

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Survey site:

Goatacre Farm, Goatacre, Wiltshire, SN11 9JA (Pavilion application)

Client:

Sarah Clayton

Survey date:

20th November 2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the Wiltshire Council. The proposal is described as:
The construction of a new pavilion with an associated car park and entrance.

The survey results and recommendations contained within this report are valid for 18 months. An updated site visit may be required if the report is to be used any longer than 18 months after completion. Survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024](#).

The site survey was undertaken by Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE MRSB (Natural England Protected Species Licence Numbers: Great Crested Newt (2025-82550-SCI-CL08) and Bat Class 1 (2025-84745-CL17-BAT)).					
Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
20/11/2025	-1	85	10	1	None
Executive Summary					
<u>Biodiversity net gain</u> A biodiversity net gain (BNG) report will be required for the proposal, as the development area exceeds 25 m². <u>Bats</u> 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 <u>Badgers, hedgehogs, birds, amphibians, reptiles and other small mammals</u> Precautionary working methods. Please see the relevant sections for details. <u>Biodiversity enhancements</u> Please see the relevant sections for details.					
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 site-specific limitations were identified during the survey.

Ecological Survey Factor Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations	Detailed using desk study and site survey (carried out under good weather conditions). This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consents. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.
Habitats and plants (see habitat & survey map in Appendix 1, ponds within 500m in Appendix 2, location plan in Appendix 3, proposal plan in Appendix 4 and habitat condition assessment in Appendix 5). 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> <u>UKHab codes:</u> <u>Redline boundary</u> - Modified grassland with scattered trees g4 32 - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface u1c - Linear built feature u1e <u>Wider surveyed boundary</u>	<u>Site context and background</u> The site is located at National Grid Reference SU 01851 76799 and has an area of approximately 0.08ha comprising grassland and hardstanding. It is immediately surrounded by pig-grazed fields to the west & north and managed cricket recreational grounds in all other directions. The wider landscape comprises the village of Goatacre (surrounding the site), A3102 (busy road) ~40m west, agricultural fields 50m west, Beacon Hill Brow Woodland ~350m west, MOD Lyneham ~550m north, Hargrove Wood ~500m west, Ashen Copse ~1km north-east, Catcomb Wood ~1.45km and Swil Plantation ~1.4km south-east. <u>Desk study</u> To the author's knowledge, no previous ecology reports have been produced for this site and the redline boundary. A range of notable local habitats is located within 2 km of the site. These include: - Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland ~220m south-west - Deciduous woodland ~220m south-west - Deciduous woodland ~310m south-east

- Modified grassland with areas of bare ground g4 510
- Native hedgerow with trees h2a 11
- Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface u1c

Habitats – Redline boundary

The habitat condition assessments are presented in Appendix 5.

Modified grassland with scattered trees g4 32

Grassland G1 - The western section of the site (~0.03ha) comprises a maintained modified grassland. It was 1-3cm sward height and 20% bare ground. Species composition included perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* (D), creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* (A), lesser club moss *Selaginella selaginoides* (F), common dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* (O), ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* (O) and field speedwell *Veronica agrestis* (R). No scrub or bracken was identified within the grassland. The survey noted high levels of footfall on the grassland from regular use as a play park.



Grassland G2 - The eastern boundary of the site (~0.05ha) comprises a maintained modified grassland (recreational grounds and pig grazing). It was 1-3cm sward height and 30% bare ground. Species composition included perennial

ryegrass (D), white clover *Trifolium repens* (A), common dandelion (O), ribwort plantain (O) and *Yorkshire fog Holcus lanatus* (R). No scrub or bracken was identified within the grassland. The survey noted high levels of footfall on the grassland from regular use for grazing and cricket with site maintenance (mowing).



Tree T1 is a semi-mature common elm *Ulmus minor* 'Atinia' of small size (~25cm DBH) with ecological niches (ivy) and no evidence of human damage. It is oversailing grassland. Pictures of the tree can be observed in the bats section.

Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface u1c

An area (~10m²) of hardcore was present on the access track with occasional tufts of grass emerging through.

Linear built feature u1e

A stock-proof fence surrounded the site.

**Habitats – Wider surveyed boundary**

The habitat condition assessments are presented in Appendix 5.

