

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment

Survey site:

The Lodge, Broad Hinton, Swindon, Kennet, Wiltshire SN4 9PA

Client:

Louise Skillen

Survey date:

12/11/2025

Project:

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

One Self-built dwelling in an existing garden.

[Unsubmitted]

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

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

Site Location and Context					
The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference SU10757635 and has an area of approximately 0.18ha. The site comprises one dwelling (B1) and an associated garden, which runs adjacent to the B4041 (Summers Road). There are agricultural fields to the north, east and south of the site. These are dominantly arable field systems. To the west is the village of Broad Hinton. The site is one of the most southern properties of the village of Broad Hinton, with no further buildings to the south and the village stretching to the north and northwest. The scattered houses have associated gardens, which include lines of scattered trees forming boundary lines.					
Survey Details					
The site survey was undertaken by Annabel Sharpe Bsc (Hons), a Senior ecologist with three years of experience, and holder of Natural England survey licences for bats 2023-11145-CL17-BAT (class 1) and 2025-12592- CL18- BAT (Class 2)					
Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
12/11/2025	13	94	100	5	Light rain
Executive Summary					
Badgers Badger activity was observed at the site, including the presence of a small badger sett (2 holes) Badger surveys will be required to characterise the sett types present and the usage of the site by badgers. This will comprise the deployment of wildlife cameras over a period of 3-4 weeks, and such surveys can be undertaken throughout the year, in accordance with current survey guidelines (Harris et al, 1989). The surveys are likely to be required before planning permission can be granted. Disturbance, damage or destruction of active badger setts will require a badger development licence.					

Birds

Vegetation removal, such as hedgerow for a new access, and if further apple trees need to be removed, should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August.

If this timeframe cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the vegetation should be undertaken immediately, by a qualified ecologist, prior to the commencement of work. All active nests will need to be retained until the young have fledged.

Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests that may be present in the hedgerow, so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests until the young have fledged

Bats

A low-impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during post-development, which outlines the areas of the site that will be retained as dark corridors. Parameters can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website:

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting>

Lights should not be installed next to or facing the hedgerow boundaries, facing towards or adjacent to any trees or enhancements, as this will retain dark corridors at the site post-development.

No trees suitable for roosting were identified.

Hedgerows and trees

Retained trees and hedgerows should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012).

Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution affecting the nearby hedgerows and trees must be implemented during construction. A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) may be required for this.

Other species

Precautionary methods are recommended for the possible presence and low-level use of the site by other species, each of which is detailed further in this report.

Survey limitations

It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to describe the baseline conditions within the survey area, and evaluate these features, this report does not provide a complete characterisation of the site. This assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species being present. This is based on the suitability of the habitats on the site and in the wider landscape, the ecology and biology of species as currently understood, and the known distribution of species as recovered during the searches of historical biological records.

No proposed development plans were available at the time of writing this report, and therefore, a detailed impact or exact scale of losses not be made. This report should be updated once the plans are available.

Bramble overgrowth of the garden appears to have been cleared recently, before the survey, so an assessment of its condition and spread before could not be accurately represented. But it was noted from the floor cover of bramble stalks and thickness, combined with the lack of any grass or forb species, suggests this had covered a vast portion of the garden. Bramble scrub clearance also has exposed evidence of badger activity at the side, which may have been missed if it were still present.

Due to the survey efforts being undertaken in November, this is outside the peak growing season for plants, meaning that species may have been overlooked or missed, which may have only been present during the optimal season.

Ecological Survey Factor	Detailed using desk study and site survey.
Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations	Any specific limitations noted within relevant section. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.
Habitats and plants (see habitat map in appendix 1, location plan in appendix 2, proposal plan in appendix 3 and photos in appendix 4). Botanical species are described with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i> <i>(UKHab codes used)</i>	The site contains native hedgerows with trees on both the north and south boundary, which is listed as a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). On-site habitat descriptions <u>u1b</u> – Developed land/sealed surface (See Figure 15) Through the central line of the garden, there appears to be a concrete pathway, which has been partially buried underneath the debris. It measures less than 1m wide. This is only present in the western half of the garden. This was not part of the original design of the garden and was described by the client as remnants from the time the site used to belong to agricultural practice. The sealed surface also includes a concrete patio area in the northern corner, close to the existing house. <u>u1</u> - Built-up areas and gardens [vegetated garden 828] [scattered trees-32, bare ground 510, recently managed 517, neglected 518. The main habitat at the site is the garden of the current residential property. (See Figures 1 and 2) It is a long garden, measuring 0.13 ha, and approximately 74m long. The central garden area contains 3 standing fruit trees as well as one large non native shrub on the west boundary of the garden.

