



ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**LAND ADJOINING SOUTHWEST OF WITT ROAD,
MIDDLE WINTERSLOW
SALISBURY
SP5 1PL**

NOVEMBER 2025

ON BEHALF OF KENTS OAK LTD



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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. LC Ecological Services Limited were commissioned by Kent Oaks Ltd to conduct an Ecological Impact Assessment on land adjoining Witt Road, Middle Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 1PL (Grid Ref: SU 24731 32550). The report has been prepared to support a planning application for the proposed development of two residential dwellings.
- 1.2. The scoping information provided by the ecological appraisal, protected species surveys and desktop study, is used to summarise the ecological baseline methods and results; evaluate the Important Ecological Features (IEFs); and indicate the potential impacts and propose mitigation for the construction and operation of the proposed development
- 1.3. This EcIA identified twenty-seven IEFs which could potentially be impacted by the development proposals, including seven statutory designated sites, fourteen non-statutory designated sites, two habitats of local/regional importance, and four faunae of local importance. No significant negative impacts on the IEF's were identified during the assessment. The proposed enhancement measures will result in a minor positive impact overall.
- 1.4. The zone of influence of the project was determined by the sensitivity of the ecological features to environmental change within the site and the surrounding area in accordance with the guidelines for EcIA (CIEEM, 2018).

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. LC Ecological Services Limited were commissioned by Kent Oaks Ltd to conduct an Ecological Impact Assessment on land adjoining Witt Road, Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 1PL (Grid Ref: SU 24731 32550). The report has been prepared to support a planning application for the proposed development of two residential dwellings.
- 2.2. The report summarises the ecological baseline methods and results; evaluates the Important Ecological Features (IEFs); and indicates the potential impacts and proposes mitigation for the construction and operational stages of the proposed development.
- 2.3. The purpose of this report is to outline the following:
- To identify and describe all potentially significant ecological effects associated with the proposed development.
 - To set out the mitigation measures required to ensure compliance with nature conservation legislation and to address any potentially significant ecological effects
 - To identify how mitigation measures will/could be secured
 - To provide an assessment of the significance of any residual effects
 - To identify appropriate enhancement measures
 - To set out the requirements for post-construction monitoring

3.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Legislation

3.1. Full details of statutory obligations with respect to biodiversity and the planning system can be found in DEFRA Circular 06/2005. Relevant legislation to this application site includes the following:

- **Internationally Designated Sites:** Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are protected under the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* and Ramsar sites are protected under the *Ramsar Convention (1971)*.
- **Nationally Designated Sites:** Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are protected under section 28 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)*.
- **Bats:** all species of British bats and their roosts are fully protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)* and the *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2017*.
- **The Protection of Badgers Act 1992:** This Act makes it an offence to wilfully take, injure or kill a badger (*Meles meles*); cruelly mistreat a badger; interfere with badger setts. A licence is required for work which may damage or disturb a sett.
- **Mammals:** Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.
- **Reptiles:** the adder (*Viper berus*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) and slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) receive protection under the *WCA 1981 (as amended)*.
- **Birds:** all birds, their nests, eggs, and young are protected by the *WCA 1981 (as amended)*.

National planning policy

3.2. Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024) '*Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*' sets out the Government's planning policies relating to biodiversity, landscape and geological conservation. The relevant paragraphs within this chapter include:

- **Paragraph 187:** Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
 - i. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils
 - ii. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem

- services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.
- iii. minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; and
 - iv. preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.
- **Paragraph 188:** Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national, and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.
 - **Paragraph 192:** To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national, and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration, or creation; and
 - b) promote the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
 - **Paragraph 193:** When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:
 - a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused
 - b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest,

and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁶⁷ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
 - d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.
- **Paragraph 194:** The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:
 - a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation.
 - b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
 - c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Local planning policy

3.3 Relevant planning policies within the Wiltshire Core Strategy (adopted January 2015) include:

- Core Policy 24: New Forest National Park
- Core Policy 50: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Core Policy 52: Green Infrastructure
- Core Policy 69: Protection of the River Avon SAC

Biodiversity Action Plans

3.4. Relevant Biodiversity Action plans (BAPs) are as follows:

- Reptiles (UK BAP)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)
- Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) (UK BAP)
- Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) (UK BAP)
- Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) (UK BAP)
- Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) (UK BAP)
- Soprano pipistrelle bat (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) (UK BAP)
- Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) (UK BAP)

4.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Study area

4.1. The site is located at central Ordnance Survey OS grid reference SU 24731 32550. The study area comprises the site plus the additional surrounding radii detailed below.

- 5 kilometres for statutory designated sites;
- 2 kilometres for any non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation.
- 2 kilometres for any national statutory designated sites for nature conservation.
- 2 kilometres for all records of protected, notable, and invasive species.
- 500 metres for waterbodies with the potential to support great crested newts.
- 30 metres for badgers.

Sources of information

4.2. The following sources of information were used to inform the impact assessment:

Table 1: Summary of survey work and sources of information for Land adjoining Witt Road, Middle Winterslow, Salisbury, SP5 1PL.

Survey type	Year(s)	Comment
Desk study – International sites designated for Annex II bat species	2025	Records obtained from Natural England’s web-based Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)
Data search of protected and notable species within 2 kilometres of the site	2025	Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) and Hampshire Biological Information Centre (HBIC)
Ecological Appraisal and UK Habs survey	2025	LC Ecological Services in August 2025
Bats – foraging and commuting habitat assessment	2025	LC Ecological Services in August 2025
Nesting bird habitat assessment	2025	LC Ecological Services in August 2025

Survey type	Year(s)	Comment
Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) habitat suitability assessment	2025	LC Ecological Services in August 2025
Hazel dormouse (<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>) habitat suitability assessment.	2025	LC Ecological Services in August 2025
Reptile habitat suitability assessment.	2025	LC Ecological Services in August 2025

- 4.3. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) provided guidelines for preparing the Ecological Impact Assessment (CIEEM, 2018).