Modified grassland with areas of bare ground g4 510

The wider surveyed boundary (~1.3 ha) (G2) comprises a maintained modified grassland (recreational grounds and animal sanctuary). It was 1-3cm sward height and 30% bare ground. Species composition included perennial ryegrass (D), white clover (A), common dandelion (O), ribwort plantain (O) and Yorkshire fog (R). No scrub or bracken was identified within the grassland. The survey noted high levels of footfall on the grassland from regular cricket use, site maintenance (mowing), and grazing.



There were larger bare-ground patches within the wider surveyed boundary, resulting from animal grazing (~350m²).



Native hedgerow with trees h2a 11

The hedgerow, which featured semi-mature trees, was located on the southern boundary. It was approximately 135m in length, 3m in height and 1.5m in width. The hedgerow had no gaps in the canopy (<0.5m canopy to base gap), and no invasive species. Species composition included hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* (A), field maple *Acer campestre* (A), elm (A) and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* (F). The understorey species composition included common ivy *Hedera helix* (A) and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* (O).



Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface u1c

An area (~10m²) of hardcore was present on the access track with occasional tufts of grass emerging through.

	
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction. The habitats on site are widespread and not notable. This is likely to have a minimal impact on biodiversity, given the low ecological value of these habitats.
<i>Recommendations</i>	A biodiversity net gain (BNG) report will be required for the proposal, as more than 25m² of habitat is affected. Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution must be implemented during construction.
Locality and Designated Sites	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The site is not subject to any designation, and there are no known statutory sites nearby. The site lies within the impact risk zone for SSSIs (Bencroft Hill Meadows SSSI). However, the proposed development type is not listed as a possible high risk for this designation.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction. No impacts to designated sites are anticipated due to the distance of the proposed development from such sites (where known).

Recommendations	Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution must be implemented during construction.								
Invasive / Non-native species									
Summary of Survey Findings	No problematic invasive and non-native species recorded on site.								
Foreseen Impacts	N/A								
Recommendations	No further surveys but remain vigilant.								
Invertebrates									
Summary of Survey Findings	Habitats recorded on site are suitable to support common invertebrates, albeit limited. Whilst areas of modified grassland and trees provide refuge value for invertebrate species. Given the type and extent of habitats present on the site, the site is not assessed to provide a habitat mosaic suitable to support a protected and/ or notable assemblage of invertebrate species.								
Foreseen Impacts	The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local invertebrate populations due to their low value and the presence of more extensive local habitats.								
Recommendations	No further surveys.								
Bats									
Summary of Survey Findings	<u>Desk study</u> There is one granted European Protected Species Licence (ESPL) listed on Magic Maps within 2km of the site. Details are summarised in the table below. <table><tr><th>ESPL reference</th><th>Bat species affected</th><th>Impacts allowed by licence</th></tr><tr><td>2018-33450-EPS-MIT 600m south</td><td>Brown long-eared and serotine</td><td>Damage to a resting place</td></tr></table>			ESPL reference	Bat species affected	Impacts allowed by licence	2018-33450-EPS-MIT 600m south	Brown long-eared and serotine	Damage to a resting place
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2018-33450-EPS-MIT 600m south	Brown long-eared and serotine	Damage to a resting place							

Bat records have been returned by 'Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre' within 2km of the site. Records from the last ten years are summarised below.

Common name	Number of records	Dates of records	Roost records
Brown long-eared bat	1	2017	The closest roost record is ~2km south-west.
Common pipistrelle	7	2023 - 2024	The closest roost record is 800m north.
Noctule	3	2023	The closest record is 1.5km north (no roost records).
Serotine	4	2017 - 2023	The closest record is 1.5km north, and the closest roost record is 2km south-west.
Soprano pipistrelle	3	2023	The closest record is 1.5km north (no roost records).

Foraging and commuting habitats

The habitats (grassland and scattered trees) recorded on site are assessed to provide limited foraging and commuting opportunities for bats. The site is not assessed to represent a significant resource for foraging and commuting bats within the wider landscape. However, the local landscape surrounding the site provides highly favourable habitats for commuting and foraging bats, including agricultural fields, grasslands, lines of trees, hedgerows and parcels of woodland.

Roosting habitats

The tree (T1) on the site underwent a Ground-Level Tree Assessment (GLTA). Details about the GLTA are discussed below.

