

1 Heath Road,
Salisbury,
SP2 9JS

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

October 2025

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Prepared by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consultant Chartered Ecologist Dr.Jonty Denton FRES FLS MCIEEM CEcol (**Bat license: 2025-82187-CL17-BAT**) was commissioned to produce a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land at rear of 1 Heath Rd., Salisbury, SP2 9JS (National Grid Reference SU125317).

The survey area was systematically walked and surveyed according to Phase 1 Habitat Survey criteria during daylight hours by Dr.Jonty Denton on 28th October 2025. Phase 1 Habitat Survey is a standardised system for classifying and mapping semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitats in Great Britain. Vegetation is mapped in terms of standard habitat types as defined in the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (2010).

The site is a mix of modified species poor grassland, concrete paths and bare ground.

There are no structures on site and the land has no potential for protected species or habitats.

METHODS

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Methods

The survey area was systematically walked, and habitats mapped according to Phase 1 Habitat Survey criteria during daylight hours on 28th October 2025. Phase 1 Habitat Survey is a standardised system for classifying and mapping semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitats in Great Britain. Vegetation is mapped in terms of standard habitat types as defined in the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (2010).

In addition, habitats were appraised for their suitability to support protected or notable (UK Biodiversity Action Plan/Species of Principle Importance [S41]) species, e.g. breeding birds, badgers, bats, herptiles, stag beetle, that might be affected by the proposed development; in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment' (IEA, 1995).

Background Data Search

A desk-based assessment was carried out using the DEFRA MagicMap website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> to identify all designated sites within 5km of the site and all other designated sites and protected species within 2km.

A search was made for information on statutory designated sites (often internationally and nationally important sites for ecology) and non-statutory designated sites (often important in a local context) within 1 km of the site boundary.

Bats

Phase 1/ provisional roost assessment

The Daytime Bat Assessment / Phase 1 Bat Survey was undertaken in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Collins, 2023).

The Phase 1 Bat Survey was carried out and comprised of a daytime walkover of the site, internally and externally, to record evidence of any protected bat species.

Details of the survey methods are given below.

The garage was investigated externally to identify potential bat access/egress locations and roosting areas such as gaps or holes between wooden cladding, roof tiles, fascias and soffits and to record direct evidence of bat presence such as droppings and urine staining. This was followed by a detailed investigation of all

accessible internal spaces to record evidence of bat roosting activity such as droppings, feeding remains, live animals, corpses, urine staining and fur staining. The building was assessed as to its suitability for supporting roosting bats. The survey conformed to current Bat Conservation Trust guidelines (Bat Conservation, (2023) *Bat surveys for professional ecologists: Good practice guidelines* 4th edition).

The details of the assessment criteria used to determine the ecological value of on-site attributes is outlined below. During the Phase 1 survey the assessment criteria are based on the potential for the site to support the species considered. However, in many cases Phase 2 surveys will be required to confirm presence /absence of any bat species and hence the importance of a population at the site, therefore the assessment of value should be considered as provisional.

Where possible, a provisional assessment of potential will be made although this may well require Phase 2 surveys to confirm status.

High Potential- High potential buildings are those that have features highly suitable for use by roosting bats, including gaps around soffits, hanging tiles, extensive roof spaces etc. High potential buildings are often, but not always, buildings of more historic construction. Further Phase 2 surveys will be required to confirm the presence/absence of bats.

Moderate Potential- Moderate potential buildings have a moderate number of features that may be utilised by bats for roosting, these may include loose fascias, roof spaces etc. Further Phase 2 surveys are likely to be required to confirm the presence/absence of bats.

Low Potential- Low potential buildings are those that provide limited bat roosting potential although some features that may be utilised by bats may be present. Further Phase 2 surveys are likely to be required to confirm the presence/absence of bats.

No/Negligible Potential – These are buildings that are extremely unlikely to support roosting bats due to the absence of suitable features. Further Phase 2 surveys are unlikely to be required for buildings with negligible potential.

Phase 1 Survey Equipment

During the Phase 1 survey the surveyor was equipped with 10 x 42 close focus binoculars and a high-powered torch.

RESULTS

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results

Background Data Search

A desk-based assessment was carried out using the DEFRA MagicMap website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> to identify all designated sites within 5km of the site and all other designated sites and protected species within 2km.