Assessment process

- 4.4. The EcIA is in accordance with the CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (CIEEM, 2018).
- 4.5. The starting point was to determine which features should be subject to detailed assessment, that is, those IEFs:
- a) Of sufficient value that impacts upon them may be significant (in terms of legislation or policy); and
 - b) Potentially vulnerable to significant impacts arising from the development.
- 4.6. This approach is consistent with the EIA Regulations, which only require investigation of likely significant effects.
- 4.7. The CIEEM guidelines recommend that the value of IEFs or features is determined based on a geographic frame of reference that includes the following levels:

Table 2: Level of value assigned to each IEF (adapted from CIEEM, 2018)

Level of Value	Example of Definitions
International	An internationally important site e.g. SPA, SAC, Ramsar (or a site considered worthy of such a designation). A viable area of a habitat type listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitats which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. A regularly occurring population of an internationally important species (listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive).
UK / National	A nationally designated site e.g. SSSI or a site considered worthy of such designation. A viable area of a priority habitat identified within the UK BAP, or of smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the larger whole. Any recurring population of a nationally important species e.g. listed on Schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). A feature identified as of critical importance in the UK BAP.
Regional (Wiltshire)	Viable areas of key habitat identified within the Wiltshire LBAP, or smaller areas of such a habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of the larger whole. A site designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) or habitats that meet the designation criteria for SNCI's in Wiltshire. Areas of internationally or nationally important habitats which are degraded but are considered readily restored. A regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species listed as being nationally scarce. A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species.
Local (the zone of influence including the site and its immediate vicinity, including habitats within or linked to those on site)	Areas of internationally or nationally important habitats which are degraded and have little or no potential for restoration. A good example of a common or widespread habitat in the region.

Assessment criteria

Predicting and characterising ecological impacts

- 4.8. The assessment of magnitude of effect assesses whether an impact will be positive or negative; its extent; duration; reversibility and timing and frequency as well as the cumulative effect. A combination of quantitative information and qualitative assessment based on professional judgment was used whilst considering all of these factors to assign effects on the IEFs to one of four categories as detailed in table 3 below.

Table 3: Assessment of magnitude of effects

Category	Definition
High	A permanent or long-term effect on the extent/size or integrity of a site, habitat, species assemblage or community, population or group. If adverse this is likely to threaten its sustainability. If beneficial this is likely to enhance its conservation status.
Medium	A permanent or long-term effect on extent/size or integrity of a site, habitat, species assemblage or community, population or group. If adverse this is unlikely to threaten its sustainability. If beneficial this is likely to be sustainable but is unlikely to enhance its conservation status.
Low	A short-term but reversible effect on the extent/size or integrity of a site, habitat or species assemblage or community, population or group that is within the range of variation normally experienced between years.
Negligible	A short-term but reversible effect on the extent/size or integrity of a site, habitat or species assemblage or community, population or group that is within the normal range or annual variation.

- 4.9. For each IEF, the significance of the effects of the proposed development during construction and operation are assessed and the type of impacts are characterised according to their importance and magnitude. Where there is uncertainty over the appropriate level of significance to assign, this will be stated but as a precautionary measure the higher level of significance will be applied. Where impacts will arise, mitigation and enhancement measures are provided.

Direct and indirect ecological impacts

- 4.10. Both direct and indirect impacts are considered within this assessment. A direct impact is a defined action such as the physical loss of a habitat or the immediate mortality of an individual of a particular species. Indirect impacts are attributable to an action, but which affect ecological resources through effects on an intermediary ecosystem, process or IEF e.g. the loss of an important prey species for a predator.

Limitations

- 4.11. The ecological appraisal and UK Habitat Classification survey were conducted in August during the optimal botanical survey season. However, some early flowering species could have missed. This is not considered to be a significant limitation due to the widespread habitats present within the survey area.

5.0 BASELINE

- 5.1. The site was subject to desk-based, habitat and faunal surveys in August 2025. The methods and the key findings are summarised in this section to inform the nature conservation evaluation for each of the IEFs identified.

Designated sites

- 5.2. A total of five statutory sites are located within five kilometres of the site, including Porton Down SPA and SSSI (2.81 kilometres northwest), Salisbury Plain SAC (2.81 kilometres northwest), Bentley Wood SSSI, Blackmoor Copse SSSI and Broughton Down SSSI, with the closest being Bentley Wood SSSI which is located 0.5 kilometres southeast.
- 5.3. The development site is located within the Test and Itchen catchment and will require a nutrient neutrality assessment for the Solent Marine sites (Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Solent Maritime SAC). These impacts have been discussed in section 6.0.
- 5.4. A total of fourteen non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation were identified within two kilometres of the site, including Upper and Lower Noad's Copses SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation), Hedgemoor Copse West SINC, Hedgemoor Copse East SINC, Burrett's Grove/Earth Pit Wood SINC, Brown's Copse LWS (Local Wildlife Site), Noad's Copse LWS, Franklin's and Fiddler's Row LWS, Middle Winterslow Meadow LWS, Howe Copse LWS, Chickard Wood LWS, The Yews LWS, Hound Wood LWS, Pitton Down LWS, Ashley's Copse LWS.

Habitats present within the development footprint

- 5.5. The UK Habitat Classification System (UKHab Ltd., 2023) was adopted whereby habitats are mapped using codes (appendix II). During the walkover survey undertaken by senior ecologist William Davis in August 2025, the habitats were classified and evaluated according to their vegetative composition, species abundances, and general condition. The following habitats were recorded on site:
- Other neutral grassland with bare ground (g3c5, 510)
 - Hedgerows (h2a)

Other neutral grassland (g3c5, 510)

- 5.6. The site comprises a field of other neutral grassland which has largely been used as a site compound for a development on the adjacent field. The grass and vegetation is of mixed height and comprises a variety of grass and herbaceous plant species. The grassland is dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum*

elatius), with abundant Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and frequent yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) and red dead-nettle (*Lamium purpureum*).

- 5.7. Much of the field has been stripped back to bare ground due to its recent use as a site compound for the adjacent development site to the north. Approximately 50% of the site has been stripped to bare ground, with the northern half mostly affected.

Hedgerows (h2a)

- 5.8. The development area contains a series of hedgerows along the north, west and southern boundaries, however the southern border sits just outside of the red line boundary. The hedgerow along the western boundary (H1) comprises a hawthorn (*Crataegus sp*) monoculture, and the hedgerow along the northern boundary (H2) consists of Leyland cypress (*Cupressus × leylandii*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*) and dog rose (*Rosa canina*).

