

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL AND
ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

LAND SOUTH OF LEWIS COURT, SOUTHWICK,
WILTSHIRE

By

stark ecology^{ltd}

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INTRODUCTION

Stark Ecology Ltd was asked by Ashford Homes (South Western) Limited to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land south of Lewis Court, Southwick. This is to inform a planning application for the construction of nine new dwellings with associated access and infrastructure.

The site is c.0.5Ha with its centre at OS Grid Reference ST842549 and is to the southeast of Southwick, a village which is to the southwest of Trowbridge. The site is bordered by residential development to the north and south, a busy road (Wynsome Street) to the west and open countryside supporting mixed farmland with excellent connectivity to hedgerow networks to the east. In the wider landscape Southwick is surrounded by mixed farmland with good hedgerow networks.



Fig 1: The site is to the southeast of Southwick is surrounded by mixed farmland.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was carried out by Georgie Starkie BSc (Hons) MSc MRSB on 9th January 2025 when the weather was dry with some cloud and no wind. The temperature was approximately 0°C.

A follow-up survey to further assess the on-site habitats and carry out a Condition Assessment was carried out by Dominic Price FCMA on 11th July 2025 when the weather was clear, dry and sunny with no wind. The temperature was c.30°C.

The site was found to be suitable to support a range of protected species and so further surveys were carried out during 2025:

- Breeding bird surveys were carried out by Gareth Harris MCIEEM between April and July (inclusive).

- Gareth Harris (Natural England Class 3 and 4 Bat Licence Number 2015-11684-CLS-CLS) carried out static monitoring of bat activity over the site from April to October (inclusive).
- Night time bat walkover surveys supplemented the static monitoring of bat activity over the site and were conducted once per season by Georgie Starkie and Richard Codlin (Natural England Class 2 Bat Licence).
- Nest tube surveys for hazel dormouse were carried out by Georgie Starkie (Natural England survey licence number 2020-46689-CLS-CLS) between April and October (inclusive).
- Reptile surveys were carried out between April and September 2025 by Georgie Starkie and Richard Codlin.

This report has been updated by Georgie Starkie in February 2026 to address comments received from the Wiltshire Ecologist in January 2026 and an amendment to the site layout. All changes to this report are highlighted in blue.

METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) database was consulted for details of protected habitats within 2km of the site. Details of European Protected Species licences granted by Natural England for work within 2km were also sought using the MAGIC website.

A data search for records of protected habitats and species within 2km of the site was requested from the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC).

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

The site was surveyed according to the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal set out by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), in which the habitats present on site are classified (according to The UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0). Any signs of protected or notable species were also recorded.

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, 2nd edition. 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.

A development may have ecological effects beyond its site boundaries, therefore the CIEEM guidelines require that the 'zone of influence' be identified. Due to the relatively small size of this development, for the majority of ecological features the zone of influence is considered unlikely to extend beyond the footprint of the works and immediately adjacent habitat. Without mitigation, the proposed development may result in the following biophysical changes during construction and/or operation:

- Loss of and damage to habitats within or adjacent to the footprint of the development and construction zone.
- Any loss or damage of habitats could result in death and/or injury to protected species should they be present.
- Disturbance of immediately adjacent habitats and any wildlife using them.

Breeding Bird Surveys

A breeding bird survey was conducted following the new Bird Survey Guidelines (Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group, accessed 2024, <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org>).

“While there are a number of existing approaches to surveying birds in the breeding season, including territory mapping options such as the Common Bird Census (CBC) (Marchant, 1980) and citizen science approaches such as the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), these methodologies were/are designed to monitor long-term trends in bird populations at a national level. As such they are broadly unsuitable for fine-scale applications, such as ecological impact assessments, which are often undertaken in a single season. As a result, there is an absence of a clear methodology for undertaking ornithological surveys in the bird breeding season. It is the purpose of these guidelines, to address this gap.

“The guidelines are loosely based on the CBC technique, making use of repeated visits in a single season (albeit fewer visits compared to CBC recommendations) and some simplified elements of territory mapping. However, where CBC asks exactly how many individuals are nesting (or holding territory) in a given area, the method presented here seeks to measure in what way, if at all, a given area is important to avian diversity, what species could potentially be breeding and, therefore, what the impacts of the project or development being considered are likely to be.”

A detailed survey methodology is found on the Bird Survey Guidelines website, but an abridged version follows:

Survey effort & dates

Six survey visits are typically recommended, spanning the period late March to early July. *“The bird breeding season is generally acknowledged to occur from late February to early August inclusive, although the majority of breeding activity occurs between March and early July. Therefore, as a general framework, breeding bird survey visits should be spread evenly between late March and early July in order to ensure that the surveys cover resident breeders which start breeding early, as well as migrant breeders which arrive later.”*

Survey visits commenced in early April, and were completed by mid-July, spanning the full survey period. Five dawn visits and one dusk visit were completed, in line with recommendations.

The survey dates were 1st April, 22nd April, 13th May, 8th June, 24th June (dusk) and 8th July 2025.

Survey timings

Five of the visits were undertaken at dawn, and a sixth was undertaken at dusk in order to record crepuscular and nocturnal species such as owls, nightjar, nightingale, grasshopper warbler etc. Generally, surveys of the breeding bird community should start between half an hour before sunrise and half an hour after sunrise. Surveys should typically be concluded by around mid-morning (10–11 am). Dusk surveys commence before sunset and extend at least 1 hour after sunset.

Survey conditions

Surveys were undertaken in good weather conditions, avoiding heavy rain, strong winds (Beaufort force >5) and where visibility/detection is negatively affected (e.g., fog, excessive disturbance).

Table 1: Survey dates & conditions

Visit	Date	Start time	Weather conditions
1	01/04/2025	07:00	Frost, 4C, still, 0/0 cloud cover, dry
2	22/04/2025	08:30	Still, sunny, 1/8 cloud cover, dry but dewy overnight
3	13/05/2025	08:00	8/8 cloud cover, dry overnight but spotting rain in morning, 12C, still
4	08/06/2025	08:30	Warm, 13C, sunny, still, <1/8 cloud cover, heavy rain yesterday
5	24/06/2025	21:00 (sunset 21:26)	18C (max 23 C today), dry, still, 0/8 cloud cover.
6	08/07/2025	07:30	15C, light breeze, <1/8 cloud cover, dry, dry overnight.

Field methods

A survey transect was walked by an experienced ornithologist (Gareth Harris MSc MCIEEM), who walked at a slow pace, taking in all habitat features on the site, including scrub, grassland and roadside verges. This ensured that all parts of the site were adequately covered.

All species encountered on the site or adjacent land were recorded on a field map using the BTO species and activity codes, to denote behaviour. Birds overhead not associated with the site were also noted, as well as birds feeding overhead.

Activity recorded included singing, calling, alarm-calling, nest building, food/faecal sac carrying, display/courtship and entering occupied nest sites.

Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Bat Activity

Surveys undertaken April to October 2025 inclusive.

Two monitoring points were used:

- Location 1 South. ST 84274 54938 (Wildlife Acoustic SongMeter Mini Bat 2)
- Location 2 North. ST 84316 54999 (Wildlife Acoustic SongMeter Mini Bat 2)

In all cases, omni-directional microphones were used, but efforts were made to ensure that microphones were pointing over open space and not blocked by vegetation or other obstructions, that microphones would not be impacted by rustling leaves or running water, and that microphones pointed towards the likely commuting routes and foraging areas of bats. i.e., every effort was made to maximise the recording of bat passes.

Surveys were undertaken followed standard guidance provided by Collins (2016), English Nature (2004) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2004).

These detectors are full spectrum detectors that are triggered automatically to record bat echolocation calls. They can be deployed and left to remotely record bat activity for a period of several nights. The detectors were programmed to begin recording 30 minutes before sunset until 30 minutes after sunrise, which allowed continuous monitoring to take place during the period when bats are active. The SM Mini Bat 2 is pre-programmed with the latitude and longitude of the survey location enabling the software to calculate the local sunset and sunrise times.

Sound analyses

Bat detectors were programmed to record to uncompressed .wav files, ensuring high quality recordings.

All sound data were processed manually, according to parameters described in Russ et al (2021). Later in the summer, analyses were undertaken using the BTO Acoustic Pipeline in order to manage the analysis of many thousands of bush crickets.

The British Trust for Ornithology's [Acoustic Pipeline](#); this recently-launched platform enables efficient processing of large datasets, and identification of sound files to species level, with the confidence levels indicated. It includes classifiers for the identification of bats (and other wildlife such as birds, crickets, small mammals) across Europe from high quality sound files. It processes sound files in the UK using regional classifiers enabling interpretation of results at a county scale (i.e., it takes into account the actual geographic distribution of individual bat species).

Note that the Acoustic Pipeline is currently the only platform able to identify bats using their social calls and is the only platform able to identify multiple species within the same sound file. Confidence in the Acoustic Pipeline is high following "training" of classifiers with thousands of sound files of confirmed species identity.