A search was made for information on statutory designated sites (often internationally and nationally important sites for ecology) and non-statutory designated sites (often important in a local context) within 1 km of the site boundary.

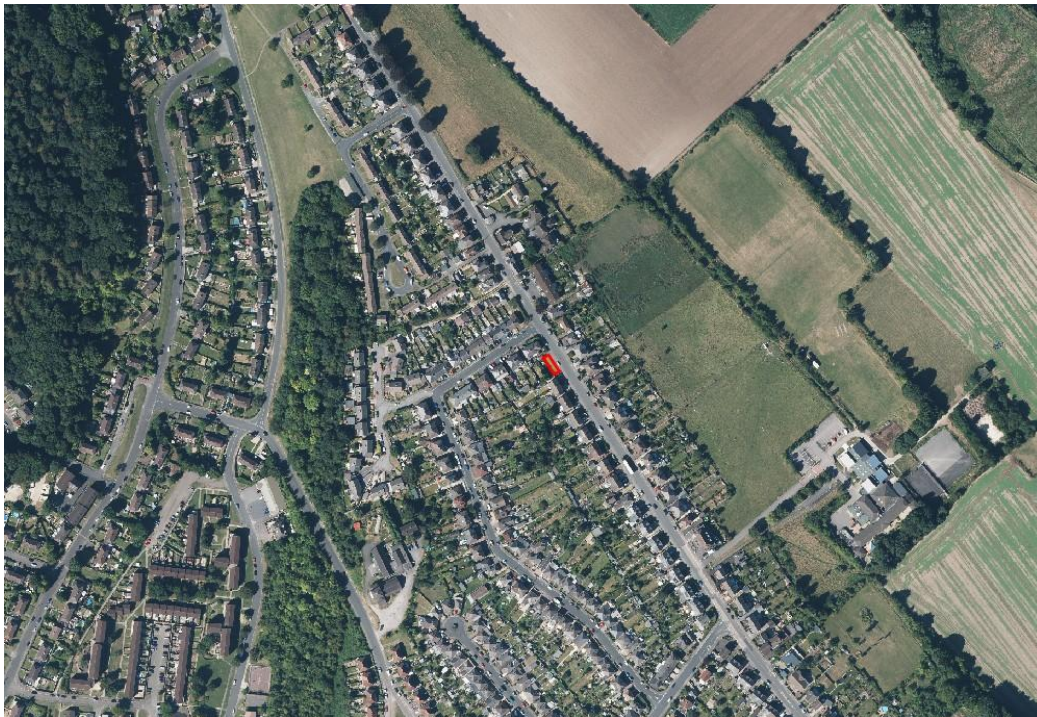


Figure 1. Site location. *Courtesy of Google images*

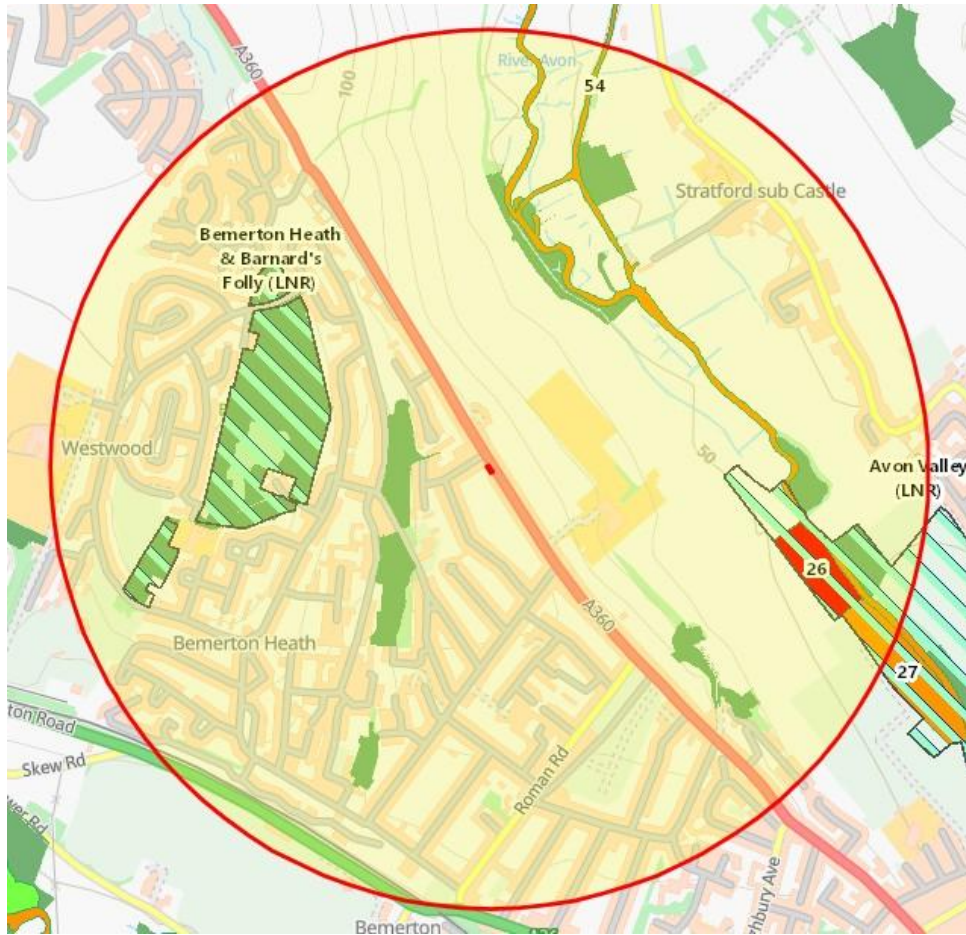


Figure 2. Priority habitats and designated sites within 1000m. Courtesy of Magicmaps

PROTECTED HABITATS

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) Priority Habitats are also Habitats of Principle Importance (HPI) listed under The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 41 (NERC S41). These habitats do not receive statutory protection, but the S41 list is intended to provide guidance to decision-makers, e.g. those representing public bodies and local/regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act to ‘...have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England when carrying out their normal functions’.

Bemerton Heath & Barnard’s Folly LNR is 365m to the west and the River Avon flows 430m to the east. There are nine small areas of deciduous woodland included in priority habitats inventory within 1km, the closest is a small area of woodland 130m to the west (See figure 2).

The site falls in the Nitrate Vulnerable zone 2017.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The property is situated in west of Devizes Rd at east edge of Salisbury. (See figure 1).

The site comprises a narrow garden enclosed by close board fencing with a small area of amenity lawn (see figure 3), a garden shed and paved areas to rear of house. There is also a single garage with a hipped roof accessed via tarmac drive. The strip to the east of the fenced off garden is a wide verge of mown amenity grassland with concrete paved strips and bare tracks where vehicles cross to the rear of 1 Heath Rd (see figures 4-5)



Figure 3. Garden looking south



Figure 4. Site looking north



Figure 5. Site looking southwest

Reptiles

All native British reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) from killing and injury. Sand Lizards and Smooth Snakes also receive additional protection under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 2010 from intentional killing and injury and from intentional damage, destruction or obstruction of access to a place of shelter. All native UK reptiles are UK BAP Priority Species and SPI.