Tree T1 (Potential roosting value – None)

	Tree T1 is a semi-mature common elm with ecological niches (ivy) and no evidence of human damage. The ivy was thin and could be observed thoroughly with a torch throughout. It does not seem to have suitable roosting features.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	<u>Commuting and foraging habitats</u> The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction. Once construction is completed, the new pavilion may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats or the retained building without mitigation. This may disturb commuting bats. <u>Roosting habitats</u> Bats are very unlikely to be roosting within this tree and as such, there are not anticipated to be any impacts on roosting bats as a result of the removal of the tree for the visibility splay.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<u>Commuting and foraging habitats</u> No further surveys are required.

	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 <u>Roosting habitats</u> In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development, all work must stop, and a bat-licensed ecologist must be contacted for further advice.
Birds	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<u>Vegetation</u> No evidence of nesting birds was found on site during the surveys. However, birds could use the tree for nesting. No habitat for Schedule 1 birds was observed. Due to the regular disturbance from the cricket grounds and animal sanctuary all year round, it is unlikely ground ground-nesting birds would utilise the site. <u>Barn owls</u> The site does not appear to provide any suitable nesting sites for barn owls. <u>Overwintering birds</u> Due to the extent and type of habitats recorded, the site is not considered suitable to support a significant assemblage of protected and/or notable birds.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction.

	<u>Vegetation</u> The proposed development could result in the destruction or disturbance of active bird nests, leading to their subsequent abandonment. <u>Barn owls</u> None. <u>Overwintering birds</u> None.
<i>Recommendations</i>	<u>Vegetation</u> Due to the size of the suitable habitat, further ground-nesting bird surveys are considered to be disproportionate. It is anticipated that any risk to nesting birds can be reduced to an acceptably low level through the implementation of a precautionary approach, avoiding the nesting season. Any vegetation removal 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 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. <u>Barn owls</u> None.

	<u>Overwintering birds</u> None.
Reptiles	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	Whilst the modified grassland provides some limited foraging and commuting value, opportunities are suboptimal due to an absence of refuge value. Due to the small size of the suitable habitats recorded, the site is not considered suitable to support any notable reptile populations, such as a population that would qualify the site as a key reptile site. However, the presence of low numbers of common reptiles cannot be discounted.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction. The grassland will not fragment landscape connectivity for any existing reptile populations and will not reduce habitat availability in a significant way, as to potentially render any existing populations unviable. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local reptile populations due to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitats to the west of the site. However, there is a low risk that individual reptiles could be injured or killed during the construction phase 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.
Amphibians	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<u>Desk study</u> Using Natural England's GCN Risk Zone (Swindon and Wiltshire) Map, the site falls within an 'amber' area for great crested newts (Natural England, 2023)¹. There are no historic pond records, class licence returns or historic EPSLs identified on Magic Maps within 2km of the site. <u>Survey results</u> <u>Terrestrial habitat suitability</u> Whilst the modified grassland provides some limited foraging and commuting value, opportunities are suboptimal due to an absence of refuge value. Due to the habitats recorded, the site is not considered suitable to support any notable amphibian populations. However, the presence of low numbers of common amphibians cannot be discounted. <u>Aquatic habitat suitability</u> Amphibians require a suitable aquatic habitat in which to breed and fulfil their lifecycle. There are two known ponds within 500m of the site boundary when consulting OS maps, including ~100m north (P1) and ~460m south-west (P2).

¹ Natural England (2023). GCN Risk Zones (Swindon and Wiltshire). <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::gcn-risk-zones-swindon-and-wiltshire/explore?location=51.612889%2C-2.315849%2C10.67>

	Pond P1 was dry at the time of the survey, and, according to the current landowner, it was installed as a drainage bowl and has never held water.  Pond P2 was located on private land, so it could not be accessed, and an HSI was not possible. The pond was located past the A3102, a busy 'A road'.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction. For the nearest suitable pond (P1 460m south-west), a Natural England Rapid Risk Assessment was undertaken for the proposed works to the site. The risk assessment assumes that great crested newts are present in the nearest inaccessible pond and the disturbance of 0.08ha of suitable habitat, and returned a result of 'Green: Offence highly unlikely' for the proposed development works (Natural England, 2016)². The grassland will not fragment landscape connectivity for any existing amphibian populations and will not reduce habitat availability in a significant

² Natural England (2016) Great Crested Newts: Surveys and Mitigation for Development Projects – Standing Advice. Online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/great-crested-newts-apply-for-a-mitigation-licence> (Accessed November 2025).