Assessment of habitats

- 5.9. The level of value of these habitats is summarised in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Level of value of habitats recorded within the site

IEF	Evaluation rationale	Value of IEF
Other neutral grassland (g3c5, 510)	This is a common habitat at local, county and national level which can support a range of flora and fauna. It provides foraging opportunities for birds and has some habitat suitability for reptiles and contains a mixed sward height.	Local
Hedgerows (h2a)	This is a common habitat at local, county, and national levels which can support a range of fauna and flora such as nesting birds as well as provide refuge for other small species.	Local

Protected and notable species

- 5.10. An evaluation of the site's potential to support protected and notable species of fauna is provided below. This is based on the suitability of the habitats present both on-site and in the surrounding area, and the desk study information provided by HBIC and WSBRC. General species records are provided in appendix VI.

5.11. Based on the habitat suitability within the development boundaries, protected species surveys were subsequently completed to inform the EclA and include:

- Badger habitat suitability assessment
- Bat foraging and commuting habitat suitability assessment
- Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) habitat suitability assessment
- Hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) habitat suitability assessment
- Nesting and foraging bird habitat suitability assessment
- Reptile habitat suitability assessment

Badgers

5.12. No evidence of badger, including setts, latrines or fur, were identified during the field survey. No setts were identified within the proximity of the site but records from 2021 recorded mammal paths on the adjacent site. It is considered that no badger setts will be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed development, but as a wide-ranging mobile species, individuals may be present in the wider area.

Bats: foraging and commuting

5.13. Fourteen species of bat were reported by HBIC and WSBRC, including serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), Myotis species (*Myotis sp*), pipistrelle species (*Pipistrellus sp*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Bechstein's Bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), whiskered Bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*), nyctalus t species (*Nyctalus sp*), Leisler's (*Nyctalus leisleri*) and noctule.

5.14. Two records of granted mitigation licences for bats within two kilometres of the site was returned by MAGIC. Further details for these licences are provided in table 5 below.

Table 5: Bat mitigation licences within 2 kilometres of the development site

Licence number.	Species included.	Breeding yes/no.	Distance from site (Km).
EPSM2012-4723	Common pipistrelle <i>(Pipistrellus pipistrellus)</i>	No	1.16km east
	Soprano pipistrelle <i>(Pipistrellus pygmaeus)</i>		
	Serotine (<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>)		
	(Brown long-eared <i>Plecotus auritus</i>)		
EPSM2024-9543A	(Brown long-eared <i>Plecotus auritus</i>)	No	0.02km north

- 5.15. The habitats on site were assessed for their potential to support foraging and commuting habitat for bats. Bats navigate using linear features in the landscape, such as hedgerows and these can be important features for local roosts. The site itself provides limited foraging habitat that may support local bat roosts. The site holds limited diversity in habitats which is unlikely to support a significant foraging assemblage of invertebrates. The grassland and hedgerow habitat is also present in the adjacent field in greater abundance so the loss of this habitat on the site would not directly impact food resource availability.
- 5.16. The habitats on site have low potential to support foraging and commuting bats. However off-site, the network of hedgerows to the north with direct and linear connectivity to the wider countryside provides quality foraging and commuting habitat for bats. The site is therefore, considered to be of **local** value for foraging and commuting bats.

Great crested newt

- 5.17. Suitable breeding ponds are essential to support populations of great crested newt, although, they only spend a relatively short period of the year in the ponds during the spring for breeding. The remainder of the year is spent in suitable 'foraging' habitat such as tall grassland and woodland. During the winter, great crested newts hibernate, often amongst the roots of trees and scrub or in places such as piles of rubble, amongst foundations of buildings or under fallen trees and logs.
- 5.18. Great crested newts are known to forage up to 500 metres from their breeding sites and suitable habitats that fall within 500 metres must be considered even in situations where the breeding site itself will not be affected. Suitable breeding habitat, and the presence of suitable terrestrial habitat within the site boundary were assessed during this survey.
- 5.19. No records of great crested newt were provided by HBIC and WSBRC within two kilometres of the site.
- 5.20. No great crested newt class survey licence return records were identified on MAGIC Maps within two kilometres of the site.
- 5.21. No ponds were identified within the site boundary or within the post breeding dispersal radius. In the absence of a breeding population that could colonise the site it is considered that a population would be absent within the local area.
Therefore, the great crested newt has been screened out of this assessment.

Hazel dormouse

- 5.22. The habitat on site was assessed for its potential to support hazel dormouse, which is found in habitats such as woodlands, scrub and hedgerows with good connectivity and suitable food plants.
- 5.23. HBIC and WSBRC returned thirteen records of hazel dormouse and MAGIC returned no records of granted mitigation licences for hazel dormouse within two kilometres of the site.
- 5.24. Hazel dormice is an arborist species that requires hedgerows and woodland with a high species diversity to form independent populations. The habitats on site do not have the diversity required to support an independent population and are poorly connected at a landscape level to offsite areas that could colonise or commute through the hedgerows present within the survey area. As such it is considered unlikely that there is a population of hazel dormouse that could utilise the hedgerows on site. **Therefore, hazel dormouse has been screened out of this assessment.**

Nesting and foraging birds

5.25. The hedgerows on site provide nesting, foraging and refuge opportunities for birds.

5.26. The site is therefore, considered to be of **local** value for nesting and foraging birds.

Reptiles

5.27. Habitats on site were assessed for their suitability to support reptile species in accordance with *Reptile surveys: An introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation* (Froglife, 1999).

5.28. Records of slow worm were provided by HBIC and WSBRC within two kilometres of the site.

5.29. Reptiles require a mixed height habitat that contains areas of refuge, foraging and basking potential. This is often characterised by areas of tussocks or mixed height sward grassland adjacent to habitat suitable for hibernation. The habitats on site represent good quality reptile habitat and are connected at a landscape level to wider areas of suitable grassland. The grassland present onsite would be suitable to support foraging reptiles, and the hedgerows would be suitable to support hibernation by any population present. However, the site has been heavily degraded by the adjacent construction works and is unlikely to be large enough to support an independent population. As such, any population present is likely to be low and have colonised the field from the adjacent areas of grassland, and it is unlikely that an independent population of reptiles could survive on the habitats on site when considered in isolation. The site is therefore, considered to be of **local** value for reptiles.

