



BENGROVE LTD

Ecology-BNG-Wildlife

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT LAND AT DROVE LANE

Client: Stonebury Land Ltd

Date Issued: 07 November 2025

Our Ref: B25_43_EcIA

Document Issue Record

Revision	Author	Checked by	Issue Date
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SUMMARY

This report has been prepared to support a Permission in Principle application for a development of up to nine homes on a horse-grazed pasture field off Drove Lane in Market Lavington. It assesses the potential ecological impacts of developing this land parcel, without considering details of specific layout, density, landscaping etc. within the red line boundary, and whether any impacts can be avoided, mitigated or compensated.

The Site is not of significant ecological importance for protected or notable species and consists of widespread habitat types. In the absence of avoidance, mitigation or compensation it is possible that small numbers of protected species could be harmed during construction, but these would not be likely to lead to a significant ecological effect.

Avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures to be built into the proposal include:

- Delivering 10% net gain in habitat and hedgerow units, making use of the off-site land adjacent to the red line boundary
- Implementing construction-stage avoidance measures under a Construction Ecological Management Plan
- Building-in enhancements including bird nesting boxes at a rate of two per dwelling (e.g. swift bricks) and bat roosting boxes

These are commonplace requirements that can be secured through the planning process, either during determination of an application or through planning conditions or other suitably binding agreements.

1. INTRODUCTION

The key purpose of this report is to identify any potentially significant ecological impacts on biodiversity as a consequence of the proposed development, and (if there are any) to outline how the statutory mitigation hierarchy applies. The Site is an area of horse-grazed grassland, bordered by hedges and occasional trees.

1.1. Scope and Purpose of the Report

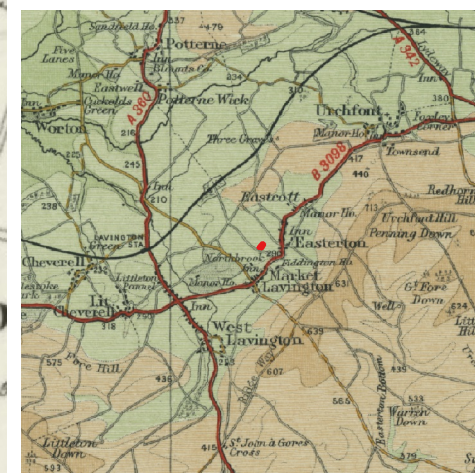
- 1.1.1 Bengrove Ltd was commissioned by Stonebury Land Ltd to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment of a parcel of land just north of Drove Lane, Devizes, hereafter referred to as the 'Site'. The OS grid reference for the centre of the Site is SU01755484, and the nearest postcode is SN10 4PD (see **Site Location Plan**). This report has been prepared to support a Permission in Principle application for a development of up to nine homes. It assesses the potential ecological impacts of developing this land parcel, without considering details of specific layout, density, landscaping etc. within the red line boundary.
- 1.1.2 The Site comprises an area of horse-grazed grassland. The hedge to the south of the Site, and connected hedgerows bordering the ownership boundary, are lined with a mixture of species-rich hedgerows and occasional trees, which run along a bank on the northern and western hedges. The Site is mainly surrounded by arable fields, with a patch of traditional orchard 50m to the west, other patches of deciduous woodland, and the villages of Market Lavington and Easterton to the south and north-east, respectively.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this report is to:
- provide an assessment of the ecological importance of the site's habitats;
 - set out whether any protected or notable species are likely to use the site;
 - confirm whether a planning application would be subject to the biodiversity net gain requirement;
 - verify which ecological matters should form material considerations for any future planning application;
 - determine whether, in principle, any potentially significant ecological are likely to occur and if so, whether they could be avoided, mitigated or compensated.
- 1.1.4 The report follows the approach set out in the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment produced by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (Version 1.3 updated September 2024). It has been prepared to



 Red Line Boundary
Google Satellite
OpenStreetMap

Project	Land at Drove Lane, Devizes
Client	Stonebury Land Ltd
Title	Site Location Plan
Date	11/03/2026
Suitability	For issue
CRS	OSGB36 / British National Grid
Scale	1:1500
QGIS	3.44.2-Solothurn





 Red Line Boundary

Historical Ordnance Survey Maps

[Left] Wiltshire Sheet XL. Surveyed: 1885, Published: 1888.

[Above] Bartholomew half-inch 1940s layer.

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Project	Land at Drove Lane, Devizes
Client	Stonebury Land Ltd
Title	Historical Ecology Plan
Date	11/03/2026
Suitability	For issue
CRS	OSGB36 / British National Grid
Scale	1:6050
QGIS	3.44.2-Solothurn



2. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Wildlife in the UK is protected through various pieces of legislation and planning policy. This forms a framework through which projects are assessed for their impacts on habitats and species and the background against which recommendations are made for the grant or refusal of planning permission. The Site does not fall within any mapped areas of strategic significance. Instead, nature-based action should follow the guidance outlined in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy's "Wider Countryside Measures".

2.1. Legislation

2.1.1 The main pieces of legislation protecting wildlife in the UK that are relevant to this project are:

- The *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* (as amended); and the *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*. These regulations cover the protection of European designated sites (the Natura 2000 Network, made up of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas); and European Protected Species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive, whose natural range includes any area in Great Britain.
- The *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended); the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*; and the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)*. Together these acts provide specific protections for a number of UK species (with some overlap with the species listed on Annex IV) and list invasive species for which there are legal provisions; nationally designated sites including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); and set out the species of principle importance for conservation (Priority Species).
- The *Environment Act 2021, Schedule 14* which inserted *Schedule 7A* into the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990* making it mandatory for all developments (with some exceptions) to deliver at least 10% net biodiversity gain. The Acts and related regulations make it a requirement that planning applications are submitted with details of the biodiversity value of onsite habitats.

2.2. National Planning Policy Framework

2.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – last updated 7th February 2025 – sets out the government's planning policy for England. Chapter 15 sets out the policies relating to the natural environment, and the elements of particular relevance are:

-
- 2.2.2 **Paragraph 187:** Sets out that planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- a) Protecting and enhancing [...] sites of biodiversity [...] value (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified 2quality in the development plan);
 - b) Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside;
 - c) Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that re more resilient to current and future pressure and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species, such as swifts, bats, and hedgehogs;
- 2.2.3 **Paragraph 193:** Sets out that, when determining planning applications, local panning authorities should apply the following principles:
- a) If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative sit with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
 - b) Development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
 - c) Development resulting in the loss of 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;
- 2.2.4 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.

2.3. Local Plan

- 2.3.1 The relevant Local Plan is the *Wiltshire Core Strategy*, adopted in 2015. The Local Plan review is in progress (setting out plans for the period to 2038) and Reference is made in this document to draft policies in the Local Plan Review, but these do not have the same status as the adopted Plan.

2.4. Local Nature Recovery Strategy

- 2.4.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) have been designed to reverse biodiversity decline and restore ecological connectivity across England.
- 2.4.2 Section 40(2A) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (duty to conserve biodiversity) and Part 6(104-108) of the Environment Act 2021 (Local nature recovery strategies for England) outline how local authorities must create and adhere to biodiversity priorities that aim to achieve the above, within their respective areas. These priorities should then be outlined within a publicly available local habitat map, which developers and ecologists can use to inform biodiversity action.
- 2.4.3 The Wiltshire & Swindon LNRS has now been formally adopted and published.
- 2.4.4 The Site does not fall within any areas of the LNRS with a mapped measure. Instead, it falls within the unmapped '**Priorities of the Wider Countryside**' (such as Ponds, Hedgerows and Dry Stone Walls, and Green & Blue Access) that are important in of themselves, but not qualify for high strategic significance in the statutory biodiversity net gain metric.
- 2.4.5 The closest mapped areas with specific measures are set out in the table below.

Table 2-1: Closest Mapped LNRS Areas

Area	Nearest Distance	Measure
Cemetery across the road	7m South	Nature on Our Doorstep
St. Barnabas Church of England Sports Field	100m West	Nature on Our Doorstep

3. METHODS

To understand the Site's ecological function in the wider landscape, a combination of desk-based research and field surveys were used. All areas within the proposed Red Line Boundary could be surveyed, and while the botanical survey was completed in autumn, the surveyor's expertise allowed for confident identification based on vegetative (non-flowering) characteristics.

3.1. Significance & Importance

- 3.1.1 Ecological effects will occur as a result of development, some more significant than others. Here, the significance of those impacts is defined as an effect that either supports or undermines the structure and function of an ecosystem, habitat, or species (an ecological feature), to the extent that it requires alterations to the development proposals, without which permission is unlikely to be granted.
- 3.1.2 Whether a detailed assessment of that feature is required depends on the relative importance of the feature, the likelihood it may be present, and the likelihood it would be impacted by the proposal.
- 3.1.3 This report aims to identify those specific ecological features that are "important" within the meanings set out in the CIEEM guidelines. The following characteristics were used to determine importance:
- National or international conservation legislation (designated sites, biodiversity lists, action plans etc.)
 - Naturalness (how free the feature is from human influence)
 - Rarity (locally, nationally, and internationally)
 - Population size, connectivity, and status (declining, threatened, or healthy)
 - Function within the wider landscape (isolated, stepping stones, or supporting neighbouring areas)
 - Diversity (the variety and relative abundance of habitats/species within a specific area or ecosystem)
- 3.1.4 Each feature's importance is then contextualised at the local, county, regional, national and international geographic scales.
- 3.1.5 Where potentially undermining effects are identified, the report sets out how they can be avoided, mitigated or compensated:
- **Avoid.** Act so potential impacts do not materialise.
 - **Mitigate.** Reduce the duration, intensity and/or extent of impacts that cannot be completely avoided.

