



Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Chemring Countermeasures

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Executive Summary

Ecosupport Ltd was instructed by Atlas Planning to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of a parcel of land at Chemring Coutermeasures, Salisbury. This was required to identify any potentially important ecological features that may be affected by the proposed development. As part of this assessment, the following surveys were undertaken:

- Walkover survey with UK Habs habitat assessment
- Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of buildings on site

The following important ecological features were identified on site following the conclusion of the above survey work and may be subject to adverse impacts in the absence of suitable mitigation / compensation:

- Low potential for commuting bats
- Low potential for breeding and nesting birds
- Low potential for foraging and commuting badgers

In the absence of any mitigation measures, the proposed development is anticipated to result in ***possible adverse impacts***. In addition to this, measures are outlined within **Section 6.0** of this document to mitigate where impacts have been identified as well as provide targeted ecological enhancements.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

Ecosupport Ltd was commissioned by Atlas Planning conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of a parcel of land at Chemring Countermeasures, Salisbury (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The purpose of this survey was to assess any ecological impacts that may arise as a result of the proposed development. The objectives of the survey were as follows:

- Identify and classify any priority habitats;
- Assess the ecological value of the site;
- Identify any signs of protected species and potential features that may support them
- Make recommendations for further survey work as necessary;
- Make recommendations for any necessary ecological avoidance and mitigation where possible at PEA stage.

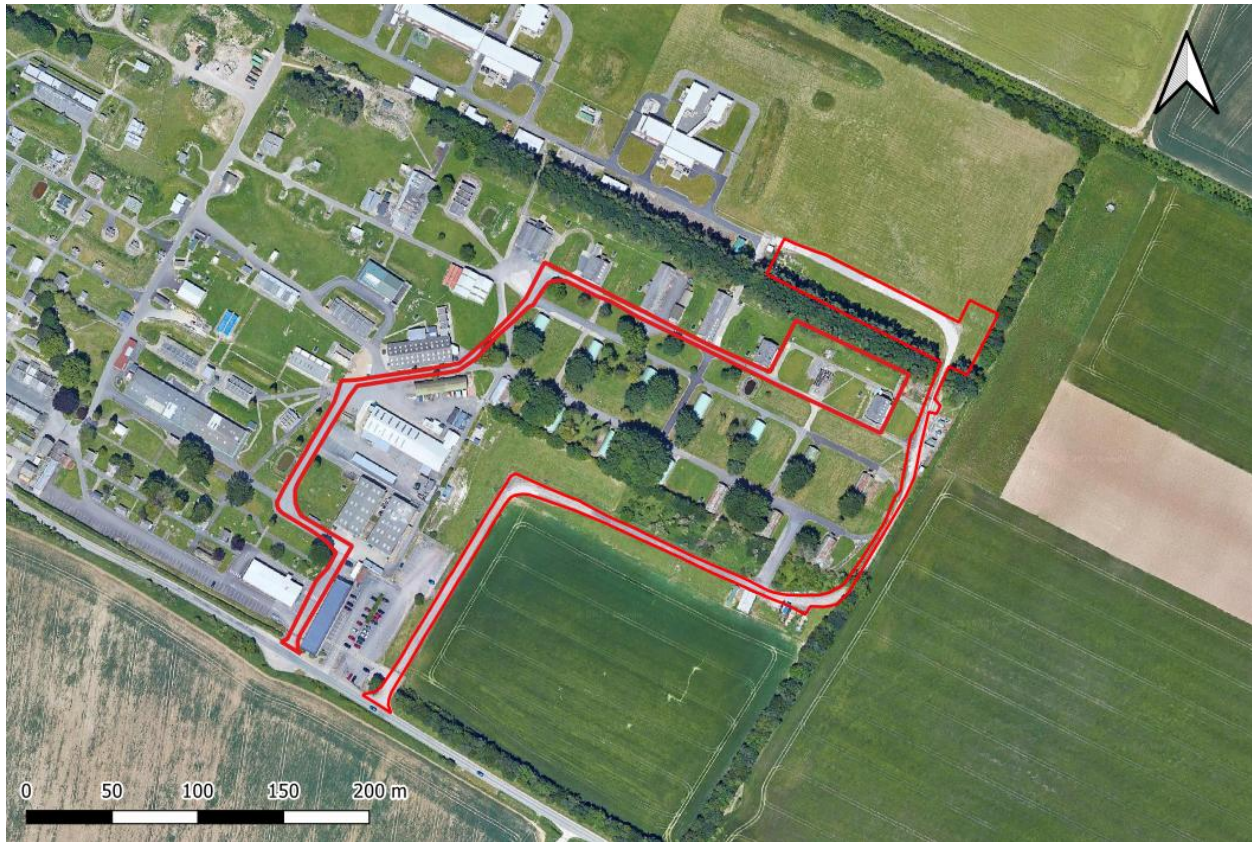
NB: If the works do not take place within 18 months of this report¹ then the findings of this survey will no longer be considered valid and may require updating.