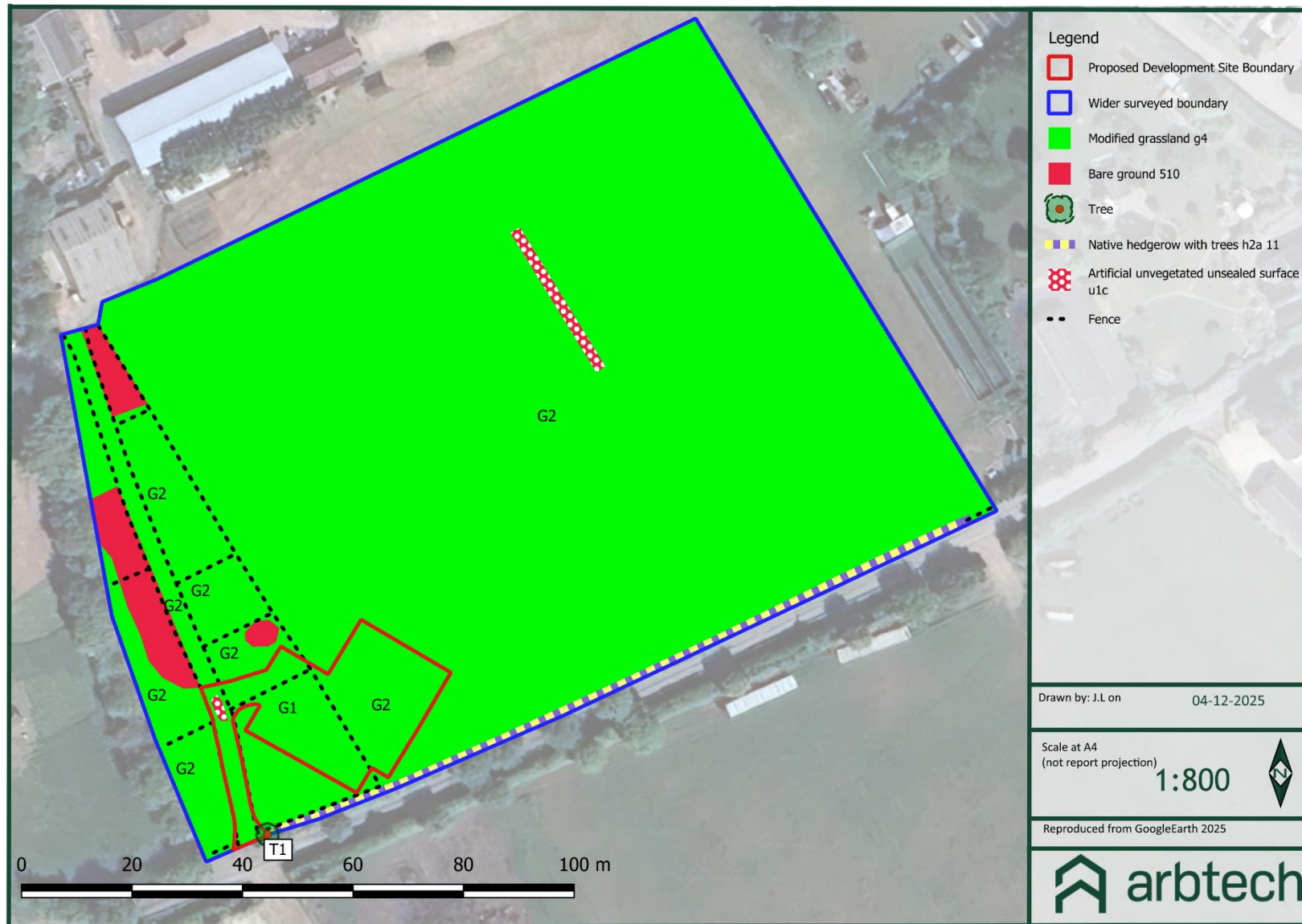
	way, as to potentially render any existing populations unviable. So, although a small area of suitable habitat is being removed as part of the development, the loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local amphibian populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitats to the west of the site. Albeit low, there is a very low risk that individual common amphibians could be found 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 amphibians during construction, including the following measures: • Vegetation will be maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage amphibians. • 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 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, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.
Badger	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	From the survey and aerial imagery, no sett-making activity, latrines or feeding activity was observed within the site boundary or 30m of the development boundary. The modified grassland provides foraging opportunities for badgers. However, most of the site is fenced. This will reduce connectivity to the site and thus commuting opportunities. Due to