Sound files were uploaded and analysed by the Acoustic Pipeline; the resulting output was filtered to exclude bycatch of non-target species (such as crickets) and to exclude identifications made with confidence levels below 0.6.

Identifications are checked manually, using Wildlife Acoustic's Kaleidoscope Viewer, as follows-

- All records of greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe, barbastelle bat, Leisler's bat, and Nathusius' pipistrelle are checked. Erroneous records are discarded or re-assigned.
- A proportion of noctule, serotine, brown long-eared bat, Daubenton's bat, and Natterer's bat are checked. Erroneous records are discarded or re-assigned.
- Records of Brandt's bat, whiskered bat, and Bechstein's bat are assessed – obviously incorrect records are discarded, and other records are accepted with caution. Records of whiskered & Brandt's bat are recorded aggregated.
- Soprano pipistrelle and common pipistrelle records are accepted.
- Any other bat species will be exceptionally rare/previously unrecorded in the county, and records will be assessed further.

Calls were checked manually in Kaleidoscope Viewer and were analysed and identified in line with Russ et al (2021), Middleton (2020) and Middleton et al (2014). For the purpose of the analysis a bat pass is defined as a single, uninterrupted sequence of echolocation calls lasting a maximum of 15 seconds. Only call sequences of three or more pulses were identified and labelled.

The resulting data were pivot-tabled in Excel and presented as calls by species, by night.

Where the Acoustic Pipeline identified calls of small mammals, particularly shrews and hazel dormouse, these records were checked and included in the report.

Bat Activity Surveys (Transects)

To supplement the static monitoring carried out at this site three transect surveys were conducted, each commencing at sunset and continuing for three hours after sunset. The site boundaries were walked at a slow and continuous pace and bat activity was recorded using EM Touch Pro 2 detectors.

Surveys were carried out on 30th April, 3rd July and 25th August 2025.

Hazel Dormouse

This site is small and so it was not possible to fully comply with the survey methods set out in the Dormouse Conservation Handbook (2nd Edition, which was the current version at the time surveys were instructed). Twenty dormouse nest tubes were installed in the hedgerows and scrub around the site boundaries on 11th April 2025. They were then checked by a suitably licensed ecologist (Georgie Starkie, Natural England survey licence number 2020-46689-CLS-CLS) on 22nd May, 11th June, 11th July, 22nd August, 27th September and 16th October 2025.

Reptiles

The grassland and scrub edge were surveyed for reptiles in accordance with Froglife Advice Sheet 9. On 11th April 2025 refugia were laid in accessible areas of the site that were suitable for reptile species and left for more than seven days before being checked on seven occasions when the weather was suitable.

Surveys were carried out on 15th May, 22nd May, 14th June, 12th July, 8th August, 25th August and 27th September 2025.

Limitations

Breeding Bird Surveys

Spring 2025 offered significant challenges for ecology surveys. Winter 2024-25 suffered record-breaking rainfall, and this continued into March 2025. Conversely, late March, through April to June, endured one of the driest springs on record, with drought declared in some parts of the UK.

Whilst the weather conditions presented few constraints on fieldwork, there were impacts upon the bird breeding cycle. Insect abundance was observably higher than 2024, which itself was one of the worst trending years for invertebrate abundance, as measured by the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and Bumblebee Conservation

Trust's BeeWalks. Weather conditions were typically favourable to returning migrant breeding birds, and the breeding season appeared productive for many species, with breeding commencing earlier, and some species moving onto productive second and third broods.

Bat Activity Surveys

Bat surveys are affected by a range of factors which affect bat activity levels, including stage of bat life cycle, weather conditions, food availability, presence of predators and moon phase (with bright full moons known to impact bat activity levels).

During some periods of monitoring detector batteries did not allow recording for the full monitoring period. This is due to particularly high levels of activity by crickets during 2025.

Hazel Dormouse

Some nest tubes were not accessible for much of the summer due to very dense scrub growth.

Due to the small size of the site it was only possible to install 20 nest tubes.

Reptiles

The summer of 2025 was very hot and as such opportunities to carry out reptile refugia surveys were limited during the height of summer.

General Limitations

Surveys provide a brief snapshot of the site at the time the work was carried out and while every step was taken to ensure that the results of the survey are accurate, features of ecological value can change and therefore this report is only valid for 12 months.

RESULTS

Desk Study

Habitats

There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 2km of the land south of Lewis Court and the site does not lie within the core zones associated with the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC. It is within the Yellow (Medium Risk) Zone of the Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy Area.

There is only one Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 2km of the land south of Lewis Court:

- The Brokerswood and Hazel Wood LWS is c.1.9km to the south and is a fairly large area of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland containing a small holiday park.

In addition, the Southwick Country Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is c.850m to the northwest.

The site does not support any Priority Habitats and there are no Priority Habitats immediately adjacent to it.

Species

The data search results include records of thirteen bat species within 2km of the site, including the following identified to species level:

- Greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
- Lesser horseshoe *R. hipposideros*
- Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*
- Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii*
- Daubenton's *M. daubentonii*
- Whiskered *M. mystacinus*
- Natterer's *M. nattereri*
- Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*
- Leisler's *Nyctalus leisleri*

- Noctule *N. noctula*
- Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- Soprano pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*
- Brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*.

The data search returned records of water vole *Arvicola amphibius*, hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, otter *Lutra lutra*, badger *Meles meles* and hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* within 2km of the land to the south of Lewis Court.

The data search returned records of common frog *Rana temporaria*, common toad *Bufo bufo* and great crested newt *Triturus cristata* within 2km of the site. All the records of great crested newt are more than 1km from the site. All four common reptile species (slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, grass snake *Natrix helvetica*, adder *Vipera berus* and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*) have been recorded within the search radius.

The data search returned records of a wide range of bird species within the search radius, the following are considered to be most relevant to the site:

- Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, greenfinch *Chloris chloris*, dunnock *Prunella modularis* and starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, all of which could rely on the on-site habitats when foraging.
- Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*, barn owl *Tyto alba* and red kite *Milvus milvus*, which could all use the site when hunting.
- Swift *Apus apus*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus* and house martin *Delichon urbicum* which are closely associated with the built environment and could benefit from the development proposals at this location.

There are two records on the MAGIC website of licences granted by Natural England for work affecting European Protected Species at locations within 2km:

- In 2011, at a site which is c.450m to the northwest, a licence was granted for work resulting in the destruction of a resting place used by common pipistrelle, serotine and brown long-eared bats.
- In 2017, at a site which is c.1.7km to the southeast, a licence was granted for work resulting in damage to a breeding place and the destruction of a resting place used by lesser horseshoe bats.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

The site comprises the following habitats, shown in Appendix 1:

- Other neutral grassland
- Mixed scrub
- Native species hedgerows
- Tree

Other Neutral Grassland

The habitat here comprised a relatively homogenous area of rank species poor grassland dominated by mature tussocks of false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. The relative density of this meant few other species were managing to gain any dominance but there was a relatively good overall abundance of grasses in total including cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, meadow barley *Hordeum brachyantherum*, smaller cat's-tail *Phleum bertolonii* and creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*.

Forbs were similarly low in occurrence and tended to be typified by species associated with high nutrients and disturbance such as creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, teasel *Dipsacus*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and hedge bindweed *Calystegia sepium*. In some areas the bramble had formed dense stands.

Due to the high abundance of false oatgrass, this habitat was a close match for g3c5 Arrhenatherum neutral grassland. This habitat type is typical of unmanaged grasslands, characterised by dense tussocky growth and species-poor swards. The habitat condition assessment showed this area to be in Poor condition (see Appendix 2).



Fig 2: The site is predominantly Other Neutral Grassland.

This photo taken facing east on 9th January 2025.



Fig 3: The site is predominantly Other Neutral Grassland.

This photo taken facing west on 9th January 2025.

Mixed Scrub

At the eastern end of the site is an area of dense scrub which is predominantly bramble but with blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* also quite abundant.

The scrub is considered to be in Moderate condition (see Appendix 2).



Fig 4: Mixed Scrub at the eastern end of the site.

This photo taken on 9th January 2025.

Native Species Hedgerows

The north, south and west boundaries of the site are formed by native species hedgerows. Hedgerow references are shown in the Habitat Map in Appendix 1.

H1: This hedgerow forms the western boundary of the site along the road. It comprises elder *Sambucus nigra*, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel *Corylus avellana* and bramble. This hedgerow is considered to be in Moderate condition (see Appendix 2).



Fig 5: H1 forms the western site boundary along the road.

This photo taken facing northwest on 9th January 2025.

H2: The northern site boundary is formed by a regularly cut hedgerow which comprises blackthorn, hawthorn, elder and bramble. This hedgerow is also in Moderate condition (see Appendix 2).