Assessment of the site's value for key fauna

5.30. The level of value of these species is summarised in table 6 below.

Table 6: Level of value of species recorded within the site

IEF	Evaluation rationale	Value of IEF
Badger	It is possible that badger may access the site as part of a wider territory range though no core territory or setts are present on site	Local
Bats: foraging and commuting	The site offers foraging opportunities for bats along the hedgerows on site.	Local
Nesting and foraging birds	The hedgerows on site provide suitable foraging, nesting and refuge opportunities for birds.	Local

IEF	Evaluation rationale	Value of IEF
Reptiles	The site may provide suitable habitat for a small population of reptiles.	Local

6.0 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 6.1. The potential impacts have been assessed against the development proposals including the inherent mitigation measures described below.
- 6.2. Impacts of the proposed development are discussed for the ecological features that are of at least local value or subject to legal consideration. The ecological features included from this point on are therefore limited to:
- Salisbury Plain SAC (International value)
 - Porton Down SPA, SSSI (International/national value)
 - Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Solent Maritime SAC (International value – within Test and Itchen catchment)
 - Bentley Wood SSSI (National value)
 - Blackmoor Copse SSSI (National value)
 - Broughton Down SSSI (National value)
 - Upper and Lower Noad's Copses SINC (Regional value)
 - Hedgemoor Copse West SINC (Regional value)
 - Hedgemoor Copse East SINC (Regional value)
 - Burrett's Grove/Earth Pit Wood SINC (Regional value)
 - Brown's Copse LWS (Regional value)
 - Noad's Copse LWS (Regional value)
 - Franklin's and Fiddler's Row LWS (Regional value)
 - Middle Winterslow Meadow LWS (Regional value)
 - Howe Copse LWS (Regional value)
 - Chickard Wood LWS (Regional value)
 - The Yews LWS (Regional value)
 - Hound Wood LWS (Regional value)
 - Pitton Down LWS (Regional value)
 - Ashley's Copse LWS (Regional value)
 - Other neutral grassland (Local value)
 - Hedgerows (Local value)
 - Badger (Local value)
 - Bats: Foraging and commuting (Local value)
 - Nesting and foraging birds (Local value)
 - Reptiles (Local value)

Construction phase

Statutory sites

Salisbury Plain SAC and Porton Down SPA and SSSI

- 6.3. The proposed development site is located approximately 2.9 kilometres from Salisbury Plain SAC and Porton Down SPA and SSSI. There is the potential risk of degradation to these statutory sites through surface runoff and dust deposition.
- 6.4. Due to the intervening distance between the site and the SAC, SPA, Ramsar and the small scale of the development, it is considered there is not any hydrological connectivity and there would not be any impacts from surface runoff or dust deposition.
- 6.5. The IEF's are of **international and national value**, the magnitude of effect is considered to be **negligible**, and the impact is therefore **not significant**.

Bentley Wood SSSI

- 6.6. The proposed development is located approximately 0.5 kilometres from Bentley Wood SSSI. There are no direct or indirect routes of impact linking the statutory site to the development site. There are no predicted impacts to habitats by construction related activities such as mechanical damage, dust deposition and contamination. The IEF is of **national value**, the magnitude of effect is considered to be **negligible**, and the impact is therefore **not significant**.

Blackmoor Copse SSSI

- 6.7. Blackmoor Copse SSSI is located approximately 3.2 kilometres southwest of the development site. Due to the type and scale of the proposed works, it is considered that there will be no direct or indirect impacts on the designated site. Any particulates are unlikely to travel the intervening distance with sufficient intensity to cause adverse impacts to the flora and fauna of the statutory site. Given the scope of the works, it is unlikely there will be any impacts from dust and/or pollution on the designated site. The IEF is of **national value**, the magnitude of impact from disturbance and habitat degradation is considered to be **negligible** and therefore the impact significance is **not significant**.

Broughton Down SSSI

- 6.8. Broughton Down SSSI is located approximately 3.2 kilometres northeast of the development site. Due to the type and scale of the proposed works, it is considered that there will be no direct or indirect impacts on the designated site. Any particulates are unlikely to travel the intervening distance with sufficient intensity to cause adverse impacts to the flora and fauna of the statutory site.

Given the scope of the works, it is unlikely there will be any impacts from dust and/or pollution on the designated site. The IEF is of **national** value, the magnitude of impact from disturbance and habitat degradation is considered to be **negligible** and therefore the impact significance is **non-significant**.

Non-statutory sites

The following non-statutory sites have been assessed for impacts:

- Upper and Lower Noad's Copse SINC
- Hedgemoor Copse West SINC
- Hedgemoor Copse East SINC
- Burrett's Grove/Earth Pit Wood SINC
- Brown's Copse LWS
- Noad's Copse LWS
- Franklin's and Fiddler's Row LWS
- Middle Winterslow Meadow LWS
- Howe Copse LWS
- Chickard Wood LWS
- The Yews LWS
- Hound Wood LWS
- Pitton Down LWS
- Ashley's Copse LWS

6.9. Due to the type and scale of the proposed works, it is considered that there will be no direct or indirect impacts on the non-statutory designated sites. Any particulates are unlikely to travel the intervening distance with sufficient intensity to cause adverse impacts to the flora and fauna of the statutory sites. Due to the nature of the proposals and the intervening distances of the other sites, adverse impacts from habitat loss, degradation or disturbance are not anticipated. The IEF's are of **local** value, the magnitude of the effects are **negligible**, and therefore **not significant**.

Habitats

Other neutral grassland

6.10. The proposed construction works will result in the loss of 0.1041 hectares of other neutral grassland on site. As the IEF is of **local** value, the magnitude of the effect is **medium** and **non-significant**.

Hedgerows

6.11. The proposed construction works may disturb the hedgerow habitats on site, however no hedgerows are due to be removed during the construction phase. As the IEF is of **local** value, the magnitude of the effect is **low** and **non-significant**.

Protected and notable fauna

Bats: Foraging and commuting

- 6.12. During the construction phase there is the potential for adverse lighting impacts on suitable bat commuting and foraging habitats along the hedgerows on site. Bats are naturally light adverse and additional lighting of high-quality foraging and commuting routes could cause disruption to natural range if it occurs during the active season. The IEFs are of **local** value, the magnitude of impact from disturbance and habitat degradation is considered to be **low** and therefore the impact significance is **not significant**.