	the boundary restrictions and limited habitats on the site, badgers are unlikely to use the proposed development site for foraging and commuting.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction. No direct impacts on badgers are anticipated as a result of the proposed development. However, albeit low, badgers could commute through the site and get stuck in any excavations (if any) during the construction phase.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Basic precautionary mitigation during works is recommended: • 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 habitats which badgers could use. South and west boundaries. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. In the unlikely event that a badger sett is identified within 30m, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.
Riparian animals	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	There are no watercourses on or connected to the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	N/A
Hazel dormouse	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	<u>Desk study</u> There are no dormouse European Protected Species Licences (EPSLs) within a 2km radius.

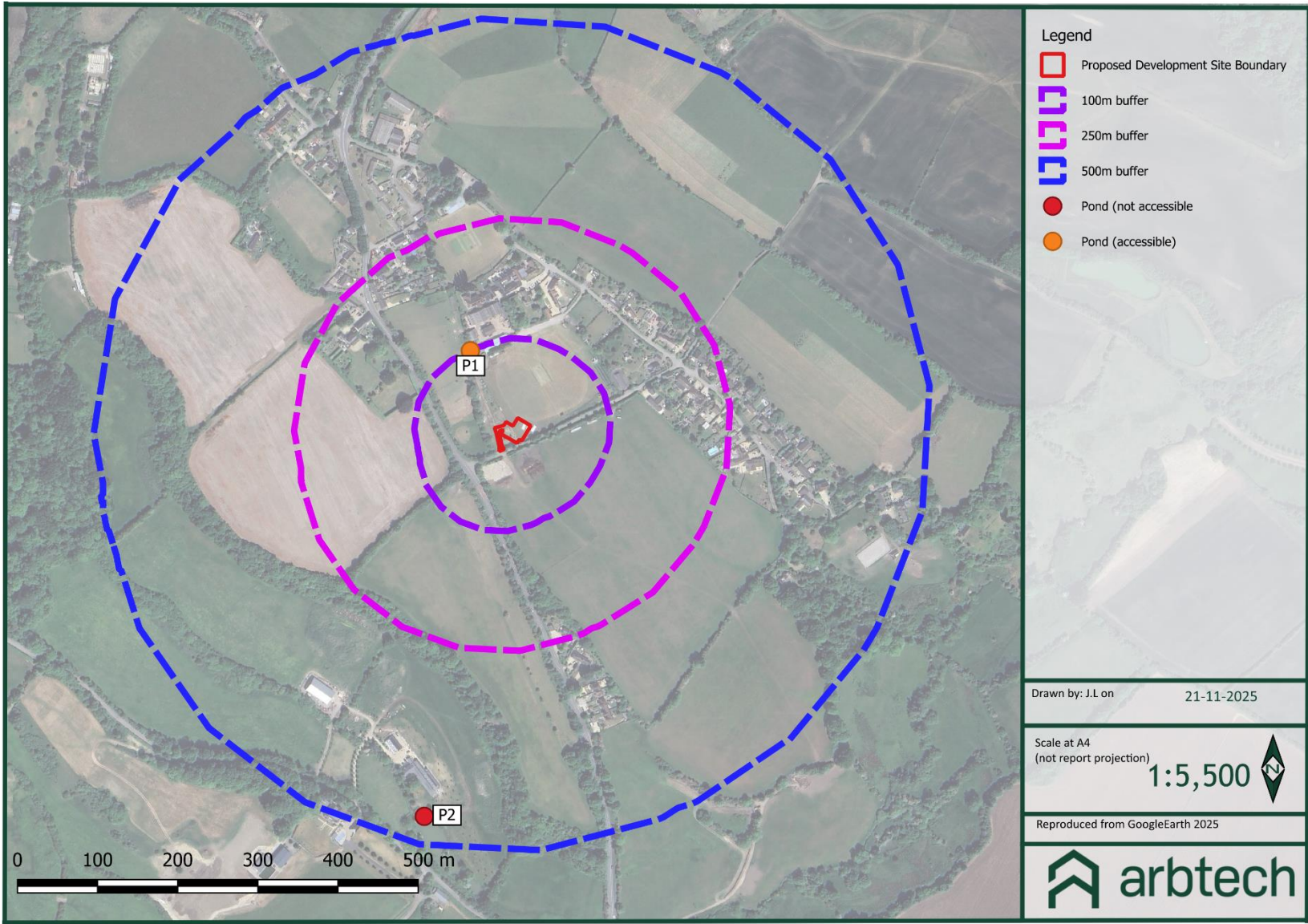
	<u>Field results</u> No evidence of dormice was found within the site. It is not anticipated that dormice are present on the site due to the lack of suitable connected habitats. Furthermore, for isolated habitats in the UK, research indicates that dormice require 20ha of woodland habitat to support a viable population (Bright et al. 1994). There are no areas of woodland present on or directly adjacent to the site that are big enough (20ha) to support dormice.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction. No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None.
Other e.g. hedgehog	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The grassland provides limited foraging and commuting opportunities for hedgehogs. However, most of the site is fenced. Therefore, connectivity will be reduced, and there is a low probability for hedgehogs to use the proposed development site for commuting.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland (~0.079ha), one tree (T1) and hardcore during construction. The loss of such habitat is likely to be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.
<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 onto 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.
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Appendix 1: Habitat and survey map