1.2 Site Description & Location

The site comprises of two parcels of land in Salisbury, within the Chemring Countermeasures northeastern parcel (centered on OS grid reference SU 14581 36995) (**Fig 1**). The site's boundary consists of mostly hard-standing concrete roads and buildings. Crop fields line the eastern boundary, with land owned by Chemring Countermeasures to the south and west. In the wider environment, there is the town of Salisbury to the southeast, and large parcels of farmland in the surrounding areas.

¹ <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf>

Figure 1. Approximate redline boundary of the site (Google Earth, 2025).



1.3 Proposed Development

The proposals are for two applications consisting of the construction of a warehouse and an adjoining waste facility.

2.0 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICY

2.1 Legislation

2.1.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (EU Exit)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transposes the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) into UK domestic law. It provides protection for sites and species deemed to be of conservation importance across Europe. It is an offence to deliberately capture, kill or injure species listed in Schedule 2 or to damage or destroy their breeding sites or shelter. It is also illegal to deliberately disturb these species in such a way that is likely to significantly impact on the local distribution or abundance or affect their ability to survive, breed and rear or nurture their young.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (EU Exit) makes changes to the three existing instruments which transpose the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives so that they continue to work (are operable) upon the UK's exit from the European Union (EU). These include The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This instrument also amends section 27 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to ensure existing protections continue. The intention is to ensure habitat and species protection and standards as set out under the Nature Directives are implemented in the same way or an equivalent way when the UK exits the EU.

In order for activities that would be likely to result in a breach of species protection under the regulations to legally take place, a European Protected Species (EPS) license must first be obtained from Natural England.

2.1.2 The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended)

This is the primary piece of legislation by which biodiversity is protected within the UK. Protected fauna and flora are listed under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Act. They include all species of bats, making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any bat whilst it is occupying a roost or to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost. Similarly, this Act makes it an offence to kill or injure any species of British reptiles and also makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or to take, damage or destroy their eggs and nests (whilst in use or being built).

The Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) states that it is an offence to 'plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild' any plant listed in Schedule 9 part II of the Act. This list over 30 plants including Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*).

2.1.3 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

This Act strengthens the Wildlife & Countryside Act by the addition of "reckless" offences in certain circumstances, such as where there is the likelihood of protected species being present. The Act places a duty on Government Ministers and Departments to conserve biological diversity and provides police with stronger powers relating to wildlife crimes.

2.1.4 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires that public bodies have due regard to the conservation of biodiversity. This means that Planning authorities must consider biodiversity when planning or undertaking activities. Section 41 of the Act lists species found in England which were identified as requiring action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities under the *UK Post – 2010 Biodiversity Framework*.

2.1.5 Protection of Badgers Act

The Protection of Badgers Act (1992) relates to the welfare of Badgers (*Meles meles*) as opposed to nature conservation considerations. The Act prevents:

- The willful killing, injury, ill treatment or taking of Badgers and / or
- Interference with a Badger sett
- Damaging or destroying all or part of a sett
- Causing a dog to enter a set and
- Disturbing a Badger while it is occupying a sett

Provisions are included within the Act to allow for the lawful licensing of certain activities that would otherwise constitute an offence under the Act.

2.1.6 The Environment Act (2021)

The Environment Act 2021 is the UK's new legislation for environmental protection in the UK, which includes protection of water quality, clean air, and biodiversity among other key protections. This Act provides the government power to set targets to reach long-term aims relating to the environment, which will be periodically reviewed and updated. This legislation also establishes a new environmental watchdog organization, the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), which will hold the government accountable on environmental issues.

Part 6 of The Environment Act relates to nature and biodiversity. This section makes provision for biodiversity net gain to be a condition of planning permission in England and a requirement for nationally significant infrastructure projects. Biodiversity net gain will require maintenance for a period of at least 30 years after the completion of enhancement works to be achieved.

The legislation also includes updates to existing environmental legislation, such as the NERC Act 2006, to strengthen biodiversity enhancement rather than just conservation and includes a requirement for local, or relevant, authorities to publish biodiversity reports. Further, The Environment Act places a requirement on responsible authorities to prepare local nature recovery strategies, which will outline nature conservation sites and priorities and opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity within the local area. Within England, the legislation also provides Natural England with the power to publish 'species conservation strategies' and 'protected site strategies' to identify activities that may affect a species or site's status and outline their opinions on measures that would be appropriate to avoid, mitigate or compensate any adverse impacts.

2.2 Policy

2.2.1 National

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced.

Chapter 15 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity, the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, minimizing impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.

The NPPF states that plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites and that the scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.