- **Compensate.** Offset any residual, adverse, or unavoidable impacts - the final resort after exhausting all other options.

3.2. Scope of the Assessment

3.2.1 Before assessing whether a development will have a significant effect on the ecological features within an area, ecologists must first determine the scheme's Zone of Influence (ZOI).

3.2.2 The ZOI varies between different ecological features and naturally informs the buffer zones used for a project's desk study. This is an iterative process, and the size of those buffer areas may change as research and surveys inform future works. Here, based on the scale and scope of this project, we started with the following ZOI:

- Within the Site's Red Line Boundary (RLB) – for assessing on Site habitats and species;
- 500m buffer around the RLB – the maximum range amphibians have been shown to travel;
- 2km buffer around the RLB – to capture data on locally important features, priority habitats and species;
- 5km buffer around the RLB – to capture data on nationally important features and their species;
- 10km buffer around the RLB – a sufficiently large area to cover most bat species' Core Sustainment Zones; and internationally designated sites.

3.2.3 The full list of features considered within these areas are outlined in the following sections, but broadly includes protected and unprotected habitats and species. When assessing impacts on species, they were grouped as follows:

- Amphibians
- Birds
- Fish
- Fungi
- Invertebrates (aquatic and terrestrial)
- Mammals, further broken down into:
 - Badgers
 - Bats
 - Dormice
 - Riparian Mammals
 - Section 41. Mammals
- Reptiles

3.3. Assessment Timeframe

- 3.3.1 Baseline habitats and conditions have been described as they were at the time of the survey in 2025, and impacts assessed up to the 30-year duration for the in-principal Biodiversity Net Gain assessment.

3.4. Desk Study

- 3.4.1 Desktop data were provided by Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) on 14/11/2025. The data search included records of protected and priority species, invasive non-native species and non-statutory designated sites within a 2km radius of the proposed development site, and within 4km for bats.
- 3.4.2 The Government's Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) map was searched for great crested newt eDNA records and for records of European Protected Species Licences. This site was also used to search for European designated sites within 10km of the Site's red line boundary, and nationally designated sites within 5km of the project. Together, these include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Wetlands (RAMSAR), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).
- 3.4.3 MAGIC map was also used to access Priority Habitats within 2km of the Site. This provides an indication of the location and extent of Priority Habitats, but it is not a substitute for field survey and assessment. Where the Priority Habitats Inventory suggests that there may be Priority Habitats within or adjacent to the project site, they are surveyed in the field to assess them against the descriptions of the Priority Habitats and any specific qualification criteria.
- 3.4.4 The National Library of Scotland provided historical ordnance survey maps to check the historical ecology of the Site and to help identify the location of standing waterbodies when assessing the area's suitability for amphibians.
- 3.4.5 The table below lists the datasets that were used to provide spatial data for this report.

Table 3-1: Sources of spatial data used in this report

Link	Licence	Updated
Great Crested Newts eDNA Pond Surveys for District Level Licensing (England) Natural England Open Data Geoportal	Open Government Licence	06/06/2023
Special Areas of Conservation (England) Natural England Open Data Geoportal	Open Government Licence	18/10/2024

Link	Licence	Updated
Special Protection Areas (England) Natural England Open Data Geoportal		27/02/2025
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England) Natural England Open Data Geoportal		25/04/2025
National Nature Reserves (England) - data.gov.uk		09/10/2025
Local Nature Reserves (England) Natural England Open Data Geoportal		25/04/2025
Somer Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer		Cycle 3 (2022)
Habitat Networks (England) - data.gov.uk	CC BY 4.0	09/10/2025
Priority Habitats Inventory (England) Natural England Open Data Geoportal		23/10/2025

3.5. Field Surveys

- 3.5.1 The Site's red line boundary lies within a wider field bordered by hedgerows. Consequently, the entire field and its boundaries were surveyed to accurately capture the habitats present.
- 3.5.2 The Site was surveyed in July 2025 by Matt Davies who has an MSc in Vegetation Survey and Assessment and over 20 years' experience as an ecological consultant. The purpose of the survey of the survey was to get a clear understanding of the habitat features before a full UKHabs survey, and to perform a scoping assessment for protected species.
- 3.5.3 Plant species lists were compiled for each of the main habitats, and each species assigned to an estimate of abundance according to the DAFOR scale.
- 3.5.4 The Site was also assessed for its potential to support legally protected and notable species, based upon the results of the desk study and with reference literature for the relevant species and groups:
- Amphibians (Gent and Gibson, 2003)
 - Badgers (Harris et al. 1991; and Roper, 2010);
 - Bats (Collins, 2023; Mitchell-Jones, 2004; and Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. 2023)
 - Birds (Gilbert et al. 1998; Bibby et al. 2000)
 - Dormice (Bright, Morris and Mitchell-Jones, 2006)
 - Terrestrial invertebrates (Drake et al. 2007; Kirby, 2001).

- 3.5.5 Trees were also assessed for bat roosting potential following the guidance and information in Collins et al. (2023). The trees were inspected from ground level and assigned as either PRF-I (only suitable for individuals or small numbers of bats) or PRF-M (suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used as a maternity colony).
- 3.5.6 Static bat detectors were installed to record bat activity on five nights each month between July and October inclusive. One detector was placed adjacent to the stable at the entrance to the site, one on a telegraph pole in the middle of the field, and one in the hedge on the northern edge of the field. A manual transect survey was also carried out each month.

3.6. Impact Assessment

- 3.6.1 This report aims to identify any specific ecological features (habitats, species, and ecosystems) that are “important” within the meanings set out in the CIEEM guidelines could be impacted by the development. The following characteristics were used to determine ecological importance:
- National or international conservation legislation (designated sites, biodiversity lists, action plans etc.)
 - Naturalness (how free the feature is from human influence)
 - Rarity (locally, nationally, and internationally)
 - Population size, connectivity, and status (declining, threatened, or healthy)
 - Function within the wider landscape (isolated, stepping stones, or supporting neighbouring areas)
 - Diversity (the variety and relative abundance of habitats/species within a specific area or ecosystem)
- 3.6.2 Each feature’s importance is then contextualised at the local, county, regional, national and international geographic scales.
- 3.6.3 Both positive and negative significant effects of the development on those features and biodiversity in general are then described.
- 3.6.4 Where negative effects are identified, the report sets out how they could be avoided, mitigated or compensated. These terms are defined as:
- **Avoid.** Act so potential impacts do not materialise.
 - **Mitigate.** Reduce the duration, intensity and/or extent of impacts that cannot be completely avoided.
 - **Compensate.** Outline any residual impacts that cannot be mitigated, and describe how they can be offset. This is the final resort after all other options have been exhausted.

3.7. Biodiversity Net Gain

- 3.7.1 The Statutory Net Gain Metric v1.0.4 macro-enabled spreadsheet was used to calculate the baseline habitat units on Site.

4. RESULTS

This section outlines the baseline results for the Site and whether the Site is important for protected species that may be found there. Where protected species may be present, the habitats are only of site-importance but are not of significant importance within the wider area.

4.1. Designated Sites

- 4.1.1 One internationally protected site falls within 10km of the Site, Salisbury Plain. This area is a designated SAC, SPA, and SSSI, and lies to the south. Its closest edge to the Site is 1.36km to the southeast (see **European Designated Sites Plan**).
- 4.1.2 The Salisbury Plain Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is legally underpinned by three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):
- Parsonage Down SSSI
 - Porton Down SSSI
 - Salisbury Plain SSSI
- 4.1.3 It is also a Special Protection Area (SPA), and the Site falls within its SPA Mitigation Zone. See the **Wiltshire Council Biodiversity Mitigation Layers Plan**.
- 4.1.4 Salisbury Plain's diverse habitats and species are significant within Europe. Having been owned by the Ministry of Defence since 1902, it is also largely free of agricultural interference. As of 10/11/2025, its greatest risks come from undergrazing, motorised vehicles, plant disease and invasive species. 65% of the area is in favourable condition, and provides rare habitats – such as juniper scrub on chalk – for threatened species such as the Marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*) and Stone curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*)¹. It is of international importance.
- 4.1.5 The Site does not fall within the Trowbridge Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy Sensitivity Zones, which lie roughly 20km to the west.



Salisbury Plain supports the largest known expanse of unimproved chalk downland in northwest Europe, and represents 41% of Britain's remaining area of this rich wildlife habitat. [It is also] a site of international importance for birds.