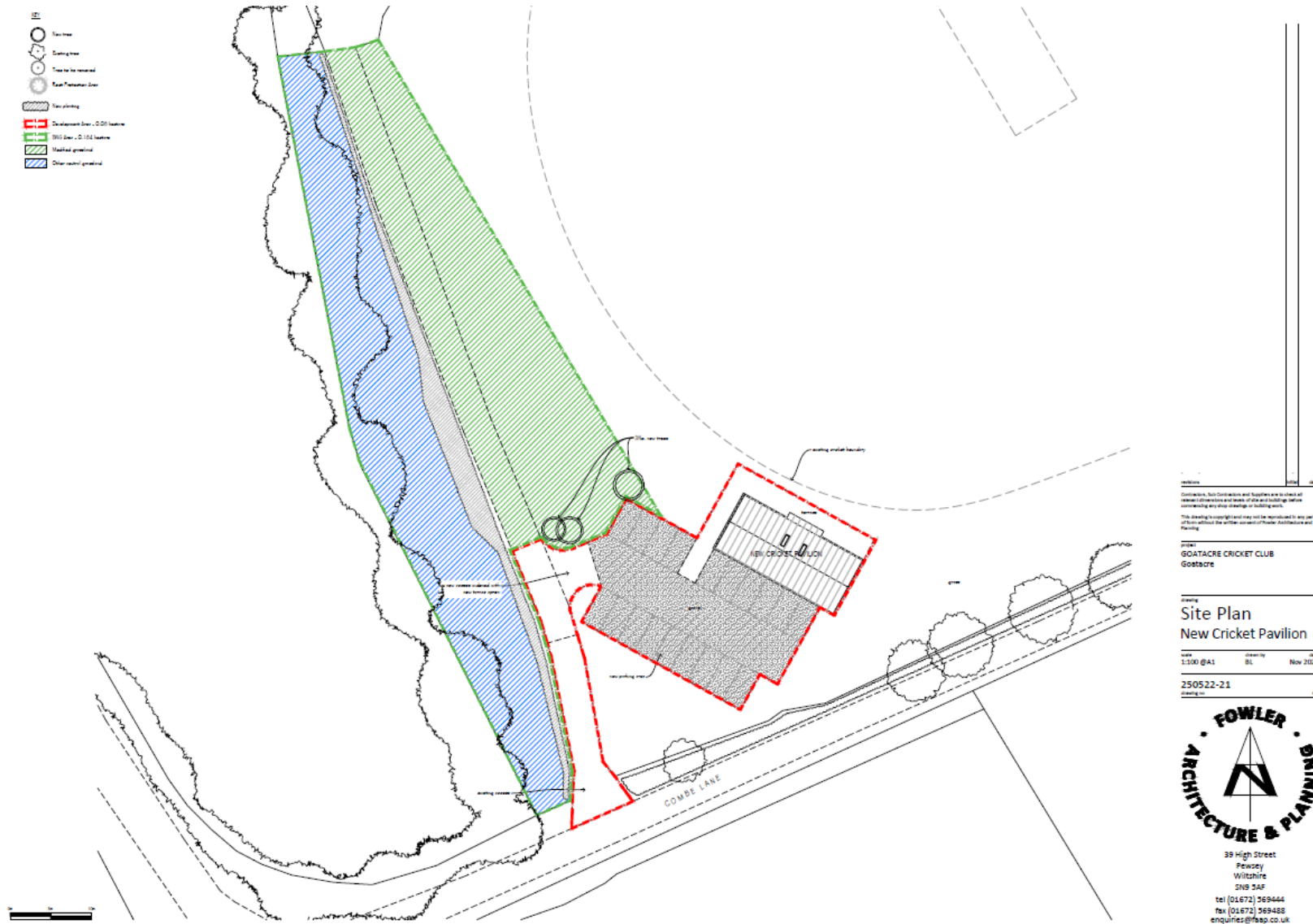
Appendix 2: Ponds within 500m



Appendix 3: Location map



Appendix 4: Proposed plan



Appendix 5: Habitat condition assessment

Scattered tree T1; assessed using the 'Individual tree' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)	Notes/Justification
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Common elm.
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	The tree is an individual tree and thus automatically passes this criterion.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N	No mature trees on site.
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	N	Pruned heavily on one side for the road.
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Y	Ivy.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	More than 20% of the tree canopy area has vegetation underneath.
Number of criteria passed			4
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria		Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria		Poor (1)	

Modified grassland G1; assessed using the 'Grassland low distinctiveness' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria:		Condition passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A	There must be 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² , including at least 2 forbs. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition.	Y	More than 6 vascular plant species per m ² .
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	N	Regularly mown and grazed, uniform sward height present.
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	No scattered scrub present (less than 20% coverage).
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	N	Physical damage is present in more than 5% of the total grassland area.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	N	Bare ground cover over 10% (~20%)
F	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	No bracken observed (less than 20% coverage).
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	Absence of invasive species.
Essential criterion achieved (Y/N)			Y
Number of criteria passed			4
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Good (3)	
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR 4, 5 or 6 of criteria but failing criterion A		Poor (1)	

Modified grassland G2; assessed using the 'Grassland low distinctiveness' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria:	Condition passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
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A	There must be 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² , including at least 2 forbs. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition.	N	Less than 6 vascular plant species per m ² .
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	N	Regularly mown and grazed, uniform sward height present.
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	No scattered scrub present (less than 20% coverage).
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	N	Physical damage is present in more than 5% of the total grassland area.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	N	Bare ground cover over 10% (~20%)