To protect and enhance biodiversity plans should:

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 steppingstones that connect them and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation.

and 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.

The NPPF states 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 SSSI, 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 SSSI;
- 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 reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists;

- 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.

2.2.2 Local – Wiltshire Council

On a local scale, the site falls within the jurisdiction of Wiltshire Council. Core Policy 50 (Biodiversity and geodiversity) of the Wiltshire Core Strategy is divided into three main sections:

Protection:

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

All development proposals shall incorporate appropriate measures to avoid and reduce disturbance of sensitive wildlife species and habitats throughout the lifetime of the development. Any development potentially affecting a Natura 2000 site must provide avoidance measures in accordance with the strategic plans or guidance set out in published guidance (for example The Stone Curlew Management Strategy – applicable to residential development within distances up to 15km of Salisbury Plain - Wiltshire Bats SAC Planning Guidance – applicable to all development types in the areas within and surrounding Bradford on Avon, Box, Colerne, Corsham, Trowbridge, Westbury, Fonthill and Chilmark - and River Avon Planning Guidance – applicable to any new development in proximity to the Salisbury Avon, or major development within the wider catchment) where possible, otherwise bespoke measures must be provided to demonstrate that the proposals would have no adverse effect upon the Natura 2000 network. Any development that would have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European nature conservation site will not be in accordance with the Core Strategy.

Biodiversity Enhancement:

All development should seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Major development in particular must include measures to deliver biodiversity gains through opportunities to restore, enhance and create valuable habitats, ecological networks and ecosystem services. Such enhancement measures will contribute to the objectives and targets of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or River Basin/ Catchment Management Plan, particularly through landscape scale projects, and be relevant to the local landscape character. Local sites Sustainable development will avoid direct and indirect impacts upon local sites through sensitive site location and layout, and by maintaining sufficient buffers and ecological connectivity with the wider environment. Damage or disturbance to local sites will generally be

unacceptable, other than in exceptional circumstances where it has been demonstrated that such impacts:

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

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

A further policy, Policy 69, within the core strategy provides protection for the River Avon SAC. In order to avoid and reduce potential environmental effects on the River Avon SAC, development will need to incorporate measures during construction and operation to avoid and prevent pollution and mitigate potential disturbance effects; appropriate measures may include consideration of suitable buffer zones along watercourses, habitat enhancements and river access management measures. All development within 20m of the river banks should submit a construction management plan to the local planning authority to ensure measures proposed during construction are satisfactory. Where additional sewage discharges to a STW cannot be accommodated without measures to offset phosphate loading, development will be required to undertake proportionate measures (which may include contributions towards those measures identified in the Nutrient Management Plan) to demonstrate that the proposals would have no adverse effects upon the SAC.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Waterbodies

Any ponds located within 250m of the proposed development were searched for using Ordnance Survey maps and available aerial images.

3.1.2 Designated Sites

A search for designated sites within 2km of the site was undertaken using freely available online resources.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Habitats

The field survey work which forms the basis of the findings of this report was carried out by Amy Johnston BSc (Hons) on the 15th October 2025.

Habitats on site pre-development were identified in accordance with the categories specified for a UK Habitats survey, using Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd., 2023). This was chosen as an appropriate habitat categorization system as it fits within the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 calculation. Where appropriate primary habitat codes were used although for some habitat types, the use of secondary habitat codes was necessary as well.

3.2.2 Badger

The site was thoroughly searched for evidence of use by Badgers (*Meles meles*), with the specific aim of identifying the presence and location of any setts. In accordance with the *Badgers and Development: A Guide to Best Practice and Licensing* (Natural England, 2011) guidance, the survey accounted for a 30m from the site's boundary (observed where possible i.e. does not conflict with private dwellings). Evidence of Badgers could include latrines, dung pits, feeding remains and foraging evidence, trails and setts.

3.2.3 Bats

A preliminary roost assessment of the building on site was undertaken by Amy Johnston of Ecosupport in October 2025 (working under NE Class level 2 license of Lyndsey Barratt 2024-11993-CL18-BAT). This followed BCT (Collins (ed) 2023) best practice survey guidelines searching for any PRFs / evidence of bat occupation and assigning a roost potential assessment as outlined in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of a built structure for roosting bats (reproduced from BCT (Collins (ed) 2023).

Suitability	Description of Roosting Habitats
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not

	provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions ² and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e., unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats ³).
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ² and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation – the categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).
High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ² and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g., maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.
2 For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance. 3 Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten et al., 2016 and Jansen et al., 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in the UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of numbers of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.	

3.3 Assessment Methodology

3.3.1 Introduction

The methodology for the assessment of the likely ecological effects of the proposed development is based on CIEEM's *Guidelines for Ecological Assessment in the UK* (CIEEM 2018). Although this assessment does not constitute a formal Ecological/ Environmental Impact Assessment, the CIEEM guidelines provide a useful framework for assessing ecological impacts at any level.