	The fruit trees stand more than 5m tall, and do not appear to experience any regular or recent management, with ivy growth covering the crown of the eastern trees and the trunk of the western tree. Other fruit trees that were present have since been felled due to disease and storm damage. The deadwood is still in situ (See figure 3), and the rot damage is clearly seen in the central trunks. Two trees had been felled as a result There is a modified grass base in the most western quarter of the garden (See figure 1). The species diversity in this area is low, with only perennial rye grass and cocks foot observed as grass species comprised of this area Fob species diversity is also low, with hogweed, common nettle, bramble and dandelion observed. Though it is noted that, due to the time of the year, additional species may have been overlooked. The grass areas lack sward diversity, with no tall or tussocky sward present. The remainder of the site has evidence that, due to a lack of recent long-term management, brambles had encroached onto most of the garden. This has been cleared before the survey was undertaken. (See Figures 2 and 4). This has been a recent activity, as the leaves and stalks present are still green in place, indicating this has been done within the past few weeks, and all piles of cuttings have been removed from the site. The density and cover of bramble had likely caused a smothering of other fob and grass species underneath, as only common hogweed, common ivy, red campion and common nettle were seen at the eastern edge of where the brambles would have
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	been present, close to the semi-mature trees. From the spread of the stem remains, it appears that over 50% of the garden had bramble overgrowth. No other fob species was seen in the central area of the garden, but there is also a possibility of removal of these species with the bramble removal. <u>u1e – Built linear features [fence 612]</u> This is a post-and-wire fence, which is only present on the north and east boundary, separating the site from the adjacent agricultural field. The southern hedgerow boundary does not contain a central fenceline. <u>h2a – Native Hedgerow with trees (11) [Line of trees 33]</u> There is a native hedgerow on both the north and south boundary, which turns into a line of trees on the east boundary. <u>South hedgerow. (See Figures 7 and 8)</u> This hedgerow is an earth bank hedgerow, with the earth bank no greater than 1m in height. The hedgerow is between 2-5m in height and is greater where semi-mature and young trees are present. The width on average is more than 1.5m. Species within this hedgerow include hawthorn, bramble, blackthorn, holly, hazel, snowberry, ash, beech, and bramble. At the most western end, close to the existing driveway, non-native species are dominantly present as an understory layer, such as boxwood and Indian cluster berry, which would have come from the more previously managed part of the garden.
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	Ivy growth dominates the understory, and there is a lack of forb and grass growth within the garden-side boundary of the hedgerow, as this would be the most shaded side. There is a lack of vegetative buffer on the south side of this hedgerow, as this is directly on the roadside (See Figure 8). There is no regular management within the garden, such as laying, or cutting, but the outside receives routine pruning due to this being roadside, for safety reasons. There is no separated untouched buffer on the inside of the hedgerow, and any bramble growth that was encroaching has been cleared (See Figure 4) Several of the hawthorns have died towards the more eastern end, with bramble and ivy growth taking over as the dominant crown cover in this section. There are two 50cm-1m gaps in the hedgerow, one of which is for access into the garden, to a septic tank. There are also evidence of mammal runs from badgers, detailed later. <u>Northern hedgerow (See Figure 6)</u> The northern hedgerow is also an earth bank hedgerow, with the bank around 1m in height, and leading up to the field adjacent, which sits higher than the site. Species composition is similar to that of the southern bank, with ash, privet, hawthorn, white elm, holly, hazel, common ivy and bramble being the main woody species components. Like the southern hedgerow, there is a lack of any dense understory, and gaps are present in many places within the lower 1m between the trunks.
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	In many places, the bank is exposed to mud, lacking any grass or fob growth. This could be a result of overshading from the hedgerow, or the previous overgrowth of brambles smothering this out. There is also evidence of badger foraging and digging in the bank, which would also keep some ground areas free from plant growth. There is no regular maintenance of this hedgerow. Hedgerow measures over 3m in height and 1m in width at the base. The crown ground leads to 2-3m in width due to branches. As with the southern hedgerow, there is a lot of ivy growth, in particular where hawthorns are in poor or dying conditions. The eastern boundary is a line of trees, which comprises three semi-mature trees: a yew, a horse chestnut and a beech (See figure 5). There is no dense understory cover under these three trees. The horse chestnut has had some recent pruning, due to a falling bough; the deadwood has been left stacked at the base. The trees are also on an earth bank, which slopes downwards to the east around 1m in depth. Local notable habitats There are no notable habitats within 1km of the site, but lowland calcareous grassland is listed as 1.8km northwest of the site. Small pockets of lowland mixed woodland listed are present within 2km, the closest of which is 1km north, northeast and west. There is a line of young and semi-mature trees leading southeast of the site as part of the field boundary, but no native hedgerow is present attached to the site. No listed priority habitat is linked to the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	On-site habitats The proposed new building will see a partial loss of the existing garden, in particular, where bramble scrub has already been cleared. The full extent of size of loss is currently unknown.