H3: The southern boundary of the site comprises a gappy hedgerow of bramble, hawthorn, blackthorn and amenity species which have encroached onto the site from neighbouring gardens. This hedgerow is in Poor condition (see Appendix 2).

Tree

There is a single apple *Malus* sp. tree at the northwest corner of the site.



Fig 6: There is a single apple tree at the northwest corner of the site.

This photo taken facing east on 9th January 2025.

This tree is considered to be in Moderate condition (see Appendix 2).

Breeding Birds

A total of 30 bird species were recorded across these surveys, including many registrations of birds flying overhead, and foraging on/over neighbouring land. A full list of these species, their conservation status and their status on site are detailed in Appendix 3.

Eight species were recorded flying over, or migrating, over the site, and not actually utilising it. These were swallow *Hirundo rustica*, starling, Canada goose *Branta canadensis*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*, rook *Corvus frugilegus*, jackdaw *Corvus monedula* and jay *Garrulus glandarius*. Thirty-three

species were using the development site, with many considered territorial, but a few considered likely migrants (e.g. jay).

Species recorded have been classified as follows, in line with the Bird Survey Guidelines:

A - Priority species recorded breeding on site

Red listed species of Conservation Concern: six species recorded, of which only greenfinch and house sparrow were using the site; skylark *Alauda arvensis*, starling, linnet *Carduelis cannabina* and yellowhammer were primarily using residential areas or farmland adjacent, and were not recorded within the development site.

Two colonies of house sparrow were recorded using neighbouring properties, with the larger colony using the small holding to the south-east, and the smaller colony apparently using the new housing development to the north. It is possible that these two colonies are linked or are in fact the same colony. House sparrows were noted foraging within the development site and also socialising in the hedgerows and scrub on the site boundaries.

Three or more territories of greenfinch were noted, with males singing from trees and buildings on adjacent land as well as within the development site.

Amber Listed species of Conservation Concern: Eight species were noted of which five species were considered breeding within the development site (wood pigeon *Columba palumbus*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, common whitethroat *Sylvia communis*) and three species were recorded commuting overhead (mallard, lesser black-backed gull, and rook).

Birds listed on Schedule 1: None.

See Table 2 for the estimated numbers of territories recorded for each priority species recorded. The location of estimated breeding territories of priority species is presented in Appendix 3 (omitting those species which were recorded only once and those species only foraging on site or flying overhead).

Table 2: Estimated territories recorded for Priority bird species.

Species	BOCC	Breeding Status	Comment	Estimate of breeding pairs
Mallard	A	n/a	Breeding offsite, observed flying over	0
Lesser black-backed gull	A	n/a	Breeding offsite, commuting overhead	0
Wood Pigeon	A	Confirmed Breeding	Multiple pairs (3+) in the hedgerows and scrub (nest found)	3+
Skylark	R	n/a	2+ territories on adjacent farmland	0
Wren	A	Probable Breeding	Multiple pairs (5+)	5+
Dunnock	A	Confirmed Breeding	Multiple pairs (4-5 territories), juveniles noted	4-5
Song thrush	A	Confirmed Breeding	1 pair using east end of site and scrub, juveniles noted	1
Common whitethroat	A	Probable Breeding	2+ territories.	2+
Rook	A	n/a	observed flying over site	0
Starling	R	Probable Breeding	Breeding offsite, on adjacent properties.	0
House sparrow	R	Confirmed Breeding	1-2 colonies, nest sites observed, but off site.	0
Linnet	R	Possible breeding	4 birds noted on field margin on one occasion, off site	0
Greenfinch	R	Probable Breeding	2+ territories.	3+
Yellowhammer	R	Possible breeding	2 singing males in adjacent arable field, heard once	0

Comment upon Priority species

Thirteen Red or Amber listed species were recorded, of which mallard, lesser blacked-backed gull and rook were observed only overhead commuting. Of the

remaining ten species, skylark, linnet and yellowhammer are farmland birds that were heard from the development site but were utilising the adjacent farmland. Starling was also recorded breeding on adjacent land but not utilising the development.

The remaining seven species (wood pigeon, wren, dunnock, song thrush, whitethroat, house sparrow and greenfinch) were recorded using the development site, either or both for foraging and nesting.

Two colonies of house sparrow were recorded using neighbouring properties, with the larger colony using the small holding to the south-east, and the smaller colony apparently using the new housing development to the north. It is possible that these two colonies are linked or are in fact the same colony. House sparrows were noted foraging within the development site and also socialising in the hedgerows and scrub on the site boundaries. Nesting sites were in nest boxes (e.g. a house sparrow "terrace" located on the smallholding to the south-east) and in buildings.

These house sparrows are seen throughout the development site, utilising the foraging resources provided here and in adjacent gardens. The loss of these foraging areas will have a significant negative impact upon these breeding birds.

Similarly, greenfinch were also recorded using the boundary features and surrounding landholdings. It is not suspected that these species nested on the development site, but the location is included within their territory.

Wood pigeon, wren, dunnock, song thrush and whitethroat were breeding in the hedgerows and scrub habitat.

B - Secondary species recording breeding on site

Secondary species breeding (or suspected to be breeding) on site include robin *Erithacus rubecula*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, great tit *Parus major*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, magpie *Pica pica*, chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* and goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

C - Species recorded foraging overhead

These include swallow and starling.

D - Species recorded commuting overhead, but not associated with the site

This includes Canada goose, mallard, lesser black-backed gull, rook, jackdaw and jay.

Bats

Roosting

There are no potential roosting opportunities for bats within the survey area due to the absence of suitable buildings or other structures. The single apple tree which is within the site boundaries was inspected for evidence of or potential for bats to roost in any of the features it supports. No evidence of bats was found and the tree was considered to have Negligible potential to support a roost as cavities are open to the elements and provide no protection from the worst of the weather.

Commuting and Foraging

The grassland, scrub and hedgerow habitats within the site provide high quality habitat for bats when commuting and foraging through the surrounding landscape. Furthermore, the site is within the Yellow (Medium Risk) Zone identified in the Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy. This part of Wiltshire is particularly important for greater and lesser horseshoe bats.

The results of static monitoring carried out at this site from April to October 2025 (inclusive) are set out in Appendix 4 and summarised below.

Greater horseshoe bats were recorded at both monitoring locations during each period of monitoring from April to October 2025 (inclusive). Lesser horseshoe were less regularly recorded at the northeastern monitoring location but were detected at the southwestern location during every period of monitoring.

The following species were also frequently recorded over the site throughout the period of monitoring:

- Common pipistrelle
- Soprano pipistrelle
- Noctule
- Serotine
- Brown long-eared
- Daubenton's
- Whiskered/Brandt's
- Natterer's

Less frequently but still regularly recorded species were:

- Leisler's *N. leislerii*
- Nathusius pipistrelle *P. nathusii* (a migrant recorded passing over the site in September 2025).

Also of note are recordings of barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* during August and September 2025. Barbastelle is one of the rarest bat species in the UK and is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN.

During activity transect surveys carried out in April, July and August 2025 bat activity over the site was generally limited to commuting by noctule bats and foraging by common pipistrelle. Particularly high levels of foraging by common pipistrelle were noted over the road which forms the western site boundary during each transect survey.

Hazel Dormouse

Dormouse nests were identified in the scrub at the eastern end of the site in September 2025. The nests were woven and included green leaves, which are a distinctive feature of hazel dormouse nests and this area of the site is well connected to hedgerow networks to the east, where there are records of this species.



Fig 7: Dormouse nests in tubes installed in the scrub at the eastern end of the site.

The confirmation of presence of hazel dormouse in the scrub at the eastern end of the site means that this species is assumed to be present throughout the hedgerows and scrub across this site.

Badgers

No badger setts were identified within the survey areas, and no snuffle holes or latrines were noted. The onsite habitats provide suitable habitat for badgers as they commute and forage through the surrounding landscape.

Great Crested Newts and other amphibians

The results of the data search from WSBRC included no records of great crested newts within 1km but several records between 1 and 2km from the site. A review of OS Maps identified only one pond within 500m of the site and this is shown in woodland c.150m to the south. A letter to the owners of this pond requesting access to survey it was not answered but later communication with them confirmed that this pond no longer exists. As there are no longer any ponds within 500m of the site it is considered unsuitable to support great crested newts as it lacks connectivity to suitable breeding habitat.

The results of the data search included records of common frog and common toad and the site provides suitable habitat for both species.

Reptiles

Reptile surveys carried out during 2025 have identified a breeding population of slow worm within the site.

Full results of the refugia surveys carried out at this site are set out in Appendix 5.

Other Species

Hedgehog

The site supports suitable habitat for hedgehogs to use when commuting and foraging through the wider landscape at night, and areas of dense scrub provide potential refuge sites for hedgehog.

Brown hare

The grassland and scrub within the extension area are suitable for brown hare, particularly as they are well connected to further suitable grassland habitats in the wider landscape.