Badger

- 6.13. Badgers are highly mobile mammals and may continue to forage or commute through the construction site during works. Badgers, therefore, may be harmed or injured. As the IEF is of **local** importance, the magnitude of the effect is considered to be **low** and therefore, **not significant**.

Nesting and foraging birds

- 6.14. There will be disturbance to suitable bird nesting habitat on site as the hedgerows will be impacted to facilitate the development. All birds are protected by law from disturbance when on the nest. Nesting birds in nearby vegetation are likely to experience a small amount of disturbance if construction works take place during the nesting season. As the IEF is of **local** importance and the magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** the impact is therefore **not significant**.

Reptiles

- 6.15. There will a loss of suitable foraging and basking habitat during the construction period which has the potential to cause unlawful killing or injury to individual reptiles which may use the grassland on site. Development works will result in a loss of habitat but will not impact natural range as the majority of the habitats within the development area are unsuitable for reptiles, so it is unlikely that a population is dependent on site for foraging and breeding. As the IEF is of **local value**, the magnitude of effect is **low**, the impact is therefore **not significant**.

Operational phase

Statutory sites

Salisbury Plain SAC and Porton Down SPA and SSSI

- 6.16. The site is located 2.9 kilometres to the northwest of Salisbury Plain SAC designated site and Porton Down SPA. The SAC is designated for Annex I habitats *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grassland, semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland; and Annex II species marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*). The SPA qualifies for breeding stone curlew (*Burhinus oedichnemus*) and over wintering hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Given the distance involved and the relatively small scale of the development no impacts on the SPA or SAC citation features are anticipated. However, stone curlew breeding success on the SAC is known to be sensitive to human disturbance, particularly dog walkers. Salisbury Plain is a popular location for recreation, and it is known to attract visitors from approximately a 15 kilometre radius. Additional housing within the visitor catchment of Salisbury Plain is likely to increase the recreational pressure on the plain.
- 6.17. The IEFs are of **international value**, and the magnitude of effect is **low**, and the impact is therefore of **minor significance**.

Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Solent Maritime SAC

- 6.18. In order to ensure that the development does not result in nutrient loading to Solent Maritime, there needs to be evidence that sewerage and wastewater infrastructure will be sufficient to prevent foul drainage affecting the statutory sites. Where additional sewage discharges to a sewage treatment facility cannot be accommodated without measures to offset nitrate loading, development will be required to undertake proportionate measures. According to Natural England's nutrient neutrality guidance (2024) the default occupancy rate of 2.4 persons per dwelling should be used when estimating wastewater discharge. A net change in wastewater discharge is expected to result in an increase in nutrient loading and the development will be required to demonstrate measures to offset the difference to obtain neutrality. As the IEF is of **international value** and the magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** the impact is therefore **of major significance**.

Bentley Wood SSSI

- 6.19. The occupancy of a new residential development may lead to disturbances locally within the landscape; for instance, increased disturbance to the nearby Bentley Wood by walkers, particularly dog walkers, or add additional pressure to nesting birds as well as physical damage through trampling and vandalism. The IEF is of **national value**, and the magnitude of effect is considered to be **low**, and the impact is therefore of **minor significance**.

Blackmoor Copse SSSI

- 6.20. The occupancy of a new residential development may lead to disturbances locally within the landscape; for instance, increased disturbance to the nearby Blackmoor Copse by walkers, particularly dog walkers, or add additional pressure to nesting birds as well as physical damage through trampling and vandalism. With an increase in visitors to Blackmoor Copse, there is likely to be an increase in traffic resulting in an increase in airborne nitrogen, which overtime can impact the habitats within the designated sites. The IEF is of **national value**, and the magnitude of effect is considered to be **low**, and the impact is therefore of **minor significance**.

Broughton Down SSSI

- 6.21. The occupancy of a new residential development may lead to disturbances locally within the landscape; for instance, increased disturbance to the nearby Broughton Down by walkers, particularly dog walkers, or add additional pressure to nesting birds as well as physical damage through trampling and vandalism. With an increase in visitors to Broughton Down, there is likely to be an increase in traffic resulting in an increase in airborne nitrogen, which overtime can impact the habitats within the designated sites. The IEF is of **national value**, and the magnitude of effect is considered to be **low**, and the impact is therefore of **minor significance**.

Non-statutory sites

The following non-statutory sites have been assessed for impacts:

- Upper and Lower Noad's Copses SINC
- Hedgemoor Copse West SINC
- Hedgemoor Copse East SINC
- Burrett's Grove/Earth Pit Wood SINC
- Brown's Copse LWS
- Noad's Copse LWS
- Franklin's and Fiddler's Row LWS
- Middle Winterslow Meadow LWS
- Howe Copse LWS
- Chickard Wood LWS
- The Yews LWS
- Hound Wood LWS
- Pitton Down LWS
- Ashley's Copse LWS

6.22. The occupancy of a new residential development may lead to disturbances locally within the landscape; for instance, increased disturbance to the nearby non-statutory sites by walkers, particularly dog walkers, or add additional pressure to nesting birds as well as physical damage through trampling and vandalism. With an increase in visitors to the non-statutory sites, there is likely to be an increase in traffic resulting in an increase in airborne nitrogen, which overtime can impact the habitats within the designated sites. The IEF's are of **local value**, and the magnitude of effect is considered to be **low**, and the impacts are therefore **not-significant**.

Protected and notable fauna

Bats: Foraging and commuting

6.23. During the operational phase it is unlikely that the new residence would generate a significant change in additional lighting over the baseline conditions from light spill alone. However, there is the risk that external strong direction lighting (such as security lighting) would cause disruption to bats in the wider offsite habitats if it was positioned to the northern and north west of the site. The IEF is of **local value**, the magnitude of impact is considered to be **low** and therefore the impact significance is **not significant**.

Nesting and foraging birds

- 6.24. There is potential that if habitat management is undertaken at an inappropriate time of year nesting birds and bird nest could be disturbed, harmed, damaged or destroyed. As the IEF is of **local value**, the magnitude of effect is **low** and therefore **not significant**.