	A new driveway access would be required, which would see a loss of about 5m of the southern hedgerow. This is likely to be at the most western end of the hedgerow, close to the existing adjacent driveway. This will also remove a section of the hedgerow more dominated by non-native species. No removal of the northern native hedgerow or trees on the eastern boundary will occur. The remainder fruit tree health will be monitored, but there is a possibility these may require felling in the future. Roots of retained trees and hedgerows could be damaged as a result of excavation. Construction activities also risk pollution and contamination to hedgerows and trees Notable habitats No direct impacts to any adjacent notable habitats will occur as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	On-site habitats Retained trees and hedgerows should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012). Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution affecting the nearby hedgerows and trees must be implemented during construction. A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) may be required for this. Sowing of a native hedgerow and shade-tolerant mix at the base of the hedgerow to increase the lower fob growth and species density of the retained hedgerows, now that bramble encroachment has been removed.

	New hedgerow management practice, such as live/dead hedge laying, to help thicken up where gaps are present and provide shelter at hedgerow bases. If there are issues with the remainder two apple trees in the garden and these need to come down, it's recommended that new fruit trees be planted as a replacement within the new garden. Biodiversity net gain The Environment Act (2021) requires all developments (excluding exemptions) to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity. The project is unlikely to trigger the requirement for a biodiversity net gain assessment as it falls under one of the exemptions, as the proposal is listed as a self-build.
Locality and Designated Sites	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	On-site designations The site is within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (formerly AONB) Within the area, there are seven Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), part of the 'Natura 2000' ecological network of sites established under the EU Habitats Directive and designed to safeguard habitats and species threatened at a European level. The Pewsey Downs SAC is also a National Nature Reserve, which has outstanding chalk grassland flora and fauna. The North Wessex Downs AONB contains 66 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) covering 3,330 ha (2% of the area) Statutory designated sites (within 2km) There are no known statutory sites within 2km of the site.

	Statutory designated sites (within 10km) No national network sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) are located within 10km. Non-statutory designated sites The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from the local Records Centre
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	On-site designations No impacts foreseen, but LPA may wish to consider the influence of the project on the National Landscape. However, the site is not in proximity to any of the important SSSI reserves associated with this landscape. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites No impacts to designated sites are anticipated due to the small scale and distance of the proposed development from such sites (where known)
<i>Recommendations</i>	On-site designations None required. Statutory and non-statutory designated sites None required.