Roe Deer

Roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* have been recorded resting up within the site regularly throughout the course of surveys carried out during 2025.

LEGISLATION & POLICY

Relevant Legislation

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the primary piece of legislation by which biodiversity in the UK is protected. The most relevant areas of the Act to development related activities are:

- The identification and subsequent protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), which prohibits damaging activities
- The protection of certain species listed in Schedule 5, which prohibits killing, injury, disturbance, damage and/or destruction of breeding sites and/or resting places and sale (it should be noted that all parts of this protection do not apply to all Scheduled species)
- The protection of wild birds and their nests, which prohibits damage or destruction of nests whilst in use.
- Measures to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (known as the 'Habitats Regulations'), pass two EC Directives into UK law. The Regulations protect sites and species deemed to be of conservation importance across Europe. The most relevant parts of the Regulations to development related activities are:

- The protection of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- The protection of species listed within Schedule 2 of the Regulations, which prohibits killing, injury, disturbance, damage and/or destruction of breeding sites and/or resting places and sale, this confers some level of habitat protection. 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) mitigation licence must first be obtained from Natural England.

Species-specific Legislation

Birds

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 protects bird species in the UK and makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take a wild bird;

- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Other offences under this legislation relate to taking and possessing specimens or the eggs of wild birds.

Furthermore, there are additional penalties for intentionally or recklessly disturbing a species listed on Schedule 1 of the same Act, including while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young or intentionally or recklessly disturbing the dependent young of such a species. No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development. Licences are available in certain circumstances to damage or destroy nests, but these only apply to the list of licensable activities in the Act and do not cover development. General licences are available in respect of 'pest species' but only for certain very specific purposes e.g., public health, public safety, air safety.

Bats

Bats are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure or handle a bat;
- Possess a bat (whether alive or dead);
- Disturb a roosting bat; or
- Sell (or offer for sale) a bat (without an appropriate licence).

In addition, it is an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost, whether it is currently in use or not.

Where bats are present within a feature or structure on a development site in England, a licence may be granted by Natural England for works to alter or remove the roost. Licence applications can only be made once full planning permission has been granted and a suitable mitigation strategy (set out in a detailed Method Statement) forms an essential part of this application process. Works are likely to be seasonally restricted and must be carried out in accordance with the Method Statement agreed with Natural England.

Hazel Dormouse

Dormice are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Capture, kill, disturb or injure a dormouse;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a dormouse;
- Obstruct access to breeding or resting places; or
- Possess, sell, control or transport a dormouse, whether alive or dead.

Where dormice are present within a feature or structure on a development site in England, a licence may be granted by Natural England for works to alter or remove this habitat. Licence applications can only be made once full planning permission has been granted and a suitable mitigation strategy (set out in a detailed Method Statement) forms an essential part of this application process. Works are likely to be seasonally restricted and must be carried out in accordance with the Method Statement agreed with Natural England.

Badger

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 deals solely with the protection of badgers *Meles meles* in the UK. It prohibits killing, injuring or taking badgers, damaging, destroying or otherwise interfering with a badger sett, disturbing an occupied badger sett and sale of badgers.

Common Amphibians

Common toads are listed as Species of Principal Importance in England under section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).

Reptiles

All native reptile species are protected against intentional or reckless killing or injury by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

The habitat of the four common species of reptile (common lizard, slow worm, adder *Vipera berus* and grass snake) does not receive additional protection.

Hedgehog

Hedgehogs are a Species of Principal Importance (SoPI) under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) and should, as such, be conserved through the planning process. Hedgehogs also fall under the provisions of the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996, which prevents certain cruel acts against wild mammals.

Brown Hare

Brown hare are a SoPI under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) and should, as such, be conserved through the planning process. Brown hare also fall under the provisions of the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996, which prevents certain cruel acts against wild mammals.

Rabbit and Roe Deer

Rabbits and roe deer are protected from cruelty by the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The impact of the potential direct and indirect effects arising from the construction and operation of the proposed new development on protected sites, habitats and species has been assessed. The following species have been discounted from Impact Assessment as the site is considered unsuitable to support them:

- Roosting bats
- Great crested newt

Table 3 on the following pages sets out the anticipated impacts arising from the construction and operation of the new development, includes mitigation measures to address these impacts and then summarises the residual effect of each element.

In accordance with the EcIA Guidelines, the mitigation measures adopted aim to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate the impacts of the proposed new development. The purpose and objectives of these measures are to:

- Avoid the risk of killing or injuring protected species;
- Avoid damage to retained habitats within the wider site; and
- Protect key habitat features associated with the nearby SAC, as identified by the Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy.

Description of proposed works

Nine new dwellings (with associated access and infrastructure) will be constructed on the area of Other Neutral Grassland and the western boundary hedgerow (H1) will be removed. The boundary hedgerow to the north and the scrub to the east will be retained (outside private ownership) and the southern boundary hedgerow will be improved and retained outside private ownership.

Table 3: Ecological Impacts

Ecological Feature and Impact	Effect without Mitigation	Practical Mitigation Measures	Residual Impacts after Mitigation
<u>Habitats</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC	Greater and lesser horseshoe bats have been recorded commuting and foraging over the site throughout monitoring conducted from April to October 2025 (inclusive). Without mitigation construction at this site risks severing connectivity for bats associated with the SAC.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect commuting and foraging bats from disturbance during construction, to include (but not be limited to): Adherence to strict nighttime working and lighting restrictions.	Neutral effect on the SAC.
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC	When the new dwellings are occupied there is potential for flightlines along the north and south boundaries of the site to be disrupted by	The Landscape Proposals for this site include the retention and enhancement of boundary hedgerows along the north and south boundaries of the site and the mixed scrub at the eastern end of the site.	Neutral effect on the SAC.

	light spill from the new properties and their associated infrastructure or from the removal or degradation of boundary vegetation.	A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will be produced to ensure hedgerow and scrub enhancement is carried out to ensure successful establishment. New external lighting will be designed to limit light spill onto ecologically sensitive areas to levels which would not be anticipated to result in negative impacts on bat species. Further details are set out in the Ecological Mitigation Plan (Stark Ecology Ltd, February 2026).	
<u>Commuting and Foraging Bats</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Bat species commuting and foraging through the wider landscape over the boundary hedgerows, mixed scrub and grassland.	Without mitigation, development has the potential to result in disturbance to bats commuting and foraging over the site and surroundings.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect commuting and foraging bats from disturbance during construction, to include (but not be limited to): Adherence to strict nighttime working and lighting restrictions.	Neutral effect on bats commuting and foraging.
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
Bats species commuting and foraging	Without mitigation,	The Landscape Proposals for this site	Neutral effect on bats

through the wider landscape over the mixed scrub and boundary hedgerows.	development in close proximity to habitat which is of value to bats associated with the nearby SAC when commuting and foraging could be significant at a County level.	include the retention and enhancement of boundary hedgerows along the north and south boundaries of the site and the mixed scrub at the eastern end of the site. A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will be produced to ensure hedgerow and scrub enhancement is carried out to ensure successful establishment. New external lighting will be designed to limit light spill onto ecologically sensitive areas to levels which would not be anticipated to result in negative impacts on bat species. Further details are set out in the Ecological Mitigation Plan (Stark Ecology Ltd, February 2026).	commuting and foraging.
<u>Badgers</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Harm to badgers that commute and forage through the site.	Major negative effect at Site level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect badgers from harm during construction, to include (but not be limited to): Any excavations to be covered or left with an escape route for animals	Neutral.

		which fall into excavations overnight; • Suitable and safe storage of equipment and machinery to avoid accidental harm; and • Adherence to strict nighttime working and lighting restrictions.	
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
No impacts anticipated.	Neutral.	None proposed.	Neutral.
<u>Hazel Dormouse</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Loss of habitat when the roadside hedgerow is removed and when scrub along the northern boundary of the site is removed.	Major negative effect at Local level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place for the removal of scrub and hedgerow habitat. Work to remove hazel dormouse habitat will need to be carried out under licence from Natural England. Scrub at the eastern end of the site and the hedgerows that form the north and south boundaries of the site will be retained and enhanced for the benefit of hazel dormouse.	Neutral.