3.3.2 Valuation

Features of ecological interest are valued on a geographic scale. Value is assigned based on legal protection, national and local biodiversity policy and cultural and/or social significance.

3.4 Limitations

3.4.1 Habitats

Although the survey was taken outside the optimum timing for the identification of botanical interest species, it was considered that the majority of species present could be suitably identified; this was therefore not considered to represent a significant limitation to the overall assessment. This survey does not constitute a full site assessment for invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*).

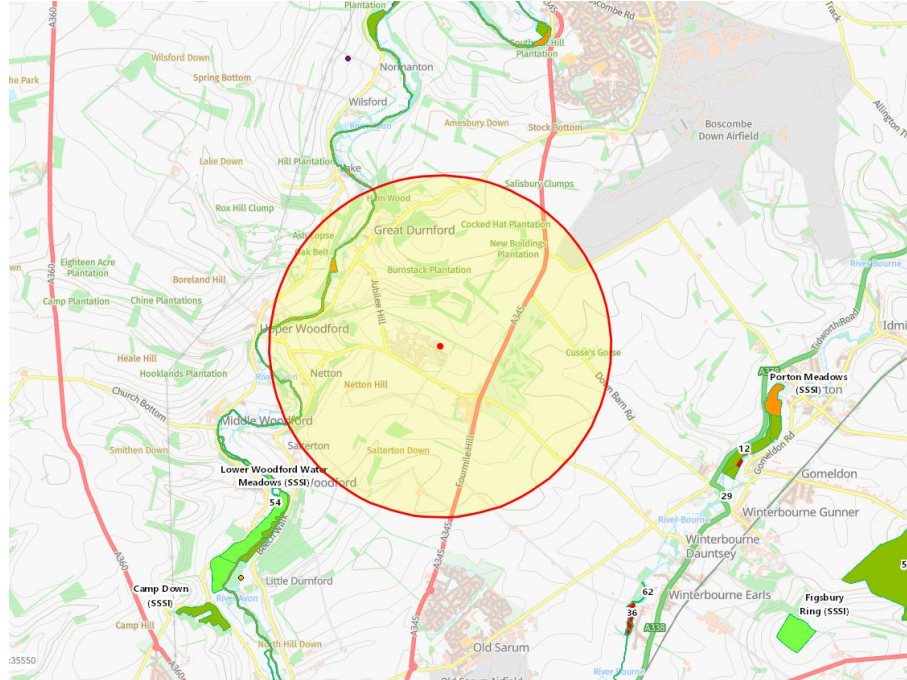
4.0 ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

4.1 Desk Study

4.1.1 Designated Sites

Using freely available online resources, three designated sites were identified within 2km of the site (**Fig 2**). These are the River Avon SAC and River Avon System SSSI approximately 1.44km to the west.

Figure 2. Designated sites located within 2km of the site.



4.2 Vegetation Survey Results

The vegetation within the site has been described below using the UK Habs Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd., 2023). The species below noted should not be considered an exhaustive list and instead refer to dominant, characteristic and other noteworthy species associated with each community within the survey area. The habitat types on site comprise:

- Modified Grassland (g4)
- Other Scots Pine Woodland (w2b)(adjacent to the site)
- Developed land sealed surface (u1b)
- Artificially unvegetated unsealed surface (u1c)
- Buildings (u1b5)

4.2.1 Modified Grassland (g4)

The majority of the site consists of modified grassland with tall herbs. (**Fig 3**). Species noted included: Perennial Rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum*

officinale), Cinquefoil (*Potentilla alba*), Ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

Figure 3. View of the modified grassland (taken October 2025).



4.2.2 Other Scots Pine Woodland (w2b)

The Scot's Pine woodland is located between the two application sites but is outside of the redlines for both. It consists of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), and Scot Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) (**Fig 4**).

Figure 4. View of the line of trees present on site (taken October 2025).



4.4.3 Developed Land; sealed surface (u1b)

This habitat is present on site in the form of tarmacked footpaths (Shown in **Figure 3 & 4** above).

4.4.4 Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (u1c)

This habitat is present in the form of a gravel access track which connects the waste facility area to the Chemring site entrance.

4.4.5 Buildings (u1b5)

The final habitat on site was a singular building. The results of the building relating to bats are in the next section (4.3 Bats).

4.3 Bats

4.3.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment (Buildings)

There is one small building present within the warehouse application site which is a small single story shed of breeze block construction (**Fig 5**). This was found to have no PRF's and therefore is considered to be **negligible**.

There are two storage containers present within the waste facility application site which were also found to be of **negligible potential** due to a lack of potential roosting features.

Figure 5. View of the small shed present on site (taken October 2025).