Invasive / Non-native species	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No problematic invasive and non-native species recorded on site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	N/A
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys, but remain vigilant
Invertebrates	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The habitats present on-site include native hedgerows with trees and fruit trees. This is likely to provide common invertebrates with opportunities to forage and shelter. Bramble overgrowth has already been removed from the site, which removes some foraging opportunities. Due to the extensive area where bramble growth was present, as evidenced by roost stems and thickness, this likely smothered any additional assembly of flowering herb and forb species within the eastern half of the garden, reducing diversity for invertebrates in these areas. There are recently felled trees, some of which with rotted cavities, and this can provide new opportunities for ground foraging invertebrates, especially those more reliant on dead wood.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	There will be ground clearance at the site to remove bramble root growth at the site. A small section ~5m of hedgerow will be removed to facilitate a new entrance, but the remainder of the native hedgerow and semi-mature trees will be retained. A new garden will be maintained, which will prevent the regrowth of any dense areas of bramble scrub. This will result in some loss of invertebrate habitat, but this is not expected to impact any significant assemblage or rare populations.

Recommendations	No further surveys. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The incorporation of bee bricks (e.g. Ibstock BeeHabitat or similar alternative brand) into the fabric of the new buildings would provide sheltering opportunities for pollinators. These should be installed 0.5m above ground level on a south-facing elevation with no obscuring vegetation. The site could be further enhanced via the provision of native wildflowers or wildflower turf as part of new garden areas, which would provide foraging opportunities for invertebrates. Retain the current deadwood on the site, with these stacked up in a quieter area of the site or at the hedgerow boundaries.											
Bats												
Summary of Survey Findings	EPSL data A search of the magic.gov.uk database for granted EPSLs within a 2km radius of the site has been completed. Displaced bats from licensed sites <2km away from the survey site will find alternative habitat either within the mitigation measures implemented as part of the licence or will relocate to other known roost sites in close proximity to the licensed site. There is 1 EPSLs within a 2km radius of site as detailed below: <table><tr><th>EPSL reference</th><th>Bat species affected</th><th>Distance from site</th><th>Impacts allowed by licence</th></tr><tr><td>2015-6844-EPS-MIT</td><td>Brown long-eared bat and common pipistrelle</td><td>1.5km southeast</td><td>Damage of a resting place</td></tr></table>				EPSL reference	Bat species affected	Distance from site	Impacts allowed by licence	2015-6844-EPS-MIT	Brown long-eared bat and common pipistrelle	1.5km southeast	Damage of a resting place
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2015-6844-EPS-MIT	Brown long-eared bat and common pipistrelle	1.5km southeast	Damage of a resting place									

	There are no Special Areas of Conservation designated for bats within 10km of the site. Foraging and commuting habitat Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging and commuting opportunities for bats in the form of native hedgerows with young and semi-mature trees, both on the north and south boundary. This continues as a line of trees to the east, homes and gardens to the west, and another line of trees to the south. Beyond this, the landscape remains wide and open in appearance. The wider landscape lacks any larger woodlands or dense networks of hedgerows lining the farmland, as the landscape has a rather open appearance (See Figure 14), which limits foraging and commutative routes in the wider landscape. Roosting habitat There are several semi-mature trees on the site, most notably on the western boundary, where a semi-mature beech and a horse chestnut are present (See Figure 5). No features were observed on these trees that could be used by roosting bats. All other trees at the site were unsuitable for roosting bats.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Roosting habitat [Buildings] There is one building on the site, on the western edge. This is a residential house and is outside of the development proposed. As a result, there will be no impacts on the existing buildings.

	Roosting habitat [Trees] There is a possibility that the remainder apple trees will be facilitated to facilitate the development. No features were identified on these trees, and as such, there is unlikely to be any impact on bats as a result of felling. Foraging and commuting habitat Bramble scrub habitat has already been cleared. The semi-mature trees and the majority of the hedgerow at the site will remain in situ, apart from continued or new management practices. There will be a small ~5m of hedgerow removed at the most southwestern boundary to facilitate a new entrance; this will be minimal disruption to any foraging route. Artificial lighting The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats or the retained building without mitigation. This may disturb any commuting bats.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Roosting habitat [Trees] In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during any future tree work, all work must stop, and a bat-licensed ecologist must be contacted for further advice. Artificial lighting A low-impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during post-development, which outlines the areas of the site that will be retained as dark corridors. Parameters can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website:

	https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting Lights should not be installed next to or facing the hedgerow boundaries, facing towards or adjacent to any trees or enhancements, as this will retain dark corridors at the site post-development. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The installation of bat boxes, which can be incorporated into the fabric of the new dwelling. They will be suitable for pipistrelles (which have been identified locally through EPSL data). Suitable bat boxes include Habibat Bat Box, Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box or a similar alternative brand. Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level, facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light. Additional planting to fill out hedgerow gaps around the site, such as around the base Planting of native and/or invertebrate attracting species in the new garden to increase foraging quality.
Birds	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	Trees and vegetation Bird nests were observed in the semi-mature trees in the hedgerow boundaries. The design of the nest would match that of a small dove or pigeon species. Other nests were observed to be squirrel drays. In hawthorn bushes where ivy cover is thick, this could also support additional nesting. Artificial nest boxes were also present within the existing hedgerow (See figure 13)

	The bramble scrub that was previously present could have also supported nesting birds. These aren't likely to be species that nest low down in scrub, or ground-nesting birds, due to the predation risk from an observed badger sett in the middle of the site. But higher nesting species could have been present in the scrub. Bramble scrub clearance had been timed to be outside the nesting season, to avoid destroying any active nests. Barn owls The site does not appear to provide any suitable nesting sites for barn owls. Overwintering birds Due to the small size of the site and the extent and type of the habitats recorded, the site is not considered suitable to support a significant assemblage of protected and/or notable birds.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Buildings/trees The proposed development could result in the destruction or disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests. At least a 5m section of hedgerow needs to be removed to facilitate a new entrance. Bramble overgrowth will not be allowed to re-establish, which will prevent this nesting habitat from re-establishing. Construction activities will also cause noise and general disturbance to any active nests within the hedgerow, even where this is not removed. Barn owls None foreseen.

	Overwintering birds None foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Buildings/trees Vegetation removal, such as hedgerow for a new access, and if further apple trees need to be removed, should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August. If this timeframe cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the vegetation should be undertaken immediately, by a qualified ecologist, prior to the commencement of work. All active nests will need to be retained until the young have fledged. Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests that may be present in the hedgerow, so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests until the young have fledged. Barn owls None required. Overwintering birds None required. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The installation of additional minimum of two bird boxes within the hedgerow will provide additional nesting habitat for birds e.g. Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes (trees) Schwegler 2H Robin Boxes (trees)

	Woodstone Nest Box (buildings or trees) Or a similar alternative brand. Tree boxes should be positioned approximately 1.5-3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Small-hole boxes are best placed approximately 1-3m above ground on an area of the tree trunk where foliage will not obscure the entrance hole. In addition, bird boxes can be incorporated into the walls of the new building, for example: Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace (buildings) Due to the hedgerows' proximity and height to the building, the building would not be suitable for swift boxes as it does not have clear drop and flight paths to and from. sparrow boxes should be positioned at the eaves of a building and can be incorporated into the fabric of the building during construction.
Reptiles	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL data A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for protected reptiles within 2km of the site. Habitat suitability The site had previously contained dense bramble scrub, which had encompassed most of the overgrown garden and had been cleared prior to surveying. Therefore, the full assessment of the bramble scrub condition could not be undertaken, and it is of high quality for reptiles. The hedgerows on the north and south boundaries lack a dense vegetative base, with most of it exposed soil, likely from overshading, as well as badger digging and foraging activity. With tall hedgerows and trees on either boundary side and

	dense bramble scrub covering the centre, this would not have left any exposed basking area and would have experienced a high volume of shade. With evidence of a badger sett underneath the previous bramble scrub, and further signs of foraging on the site since the scrub clearance, this also puts reptiles in proximity to a predation risk. Wider landscape There is open countryside to the north, south and west of the site. These appear to be pasture fields, or used in hay or silage production, due to the lack of fencing or hedgerows surrounding several of the fields (See Figure 14). Most of the field landscape lacks any suitable rank grassland, hedgerows or buffers. The line of trees leading west of the site has greater tussocky grass growth at the base, which may support reptiles. Large gardens, with trees and hedgerows southwest of the site, could also support reptiles. Access on and off site from fields to the east and north is easily achieved. Reptiles from the south do have to cross the busy village road, but this can still be achieved to access the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Although a small area of suitable habitat is being removed as part of the development, there is a low risk that a low number of reptiles could still be present in the vicinity of the works. These could be injured or killed without mitigation.
<i>Recommendations</i>	A precautionary working method will be implemented for widespread reptiles during construction, including the following measures: • Vegetation will be maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage reptiles. • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. • Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby habitats.

	- Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. - If any reptiles are found in the working area, these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. - In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified, work must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Suggested biodiversity enhancements Move all existing on-site wood piles to a quiet corner of the site, such as at the western boundary. Which can serve as hibernation site for any reptiles
Amphibians	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL and survey data A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for great crested newts within 2km of the site. Further, no positive class survey licence return or DLL historic survey data (2017 – 2019) were present within 2km of the site. Aquatic habitat suitability (including ponds within 500m) Great crested newts (GCN) exist in metapopulations and are known to utilise ponds and their connecting terrestrial habitat during their life cycle; great crested newts are typically found within terrestrial habitats up to 500m from breeding ponds (Langton et al. 2001).

	There are no ponds on the site, but a review of aerial imagery (MAGIC and OS Maps) indicates the presence of a singular pond within 500m; the pond (P1) is located 320m northwest in the village and sits between a tennis court and directly adjacent to the road, with less than 1m buffer from the bank. This isolates the pond within the village. Other ponds are located over 650m away to the north, northwest and southwest. Pond survey data from a pond 760m north of the site concluded that great crested newts as absent. In order to reach the site, any amphibians would have to traverse the roads of the village. Observation on the day witnessed a high volume of traffic using the road, including agricultural vehicles regularly passing by, which would be high mortality risk for any amphibians attempting to commute down the road. Terrestrial habitat suitability Bramble scrub that had been previously present on the site could have provided hibernation opportunities; however, the extent and depth of what scrub was previously present cannot be commented on. The retained hedgerows lack a lot of suitable dense understory cover, and the grassland areas of the garden are very limited. There are log piles at the site from recently cleared rotted trees and boughs; these have only been in situ for less than a month and would not have served as long-standing important hibernation features. There is also a higher predation risk due to a badger sett presence at the site, and signs that badgers forage at the site. It is unlikely that the site supported an amphibian population as a result.
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<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	Given the lack of suitably connected breeding ponds within 500m of the site, the presence of GCN on-site is considered unlikely and therefore impacts to amphibians as a result of the proposed development are deemed to be acceptably low.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to great crested newts, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented for common amphibians during construction, including the following measures: • Areas of cleared vegetation will remain at a low height (less than 15cm) • Any rubble piles will be dismantled by hand and debris and brash will be stored on pallets or removed from the site to prevent amphibians from utilising these areas. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. • If any common amphibians are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. • In the unlikely event that a great crested newt is identified, work must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist. Retain log piles at the site, but move to a quieter corner of the site, such as the western boundary.
Badger	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The clearance of bramble overgrowth at the site has exposed a badger sett within the western half of the garden. Only two sett holes were identified, with one of the entrances partially collapsed. A large soil heap was present outside the open hole, with a lack of new bramble stem growth sticking through. Suggesting this soil heap is not the result of abandoned digging

	works. Tunnel direction suggests that the open sett hole is directed further into the garden, rather than directed towards the road. There are signs that badgers have visited since the bramble clearance, with snuffle holes present as well as digging at the site (Figure 10). Badger runs were seen leaning both south and north out of the site into adjacent farmland. (Figure 11) On the northern bank, the remains of a dead badger were found (Figure 12). The body still had retained fur, but now had exposed bones, indicating this was not a recent death, but was less than a year old. The location of badger signs is indicated on the Map in Appendix 1
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development could result in the destruction of the badger sett on the site and could kill or injure any badgers present that may continue to access the site for foraging during construction.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Badger surveys will be required to characterise the sett types present and the usage of the site by badgers. This will comprise the deployment of wildlife cameras over a period of 3-4 weeks, and such surveys can be undertaken throughout the year, in accordance with current survey guidelines (Harris et al, 1989). The surveys are likely to be required before planning permission can be granted. Disturbance, damage or destruction of active badger setts will require a badger development licence.
Riparian animals	