<i>Operational Phase</i>			
No impacts predicted.	Neutral.	The proposals for the site include enhancement of the retained boundary hedgerows and scrub planting, the establishment and ongoing management of which will be covered by a LEMP.	Neutral.
<u>Reptiles</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Harm to reptiles that are present within the working area during site clearance and construction work.	Major negative effect at Site level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect reptiles from harm during construction, to include (but not be limited to): • Sensitive working methods and timings when carrying out initial site clearance; and • Safe storage of machinery and materials to prevent reptiles from accidental harm.	Neutral.
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
No impacts predicted.	Neutral.	The proposals for this site include the retention of boundary vegetation and the provision of a hibernacula, which will	Neutral.

		enhance opportunities for reptiles when sheltering, foraging and over the winter hibernation period.	
<u>Breeding Birds</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Vegetation removal could cause damage or destruction of active bird nests if undertaken between March and August (inclusive).	Major negative effect at Site level.	Sensitive timing of any vegetation removal to avoid the bird breeding season (March – August, inclusive). Where this is not possible, vegetation to be removed under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced ecologist. Where nests are present, vegetation removal will need to be delayed until the young have fledged and an ecologist has confirmed that the nest is no longer in use.	Neutral effect.
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
Loss of foraging habitat for house sparrow.	Major negative effect at Local level.	The proposals for this site include enhancement of boundary hedgerows and scrub, which will enhance sheltering and foraging opportunities for a range of bird species when established, including house sparrow.	Neutral.

<u>Hedgehog</u>			
<i>Construction Phase</i>			
Hedgehogs commuting through the site could become trapped in excavations or be harmed by stored materials and machinery.	Major negative effect at Site level.	A CEMP will be produced to ensure strict protocols are in place to protect hedgehogs from harm during construction, to include (but not be limited to): • Any excavations to be covered or left with an escape route for animals which fall into excavations overnight; • Suitable and safe storage of equipment and machinery to avoid accidental harm; and • Adherence to strict nighttime working and lighting restrictions.	Neutral effect.
<i>Operational Phase</i>			
Boundary fences could act as a barrier for this species when moving through the surrounding landscape.	Major negative effect at Local level.	Gaps of 12cm x 12cm will be left at the base of all new boundary fences to ensure the free movement of hedgehogs through the site and surrounding landscape.	Neutral.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Habitats

The footprint of the development will predominantly impact upon Other Neutral Grassland. One tree will need to be removed and one boundary hedgerow will be removed in order to create the new access to the site from Wynsome Street to the west.

The landscape proposals comprise the retention and improvement of the retained Mixed Scrub at the eastern end of the site and the retention and enhancement of the north and south boundary hedgerows.

Biodiversity Net Gain

The Biodiversity Net Gain Metric submitted as a separate document in support of this application confirms that:

- There will be a Habitat Unit deficit of ~~1.78~~ 1.58 which will need to be addressed through the purchase of Off-Site Units.
- The retention and enhancement of the north and south boundary hedgerows will result in a 35% improvement for Hedgerow Units, with no Off-Site provision required for this habitat type.

Full and final details of Off-Site provision is proposed to be agreed at a later stage of the planning process through the standard Biodiversity Net Gain planning condition.

Birds

The proposed development site comprises a small parcel (c.0.5ha) of undeveloped land, situated between residential development to the north, south and west, and arable agricultural land to the east. The development site is bounded by hedgerows on the north, south and west boundaries, and hedgerow and scrub on the eastern boundary. The site comprises rough grassland, largely the result of a lack of management or grazing, although there is evidence of historic interest such as anthills, and species characteristic of meadows such as black knapweed. The hedgerows are similarly unmanaged, although those boundary features associated with residential properties are subject to some management. The eastern hedgerow comprises tall, dense trees and scrub encroaching into the site.

The site is largely too small to support ground-nesting birds characteristic of open fields, such as skylark, and all nesting birds are confined to the hedgerows, scrub and adjacent gardens.

Consequently, all suitable nesting habitat is associated with the boundaries, whether gardens and residential areas, the boundary hedgerows, or the adjacent hedgerows and, scrub.

The site therefore favours species utilising either hedgerows and mature trees (such as woodpigeon, chiffchaff, blackcap, goldfinch etc) or residential areas and gardens (house sparrow, starling, robin, blackbird), and such species are more able to adapt to human disturbance and gardens.

The importance of the site is also its association with adjacent gardens and farmland. For example, the house sparrows nesting in adjacent gardens are utilising the rough grassland, hedgerows and scrub for foraging and social activity. The dunnocks, wrens and blackbirds are likewise using the same combination of habitats for foraging and nesting. Birds were frequently seen foraging in the long grass and hedgerows, and then carrying food back to nests in adjacent gardens, e.g. dunnock, wren, blackbird, blue tit, chiffchaff etc.

Furthermore, the site offers some habitat connectivity to the wider landscape, providing a green corridor through residential developments, between farmland to the east and pastures to the west.

In conclusion, the site is important for nesting and foraging birds of several species, but also for additional birds nesting offsite but utilising the site for foraging. Although there will be a loss of grassland foraging resource as a result of the proposals to develop this site the retention and enhancement of boundary vegetation will provide enhanced nesting, sheltering and foraging resources for a range of bird species.

Enhancement

The retention and enhancement of boundary hedgerows and scrub will provide improved nesting and foraging opportunities for a range of bird species that have been recorded using the site during surveys carried out in 2025.

Additional enhancement will be provided in the new dwellings with the following integrated features provided:

- At least ten [Vivara Pro WoodStone® House Sparrow Nest Box | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment](#) will be integrated below the eaves of

garages and properties that face onto retained vegetation at the site margins, particularly those that face towards the north and east.

- Swift nest boxes (eg. [PRO UK Rendered Build-In Swift Box | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment](#)) will be built into the western gable end of plots 5 and 7, the eastern gable of plot 6 and the northern gables of plots 3, 8 and 9 at a minimum height of 5m. Each of these properties will have three boxes provided, with the entrance holes at least 40cm apart.

Full details of the position of these integrated features are set out in the Ecological Mitigation Plan (Stark Ecology Ltd, February 2026).

Bats

Roosting

The proposed development will not result in any impacts on roosting bats but enhancement for them will be provided with at least five integrated bat boxes built into the new dwellings at this site. A mix of cavity and crevice boxes (eg. [Integrated Eco Bat Box | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment](#)) will be built into the south facing gables of plots 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 at a minimum height of 5m.

Full details of the position of these integrated features are set out in the Ecological Mitigation Plan (Stark Ecology Ltd, February 2026).

Commuting and Foraging

Acoustic monitoring of bat activity over the site during 2025 has confirmed regular use of the site by greater and lesser horseshoe bats. This part of Wiltshire is known to provide important habitat for both horseshoe species for which the nearby Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC is designated.

The land to the south of Lewis Court, Southwick is within the [Grey \(Medium Risk of Recreational Pressure\)](#) and [Yellow \(Medium Risk\) Zone](#) where habitat has been shown to be of importance for horseshoe species and Bechstein's bats, as set out in the Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy (TWBMS) and so there must be no net loss of commuting and foraging habitat resulting from the development proposals. [The BNG Metric \(February 2026\)](#) confirms that there will be a loss of Other Neutral Grassland and one tree which will result in a loss of 1.58 Habitat Units (58.75%) but there will be a gain of 0.28 Hedgerow Units (35.07%). The TWBMS (paragraph 146) specifies that there must be no net loss of habitat within the Yellow Zone. At this site the proposals include the retention and enhancement of the north and south boundary hedgerows which will remain outside private ownership and can therefore be managed to improve their value to bats (eg. by planting up gaps,

improving species diversity and allowing hedgerows to develop to have a broader base, all of which will improve invertebrate diversity to enhance foraging opportunities for bats). The scrub at the eastern end of the site will also be retained and enhanced with the same aims. All three species for which the TWBMS has been produced (lesser horseshoe, greater horseshoe and Bechstein's) utilise hedgerows when commuting and foraging and are not generally associated with open, ungrazed grassland. The BNG Metric (February 2026) demonstrates that the proposed development at this site will result in a significant improvement in habitats (Hedgerows) that are of value to the species for which the TWBMS has been produced.

Lighting of the new development must result in no increase in light spill onto the north and south boundary hedgerows or the scrub at the eastern end of the site, which are all important commuting routes for greater and lesser horseshoe bats. It is proposed that final lighting design for this site will be agreed as a condition of any forthcoming planning consent.

Hazel Dormouse

The data search results confirmed the presence of a population of hazel dormouse in the landscape to the east of Southwick and nest tube surveys carried out at this site during 2025 identified nests built by this species in the scrub at the eastern end of the site. As a result, all hedgerow and scrub habitat within the site boundaries is considered to be suitable for use by hazel dormouse and the removal of the western boundary hedgerow and areas of bramble scrub that have started to encroach into the field must be carried out under licence from Natural England. Under the terms of this licence suitable habitat for dormice to use when nesting must be removed to c.30cm above ground level over the winter months (December – February, inclusive) with the root system removed in the spring/summer.

Retained boundary hedgerows and scrub will be enhanced through planting up gaps and improving diversity with species that are of value to dormice such as hazel, hawthorn, elder and guelder rose all being beneficial.



Fig 8: Habitat retention, protection and enhancement for hazel dormouse.