F	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	No bracken observed (less than 20% coverage).
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	Absence of invasive species.
Essential criterion achieved (Y/N)			N
Number of criteria passed			3
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Good (3)	
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Moderate (2)	
Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR 4, 5 or 6 of criteria but failing criterion A		Poor (1)	✓

Bare ground; assessed using the 'Urban' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types :		

A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	N	No vegetation structure.
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	N	No vegetation structure.
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area. Note – to achieve good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Y	None observed.
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)			Y
Number of criteria passed			1
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only:			
Passes all 3 core criteria AND Meets the requirements for good condition within criterion C	Good (3)		
Passes 2 of 3 core criteria OR Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for good condition within criterion C	Moderate (2)		
Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria	Poor (1)		✓

Native hedgerow with trees; assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)	Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).	Y	Hedgerow averages 3m in height.
A2. Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Y	Hedgerow averages 1.5m in width.
B1. Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Y	Gap between ground and base of canopy is <0.5m for more than 10% of length.
B2. Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall	Y	No canopy gaps.

		'gappiness', but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).		
C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N	Managed vegetation both sides of the hedge.
C2. Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	N	High abundance of nettle (>20%), ivy and bramble in understorey.
D1. Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	Y	No invasives observed.
D2. Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	N	>90% of the hedgerow is regularly managed (flailed).
E1. Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	N	The trees are semi-mature.

E2. Tree Health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Y	No evidence of adverse impacts on tree health.
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees				
Category	Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table TS1-2	Weighting (score)		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group	3		
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2, and E1 = moderate condition)	2		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = poor condition)	1		
Score achieved:	Moderate			

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