4.3.2 Foraging and commuting

The woodland associated with the boundaries of the sites provide some suitable habitats for commuting bats, although their connectivity into the wider environment is limited. The grassland present offers limited opportunities for foraging bats. Therefore, the site is of **low potential** for foraging and commuting bats.

4.4 Badgers

Using freely available resources, no records of badgers were found within 2km of the site. During the walkover no evidence of Badgers was noted on site. However, due to the presence of woodland and grassland providing suitable habitat for badgers and a singular rabbit hole (**Fig 6**) found on site, the site is considered to provide **low potential** for foraging and commuting Badgers as well as other terrestrial mammals (such as Hedgehogs).

Figure 6. View of the small mammal hole identified to likely be a rabbit burrow (taken October 2025).



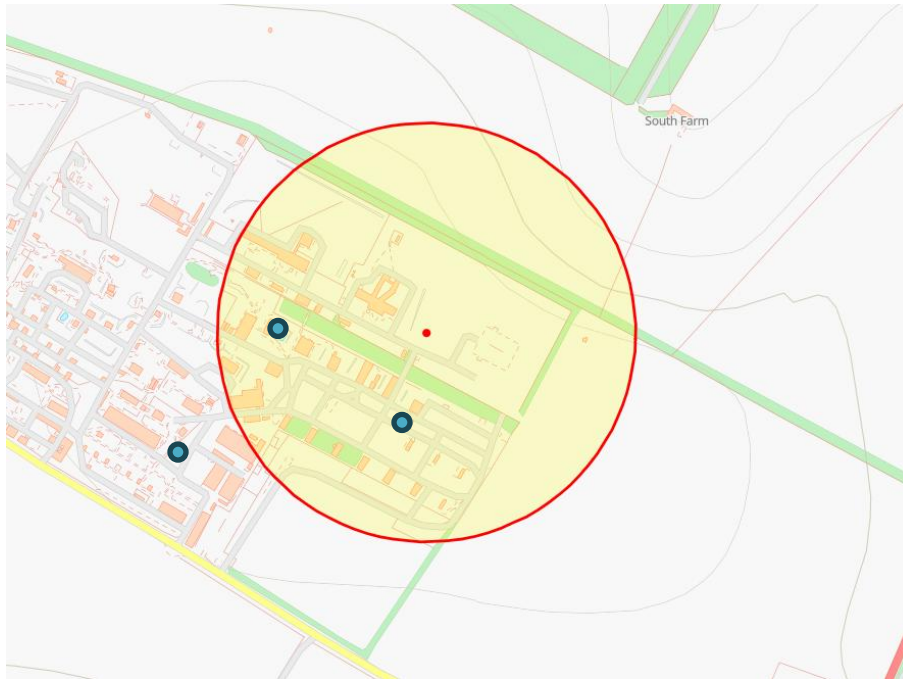
4.5 Reptiles

Using freely available online resources, no records of reptiles were found within 2km of the site. The grassland on site is managed to a very short sward height and therefore does not offer the structure and heterogeneity favored by common reptiles. Therefore, it is considered that site offers ***negligible potential*** of common reptiles.

4.6 Great Crested Newts

4.6.1 Waterbodies

Two waterbodies were identified within 250m of the site (**Fig 7**). A third waterbody was also identified within 500m of the site.

Figure 7. Waterbodies identified within 250-500m of the site (MAGIC Maps 2025).

4.6.2 Habitat Suitability Index Assessment (HSI)

The two waterbodies (**Fig 8 - 10**) within 250m and the third located within 500m of the site were subject to HSI assessments during the walkover in October 2025. The results are presented in **Table 2** below.

Table 2. Results of the HSI assessment conducted in October 2025.

Category	Pond 1		Pond 2		Pond 3	
Location	Zone A	1	Zone A	1	Zone A	1
Pond area	50-100m2	0.1	50-100m2	0.1	50-100m2	0.1
Pond Drying	Never Dries	0.9	Never Dries	0.9	Never Dries	0.9
Water Quality	Moderate	0.67	Poor	0.33	Moderate	0.67
Shade	0-60%	1	0-60%	1	0-60%	1
Fowl	Absent	1	Absent	1	Absent	1
Fish	Absent	1	Absent	1	Major	0.01
Ponds within 1km	4	0.72	4	0.72	4	0.72
Terrestrial Habitat	Poor	0.33	Poor	0.33	Poor	0.33
Macrophytes	6-10%	0.4	46-50%	0.8	1-5%	0.35
Result	0.55599	Below Average	0.59589	Below Average	0.34615	Poor

Figure 8. View of pond 1 (taken October 2025).



Figure 9. View of the pond 2 (taken October 2025).



Figure 10. View of the pond 3 (taken October 2025).



4.6.3 Site Assessment

Using freely available online resources, no records of GCN were found within 2km of the site. Similar to reptiles, the grassland on site is managed to a short sword height and doesn't offer the structure and heterogeneity favored by GCN. The waterbodies in proximity to the site were all found to be of poor or below average suitability for GCN. Considering this and the lack of local records, the site is **negligible** for GCN.