Badgers, Brown Hare, Hedgehog, Rabbit and Roe Deer

No badger setts have been identified at the site and no latrines, pathways or snuffle holes created by badgers were found. However, the site could be used by badgers and other wildlife when commuting and foraging through the surroundings. As such, the following steps should be taken to avoid accidental harm to animals moving across the site during development works:

- Any trenches that have to be left open overnight must be adapted so that any animal that falls into it is able to escape, either by leaving a gradient at one end, or placing a structure (such as a plank of wood) in the trench to allow animals to climb out; and
- Anything that may present a fire or other hazard (eg. stored chemicals) should be kept securely locked and made inaccessible to wild animals moving around the site at night.

To allow hedgehogs to continue to move through the gardens of the new dwellings gaps (12cm x 12cm) will be left at the base of all boundary fences.

Amphibians

The proposed development area provides suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibian species such as common toad. As such, site clearance and construction activities may

cause death or harm to amphibians in the absence of mitigation, and therefore the steps below to protect reptiles during site clearance and construction should be followed to protect them.

Reptiles

The site supports habitat suitable for common reptile species, and surveys have confirmed that slow worm are present within the site. The construction of the new dwellings at this site will result in a loss of suitable habitat for slow worms and it will be necessary to move them out of the construction area before works begin.

When planning consent has been granted and work is ready to begin, a translocation exercise will be conducted to remove reptiles from the construction area. All stages of the translocation process must be carried out when reptiles are active, between April and September (inclusive).

Translocation

A reptile exclusion fence will be installed along retained vegetation along the north, east and south boundaries and will be to the following specification:



Fig 9: This example of reptile exclusion fencing taken from www.contractecology.co.uk

Reptile refugia will be placed across suitable areas of the site and left to bed-in for a minimum of seven days before being checked daily for 30 days (or until there are five clear days with no reptiles found in suitable weather conditions). Reptiles found beneath refugia will be collected and released in retained habitat at the eastern end of the site.

It may be helpful to strim the grassland during the translocation process and this will be determined and supervised by the ecologist carrying out the work.

When 30 days have been completed (with a minimum of five days with no reptiles found at the end) a destructive search of the site will be carried out using a machine with a toothed bucket to check for any remaining animals. This work will be supervised by an ecologist who will collect any reptiles found and release them on the off-site side of the exclusion fence where there is retained habitat to the east.

On completion of the translocation exercise construction work can begin but the exclusion fence must remain and be maintained throughout the construction period to prevent reptiles returning to the site. The exclusion fence will be removed on completion of construction.

Enhancement

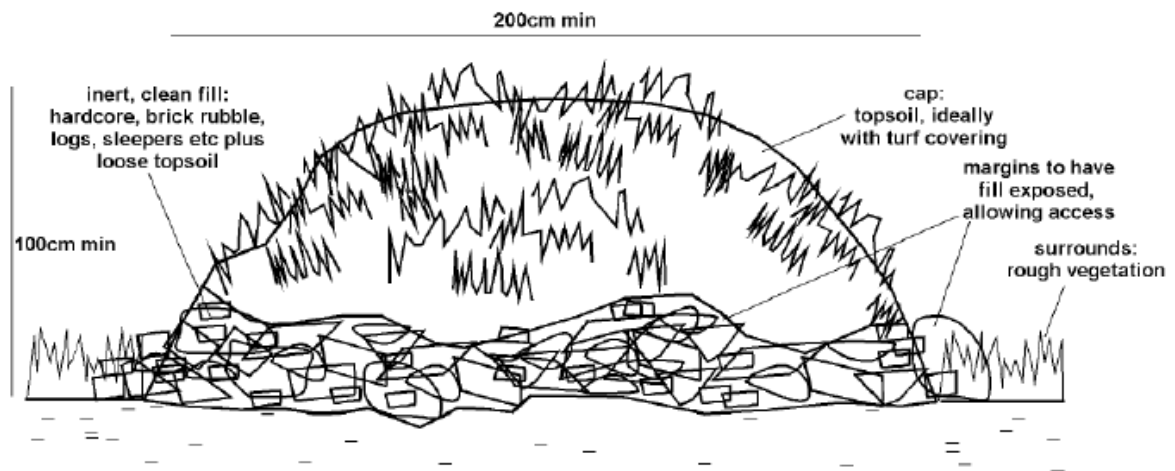
To enhance the site for reptiles (and for amphibians and small mammals, including hedgehogs), a hibernacula will be built in the area of habitat that will be retained at the eastern end of the site.



Fig 10: One hibernacula will be created in this area of the site.

 Hibernacula

The hibernacula should be created according to the following specification:



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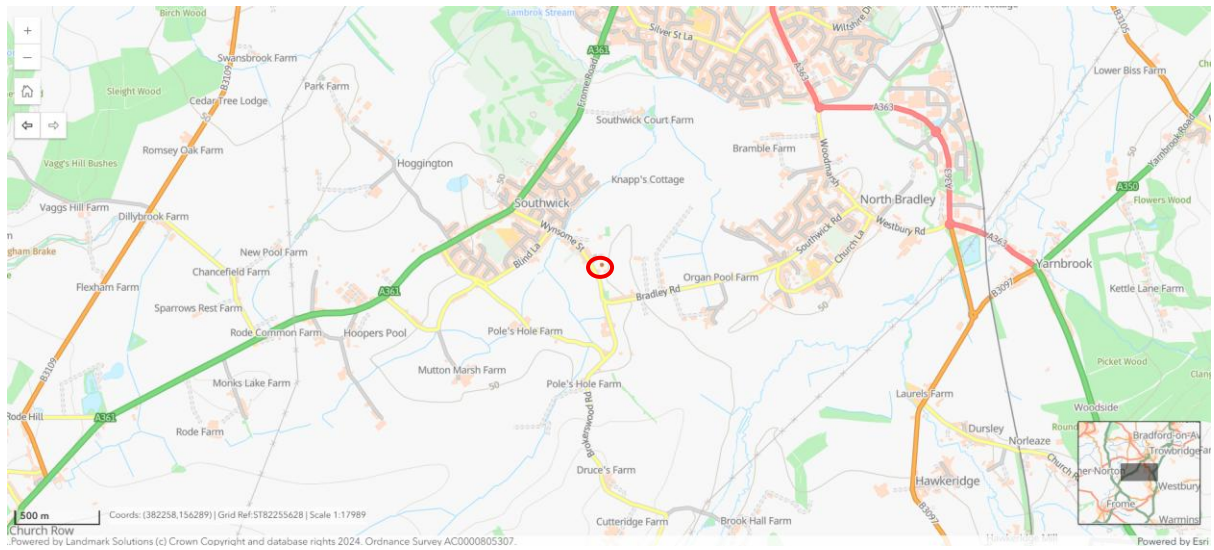
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APPENDIX 1: SITE MAPS



Habitat Map (BNG Baseline)



Proposed Site Layout

PROBABLE FLOODING SCENARIOS							
Run Number	Location of Dam	Peakling Scenario = 2 (3)g Newcom	Design Type & Age	Stress Interval of Age (200)	Stress Interval Age (300)	Peak Potential (ICM)	Steady Potential (ICM)
101	0	2 > 3	Wedge 10-10/24	121	1200	0	130
102	0	2 > 3	Wedge 10-10/24	121	1200	0	130
103	0	2 > 3	Wedge 10-10/24	121	1200	0	130
104	0	2 > 3	Wedge 10-10/24	121	1200	0	130
105	0	2 > 3	Wedge 10-10/24	121	1200	0	130
106	0	2 > 3	Wedge 10-10/24	121	1200	0	130
107	0	2 > 3	Wedge 10-10/24	121	1200	0	130
108	0	2 > 3	Wedge 10-10/24	121	1200	0	130
109	0	2 > 3	Wedge 10-10/24	121	1200	0	130



APPENDIX 2: CONDITION ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types			
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland Grassland - Lowland meadows Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland Grassland - Other neutral grassland Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.] Grassland - Upland acid grassland Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland Grassland - Upland hay meadows Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Land South of Lewis Court, Southwick	Survey date and Surveyor name	Dominic Price 11/07/2025
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	ST842549	Habitat parcel reference	
Habitat Description			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	No	
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	

E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Yes	
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	Yes	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Notes Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description. Footnote 2 - For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover. Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>, curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i>, broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i>, white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site. Footnote 4 - Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement. Footnote 5 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160) Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub			
Habitat Description			
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see:	Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)		
For other scrub types see:	ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Land south of Lewis Court, Southwick	Survey date and Surveyor name	Georgie Starkie 11/07/2025
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	ST842549	Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	No	
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Yes	
Number of criteria passed			

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x1/4	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Yes	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types													
Habitat Type													
Native hedgerow Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Native hedgerow with trees Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow with trees Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch													
Habitat Description													
ukhab - UK Habitat Classification													
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Land south of Lewis Court, Southwick				Survey date and Surveyor name	Dominic Price 11/07/2025							
Limitations (if applicable)					Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)								
Condition Assessment Details													
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook. Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.													
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes													
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Habitat parcel reference										
			H1	H2	H3								
			Grid reference										
			ST842 549	ST842 549	ST842 549								
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types			Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Yes	Yes	No							
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	No	No	No							
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Yes	Yes	Yes							