<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for otters or water voles within 2km of the site. There are no water courses on or connected to the site. There is also no riparian habitats present on site or within an influencing distance.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development. Otters The proposed development will not result in the loss of any riparian habitats, and no works will be undertaken within 8m of the watercourse. Water voles No works will be undertaken within 5m of the top of the banks of the watercourse. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated on the water vole as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None required.
Hazel dormouse	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	EPSL data A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for hazel dormice within 2km of the site. Habitat suitability Habitats on site are assessed to provide low-value foraging, commuting, and nest-building opportunities for dormice. Though there are hedgerows on both the south and north boundaries, these are isolated in the landscape. The wider countryside

	landscape lacks a suitable hedgerow and woodland corridor landscape (Figure 14). Field systems on the north boundary lack full connective hedgerows. Due to the time of the year, leave vegetation on the hedgerow was bare, allowing for visual inspection without fingertip searching. No visible signs of dormice nests were seen in the hedgerow branches. Nor any signs of nut foraging by dormice. Any low-down dormice nests would also be at risk, due to evidence of badger activity at the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	To facilitate a new entrance, around 5m of hedgerow will be removed during construction. This is to be up against the western wall close to the adjacent house entrance, so as not to cause a larger gap within the central line of the hedgerow. This is also where the hedgerow is more dominated by nonnative species and lacks any further connectivity to the west. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local dormouse populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitats locally. However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of dormice, if present. .
<i>Recommendations</i>	In the unlikely event that a dormouse or evidence of a dormouse is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.
Other e.g. hedgehog	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	Bramble scrub overgrowth in the garden has already been cleared which could have been of value for hedgehogs for foraging and hibernation. The hedgerow boundaries are still present, which lacks a dense understory for hibernation, but can provide safe commuting routes as well as foraging areas. The presence of badgers at the site is also a higher risk for hedgehogs, as badgers are one of the few known predators of hedgehogs.

<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The bramble scrub has already been cleared, but the development will see a minor loss of hedgerow ~5m. This will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitats locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs if present and wander into the construction site at night.
<i>Recommendations</i>	A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures: • Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. • The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. If any hedgehogs are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. Suggested biodiversity enhancements The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs: • Try and retain the two remaining fruit trees where possible, or replant if these have to be removed.. • Creation of brash piles or installation of hedgehog houses in the hedgerow corners, preferably the northern hedgerow so this is not adjacent to the road.