Natural England Citation

Last Notified: 29 January 1993

¹ SSSI detail [Internet]. Naturalengland.org.uk. 2021 [cited 2025 Nov 10]. Available from: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=sl006531>

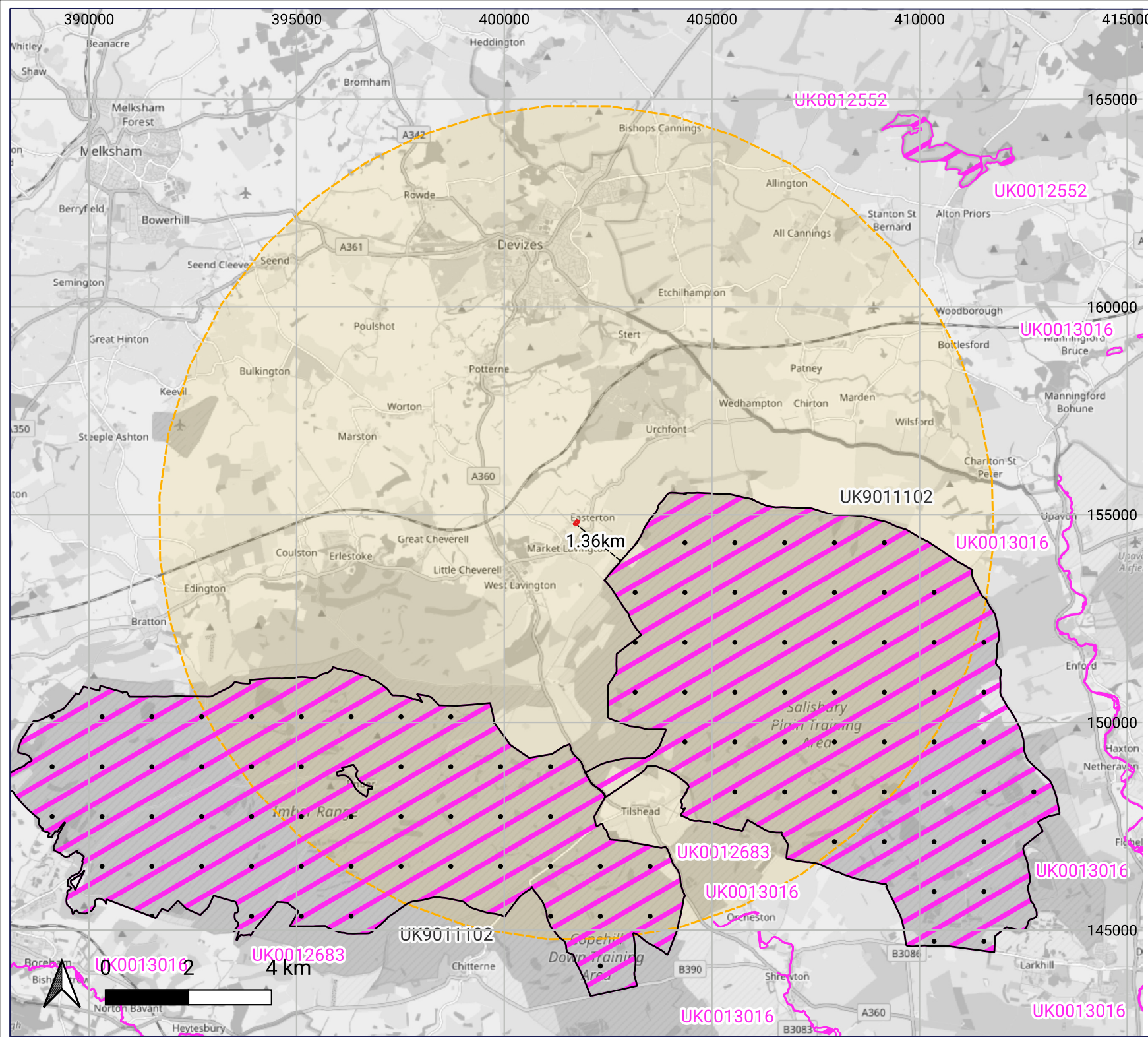
4.1.6 In addition to Sailsbury Plain, there are four nationally designated sites within 5km:

- *Stert Brook Exposure SSSI*: A geologically significant site, important for the study of ancient environments in the late Jurassic marine rocks of the Wessex Basin.
- *Great Cheverell Hill SSSI*: A biologically significant site, which supports botanically rich chalk grassland on the northern edge of the Sailsbury Plain.
- *Oakfirth Wood LNR*: An area of ancient woodland replanted in the 1930's, following felling in WWI.
- *Drews Pond Wood*: Coppiced woodland with species indicative of ancient woodland. Supports a host of protected species.

4.1.7 A total of 11 Local Wildlife Sites were returned in the WSBRC data search results:

Table 4-1. Local Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site. Irreplaceable ancient woodland*.

Main Habitat	Count	Site Names	Additional Notable Features
Broadleaved woodland * Ancient Woodland	7	Folly Wood, Easterton*	Grassland, greensand, Holloway
		West Wood – Easterton*	Holloways, greensand, diverse flora
		West Wood North*	Greensand, high-forest, grassland, scrub
		Heath Ground*	Greensand
		Heath Ground West	Greensand
		Manor House Wood*	Dry & wet woodland
		Parham Wood*	Greensand, plantation, coppice, and high-forest, artificial pond
Calcareous grassland	2	Market Lavington East	Varying slopes
		Ram's Cliff	On fringe of Salisbury Plain, extensive strip lynchets
Conifer woodland	1	The Warren	Plantation
Neutral grassland	1	Fiddington Farm Meadows	Flushes, hedge banks with large trees



- Red Line Boundary
- Shortest distance to features
- Special Protection Areas (England) © Natural England
- Special Areas of Conservation (England) © Natural England
- 10km Zone of Influence

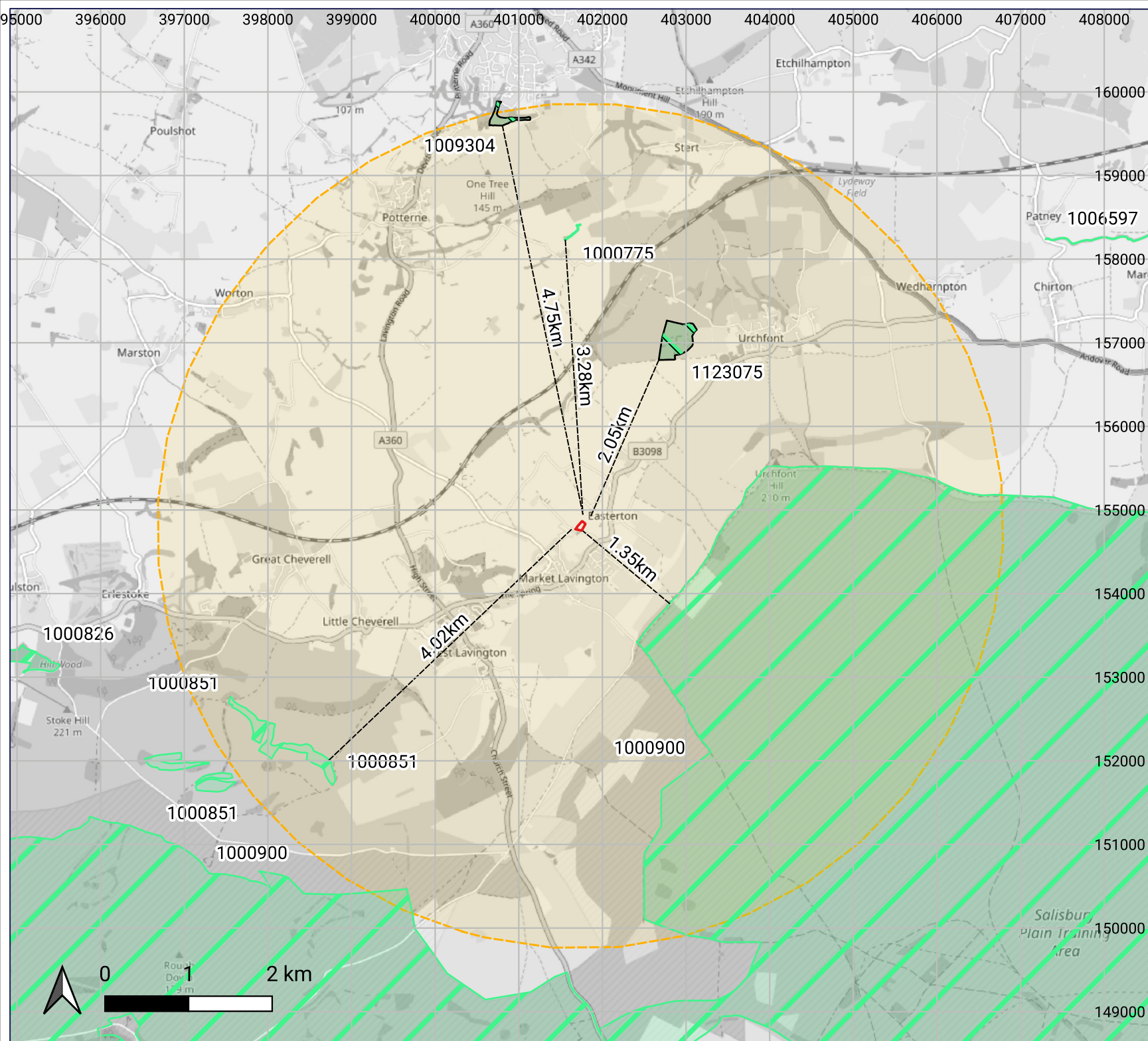
OpenStreetMap

Sac_code	Sac_name
UK0013016	River Avon
UK0012683	Salisbury Plain
UK0012552	Pewsey Downs

