequent
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Locally occasional
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Locally frequent
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Locally frequent
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Locally occasional
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Locally occasional-frequent
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Locally abundant-occasional
False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	Locally frequent
Ground elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Locally frequent
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Locally occasional
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Rare
Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Locally abundant - frequent
Red dead nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Rare
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Locally frequent
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Locally occasional
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Locally frequent
Species-rich native hedgerow (h2a5 516) (BA-H1):		
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Rare
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Occasional
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Rare
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Occasional
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Frequent
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Frequent
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Frequent
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Abundant
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Frequent
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Rare
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Frequent
Lesser celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Frequent
Lord's and ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Rare
Red dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Rare

Appendix E – Photographs



Photo 1: Species rich hedgerow on the southern boundary (BA-H1).



Photo 2: Area of bare ground at the entrance to the site, which is a result of vehicular access.



Photo 3: Areas of taller tussocky grassland on the western site boundary adjacent to an off-site hedgerow.



Photo 4: Log pile in the northwestern corner of the site.

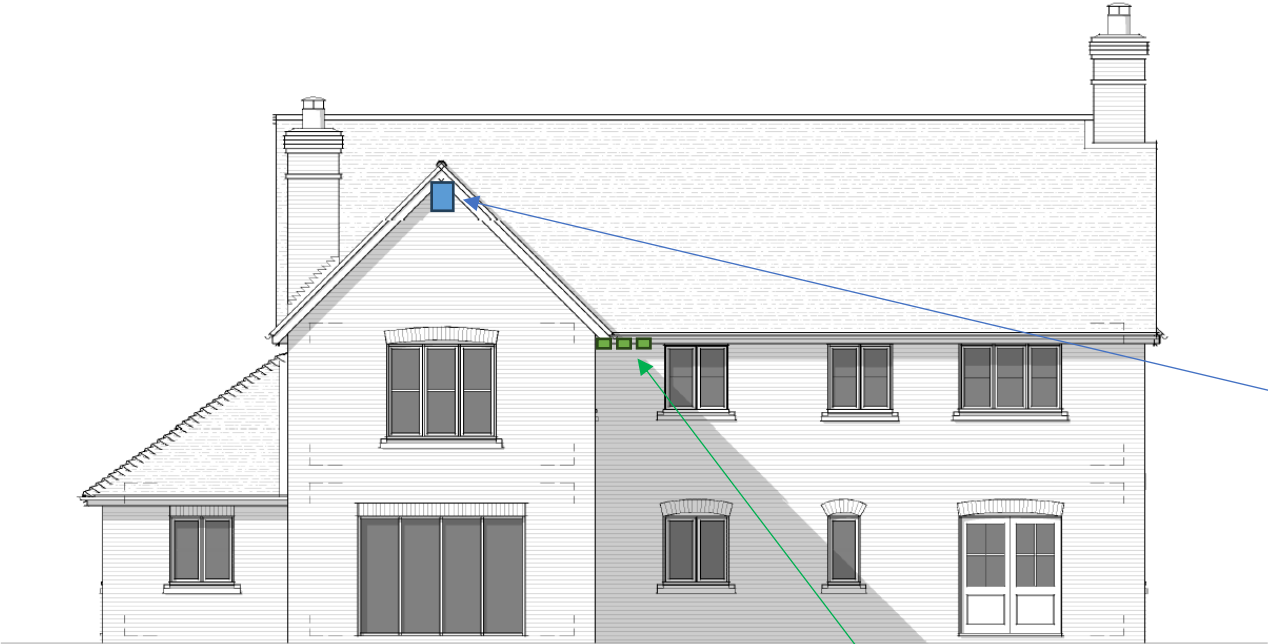


Photo 5: Water-logged area present at the time of the survey (Feb 2025).



Photo 6: Hedgerow in foreground with off-site treeline to the east of the site.

Appendix F – Biodiversity mitigation and enhancement plan



NORTH ELEVATION

1 : 100

Key:

- 3x 'Manthorpe Swift Bricks'
- 1x 'Ibstock Bat Brick'

Three integrated 'Manthorpe Swift Bricks' or similar will be installed in the new dwelling at eaves level on the northern elevation.

One integrated 'Vivara Pro UK Build-in WoodStone® Bat Box' or similar will be installed at the apex of the northern elevation. The bat tube is self-contained to ensure the bat is not impacted by cavity wall insulation (if being used) and cannot access the building internally.

New hedgerows around the boundaries to comprise a mixture of native species (minimum of five) to support local biodiversity.

Any new fencing on-site will feature mammal gravel boards or custom-made holes within every boundary that will measure 130mm x 130mm.



11 new native trees will be planted on the site. At least two of these trees will comprise fruit trees to provide nesting/roosting and foraging opportunities for local birds and bats and support invertebrate populations.