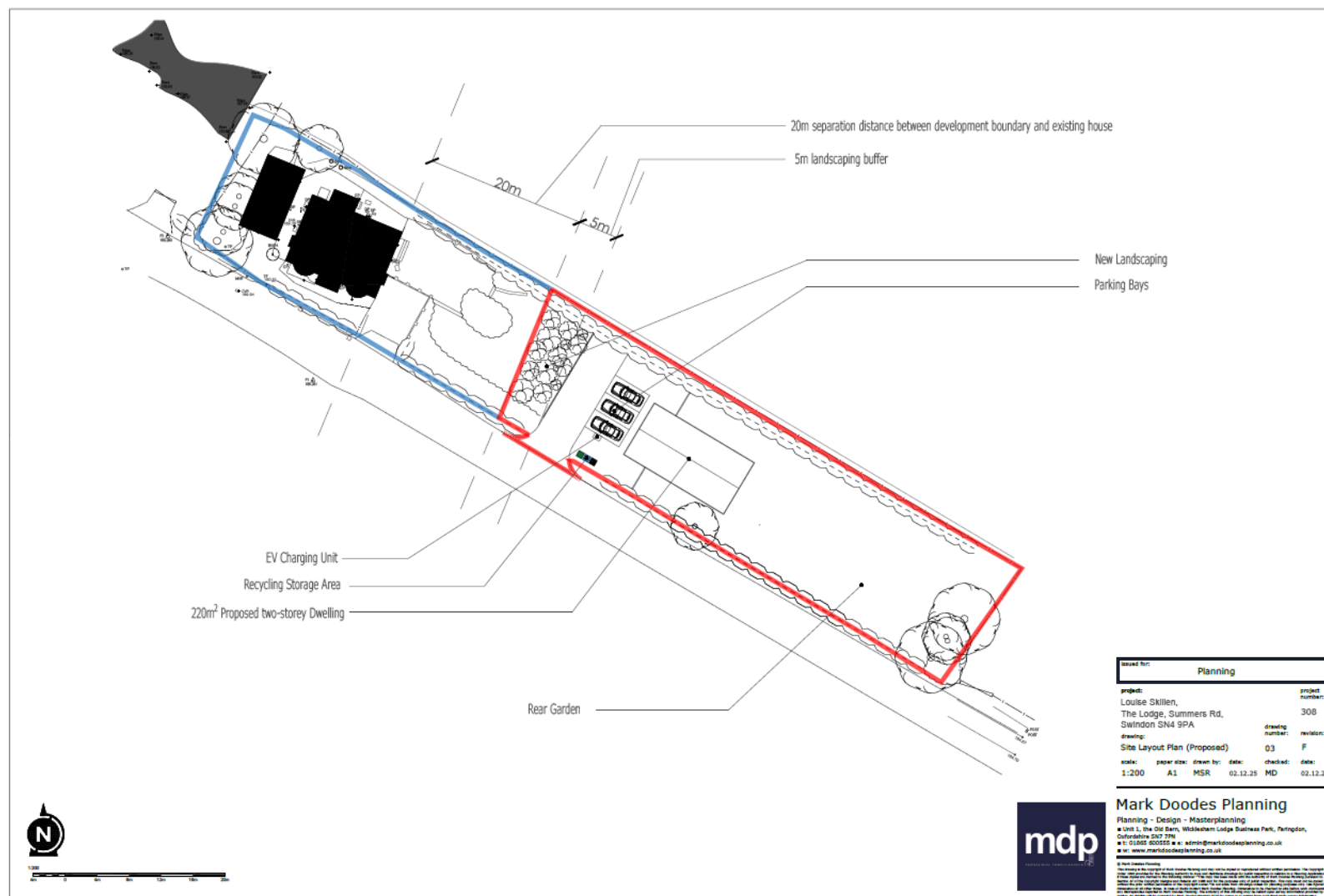
Appendix 1: Survey/Habitat map



Appendix 2: Location map



Appendix 3: Proposed plan-



Louise Skillen

The Lodge, Broad Hinton, Swindon, Kennet, Wiltshire SN4 9PA

Appendix 4: Habitat Photos

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment

Garden	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 1: Garden of the site, grass western half Western scattered apple tree.

	
Garden	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 2: Lower garden half, eastern half, recently cleared bramble scrub and scattered apple tree.

Felled trees	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 3: Felled rotted trees
	

Cleared bramble	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 4: Cleared bramble overgrowth.
Line of trees	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 5: 3 semi-mature trees, west boundary, Left to right, Beech, horse chestnut and yew Deadwood of cut bough at the base.

Non-native hedgerow	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 6: Earth bank hedgerow, north boundary

Native hedgerow	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 7: Earth bank hedgerow, south boundary

Native hedgerow	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 8: South boundary hedgerow, as seen from the roadside
Badger sett	
Photograph	Description



Figure 9a-c: Exposed Badger sett entrances, lower half of the site,

Top photo- Soil heap from excavations

Middle- sett entrance

Bottom- collapsed entrance



Badger foraging

Photograph

Description



Figure 10a-b: Badger digging and foraging around the site.



Badger runs	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 11-a-c: Badger runs through the site.



Badger

Photograph	Description
	Figure 12: Deceased badger found north hedgerow bank
Bird box	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 13: Installed bird box in northern hedgerow

Off-site landscape	
Photograph	Description
 The top photograph shows a paved road with a red-painted section in the distance. A speed limit sign for 50 is visible on the right side of the road. The bottom photograph shows a wide green field with a road in the foreground. Both photos have an 'arbtech' watermark and a timestamp.	Figure 14: land adjacent to the site

Bird box	
Photograph	Description
	Figure 15: buried concrete path

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