Spa_code	Spa_name
UK9011102	Salisbury Plain

Project	Land at Drove Lane, Devizes
Client	Stonebury Land Ltd
Title	European Designated Sites
Date	11/03/2026
Suitability	For issue
CRS	OSGB36 / British National Grid
Scale	1:120000
QGIS	3.44.2-Solothurn





- Red Line Boundary
- Shortest distance to features
- Local Nature Reserves (England) © Natural England
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England) © Natural England
- 5km Zone of Influence

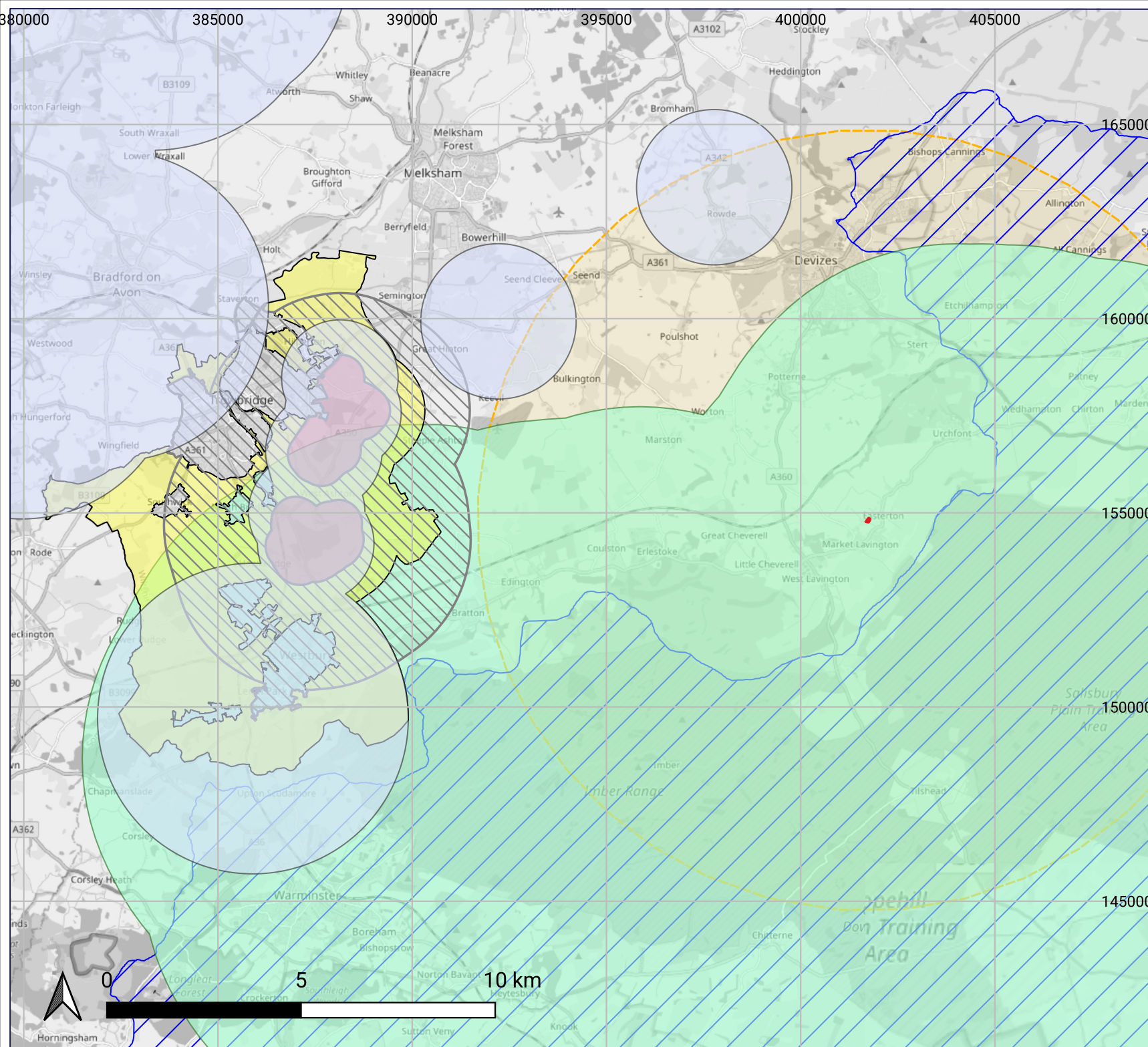
OpenStreetMap

Ref_code	Name
1006597	River Avon System SSSI
1000900	Salisbury Plain SSSI
1000851	Great Cheverell Hill SSSI
1000826	Bratton Downs SSSI
1000775	Stert Brook Exposure SSSI

Ref_code	Name
1123075	Oakfrith Wood
1009304	Drews Pond Wood

Project	Land at Drove Lane, Devizes
Client	Stonebury Land Ltd
Title	Nationally Designated Sites
Date	11/03/2026
Suitability	For issue
CRS	OSGB36 / British National Grid
Scale	1:60000
QGIS	3.44.2-Solothurn





- Red Line Boundary
- 10km Zone of Influence
- Impact Zones For Bat Species

Trowbridge Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy

- Grey Hatched Zone
- Red Zone
- Yellow Zone
- Salisbury Plain SPA Mitigation Zone
- River Catchments With Mitigation Strategies

OpenStreetMap

Project	Land at Drove Lane, Devizes
Client	Stonebury Land Ltd
Title	Wiltshire Council BML
Date	11/03/2026
Suitability	For issue
CRS	OSGB36 / British National Grid
Scale	1:130000
QGIS	3.44.2-Solothurn



4.2. Habitats and Ecological Networks

- 4.2.1 The Site is on the western border between two National Character Areas, Avon Vales (NCA 117) and Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs (NCA 132). The Avon Vales is characterized by an *'undulating clay vale with a mix of arable and pasture [with] small and medium-sized fields with mostly hedgerow boundaries with few hedgerow trees.'* Whereas the Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs is a *'sparsely settled, predominantly agricultural area with a strong sense of remoteness and openness. The dominant element in the landscape – apart from the expansive sky – is the gently rolling chalk downland.'* As horse-grazed pasture surrounded by hedgerows and occasional trees, the Site more closely resembles the Avon Vales NCA.
- 4.2.2 There are four areas of traditional orchard mapped within 1km of the Site, one of which is 50m to the west, and eight areas of deciduous woodland. 996m east of the Site is an area of Lowland calcareous grassland – the nearest link to the Salisbury Plain designated sites. See the **Priority Habitats Plan**. These areas are of national importance.
- 4.2.3 Easterton Brook also runs along the B3098 and meanders its way into Market Lavington to the South. This river is marked as a possible Chalk Stream in the Priority Habitats Inventory.
- 4.2.4 Most of the Site comprises horse-grazed pasture with low species-richness and few wildflowers (UKHabs code g4 – 103). The dominant grasses are Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*).
- 4.2.5 The hedges bordering the field comprise a mix of tree and shrub species, with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) abundant. The hedge along the road entrance stands partly on an earth bank and has a section where tall trees stand above the shrubs.
- 4.2.6 The hedge running along the southern boundary helps connect the nearby traditional orchard to wooded areas just north of Market Lavington.