The site has no structured habitat and therefore has negligible potential for reptiles.

Amphibians

Great Crested Newts are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 2010 from intentional killing and injury and from intentional damage, destruction or obstruction of access to a place of shelter. In addition Great Crested Newts and Common Toads are UK BAP Priority species and SPI.

The nearest GCN returns within 6km. Amphibians such as Common Frog and Common Toad (UKBAP/SPI) may occur in the wider.

The site has no structured habitat and therefore has negligible potential for amphibians.

Badgers

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take a badger or to interfere with their setts; such as by the use of heavy machinery nearby.



Bats

The garage has pitched hipped roof faced with close-fitting slate roof (see figures 6-7). The interior is permanently illuminated via side windows, and the structure has negligible potential for roosting bats.



Figure 6. Garage looking southwest



Figure 7. Garage looking northwest

Breeding Birds

All wild birds are protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, from damage or destruction of their nest whilst in use or construction, some birds listed on Schedule 1 receive additional protection from disturbance during nesting.

Birds recorded on site included house sparrow in gardens to west, with red kite and starling overfliers.

EVALUATION, IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Protected Habitats

The site does not fall on any UKBAP habitats. It would result in the loss of a small area of species poor amenity grassland which would be compensated for by the replacement of the existing garage and concrete paths on the side strip with vegetated garden with two small native trees. A BNG trading summary has been produced (See appendix 1).

Breeding Birds

Any removal of vegetation on or adjacent to the site should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season, which is typically 1st March to 31st August.

REFERENCES

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