4.7 Hazel Dormouse

Using freely available online resources, no records of Hazel Dormice were found within 2km of the site. The habitats present on site are lacking in suitability for Hazel Dormouse. The line of trees present along the northern site boundary has limited understory and lacks the connectivity favored by Dormice. Therefore, the site is considered to be of **negligible potential** for Hazel Dormice.

4.8 Breeding and Nesting Birds

The tree line is suitable for some nesting birds. Additionally, the arable land and woodland located within a short range of the site provide ideal habitats for foraging. Therefore, the site is considered to be of **moderate potential** for breeding and nesting birds.

5.0 LIKELY ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS IN ABSENCE OF MITIGATION

5.1 Introduction

The CIEEM guidelines (CIEEM 2018) require that the potential impacts of the proposals should be considered in absence of mitigation. In order for a significant adverse effect to occur, the feature being affected must be at least of local value. However, in some cases, features of less than local value may be protected by legislation and/or policy and these are also considered within the assessment. Although significant effects may be identified at this stage of the assessment, it is often possible to provide appropriate mitigation.

5.2 Site Preparation and Construction

5.2.1 Impacts to Habitats

The proposals involve works to the existing building, as well as loss of modified grassland on site considered to be of value at the **Site level** of significance. Notwithstanding this, there is a line of trees, considered to be of **Local level** of significance, adjacent to the northern boundary that has the potential to be impacted by the construction. As such, in the absence of mitigation, an **adverse impact** is **possible** to habitats of **Site – Local value**.

5.2.2 Impacts to Wildlife

5.2.2.1 Bats

The buildings on site have been considered negligible potential for roosting bats therefore it is considered unlikely roosting bats will be negatively impacted. However, the site has low potential for foraging and commuting bats as the woodland provides opportunities for commuting routes across the site. The woodland is to be fully retained and will not be impacted upon by the proposals. In the absence of mitigation, due to the increase in external lighting and disturbance during construction, a **minor adverse impact** is possible at the **local level**.

5.2.2.2 Badgers

The proposed work may require the creation of some excavations. This may lead to Badgers and other mammals becoming trapped or injured during work. Therefore, in the absence of mitigation an **adverse impact** is possible at the **local level**.

5.2.2.3 Breeding and Nesting birds

The line of trees present on site has been identified to be of moderate potential for breeding birds. The line of trees is to be fully retained and will not be impacted upon by the proposals, therefore any adverse impact will be **negligible**.

5.3 Site Operation

5.3.1 Impacts to Wildlife

The development may result in an increase in lighting within the general area from external lights. This can affect the behavior, particularly foraging, of nocturnal wildlife. Therefore, an ***adverse impact*** is ***likely*** on Badgers, bats and nocturnal birds.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

The below sections outline recommendations for proposed mitigation and compensation that is appropriate and proportionate. In addition to this, measures are outlined to protect the existing features of value and provide enhancements post-development.

6.2 Protection of Trees

The trees to be retained will be protected from damage during the works. There will be a 5m buffer from the tree trunks which will be fenced using Heras fencing or similar to prevent access by machinery or contractors. This buffer will ensure that all retained trees are appropriately protected.

6.3 Bats

6.3.1 Sensitive Lighting for Nocturnal Species

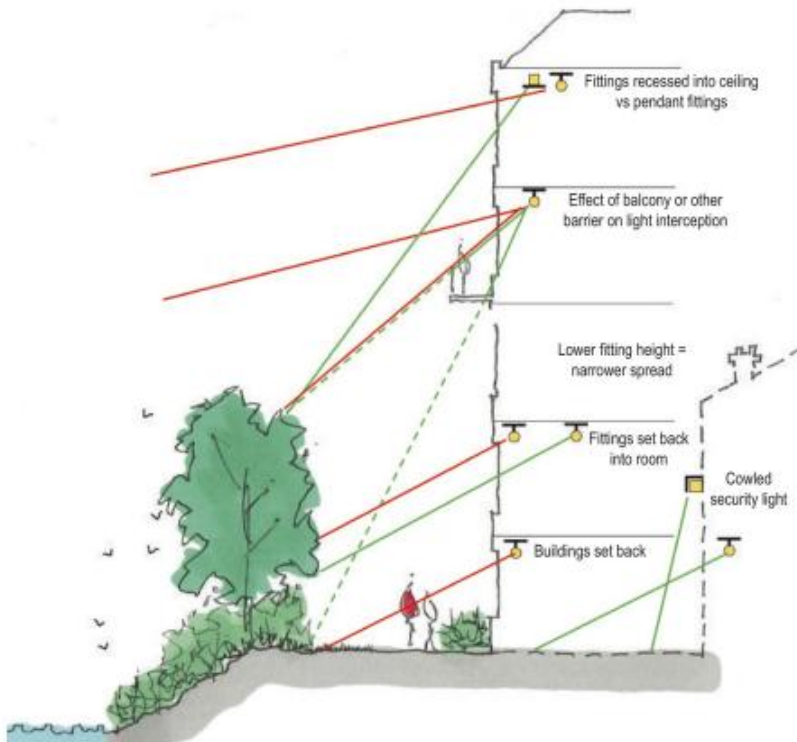
It is uncertain whether any lighting will be used within the proposed development. However, it is likely it will be required during the darker months. It is recommended that any lighting complies with the following the newly published *Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at night* (ILP / BCT, 2023) produced via a collaboration between the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) and the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), which outlines the latest recommendations to minimize the impacts of increased artificial lighting on bats. The key recommendations within this document have been outlined below and will be implemented as far as is practicable:

'Light sources, lamps, LEDs and their fittings come in a myriad of different specifications which a lighting professional can help to select. However, the following should be considered when choosing luminaires and their potential impact on Key Habitats and features:

- *All luminaires will lack UV elements when manufactured. Metal halide, compact fluorescent sources should not be used*
- *LED luminaires will be used where possible due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good color rendition and dimming capability*
- *A warm white light source (2700Kelvin or lower) will be adopted to reduce blue light component*
- *Light sources will feature peak wavelengths higher than 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats (Stone, 2012)*
- *Internal luminaires can be recessed (as opposed to using a pendant fitting - See **Fig 11**) where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill*
- *Waymarking inground markers (low output with cowls or similar to minimise upward light spill) to delineate path edges (see Case Study 1)*
- *Column heights will be carefully considered to minimise light spill and glare visibility. This should be balanced with the potential for increased numbers of columns and upward light reflectance as with bollards*
- *Only luminaires with a negligible or zero Upward Light Ratio, and with good optical control, should be considered - See ILP GN01*

- Luminaires will always be mounted horizontally, with no light output above 90° and/or no upward tilt
- Where appropriate, external security lighting will be set on motion sensors and set to as short a timer as the risk assessment will allow. For most general residential purposes, a 1 or 2 minute timer is likely to be appropriate
- Use of a Central Management System (CMS) with additional web-enabled devices to light on demand Use of motion sensors for local authority street lighting may not be feasible unless the authority has the potential for smart metering through a CMS
- The use of bollard or low-level downward-directional luminaires is strongly discouraged. This is due to a considerable range of issues, such as unacceptable glare, poor illumination efficiency, unacceptable upward light output, increased upward light scatter from surfaces and poor facial recognition which makes them unsuitable for most sites. Therefore, they should only be considered in specific cases where the lighting professional and project manager are able to resolve these issues. See Case Study 6
- Only if all other options have been explored, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres can be used to reduce light spill and direct it only to where it is needed. However, due to the lensing and fine cut-off control of the beam inherent in modern LED luminaires, the effect of cowls and baffles is often far less than anticipated and so should not be relied upon solely’.

Figure 11. Internal lighting mitigation options (ILP 2023).



6.4 Badgers

During the construction phase, any open excavations left overnight should either be covered to prevent commuting Badgers falling in or escape ladders should be used to prevent them from becoming trapped. Any open pipework should be checked and then capped nightly.

6.5 Avoidance of Impacts to Breeding and Nesting Birds

The line of trees is to be retained during the proposals, however if works are required to the trees, in order to avoid disturbance of breeding and nesting birds or damage to their nests, any proposed works to the trees should avoid bird nesting season (typically March – August, dependent on weather). If this is not possible, these habitats should be thoroughly checked by an ecologist immediately prior to work. If any active nests are found, they should be left undisturbed with a suitable buffer within which works cannot take place (ca. 5m) until nestlings have fledged.

6.6 Enhancements

6.6.1 Bats

To provide features suitable for roosting bats on site, the following woodcrete models will also be erected on suitable retained trees around the site's boundary:

- 1 Vivara Pro Miramare Large WoodStone bat box
- 1 Vivara Pro Harlech WoodStone bat box

The woodcrete bat boxes will be erected by or under the supervision of an ecologists to ensure they are placed in the most appropriate / effective locations.

Figure 12. Vivara Pro Harlech WoodStone bat box which will be erected on retained trees in or near the site.



6.6.2 Birds

In order to provide additional nesting opportunities for local bird assemblages identified on site, bird boxes will be erected within a woodland habitat. These will comprise of Vivara Pro Seville 32mm Woodstone nest boxes, Vivara Pro Seville 28mm Woodstone nest boxes and Vivara Pro Barcelona Woodstone Open nest boxes. One of each will be installed onto mature trees adjacent to the site.

Figure 13. A Vivara Pro Seville 28mm Woodstone nest box.