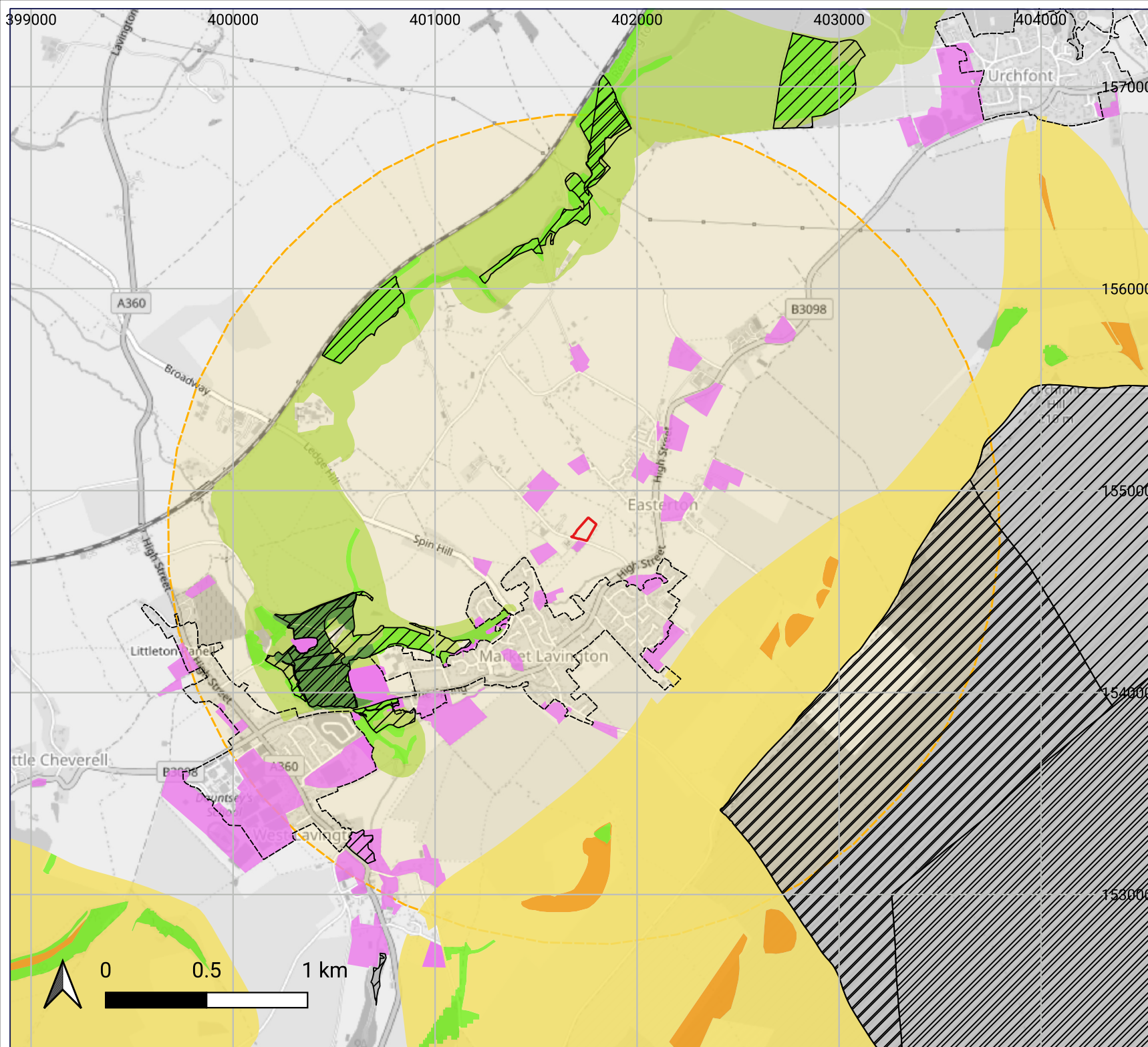


-  Red Line Boundary
-  Species-rich native hedgerow
-  Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch
-  Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  Developed land; sealed surface
-  Modified grassland

Google Satellite

Project	Land at Drove Lane
Client	Stonebury Land Ltd
Title	Baseline Habitats
Date	12/03/2026
Suitability	For issue
CRS	OSGB36 / British National Grid
Scale	1:1489
QGIS	3.44.2-Solothurn





- Red Line Boundary
- 2km Zone of Influence
- Settlement Boundaries
- LNRS Areas of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (APIB)

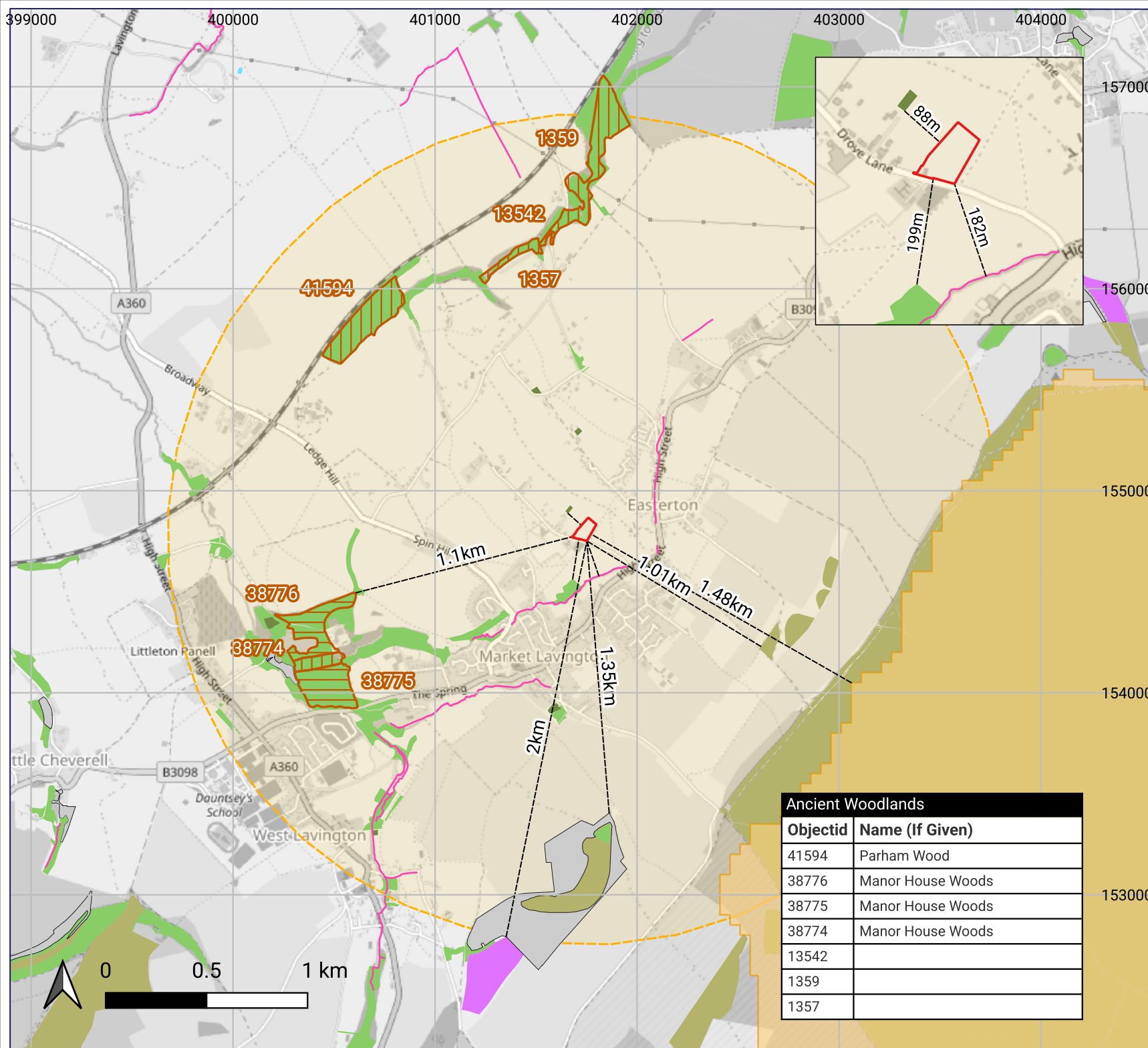
LNRS Mapped Measures

- Create and Improve Habitats for Nature on Our Doorstep
- Create More Chalk and Limestone Grassland
- Create More Woodland and Associated Habitats
- Maintain and Enhance Chalk and Limestone Grassland
- Maintain and Enhance Woodland and Associated Habitats (Ancient Woodland Areas)
- Maintain and Enhance Woodland and Associated Habitats (Woodland Areas)

OpenStreetMap

Project	Land at Drove Lane, Devizes
Client	Stonebury Land Ltd
Title	LNRS Measures
Date	11/03/2026
Suitability	For issue
CRS	OSGB36 / British National Grid
Scale	1:25000
QGIS	3.44.2-Solothurn





Red Line Boundary

2km Zone of Influence

Shortest distance to closest feature of its type

Ancient Woodland © Natural England

Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland

Ancient Replanted Woodland

Chalk Rivers (England) © Natural England

Low certainty

Priority Habitats Inventory (England) © Natural England

Deciduous woodland

Good quality semi improved grassland

Lowland calcareous grassland

No main habitat but additional habitats present

Ponds

Traditional orchard

Priority River Habitat -Headwater Areas © Natural England

OpenStreetMap

Project

Client

Title

Date

Suitability

CRS

Scale

QGIS

Land at Drove Lane, Devizes

Stonebury Land Ltd

Priority Habitats

11/03/2026

For issue

OSGB36 / British National Grid

1:25000

3.44.2-Solothurn

Ancient Woodlands	
Objectid	Name (If Given)
41594	Parham Wood
38776	Manor House Woods
38775	Manor House Woods
38774	Manor House Woods
13542	
1359	
1357	