Reptiles

- 6.25. There is potential that if habitat management is undertaken at an inappropriate time of year, foraging and basking reptiles could be disturbed, harmed, damaged or destroyed. As the IEF is of **local value**, the magnitude of effect is **low** and therefore **not significant**.

Ecological enhancements

- 6.26. The development is in Wiltshire and under local planning policy must demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity of at least 10%. Measures outlining how the biodiversity net gain will be achieved on site is presented in section 7.0.
- 6.27. Any garden fencing should include hedgehog-friendly gravel boards with holes of 13 centimetres by 13 centimetres to enable hedgehog movements around the site.
- 6.28. The development should provide a minimum of one nest box for birds or one built-in tube for bats per unit.
- 6.29. The development should provide native fruiting trees such as crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), damson (*Prunus insititia*), elder (*Sumbucus nigra*) or wild cherry (*Prunus avium*).
- 6.30. These IEFs are of **local** importance and the level of impact will be **high**, resulting in a **minor positive impact**.

7.0 MITIGATION

Construction phase

Statutory sites

Salisbury Plain SAC and Porton Down SPA and SSSI

7.1. Runoff and dust from the site must be controlled through safe working methods and action plans to avoid any accidental pollution incidents and subsequent runoff into designated sites. Specific construction methods and precautionary measures to avoid impacts to designated sites include:

- Fuels and chemicals should be stored and controlled on site to avoid the risk of pollution and siltation, for example all building materials will be stored appropriately in specific designated areas to avoid potential pollution incidents and creation of dust.
- All plant vehicles will be fitted with drip trays in order to avoid potential pollution incidents and re-fuelling of plant/vehicles will either take place off site or within a specific designated area on site.
- The proposed construction methodology should consider factors such as construction access, methods of construction, timing of work, use of lighting and working hours.
- Dust control and suppression methodology should be implemented where applicable.

Habitats

Other neutral grassland

7.2. A total of 0.10 hectares of other neutral grassland will be lost to facilitate the proposed development. This loss will be addressed in accordance with Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) principles, with full details and compensation measures to be set out within a dedicated BNG report. The final BNG strategy is still in development and will be submitted following determination, in accordance with planning conditions and statutory BNG requirements. The BNG baseline is presented in section 7.13.

Protected and notable fauna

Bats: foraging and commuting

Adverse impacts to foraging and commuting

- 7.3. To minimise disturbance to commuting and foraging bats, no additional permanent lighting will be installed along the site boundaries, and temporary construction lighting will be carefully managed. Where lighting is required for safety, it will be directional, low-intensity, and angled downward, avoiding illumination of hedgerows and adjacent habitats. Maintaining dark corridors along hedgerows will ensure that bat foraging and commuting activity remains unaffected during the construction phase.

Badger

- 7.4. Immediately prior to construction work commencing, an updated walkover survey of the areas on which the car parks are being constructed and will include looking for signs of badger use, is recommended prior to works commencing. If any badger setts are recorded on site or within 20 metres, further surveys will be required to assess the size and activity levels of the sett to ascertain the type of badger sett and whether a licence is required for closure of the sett.

Nesting and foraging birds

Potential disturbance to nesting habitat

- 7.5. Although the hedgerows will be retained, they may be subject to disturbance during construction. To protect nesting birds, vegetation works should be undertaken outside the nesting season (March–August) where possible. If works are required during this period, a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist will be completed within 48 hours prior to works, and any active nests will be protected until young have fledged.

Reptiles

Removal of suitable habitat

- 7.6. Mitigation will involve the gradual degradation of existing habitat and the encouragement of reptiles to move into adjacent suitable areas through a phased approach of strimming and habitat manipulation. Works will focus on reducing the suitability of features used for shelter and hibernation, such as dense vegetation, rubble piles, or tall grass tussocks, which may otherwise attract reptiles during the hibernation period.
- 7.7. To minimise the risk of harm, these activities will be carried out during the reptile active season (April to September) and only undertaken during suitable weather

conditions, with temperatures consistently above 10°C, avoiding periods of cold weather when reptiles are likely to be in hibernation. Vegetation clearance will proceed in a two-stage cut, initially to around 150 mm and then to ground level after at least 24 hours, allowing reptiles time to disperse naturally.

- 7.8. All works will be supervised by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), who will inspect potential refuges and oversee habitat manipulation to ensure reptiles are safely displaced. The ECoW will also provide toolbox talks to contractors on reptile awareness and ensure method statement compliance throughout the clearance process.

Operational phase

Statutory sites

Salisbury Plain SAC and Porton Down SPA and SSSI

- 7.9. To mitigate the potential indirect effects of increased recreational pressure, it is recommended that the development contributes to the Wiltshire Council SPA mitigation strategy, secured through a S106 agreement or CIL. This strategic mitigation supports measures to protect stone curlew nesting areas, manage visitor access, and raise awareness among residents about responsible recreation within the SPA visitor catchment (Wiltshire Council 2024). A financial contribution of approximately £600 per dwelling is expected to be required towards the Wiltshire Council SPA Mitigation Strategy, in line with recent guidance to offset recreational impacts on the Salisbury Plain SPA.

Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Solent Maritime SAC

- 7.10. The development will need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality through either onsite or offsite mitigation measures. A budget will need to be produced to determine the additional N/Kg/yr that will be deposited into the catchment. This assessment will be used to inform mitigation for obtaining nutrient neutrality.

Protected and notable fauna

Bats: Foraging and commuting

Adverse impacts on foraging and commuting

- 7.11. During the operations phase it is unlikely that the new residence would generate a significant change in additional lighting over the baseline conditions from light spill alone. However, there is the risk that external strong direction lighting (such as security lighting) would cause disruption to bats in the wider offsite habitats if

it was positioned to the northern and northwest of the site. To avoid this, any new external lighting will be designed and installed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Guidance Note 08/23 – *Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK*. As per this guidance, lighting design should:

- Avoid illumination of hedgerows, treelines, and other key commuting or foraging features.
- Use warm white lighting (<2700K) to minimise blue light emissions.
- Be directional and shielded, with hoods or cowls to prevent light spill beyond target areas.
- Use low-intensity lighting (lux levels kept as low as possible) and motion sensors/timers to limit operating hours.
- Position lighting away from sensitive ecological features, focusing only on areas where illumination is essential for safety.