7.0 CONCLUSION

A Preliminary Ecological Assessment was undertaken on a parcel of land on Chemring Countermeasures in Salisbury in relation to the proposed development. It is considered that the site has the low potential for commuting and foraging badgers and moderate potential to support breeding and nesting birds. Therefore, precautionary methods to be followed during the works have been recommended. Finally, several ecological features have been recommended to enhance the site's value for wildlife and increase biodiversity in the local area.

8.0 REFERENCES

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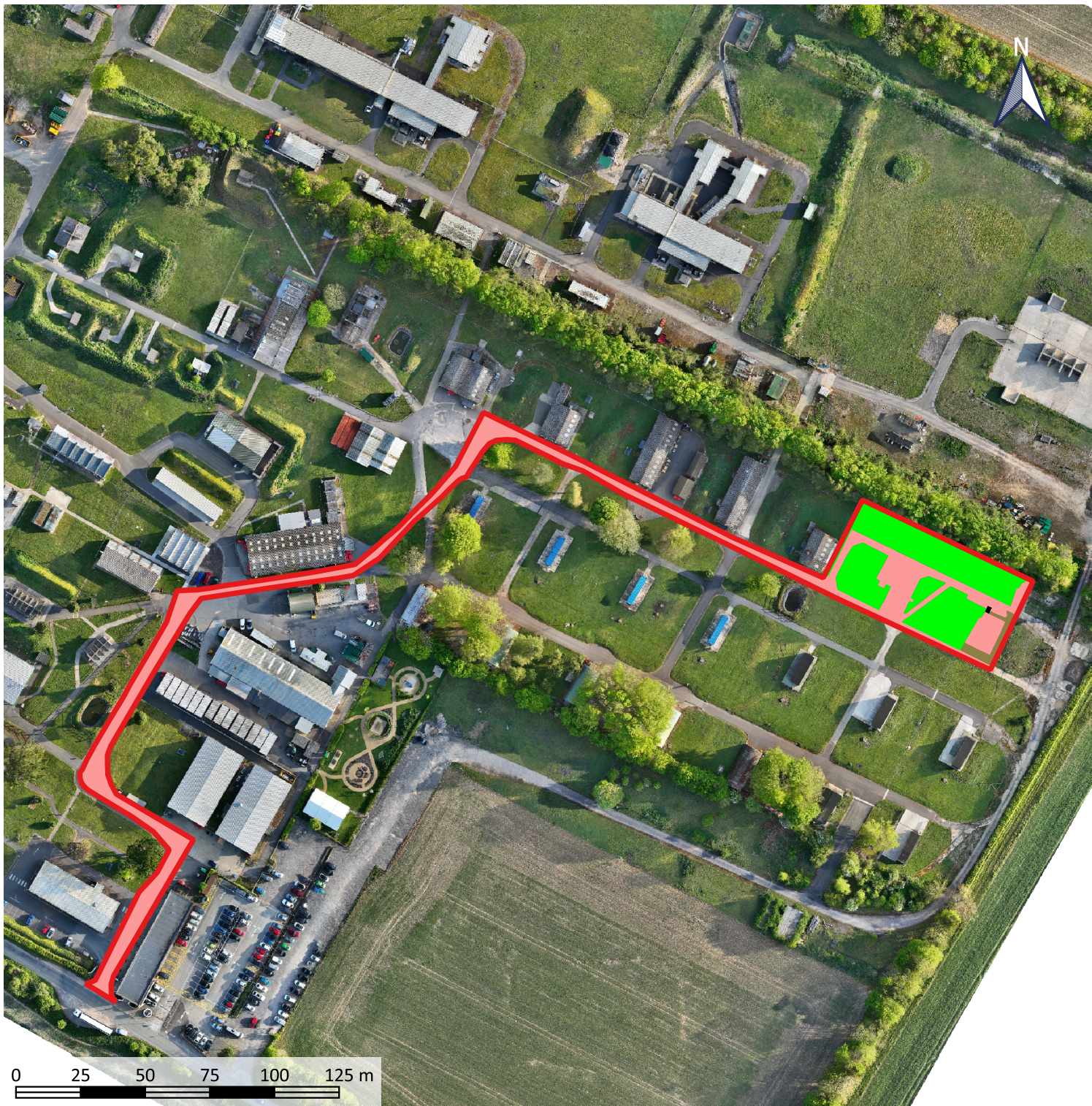
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APPENDIX I – UKHABS MAPS



0 25 50 75 100 125 m

Legend

-  Site boundary
-  Modified grassland (g4)
-  Developed land. sealed surface (u1b)
-  Buildings (u1b5)
-  Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface (u1c)



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Map	UK Habs Map
Site	Chemring Coutermeasures
Client	Atlas Planning
Date	11/12/2025

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Legend

-  Site boundary
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