4.3. Amphibians

4.3.1 There are 51 records of amphibians returned in the WSBRC data search.

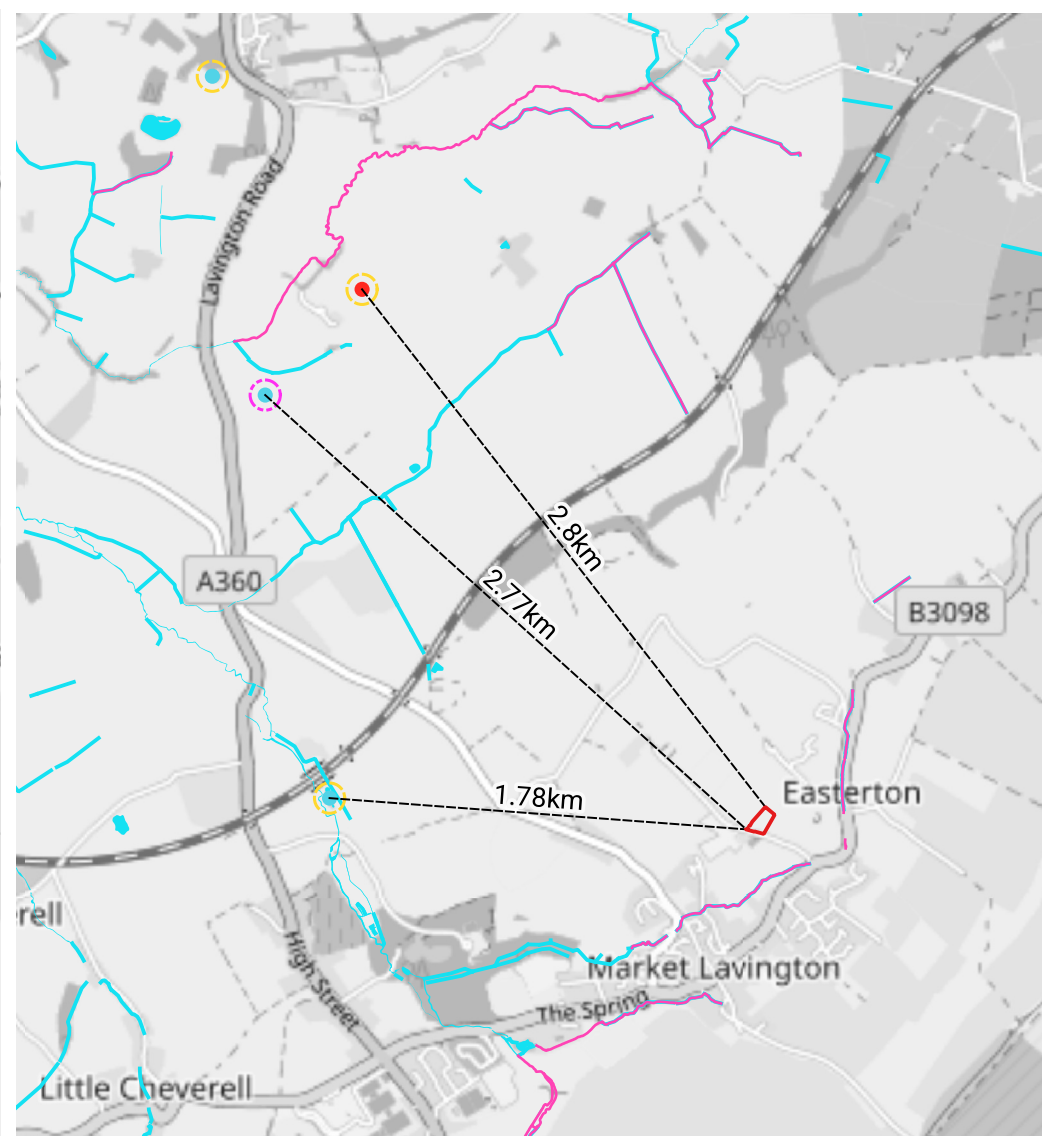
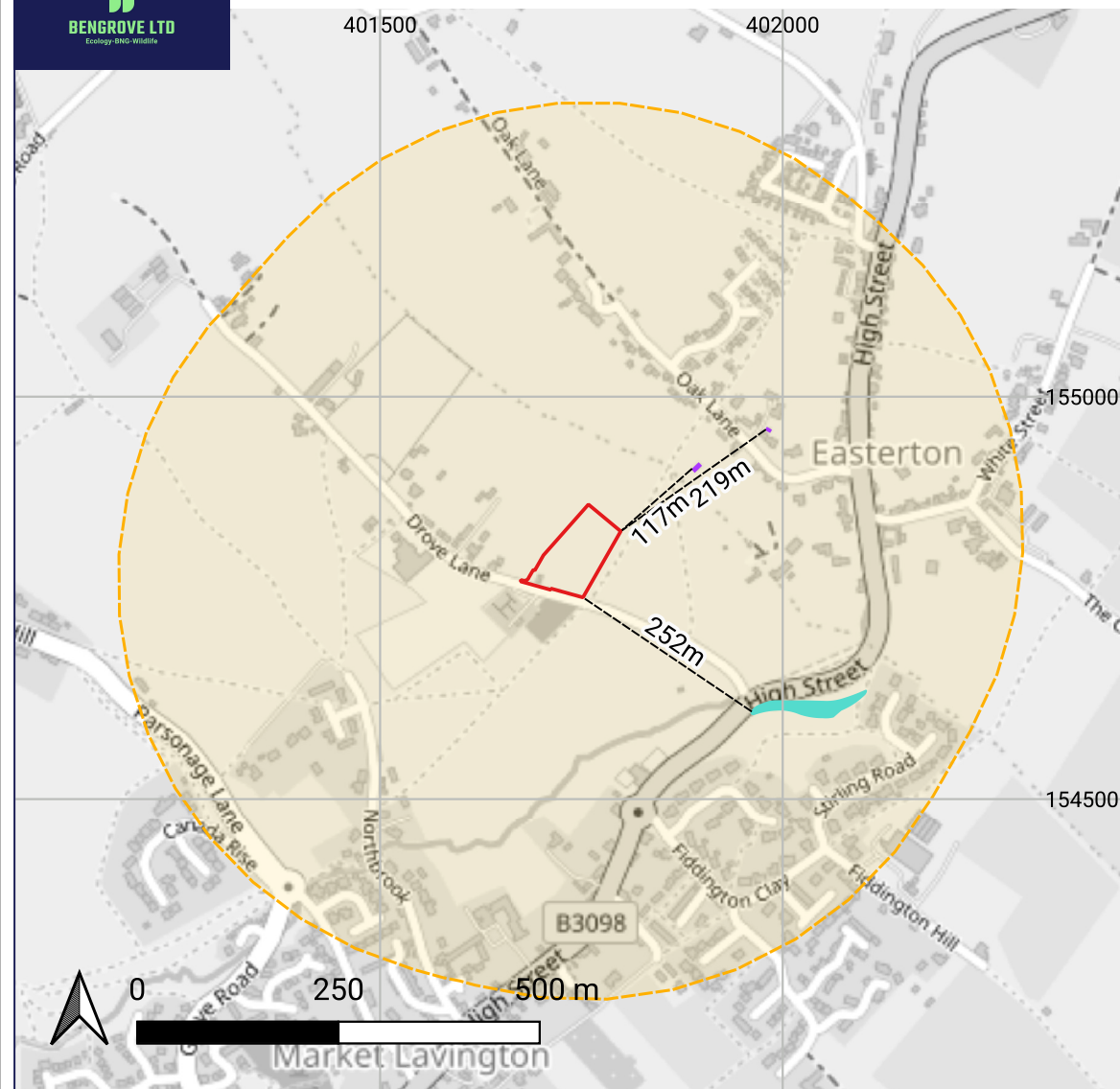
Species	No. Data Records	Max. No. Adults Recorded
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	22	40
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	29	5

4.3.2 Three class survey licence returns and one eDNA pond survey confirms the presence of Great Crested Newts within 5km of the Site, but there is only one suitable waterbody within 500m (their maximum range) that could support a population; a large, historical pond 242m to the southeast of the Site (see **Freshwater Habitats Plan** and **Historical Ecology Plan**).

4.3.3 There are no granted Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) applications within 5km of the Site.

4.3.4 The Site itself does not have any areas of standing water, so there are no suitable areas for breeding or egg-laying. However, during the terrestrial phase of their lifecycle (adulthood), amphibians could use the boundary hedges for foraging and dispersal across the landscape. With a diet of insects and worms, they will help control these populations, while their eggs provide nourishment for aquatic birds, diving beetles, and fish. The adults are also prey for grass snakes, herons, and kingfishers.

4.3.5 However, the scarcity of suitable waterbodies within 500m reduces the likelihood of any of these species being found on Site, especially in seasons where amphibians will want to stay moist to avoid desiccation.



Red Line Boundary

500m Zone of Influence

Shortest distance to feature

Chalk Rivers (England) © Natural England

Low certainty

Other Freshwater Habitats

Wiltshire Sheet XL - Surveyed 1885, Published 1888 (CC-BY, National Library Scotland)

OpenStreetMap Water (Swimming Pools)

GCN eDNA Pond Surveys for District Level
Licensing © Natural England

Absent

Present

HSI (Good)

HSI (Below average)

OpenData - Local © OS

SU_SurfaceWater_Line

SU_SurfaceWater_Area

ST_SurfaceWater_Line

ST_SurfaceWater_Area

OpenStreetMap

Project	Land at Drove Lane, Devizes
Client	Stonebury Land Ltd
Title	Non-Priority Freshwater Habitats
Date	11/03/2026
Suitability	For issue
CRS	OSGB36 / British National Grid
Scale	1:9000
QGIS	3.44.2-Solothurn

4.4. Birds

- 4.4.1 In total, 1,728 bird records were returned in the 2km data search, distributed across 66 different species. Eight of these species are afforded (at least) European protection, 18 national protection, and 40 some other form of protection (such as Red List status).