Nesting and foraging birds

Adverse impacts on nesting birds

7.12. Habitat management on site will be timed to avoid harming or destroying active birds' nests. Where possible the hedgerows created on site will be cut outside the nesting bird season this is considered to extend from the 1st March to the 31st August. A pre works check should be undertaken checking for any active nests prior to cutting the hedge. Where active nests are recorded management should be postponed until the chicks have fledged.

Biodiversity net gain

7.13. The development will be required to achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least 10% under local planning policy. The BNG score for the development has been determined by using the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric 4.0 as published by Natural England. This calculator compares the post development and pre-development habitats and provides them with a value in 'biodiversity units'. A net gain is measured by comparing the habitats before and after development.

Baseline habitats

7.14. The baseline habitats on site have a value of 0.94 biodiversity units.

- The other neutral grassland represents 0.83 area habitat units.

- The native hedgerow on site represents 0.11 hedgerow units.

Post development habitat

- 7.15. A total of 0.22 habitats units will be retained, created or enhanced as a result of the development.
- 7.16. Current net change including all on-site and off-site habitat retention, creation and enhancement is -86.33%.
- 7.17. Once a suitable Biodiversity Net Gain strategy has been identified, detailed proposals for on-site habitat creation and/or off-site compensation will be developed to ensure that the required minimum 10% net gain is achieved and evidenced within a separate BNG report.
- 7.18. A summary of the biodiversity metric can be found in appendix VII.

8.0 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

- 8.1. No significant negative impacts from the proposed works were identified during the assessment. The proposed enhancements outlined above will result in a minor positive impact overall.

9.0 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

- 9.1. There are planning applications for individual residential dwelling home improvements, but no large-scale development is proposed in the local area. No cumulative effects are considered following these developments.

10.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1. Habitat surveys have been undertaken at land adjoining southwest of Witt Road. Assessments of desk studies including the proximity to designated sites and protected notable species were made. The impact assessment concluded that there would be no impacts on designated sites or protected species following mitigation.
- 10.2. Mitigation and enhancement measures have been provided to protect designated sites and protected species present on site, and to enhance biodiversity by way of habitat creation and wildlife corridors. Implementing these mitigation and enhancement measures will result in no residual effects.
- 10.3. The survey work undertaken for this assessment is valid for a period of 18 months. Should the planning application be delayed past this time then update survey work will be required.

11.0 REFERENCES

CIEEM (2018) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal*, Version 1.3. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

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Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Record Centre (2022) Ecological data search for 1 WITTRD

Stone L, Jones G and Harris S (2009) Street Lighting Disturbs Commuting Bats, *Current Biology*, Vol 19, Issue 13, pp1123-11.

Wiltshire Council (2018) HRA and Mitigation Strategy for Salisbury Plain SPA in relation to recreational pressure from redevelopment (Reviewed June 2024)

APPENDIX I Site plan



APPENDIX II UK Habitat Classification map



APPENDIX IV Desk study information

Site name	Designation	Distance	Description
Salisbury Plain	SAC ¹	2.81km northwest	A large expanse of chalk downland dominated by dry calcareous grassland/ steppe vegetation designated for two Annex I habitats including juniper (<i>Juniperus</i>) formations on chalk heath and calcareous grassland, and semi-natural dry grasslands with scrub on calcareous substrates. The site also supports populations of the Annex II butterfly species marsh fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>).
Porton down	SPA ²	2.81km northwest	Known for its extensive, uninterrupted chalk grassland, a rare habitat in the UK. It also contains woodland and scrub, particularly juniper, supporting a diverse range of species, including important populations of downland breeding birds like the <u>stone curlew</u> (<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>), and is home to a variety of insects and other wildlife. The site is also used by hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>), merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) and short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>).
Solent & Southampton Water	SPA	20km southeast	The site qualifies for breeding populations of common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>), Mediterranean gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>), roseate tern

¹ SAC: Special Area of Conservation

² SPA: Special Protection Area

Site name	Designation	Distance	Description
			(<i>Sterna dougallii</i>), sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>); and overwintering black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>), dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) and an internally important assemblage.
Solent Martine	SAC	21km southeast	The Solent encompasses a major estuarine system on the south coast of England. Designated for its estuary, salt meadow, coastal lagoons, mudflats. Qualifying species includes desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>).
Bentley wood	SSSI ³	0.5km southeast	Recognised for its nationally important status due to its rich biodiversity, particularly its butterflies like the purple emperor (<i>Apatura iris</i>) and various fritillaries. This large, privately-owned woodland features an extensive network of trails and is managed by a charitable trust, providing both ecological benefits and public access for recreation and conservation efforts.
Blackmoor Copse	SSSI	3.2km southwest	Native broad-leaved woodland predominantly consist of pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) and ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>). The site supports notable plants such as pale sedge (<i>Carex pallescens</i>),

³ SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest

Site name	Designation	Distance	Description
			lepidoptera and dormice (<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>).
Broughton Down	SSSI	3.2km northeast	Chalk escarpment with associated vegetation and woodland areas. Lepidoptera includes chalk carpet moth (<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria</i>), silver spotted skipper (<i>Hesperia comma</i>) Essex skipper (<i>Thymelicus lincolnia</i>) and Duke of Burgundy fritillary (<i>Hamearis lucina</i>).
Upper and Lower Noad's Copses	SINC ⁴	0.73km west	Designated due to its ancient semi-natural woodland habitat and ecological value, which is further enhanced by the presence of a well-preserved Roman road forming a key historic landscape feature.
Hedgemoor Copse West	SINC	0.99km east	Woodland.
Hedgemoor Copse East	SINC	1.33km east	Woodland.
Burrett's Grove/Earth Pit Wood	SINC	1.94km northeast	Woodland.
Brown's Copse	LWS ⁵	0.59km southwest	Broad-leaved semi-ancient woodland.
Noad's Copse	LWS	0.73km northeast	Small area of ancient seminatural broadleaved woodland containing a small meadow area and an area of wood-pasture.