B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gapiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gapiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Yes	Yes	No													
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length; Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and - Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes	Yes	Yes													
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate >20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No	No	No													
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁶) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁶ .	Yes	Yes	No													
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	No	No	No													
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only																			
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and/or ancient ⁷), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.																
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.																
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.																			
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees										Score achieved									
Category	Category Requirements			Metric Score															
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.			3															

[illegible]

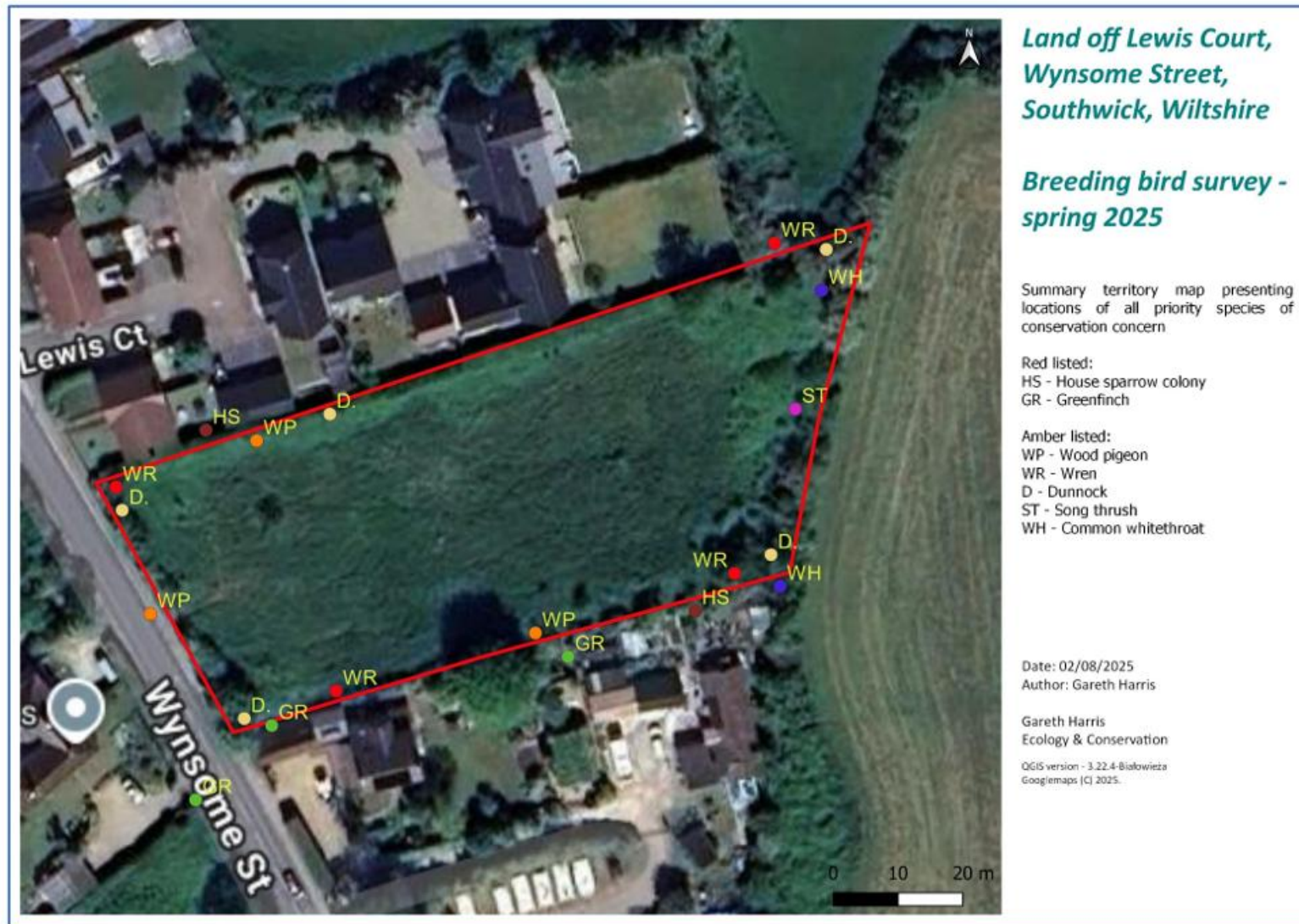
Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees.			
Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of <u>rural</u> trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.			
Habitat Description			
Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment): Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching.			
Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only): Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Land south of Lewis Court, Southwick	Survey date and Surveyor name	Georgie Starkie 11/07/2025
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	ST842549	Habitat parcel reference	T1
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	No	
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	Yes	
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	No	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Yes	
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	
Number of criteria passed		4	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved X/✓
Passes 5 or 6 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)	
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.			
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score ²			

APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS 2025

Species	Conservation status & protection				Species present by visit						Breeding Status	Comment
	BOCC[1]	Schedule 1[2]	UK BAP[3]	S41/ Local BAP[4]	01/04/2025	22/04/2025	13/05/2025	08/06/2025	24/06/2025	08/07/2025		
	-	-	-	-								
Canada goose					2						n/a	Breeding offsite, observed flying over
Mallard	A				3						n/a	Breeding offsite, observed flying over
Lesser black-backed gull	A						1	2 over	1		n/a	Breeding offsite, commuting overhead
Wood Pigeon	A				y	y	y	y	y	y	Confirmed Breeding	Multiple pairs (3+) in the hedgerows and scrub (nest found)
Skylark	R			y	y	y		y			n/a	2+ territories on adjacent farmland
Swallow							y				n/a	recorded foraging overhead
Wren	A				y	y	y	y		y	Probable Breeding	Multiple pairs (5+)
Dunnock	A		Y	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Confirmed Breeding	Multiple pairs (4-5 territories), juveniles noted

Robin					y	y	y	y	y	y	Confirmed Breeding	4-5 territories, juveniles noted
Song thrush	A		Y	Y			y		y		Confirmed Breeding	1 pair using east end of site and scrub, juveniles noted
Blackbird					y	y	y	y	y	y	Confirmed Breeding	Multiple pairs (3+ territories), juveniles noted
Chiffchaff					y		y	y		y	Confirmed Breeding	2 territories.
Common whitethroat	A					Y	y	y			Probable Breeding	2+ territories.
Blackcap									y		Possible Breeding	Recorded only once, breeding off site.
Great tit					y	y	y				Confirmed Breeding	1-2 territories, including suspected pair in apple tree
Blue tit					y	y	y	y		y	Confirmed Breeding	2 pairs including pair using nestbox on neighbouring outbuilding.
Long-tailed tit					y		y	y			Confirmed Breeding	Pair and 2 fledged family noted
Treecreeper					y						Possible breeding	heard singing once
Rook	A				y						n/a	observed flying over site

Jackdaw					y		y			y	n/a	breeding on dwelling nearby
Carrion crow						y					Possible breeding	recorded only once
Jay					y						n/a	recorded only once, likely passage bird
Magpie					y	y	y	y	y	y	Probable breeding	1-2 birds present on every visit
Starling	R		Y	Y	y						Probable Breeding	Breeding offsite, on adjacent properties.
House sparrow	R		Y	Y	y	y	y	y		y	Confirmed Breeding	1-2 colonies, nest sites observed, but off site.
Chaffinch					y	y		y			Probable Breeding	1-2 territories
Linnet	R		Y	Y		Y					Possible breeding	4 birds noted on field margin on one occasion, off site
Goldfinch					y	y	y	y		y	Probable Breeding	3-4 territories
Greenfinch	R		Y	Y	y	y	y	y		y	Probable Breeding	3+ territories.
Yellowhammer	R		Y	Y					y		Possible breeding	2 singing males in adjacent arable field, heard once



APPENDIX 4: SUMMARY OF BAT ACTIVITY SURVEYS 2025

April 2025

Location 1

	15/04/2025	16/04/2025	17/04/2025	18/04/2025	19/04/2025	20/04/2025	21/04/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat	1							1
Whiskered Bat		1				2		3
Noctule		5	3		1			9
Common Pipistrelle	11	3	8	9	13	44	15	103
Soprano Pipistrelle	1				5			6
Brown Long-eared Bat		3	3		1	4		11
Grand Total	13	12	14	9	20	50	15	133

Location 2

	15/04/2025	16/04/2025	17/04/2025	18/04/2025	19/04/2025	20/04/2025	21/04/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat						5		5
Lesser Horseshoe Bat					2			2
Daubenton's Bat					2	3		5
Whiskered Bat		1				4		5
Natterer's Bat	1		2	1	3	1	2	10
Noctule	2	10	7	3	2	1		25
Serotine					1			1
Common Pipistrelle	219	9	220	144	207	318	108	1225
Soprano Pipistrelle	2		1		4	4		11
Brown Long-eared Bat		1	4		1	5		11
Grand Total	224	21	234	148	222	341	110	1300

May 2025

Location 1

	13/05/2025	14/05/2025	15/05/2025	16/05/2025	17/05/2025	18/05/2025	19/05/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat			3				1	4
Lesser Horseshoe Bat		1	1	1				3
Daubenton's Bat		1		1				2
Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	2				1			3
Natterer's Bat					1			1
Noctule	2		3	6	1	28	7	47
Serotine	1	3	3	2		6	4	19
Common Pipistrelle	48	35	38	39	60	51	40	311
Soprano Pipistrelle	6		1	3		2	2	14
Brown Long-eared Bat	1			1			1	3
Grand Total	60	40	49	53	63	87	55	407

Location 2

	13/05/2025	14/05/2025	15/05/2025	16/05/2025	17/05/2025	18/05/2025	19/05/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat			3					3
Lesser Horseshoe Bat		1	2	4	1			8
Daubenton's bat							1	1
Whiskered Bat		1	1				2	4
Natterer's Bat		1			2	2		5
Noctule	2	1	14	38	6	62	12	135
Leisler's Bat			1					1
Serotine	5	6	11	6	6	6	3	43
Common Pipistrelle	112	166	202	178	121	159	147	1085
Soprano Pipistrelle	1				1		3	5
Brown Long-eared Bat			1	2		1	3	7
Grand Total	122	176	235	228	137	232	171	1301

June 2025

Location 1

	24/06/2025	25/06/2025	26/06/2025	27/06/2025	28/06/2025	29/06/2025	30/06/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat	1			4	1		3	9
Daubenton's Bat		2		1			1	4
Whiskered Bat	2	12	2	2	3	2		23
Natterer's Bat		1		2		1		4
Noctule	1			2	3	3	1	10
Serotine	1	1					1	3
Common Pipistrelle	65	92	30	61	37	70	60	415
Soprano Pipistrelle		1	1	3	1		3	9
Brown Long-eared Bat	1					1		2
Grand Total	71	109	33	75	45	77	69	479

Location 2

	24/06/2025	25/06/2025	26/06/2025	27/06/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat	1	1	2	2	6
Lesser Horseshoe Bat			1		1
Daubenton's Bat	13	1	5		19
Whiskered/Brandt's bat	1		3		4
Natterer's Bat	3				3
Noctule	6	2			8
Serotine	4	3	2	3	12
Common Pipistrelle	524	459	421	84	1488
Soprano Pipistrelle	1	3	1		5
Brown Long-eared Bat		1			1
Grand Total	553	471	435	89	1548

July 2025

Location 1

	15/07/2025	16/07/2025	17/07/2025	18/07/2025	19/07/2025	20/07/2025	21/07/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat							1	1
Daubenton's bat				1	2			3
Whiskered Bat	1	2	2	4	3	1	4	17
Natterer's Bat			1			1		2
Common Pipistrelle	46	62	58	47	35	56	66	370
Soprano Pipistrelle	1	5			1			7
Grand Total	48	69	61	52	41	58	71	400

Location 2

	15/07/2025	16/07/2025	17/07/2025	18/07/2025	19/07/2025	20/07/2025	21/07/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat					1			1
Lesser Horseshoe Bat							1	1
Daubenton's bat		1						1
Whiskered Bat					1	1		2
Natterer's Bat		1	3	2	1			7
Noctule						1		1
Serotine			1				1	2
Common Pipistrelle	191	226	304	297	110	293	330	1751
Soprano Pipistrelle		8	4	4	2	1		19
Brown Long-eared Bat			1				2	3
Grand Total	191	236	313	305	114	295	334	1788

August 2025

Location 1

	11/08/2025	12/08/2025	13/08/2025	14/08/2025	15/08/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat		2				2
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	1	3	2	1	4	11
Whiskered/Brandt's bat	4	6	9	5	2	26
Natterer's Bat				1		1
Serotine			1			1
Common Pipistrelle	186	196	218	78	180	858
Soprano Pipistrelle	3	33	21	65	8	130
Brown Long-eared Bat					1	1
Grand Total	194	240	251	150	195	1030

Location 2

	11/08/2025	12/08/2025	13/08/2025	14/08/2025	15/08/2025	16/08/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat	1	1	1		1		4
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	2	3			2	2	9
Daubenton's bat	2	1		1			4
Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	1	2	3	2	3	6	17
Natterer's Bat			2		2		4
Noctule		1		2			3
Leisler's Bat			1				1
Serotine	1			3		1	5
Common Pipistrelle	313	368	285	309	227	136	1638
Soprano Pipistrelle	13	6	9	4	14	2	48
Brown Long-eared Bat	4		5	4	5	5	23
Barbastelle					2		2
Grand Total	337	382	306	325	256	152	1758

September 2025

Location 1

	16/09/2025	17/09/2025	18/09/2025	19/09/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat	2		3	1	6
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	3	3	5	7	18
Daubenton's Bat	5	4	30	183	222
Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	11	2	7	23	43
Natterer's Bat	15	4	11	33	63
Noctule	4	2	4	5	15
Serotine	4	1	3	1	9
Common Pipistrelle	90	218	233	171	712
Soprano Pipistrelle	2		16	7	25
Brown Long-eared Bat	10	1	1	15	27
Barbastelle			2	2	4
Grand Total	146	235	315	450	1146

Location 2

	16/09/2025	17/09/2025	18/09/2025	19/09/2025	20/09/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat				1		1
Lesser Horseshoe Bat				2		2
Daubenton's Bat	4	1		5		10
Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	3			1	1	5
Natterer's Bat	14		2	18		34
Noctule	9	2		5	5	21
Serotine	3	1				4
Common Pipistrelle	185	77	470	442	47	1221
Soprano Pipistrelle	2		3	12		17
Nathusius' Pipistrelle				1		1
Brown Long-eared Bat	7		3	11		21
Barbastelle			1	2		3
Grand Total	227	81	479	500	53	1340

October 2025

Location 1

	15/10/2025	16/10/2025	17/10/2025	18/10/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat		5	5	1	11
Lesser Horseshoe Bat			2		2
Daubenton's bat			1		1
Whiskered/Brandt's Bat		18	4	3	25
Natterer's Bat		1			1
Common Pipistrelle	2	25	45	9	81
Soprano Pipistrelle	1	2	1		4
Grand Total	3	51	58	13	125

Location 2

	15/10/2025	16/10/2025	17/10/2025	18/10/2025	19/10/2025	20/10/2025	21/10/2025	Grand Total
Greater Horseshoe Bat		2	5			3		10
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	1	1	1					3
Daubenton's Bat	2		11	9		1		23
Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	2	21	5			1		29
Natterer's Bat		1	9	1			1	12
Serotine						1		1
Common Pipistrelle		49	53	28	2	4	1	137
Soprano Pipistrelle		3	8	1				12
Brown Long-eared Bat			2			3		5
Grand Total	5	77	94	39	2	13	2	232

APPENDIX 5: REPTILE SURVEY RESULTS 2025

Survey Sheet – Reptile Survey

Site Name: Land south of Lewis Court, Southwick

Date: 15/05/2025	Weather: 80% cloud, no rain or wind		
Max Temp: 14°C	Min Temp: 14°C	Visit No: 1	
Species	M/F/Juv/Unknown	Number	Location
SW	F	1	A
SW	F	1	B

Date: 22/05/2025	Weather: 0% cloud, no rain, B1		
Max Temp: 18°C	Min Temp: 16°C	Visit No: 2	
Species	M/F/Juv/Unknown	Number	Location
SW	F	1	C
SW	F	1	D

Date: 14/06/2025	Weather: 80% cloud, no wind or rain		
Max Temp: 17°C	Min Temp: 16°C	Visit No: 3	
Species	M/F/Juv/Unknown	Number	Location
SW	F	2	A
SW	F	1	C

Date: 12/07/25	Weather: 50% cloud, no rain, B1		
Max Temp: 21°C	Min Temp: 21°C	Visit No: 4	
Species	M/F/Juv/Unknown	Number	Location
SW	F	1	A

Date: 08/08/25	Weather: 80% cloud, sunny, no wind		
Max Temp: 17°C	Min Temp: 17°C	Visit No: 5	
Species	M/F/Juv/Unknown	Number	Location
SW	F	1	A
SW	Juv	1	A

Date: 25/08/25	Weather: 0% cloud, no rain, B1		
Max Temp: 21°C	Min Temp: 19°C	Visit No: 6	
Species	M/F/Juv/Unknown	Number	Location
SW	F	1	C
SW	Juv	1	C
SW	F	1	D

Date: 27/09/25	Weather: 100% cloud, no rain, B1		
Max Temp: 18°C	Min Temp: 18°C	Visit No: 7	
Species	M/F/Juv/Unknown	Number	Location
SW	F	1	C
SW	Juv	1	C