European Protected Species	BOCC Status	No. Data Records	Max. Abundance
Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>)	Green	43	2
Little Egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	Green	36	8
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	Green	30	650
Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	Red	10	6
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	Red	9	1
Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Green	5	1
Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)	Green	4	1
Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	Amber	2	3

- 4.4.2 Of the nationally protected species, Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), and House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) had the highest abundance (counts of 400, 250, 100, 75, and 30, respectively).
- 4.4.3 Of those species with some other form of protection, Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*), and Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) were the most abundant (25,000, 700, and 544, respectively).
- 4.4.4 Of the remaining birds, those with either Red or Amber status on the Birds of Conservation Concern list include:

Protection	Red List	Amber List
National	Yellowhammer, Grey Partridge, Spotted Flycatcher, Cuckoo, Grasshopper Warbler, Yellow Wagtail	Reed Bunting, Quail
Other	Corn Bunting, House Martin, Swift, Linnet, Herring Gull, Mistle Thrush, Greenfinch, Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat,	Lesser Black-backed Gull, Meadow Pipit, Mallard, Black-headed Gull, Wren, Dunnock, Whitethroat, Moorhen, Wheatear, Bullfinch, Snipe, Kestrel, Song Thrush, Stock Dove, Tawny Owl, Grey

Protection	Red List	Amber List
	Woodcock, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Marsh Tit	Wagtail, Willow Warbler, Sparrowhawk, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Shelduck, Dipper

- 4.4.5 Unsurprisingly, the results also included records for birds noted in the Salisbury Plain SSSI citation. Notably, Quail, Hobby, Barn Owl, Whinchat, Wheatear, Corn Bunting, thrushes, finches, Hen Harrier, Merlin, and Short-eared Owl.
- 4.4.6 As they are broadly defined in the **Wild bird trends in the UK and England, 1970 to 2024 report**², overall, the species recorded typically prefer farmland (15 species in total), woodland (12), water & wetland (10), additional (9) – in this case, urban – and upland habitats (9). Of which, there remains plenty in the wider landscape.
- 4.4.7 The sites habitats are suitable for grassland birds foraging for insectivores like Lapwing and Green Woodpecker, or birds of prey hunting amphibians, reptiles, or small mammals, such as Barn Owls. There is a small chance birds that groom horses, such as the rare Cattle Egret could use the Site, but there are no records and they are more of a winter visitor to the southwest. The Site is also too dry to be considered of high-quality for wetland birds. Finally, the small size and grazed fields mean the Site is of poor quality for ground nesting birds. The hedges and trees provide nesting and feeding opportunities.
- 4.4.8 Any birds present are likely to be in low numbers, and consist of species that prefer grassland habitat.

4.5. Fish

- 4.5.1 One record of Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta subsp. fario*) was returned in the data search, at Dauntsey's Meadow between 1973-1976.
- 4.5.2 The site's habitats are not suitable for fish, but the nearby Easterton Brook may be able to support some species, which could include European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*).

4.6. Fungi

- 4.6.1 There were no records of fungi returned in the data search, and none were recorded during the field survey. The horse-grazed pasture could support common species.

² Wild bird populations in the UK and England, 1970 to 2024 [Internet]. GOV.UK. 2025. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/wild-bird-populations-in-the-uk/wild-bird-populations-in-the-uk-and-england-1970-to-2024#breeding-farmland-bird-populations-in-the-uk-and-england>

4.7. Higher and Lower Plants

- 4.7.1 In total, 202 records of flowering plants and ferns were returned in the 2km data search. None are recorded on Site, with the closest records for Tuberous Thistle (*Cirsium tuberosum*) and Loose Silky-bent (*Apera spica-venti*), found at Penning Down and Fiddington Sands, respectively. Tuberous Thistle is nationally rare, and both are a Red List species.
- 4.7.2 Most species were only recorded as individuals (i.e., maximum abundance counts did not exceed one), but the highest number of records (32) were for Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), followed by Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) with 27 records, and Sainfoin (*Onobrychis viciifolia*) with 14 records. There were also 5 records of the internationally protected Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*).
- 4.7.3 The horse-grazed pasture is not suitable for most of these species, while the hedgerows offer the most suitable habitat of shade-tolerant woodland species such as Great Wood-rush, Bluebells and Butcher's Broom, although this is sub-optimal. The records also include five counts of Scot's Pine within the wider landscape.
- 4.7.4 Ultimately, the field has been classified as Modified grassland in 'Moderate' condition. This is a very common vegetation type and is not of significant botanical importance.

4.8. Invertebrates (aquatic and terrestrial)

- 4.8.1 In total, 113 records of invertebrates were returned in the data search, distributed across 38 different species. Twenty-four of these species are afforded (at least) some form of national protection, and 14 some other form of protection (such as Red List status).

Nationally Protected Species	Species with the Most Records	Species with the Highest Abundance	Total Records
Butterflies	18 - Wall (<i>Lasiommata megera</i>)	33 - Small Heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>)	52
Moths	3 - Shaded Broad-bar (<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>)	3 - September Thorn (<i>Ennomos erosaria</i>)	17
Beetles	11 - Black Oil-beetle (<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>)	4 - Black Oil-beetle (<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>)	12

Nationally Protected Species	Species with the Most Records	Species with the Highest Abundance	Total Records
Hymenopterans	2 - Brown-Banded Carder Bee (<i>Bombus humilis</i>)	1 - Brown-Banded Carder Bee (<i>Bombus humilis</i>)	2

4.8.2 Of those species with some other form of protection, Chalk Hill Blue (*Polyommatus coridon*), Red-tailed Mason Bee (*Osmia bicolor*), and Adonis Blue (*Polyommatus bellargus*) had the highest abundance (counts of 35, 10, and 8, respectively).

4.8.3 It is worth noting that results for the nationally protected Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) butterfly were also returned in the data search. This is an Annex II species that is a primary reason for designation of Salisbury Plain SAC. However, the Site does not provide suitable habitat for this species; the main foodplant for their caterpillars is Devil's-bit-Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), which was not recorded on-site, and would be grazed by the horses.

4.8.4 Species were not recorded during the field survey, but the grazed pasture provides few wildflowers for the larval stage of most rare species. The area is also very flat due to the horse's activity, but the ground is dry and sandy, making it suitable for ants or mining bees. Dung beetles may also be present, but none of these species were returned in the data search and there is plenty of similar habitat in the wider landscape.

4.10. Bats

4.10.1 There were 2,025 bat records returned in the WSBRC data search, spread across 16 of the 18 resident species in the UK:

Table 4-2. Count of bat records per species and roost type. Highest counts are in bold.

Species	Hibernaculum	Maternity roost	Roost	Not Roost	Undetermined	
Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	8	1	61	325	3	
Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	4	12	11	70	0	
Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	3	5	23	246	3	
Barbastelle (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>)	2	52	18	253	0	
Natterer's Bat (<i>Myotis nattereri</i>)	1	1	11	34	0	
Serotine (<i>Cnephaeus serotinus</i>)	0	5	19	169	1	
Noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>)	0	0	3	160	2	
Daubenton's Bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)	0	0	0	15	0	
Bechstein's Bat (<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>)	0	0	0	3	0	
Greater Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>)	0	0	16	23	1	
Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	0	4	4	45	3	
Whiskered Bat (<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>)	0	0	0	8	0	
Brown Long-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>)	0	1	32	19	4	
Brandt's Bat (<i>Myotis brandtii</i>)	0	0	2	3	0	
Nathusius's Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>)	0	0		0	5	0
Leisler's Bat (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>)	0	0		0	18	0
Records where the species or genus could not be identified						
Pipistrelle Bat species (<i>Pipistrellus</i>)	4	0	12	1	0	

Species	Hibernaculum	Maternity roost	Roost	Not Roost	Undetermined	
Whiskered/Brandt's Bat (<i>Myotis mystacinus/brandtii</i>)	0	0	0	11	0	
Nyctalus Bat species (<i>Nyctalus</i>)	0	0	0	29	0	
Long-eared Bat species (<i>Plecotus</i>)	0	1	5	81	0	
Bat (<i>Chiroptera</i>)	0	0	15	5	0	
Myotis Bat species (<i>Myotis</i>)	0	0		5	143	1

- 4.10.2 The table above represents the total number of times a particular species was listed (which can help inform how a particular species is using the area), not the absolute abundance of that species. For example, one of the Lesser horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) maternity roost records refers to a population of 66 adults, while another is for 2 adults, both recorded in 2023. The “Not Roost” column typically refers to counts of 1-2 individuals.
- 4.10.3 The bat surveys detected at least nine different species using the site (in addition to *Myotis* bats, which are not differentiated to species level):
- Barbastelle
 - Serotine
 - Noctule
 - Brown Long-eared
 - Common Pipistrelle
 - Soprano Pipistrelle
 - Greater Horseshoe
 - Lesser Horseshoe
 - Nathusius' Pipistrelle
- 4.10.4 The majority of calls were of Common Pipistrelle bats, with the other species making up a much smaller proportion of the data. Higher activity was recorded from the static detector on the northern hedgerow than the other two detectors, and the detector attached to the telegraph pole in the middle of the field recorded the least amount of bat activity. Observations during the transect survey were mostly of Pipistrelle bats and the larger bats (Serotines and Noctules) foraging and commuting along the hedges.
- 4.10.5 The boundary hedgerows are good foraging and commuting habitat for bats. The open field is of limited value owing to the close-grazed nature of the sward.
- 4.10.6 The wooden stables are not suitable for roosting bats.

4.11. Dormice

- 4.11.1 There were no records for Hazel Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) returned in the data search.
- 4.11.2 The hedgerows included a mix of thorny shrubs that provide suitable foraging and nesting habitat for dormice. While the Site is 1.1km away from the nearest ancient woodland (Manor House Woods), there are a few woodlands between this area and the Site, each no more than a couple of hundred metres apart. The nearest such woodland is just less than a hectare in size and is only 199m from the Site.
- 4.11.3 It is possible that dormice may use the Site, but the lack of records and absence of large stands of ancient woodland make it unlikely that they are present.

4.12. Riparian Mammals

- 4.12.1 One record of Otters (*Lutra lutra*) was returned in the data search results, to the southwest near Lavington Manor, along with eight records of Water Voles (*Arvicola amphibius*). Two of these were recorded near the Easterton Brook, just 200m east, and to the west of the High Street, B3098. The others were recorded further west around West Lavington Manor Woods Stream, and Semington Brook in Dautsey Wood. There were no records of the invasive American mink (*Neogale vison*).
- 4.12.2 As a horse-grazed paddock with short grasses, the Site does not offer suitable terrestrial habitat for Otter holts, or Water Vole foraging.

4.13. Reptiles

- 4.13.1 In total, 32 reptile records were returned in the WSBRC data search results, divided between these four nationally protected species:

Species	No. Records	Max. Abundance
Slow-worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>)	11	4
Common Lizard (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>)	11	3
Grass Snake (<i>Natrix helvetica</i>)	8	1
Adder (<i>Vipera berus</i>)	2	---

- 4.13.2 The two closest records are for Slow-worms in Easterton and Northbrook, Market Lavington.
- 4.13.3 The field within the development area is too short for reptiles, but they may be present in the boundary hedges. The earth banks and adjacent habitats provide good habitat for basking and foraging reptiles.

4.14. Section 41 & Other Species

4.14.1 The following species records were also returned as part of the data search:

Species	No. Records	Max. Abundance
Polecat (<i>Mustela putorius</i>)	3	2
Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	117	36
Harvest Mouse (<i>Micromys minutus</i>)	17	1
Brown Hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>)	21	2
Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	118	3

4.14.2 The lack of woodland and riverine habitats, combined with the shorter, grazed grass on-site means the Site is not particularly suitable for polecats, though they may commute through the area. It is likely the remaining species may use the hedgerows for foraging and shelter, but may only occasionally be observed in the field while the grass is grazed to a short sward height.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Proposals can either support or undermine the conservation objectives for important ecological features or for biodiversity in general. In the absence of any avoidance, mitigation, or compensation, the main impacts of this project would be the removal of a section of hedgerow to provide access, and the loss of modified grassland in the development area.

5.1. Project Description

- 5.1.1 This report has been prepared to support a Permission in Principle application for a development of up to nine homes. Consequently, while the red line boundary will remain fixed, the exact layout, landscape design, housing density etc is subject to change. The table below assesses the potential impacts of the development and sets out whether, in principle, there is scope to avoid, mitigate or compensate for these impacts to the extent that they would not result in a significant ecological effect.



-  Red Line Boundary
-  Species-rich native hedgerow
-  Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch
-  Developed land; sealed surface
-  Modified grassland
-  Vegetated garden

Google Satellite

Project	Land at Drove Lane
Client	Stonebury Land Ltd
Title	Proposed Habitats
Date	12/03/2026
Suitability	For issue
CRS	OSGB36 / British National Grid
Scale	1:1489
QGIS	3.44.2-Solothurn



Table 5-1. Impact Assessment

Receptor	Importance	Potential Impacts	Mitigation Hierarchy	Significant Effects
Designated Sites	Salisbury Plain is a designated SAC, SSSI, and SPA. It is protected for its habitats, and the species they support. While the site is not free from human influence (as a military training area for the Ministry of Defence), it nonetheless remains the largest expanse of chalk downland in northwest Europe, and supports large populations of rare, protected species. If lost, or hampered, the ecological functions it provides could not easily be replaced, if at all. The proposed development site is of no ecological importance to the SPA, but there is potential for additional recreational pressure.	Recreational pressure	A strategic Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been prepared in relation to recreational / visitor pressure. The AA reached a conclusion of no adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA or its qualifying features provided that the council's mitigation strategy continues to be implemented. In March 2025 Natural England (NE) confirmed that the 2024 strategic AA for Salisbury Plain SPA continues to be supported.	None
Hedgerows	Hedgerows are a priority habitat under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that plans should 'promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats'. The Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024 also outlines how hedgerows should be managed in agricultural landscapes. The site's hedges are of Local importance.	Loss of hedgerow to create access to the Site will result in a loss of habitat for nesting birds and other wildlife.	The extent of hedge removal needs to be minimised to mitigate the impact on connectivity, and any loss needs to be compensated with additional planting to achieve at least 10% net gain in hedges.	Subject to the impacts being mitigated and compensated there would be no significant ecological effect.

Receptor	Importance	Potential Impacts	Mitigation Hierarchy	Significant Effects
Grassland	The vegetation type is very common locally and in the wider landscape and it is of Local importance.	The Red Line Boundary equates to 0.69ha of grassland. Roughly 70% of this area will be lost to the development footprint.	Due to the nature of the development, this loss cannot be avoided. Instead, it will need to be mitigated. Achieving the 10% net gain required will not be possible on-site, but in principle could be mitigated for off-site, either within the same field, or elsewhere.	Subject to ensuring that 10% net gain in habitats is secured, there would be no significant effect.
Amphibians	The Site has no areas of standing water, and there is only one potential pond within 500m. It cannot provide breeding habitat, and provides poor foraging habitat. The short sward provides little shelter from predators, while the hedgerows offer more protection. The Site is considered of Local or Site level importance for amphibians.	There is a low chance of accidental killing or injury of individual amphibians during habitat clearance and/or construction vehicle movement around the Site. There will be a direct loss of poor-quality grassland foraging habitat. The management of the remaining field will change.	Harm can be avoided through the creation of a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP). The habitat loss can be mitigated through the enhancement of retained on and off-site grassland.	Habitat for terrestrial stages of lifecycle could be improved through grassland management. Temporary reduction in metapopulation, likely to recover within 5 generations. Displacement from the Site for alternative food sources in neighbouring fields - this is unlikely to undermine the viability of a metapopulation.

Receptor	Importance	Potential Impacts	Mitigation Hierarchy	Significant Effects
Bats	The site's habitats are common and do not appear to represent an essential foraging or commuting resource for bats. The grassland is of Site value only and the hedge may be of up to Local value.	The new road access will reduce functional connectivity and the development will remove foraging habitat.	The development has been set back from the adjacent hedges by 10-15 metres, which is a sufficiently wide buffer zone that would avoid light spill from affecting the hedges around the fields. The impact of loss of foraging habitat can be compensated by providing an overall net gain in habitats off-site (within the blue line area)	Subject to the provision and management of suitable compensatory habitat, there would be no significant effect on bats.
Fluvial / Riparian Species	The site is of negligible importance for fluvial and riparian species	There is a very low risk that the brook to the south could be indirectly impacted by runoff during construction	Adverse impacts can be avoided through standard measures in a Construction Ecological Management Plan	There would be no significant ecological effects
Nesting Birds	Birds may nest in trees and hedges (some of which may return every year) and could use the Site for catching small animals and (mainly) common invertebrates. However, the grassland is unlikely to support a thriving and complex prey community. Species are likely to mostly use the Site opportunistically, rather than habitually.	If parts of hedgerows need to be lost, birds nesting in hedges and trees could accidentally be killed. High noise levels during construction may also mask signals used by birds for communication, breeding, and hunting. However, the Site's proximity to an urban settlement means any displacement due to noise is likely to be temporary.	Harm can be avoided through the implementation of a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP), timing works to avoid works during the nesting season.	There would be no significant ecological effects

Receptor	Importance	Potential Impacts	Mitigation Hierarchy	Significant Effects
Reptiles	The site is of Site level importance for reptiles	There is a low risk that individual or small numbers of reptiles could be killed or injured during construction	Harm can be avoided through the implementation of a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP)	There would be no significant ecological effects
Section 41 & Other Species	The site is of Site level importance	There is a low risk that individual or small numbers of animals could be killed or injured during construction	Harm can be avoided through the implementation of a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP)	There would be no significant ecological effects

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The Site is not of significant ecological importance for protected or notable species and consists of widespread habitat types.
- 6.1.2 In the absence of avoidance, mitigation or compensation it is possible that small numbers of protected species could be harmed during construction, but these would not be likely to lead to a significant ecological effect.
- 6.1.3 Avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures to be built into the proposal include:
- Delivering 10% net gain in habitat and hedgerow units, making use of the off-site land adjacent to the red line boundary
 - Implementing construction-stage avoidance measures under a Construction Ecological Management Plan
 - Building-in enhancements including bird nesting boxes at a rate of two per dwelling (e.g. swift bricks) and bat roosting boxes
- 6.1.4 These are commonplace requirements that can be secured through the planning process, either during determination of an application or through planning conditions or other suitably binding agreements.



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