⁴ SINC: Site of Importance for Nature Conservation⁵ LWS: Local Wildlife Site

Site name	Designation	Distance	Description
Franklin's and Fiddler's Row	LWS	0.88km northeast	Ancient broadleaved woodland of oak over hazel and bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>).
Middle Winterslow Meadow	LWS	0.91km northwest	A small meadow with species rich chalk grassland lying behind houses, now divided into two ownerships.
Howe Copse	LWS	1.28km northeast	A large ancient broadleaved woodland site on a hilltop adjoining Ashleys Copse in the north, derelict in part.
Chickard Wood	LWS	1.38km south	Two small areas of ancient seminatural broadleaved woodland, the surviving remnants of a larger coppice wood.
The Yews	LWS	1.77km northeast	Hazel and ash woodland with frequent yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>) on county border.
Hound Wood	LWS	1.83km southwest	A large commercial forestry woodland with broadleaved and conifer plantings on an ancient site.
Pitton Down	LWS	1.89km west	Four parcels on a north west-facing slope under various ownerships.
Ashley's Copse	LWS	1.94km northeast	A large ancient broadleaved woodland site on a hilltop adjoining Howe Copse in the south.

The development is located with the Test and Itchen catchment and will require nutrient neutrality assessment for the Solent Marine sites (Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Solent Martine SAC).

Protected, notable and invasive species records

Post-2005 records of rare, protected, notable and invasive species were provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Records Centre (HBIC) and Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) within a 2 kilometre radius of the site (Reference 13763 / 202050826_1). A full species list is available on request; however, a summary is provided below:

Birds

Bird records provided by HBIC and WSBRC includes goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), tree pipit (*Anthus trivialis*), house Martin (*Delichon urbicum*), brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*), red Kite (*Milvus milvus*), swift (*Apus apus*), woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), stock dove (*Columba oenas*), hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and yellowhammer (*Emberiza citronella*).

Invasive species

Invasive fauna species provided by HBIC and WSBRC includes fallow deer (*Dama dama*) and grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*).

Invasive flora species provided by HBIC and WSBRC includes cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*).

Invertebrates

Notable invertebrate species include silver-spotted skipper (*Hesperia comma*) chalk hill blue (*Polyommatus coridon*), silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*), duke of burgundy (*Hamearis lucina*) and white admiral (*Limenitis camilla*).

Higher plants

Notable higher plant species include yellow bird's-nest (*Hypopitys monotropa*), chalk milkwort (*Polygala calcarean*), butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), greater butterfly-orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*), common valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), summer snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*) and fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*).

Mammals

Fourteen species of bat were reported by HBIC and WSBRC, including serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), myotis (*Myotis*), pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auratus*), barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), nyctalus bat species (*Nyctalus*), leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*) and noctule (*Nyctalus noctule*).

Non-bat mammals included badger (*Meles meles*), hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*).

Reptiles and Amphibians

Records provided by HBIC and WSBRC include slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and common frog (*Rana temporaria*).

APPENDIX V Site photographs



Photograph 1: southeast
boundary



Photograph 2: view of site from
east to west



Photograph 3: materials from
adjacent development



Photograph 4: other neutral
grassland west side of the site



Photograph 5: hedgerow along
northern boundary



Photograph 6: other neutral
grassland on adjacent field



Photograph 7: grassland and
hedgerow along western
boundary



Photograph 8: adjacent field of
other neutral grassland



Photograph 9: eastern boundary



Photograph 10: adjacent field of
other neutral grassland

APPENDIX VI UK Habitat Classification species list

Table 8: Plant species recorded within the other neutral grassland

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance	Status
Grasses, ferns and mosses			
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	R	Common & widespread
False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	D	Common in meadows & on road verges
Sterile brome	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	R	Widespread but patchy, found in agricultural settings
Cock's foot	<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>	O	Common in meadows & on road verges
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	A	Common & widespread
Meadow fescue	<i>Lolium pratense</i>	R	Common & widespread
Annual meadow grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	O	Common & widespread
Herbaceous plants			
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	F	Common & widespread
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	R	Commonly found in field margins, arable fields and roadside verges
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	R	Common throughout southern England and prefers damp conditions
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	O	Common & widespread
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum</i>	O	Common in lowland areas
Common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	F	Commonly found in grasslands, pastures and roadside verges
Red dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	F	Common & widespread
Hawkbitt	<i>Leontodon</i>	O	Common in southern England

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance	Status
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	O	Common & widespread
Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum sp.</i>	R	Common in southern England
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	LO	Common & widespread
Common knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	R	Common & widespread
Prickly sow thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	LF	Commonly found on disturbed ground
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	O	Common & widespread
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	LO	Common & widespread

Table 9: Plant species recorded within Hedgerow 1

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Status
Trees			
Hawthorn monoculture	<i>Crataegus</i>	D	Common & widespread

Table 10: Plant species recorded within Hedgerow 2

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Status
Trees			
Leyland cyprus	<i>Cupressus × leylandii</i>	D	Widely distributed, mainly in residential gardens and public spaces
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	O	Common on nutrient-enriched soils
Herbaceous plants			
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	R	Widespread, but more common in the south

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Status
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg</i>	O	Common & widespread

Table 11: Plant species recorded within Hedgerow 3

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Status
Trees			
Hazel	<i>Corylus</i>	F	Common in lowland woodlands
Purging buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	O	Widespread but scarce, occurring across lowland areas of central & eastern England & Wales
Willow	<i>Salix spp.</i>	R	Common in damp environments
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	O	Common on nutrient-enriched soils
Herbaceous plants			
Buddleia	<i>Buddleja</i>	R	Widely distributed and commonly found in disturbed and industrial areas
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	O	Common & widespread
Great willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	F	Common in fens, marshes, river banks and occasionally drier areas
European spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	R	Common in the south and east of the UK and prefers limestone-rich soils
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	O	Common & widespread

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Status
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	LF/R	Common & widespread
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	R	Widespread, but more common in the south
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	LA/O	Common & widespread

APPENDIX VII Biodiversity net gain

Summary of biodiversity metric 4.0

On-site baseline	Area habitat units	0.83		
	Hedgerow units	0.11		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	0.11		
	Hedgerow units	0.11		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Area habitat units	-0.72	-86.33%	On-site net gain is less than target set ▲
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%	On-site net gain is less than target set ▲
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	
Off-site baseline	Area habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Area habitat units	0.00	0.00%	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	
Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	-0.72		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Area habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
FINAL RESULTS				
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	-0.72		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	-86.33%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲	
	Hedgerow units	0.00%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲	