



CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (BIODIVERSITY)

Client: NVB Architects

Site: Abbeyfield School, Chippenham

27.02.2026

Version 001



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Report	This report remains valid for 12 to 18 months from date of issue. The report, conclusions and recommendations are valid for current development plans only. Should this change, the report should be reviewed and, if necessary, further survey work and desk study review undertaken.		
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The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct.

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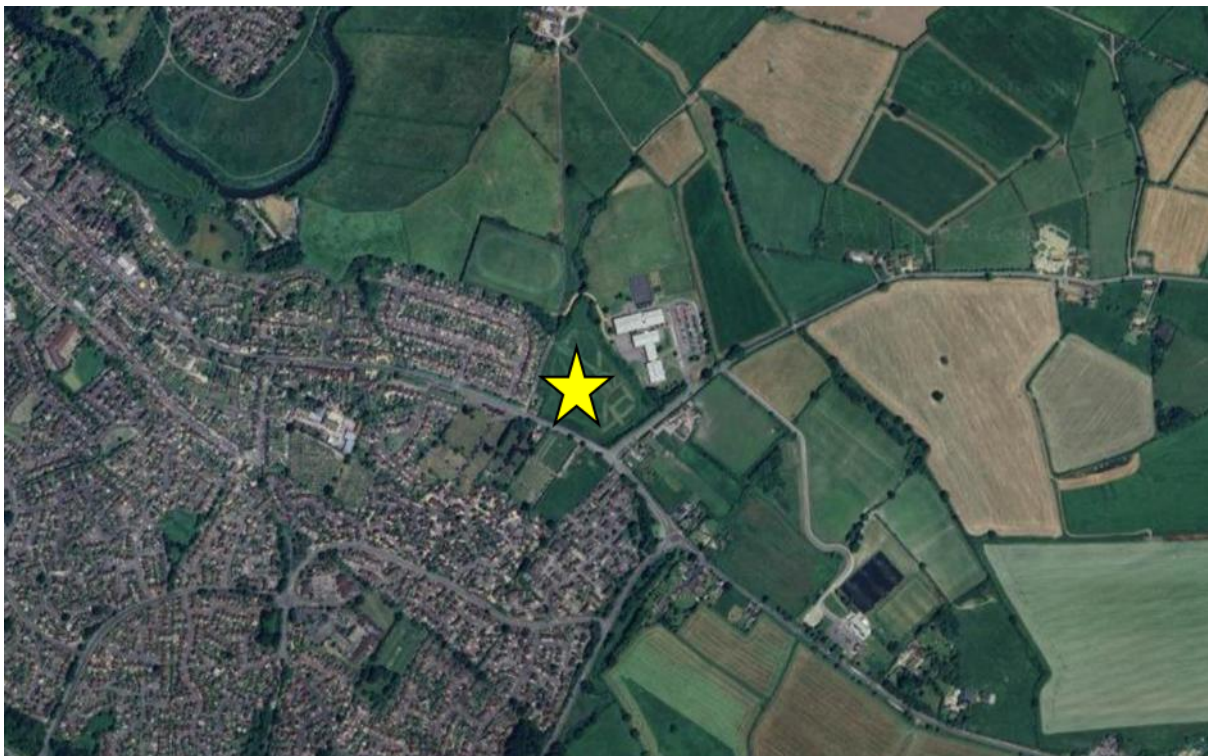
1. Introduction

1.1 Site Description

The site is located within a field adjacent to Abbeyfield School, Stanley Lane, Chippenham, SN15 3XB (OS grid reference: ST93617243) and is approximately 1.482 ha (14,820m²).

Since the completion of the ecological surveys in 2022 and 2023, the wider survey area of (approximately 3.9 ha (39,000 m²) was clarified and approximately halved to 1.482 ha (14,820m²), comprising the eastern end of the wider survey area (aLyne Ecology Ltd., 2022) (aLyne Ecology Ltd., 2023).

An aerial plan showing the location of the site is provided below.



Site Location (© Google Earth Pro, accessed 5th February 2026).

1.2 Development Proposals

The development proposals are for the construction of new two-storey teaching accommodation, assembly hall, car park, and landscaping over three phases.

The three phases of the proposed development are provided in drawings by NVB Architects:

- CO1554-NVB-01-XX-D-L-2103-Proposed Site Plan-Phase 1 (NVB Architects, 2025).
- CO1554-NVB-02-XX-D-L-2104-Proposed Site Plan-Phase 2 (NVB Architects, 2025).
- CO1554-NVB-03-XX-D-L-2105-Proposed Site Plan-Phase 3 (NVB Architects, 2025).

A landscape plan for all three phases has been provided in drawings by NVB Architects with associated planting schedule:

- CO1554-NVB-XX-XX-DR-2111 Planting and Ecological Enhancement Plan-All Phases (NVB Architects, 2025).
- CO1554-NVB-XX-XX-SH-L-2960-Planting Schedule (NVB Architects, 2025).

1.3 Defining Ecological Features

Table 1 summarises the ecological features which have been raised across between the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (aLyne Ecology Ltd, 2022), Ecology Surveys (aLyne Ecology Ltd., 2023), Hazel Dormouse Presence/Absence Survey Report (aLyne Ecology Ltd, 2025) and Preliminary Badger Survey Report (aLyne Ecology, 2025) reports by aLyne Ecology.

Table 1. Summary of Ecological Features

Ecological Feature	Findings	Recommendations/Action Taken
Designated sites	There are two non-statutory designated sites located within 1 km of the site, namely Baydons Meadow Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and Bristol Avon River LWS. The closest being Baydons Meadow LWS which is approximately 750m from the site boundary.	It was concluded that the proposals will not impact non-statutory designated sites as the proposed development site is separated from the nearest locally designated site by 750 m of existing dwellings, gardens, agricultural fields, and roads and the development will be confined to site.
Priority Habitats	There are five types of Priority Habitat located within 1km of the site, namely ponds, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, rivers/streams, deciduous woodland and woodpasture and parkland. The closest Priority Habitat is approximately located 170m from the site boundary.	It was concluded that the proposals will not impact Priority Habitats as the woodland on-site does not fulfil the criteria of Priority Habitat, the site is separated from the nearest Priority Habitat by 170m of existing dwellings and gardens and the development will be confined to the site.
Trees	Mature trees are located on-site.	Native trees should be retained, where possible and any trees lost as a result of the proposed development, should be replaced with equivalent numbers of native species. To prevent damage to retained trees during development, a buffer zone should be put in place to protect the rooting area (Root Protection Area, which is calculated in accordance with British Standard 5837, 'Trees in Relation to Construction'), in which no construction activities should be permitted.
Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	There are no ponds on-site, although there are six ponds within 500m of the site. The nearest pond is located 170m to the south. Onsite habitats include grassland and scrub which could be used by terrestrial great crested newts.	A licence granted by Natural England under District Level Licensing should be adhered to in full in relation to great crested newts and sensitive site clearance.

Ecological Feature	Findings	Recommendations/Action Taken
	The site is located within a Natural England District Licence Zone for Wiltshire.	As part of the District Level Licencing, 0.2 compensatory ponds will be created (Natural England, 2025).
Breeding birds	Habitats on site include trees and scrub which could support nesting birds. A barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>) was recorded foraging over grassland during Visit 5 of the bat activity surveys in 2023 (aLyne Ecology Ltd., 2023).	Nesting bird habitat within the trees and scrub should be retained. If works to remove habitats occurs within the nesting period, a check should be undertaken by an ecologist within 48 hours of works commencing, to confirm the presence/absence of nest sites. If nests sites are identified, works to that feature should be delayed until the nest site becomes inactive (species specific, but approximately 4-6 weeks maximum). It was recommended to include buffer margins comprising areas of grassland, managed to increase floristic diversity. The grassland should be cut in late Autumn, after the bird breeding season and once the flowering plants have seeded. This will be of benefit to the prey species for barns owls such as wood mice (<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>) and bank voles (<i>Myodes glareolus</i>).
Bats	Ten species of bat were recorded in the data search, including records for the rare greater horseshoe (<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>), lesser horseshoe (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>), and barbastelle (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>) bats. The closest data search record for bats is located approximately 50 m to the west of the site. There have been three granted European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) for roosting bats located within 2 km of the site, the closest being approximately 790 m from the site. There is a granted EPSL for a destruction of a resting place for common pipistrelles (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) and lesser horseshoe bats located approximately 1.5 km to the south-west. The scrub and tree habitats on site have high suitability to support foraging/commuting bats. Bat activity surveys were conducted in 2023 which determined the site currently supports commuting and foraging habitat of at least regional importance for serotines (<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>). The site also supports commuting habitat of at least county importance for common pipistrelles and noctules (<i>Nyctalus noctule</i>), and at least local importance for soprano pipistrelles (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	Habitats that support foraging and commuting bats including scrub and line of trees, should be retained, and protected where possible. It was recommended to include dark buffer zones to protect foraging and commuting bats.. Recommendations to minimise the potential impacts of artificial external lighting on bat activity, were provided under current guidance and include measures on red light bulbs to be used, where possible, particularly along the southern and northern boundaries, as light-phobic species like great horseshoes, lesser horseshoes, and barbastelles, were recorded foraging/commuting in these areas of the site (Bat Conservation Trust, 2023).

Ecological Feature	Findings	Recommendations/Action Taken
	and Nathusius' pipistrelles (<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>).	
Badgers (<i>Meles meles</i>)	During the PEA survey, no signs of badgers were recorded. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A preliminary badger survey was undertaken in September 2025 to assess habitats within the site boundary and the wider survey area for badger setts and signs of badgers, to identify any constraints to the proposed development. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	The development will be confined to the areas within the development boundary and will therefore [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Hazel dormice (<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>)	There are no records of hazel dormice in the data search. However, the dense scrub habitats provide connectivity to hedgerow and woodland habitats in the wider landscape and have high suitability to support hazel dormice. Hazel dormice surveys were conducted in 2023 and 2025 which concluded hazel dormice to be absent from the site, and avoidance and mitigation measures relating to hazel dormice were not required (aLyne Ecology Ltd., 2023) (aLyne Ecology Ltd, 2025).	Hazel dormice have been scoped out of further recommendations as they have been concluded as likely absent from the site and will not be impacted.
Brown hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>)	The brown hare was recorded on site and in the data search, and the neutral grassland has been assessed as having suitability to support brown hares.	Brown hares were recorded on site and in the data search and are likely to forage within the site. Any holes/trenches created as part of the construction works, should be closed at night or a mammal ladder provided to enable mammals a means of escape.
Common toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>)	Common toads were not recorded in the data search; however, for the same reasons given for great crested newts, it is considered possible that common toads are present within the site.	An Ecological Clerk of Works should be present on site during any site clearance activities, which are likely to involve the removal/disturbance of any vegetation, particularly the dense scrub habitats on site. Any common toads found, should be allowed to move away into adjacent habitats unharmed, of their own accord.

Ecological Feature	Findings	Recommendations/Action Taken
Reptiles	Grass snakes (<i>Natrix helvetica</i>) were recorded in the data search; the nearest record being located approximately 850 m to the north-west of the site. The site contains suitable habitat for reptiles such as neutral grassland, scrub and woodland habitats. A reptile presence/absence survey was undertaken in September 2022 which recorded a peak count of three adult slow worms (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>).	A Reptile Mitigation Strategy has been produced and outlines the reptile translocation process to be undertaken pre-construction to ensure legal compliance with legislation. See aLyne Ecology's Ltd, Reptile Mitigation Strategy for full details (aLyne Ecology Ltd, 2026).
European hedgehogs (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	The European hedgehog was recorded in the data search, the closest record being approximately 50 m to the west of the site. The scrub habitats on site could support the European hedgehog, which is a Priority Species.	An Ecological Clerk of Works should be present on site during any site clearance activities, which are likely to involve the removal/disturbance of any vegetation, particularly the dense scrub habitats on site. Any European hedgehogs found should be allowed to move away into adjacent habitats unharmed, of their own accord.
Orchids	During visit 3 of the hazel dormice presence absence surveys in 2023, a sward of bee orchids (<i>Ophrys apifera</i>) and pyramidal orchids, (<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>) were recorded on site.	An Orchid Translocation Method Statement has been produced in Appendix 2 and outlines the necessary procedure to ensure orchids will not be impacted by the development.

1.4 Brief and Objectives

The brief was to prepare a CEMP to identify the potential environmental impacts of the construction activities of the development on defined ecological features on site. This CEMP provides site specific procedures and mitigation measures to monitor and mitigate the environmental impacts of the construction activities throughout the construction phase of the development.

This CEMP document will be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority (Wiltshire Council).

This document should be referred to in conjunction with the relevant landscape and architectural drawings as listed in Section 1.2 and the ecological reports by aLyne Ecology as summarised in Section 1.3.

2. Relevant Legislation and Planning Policy

2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024

The NPPF 2024 (HM Government, 2024) promotes conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, as detailed in paragraph 192, which states: *“To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:*

a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and

b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity”.

2.2 Bats

All British bat species and their roosts are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) (HM Government, 1981) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017 (as amended) (HM Government, 2017). This means it is a criminal offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure, or kill a bat.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats.
- Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time).
- Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

Some species of bats are Priority Species, as listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (HM Government, 2006).

2.3 Hazel Dormice

Hazel dormice and their habitats are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (HM Government, 1981). Hazel dormice are also included in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)(HM Government, 2017), which defines "European protected species of animals" and are afforded further protection through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, 2000 (HM Government, 2000).

The combined legislation makes it illegal to:

- Intentionally kill, injure, or capture hazel dormice.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb hazel dormice.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a hazel dormouse.

- Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a hazel dormouse, unless acquired legally.
- Sell, barter or exchange hazel dormice, or parts of hazel dormice.

2.4 European Hedgehogs

The European hedgehog is a Priority Species, as listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (HM Government, 2006).

2.5 Brown Hare

The Brown Hare is a Priority Species, listed on Section 41 of the NERC Act, 2006 (HM Government, 2006).

2.6 Badger

Badgers are fully protected in the UK by the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992 (HM Government, 1992) and by Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) (HM Government, 1981). This makes it an offence (amongst other things) to:

- Willfully kill, injure, take, possess, or cruelly treat a badger.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett.
- Disturb a badger while it is occupying a sett.

2.7 Breeding Birds

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, it is illegal to take, damage or destroy the nests of wild birds whilst being built or in use (HM Government, 1981). Birds of high and medium conservation concern may also breed on site; however, these species do not receive any other protection above and beyond that received by all wild breeding birds.

Barn owls are listed under Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which is the principal legislation affording protection to all wild birds in the UK (HM Government, 1981). Additionally, species listed on Schedule 1, Part 1 of the Act are always protected by special penalties.

2.8 Great Crested Newts

Great crested newts and their habitats are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (HM Government, 1981). Great crested newts are also included in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (HM Government, 2017) which defines "European protected species of animals" and are afforded further protection through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, 2000 (HM Government, 2000).

The combined legislation makes it illegal to:

- Intentionally kill, injure, or capture great crested newts.
- Deliberately disturb great crested newts.
- Damage, destroy great crested newt habitat.

Furthermore, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC Act) 2006 (HM Government, 2006), requires due consideration be given to biodiversity and its potential enhancement when

considering proposed developments. The great crested newt is a Priority Species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act (HM Government, 2006).

2.9 Common Toads

The common toad is a Priority Species as listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act, 2006 (HM Government, 2006).

2.10 Reptiles

Reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) (HM Government, 1981), against killing and injury. Reptiles are also Priority Species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act, 2006 (HM Government, 2006). Under the NERC Act, Local Planning Authorities are required to have due regard for biodiversity.

2.11 Orchids

Bee orchids and pyramidal orchids are protected, as are all wildflowers, under Section 13 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (HM Government, 1981). This section prohibits unauthorised and intentional uprooting of any wild plant.

3. Defining the Ecological Clerk of Works

An ECoW will be commissioned by the client and will supervise the implementation of this CEMP (Biodiversity). The ECoW will be a suitably qualified ecologist in receipt of training for the role and will have no fewer than two years' experience. The roles and responsibility of the ECoW will ensure that tasks which could impact protected species or habitats are supervised and there are no detrimental impacts to wildlife during the construction phases of development.

4. Biodiversity Protection Zones and Signage

Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) will ensure that important biodiversity features will be retained to avoid adverse impacts during the construction phases. These areas should be protected by suitable fencing in accordance with British Standard 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction' and marked by appropriate signage (BSI, 2012). Locations of BPZs and protective fencing will safeguard existing trees and habitats that are to be retained as part of the project.

The location of the BPZs matches those of Root Protection Areas (RPAs) as outlined in the Arboricultural Method Statement by Tyler Grange (Drawing Reference: Tree Protection Plan 11468_P04) is shown in Figure 1 (Tyler Grange, 2025). The same fencing for the RPA shall be used for the BPZ as the required fencing serves the same purpose. The specification of the fencing and an example of suitable signage is provided in Appendix 1.

5. Responsible Persons and Lines of Communication

Table 2 defines the key roles and responsibilities for each involved persons for the implementation of the CEMP (Biodiversity).

Table 2. Persons Responsible for Action

Responsible Persons	Role and Responsibilities	Contact Details
Client	The client shall be responsible for the implementation of the CEMP and will arrange the input and attendance of the ECoW at required stages during the project timetable. In the event of site management changing, the client should alert the ECoW so the CEMP can be made aware to them.	Andrew Simpson, NVB Architects [REDACTED]
ECoW	The ECoW is to support the project by ensuring the client adheres to the CEMP and remain legally complaint. The EcoW will assist and advise both the client and main contractor on ecological issues during the development.	Charlie Gardiner BSc (Hons) ACIEEM – Senior Ecologist [REDACTED] Sarah Lyne BSc (Hons) MCIEEM – Principal Ecologist /Managing Director [REDACTED]
Main Contractor	The main contractor will adhere to the CEMP under the direction of the client and the ECoW. The main contractor will support the ECoW when issues are highlighted to ensure continued compliance with this CEMP.	William Corry - Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd [REDACTED]

6. Ecological Risk Assessment

An ecological risk assessment is provided in Table 3 which highlights potential impacts to ecological features during construction phases. Measures to remedy the risks to the ecological features at risk are provided. Method statements providing practical measures to reduce the risks to ecological features are provided in Section 7.

Table 3. Ecological Risk Assessment

Ecological Features/Species	Potential Adverse Impacts During Construction Phases	Relevant Method Statement to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 7)	Timing/Schedule to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 8)	Persons Responsible to Implement Risk Avoidance Measures
Retained Trees	Possible root compaction through heavy machinery movement.	Method Statement 1 – Toolbox Talk Method Statement 2 - Biodiversity Protection Zone Safeguarding Method Statement 3 - Sensitive Lighting Strategy During Construction	Prior to commencement of construction phases, fencing should be installed to protect the BPZs. The ECoW should provide a toolbox talk to contractors highlight all ecological features that could be impacted in the process of the construction work.	ECoW: Ensuring BPZ fencing is inspected annually to ensure compliance and toolbox talk is provided.
				Client / Main Contractor: To commission fencing contractor to install appropriate BPZ fencing.
				Client / Main Contractor: adhering to the CEMP risk avoidance controls highlighted in method statements.

Ecological Features/Species	Potential Adverse Impacts During Construction Phases	Relevant Method Statement to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 7)	Timing/Schedule to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 8)	Persons Responsible to Implement Risk Avoidance Measures
Amphibians	Accidental damage or death from vegetation clearance activities.	Method Statement 6: Precautionary Measures for Amphibians, European Hedgehogs, Brown Hare and Badgers	The granted District Level License should be in place prior to commencing any sensitive site clearance and should be undertaken within the conditions of the license (Natural England, 2025).	ECoW: Provide toolbox talk to vegetation clearance contractors and supervise works to ensure protected species are not harmed.
Reptiles	Accidental damage or death from vegetation clearance activities.	Method Statement 1 – Toolbox Talk Method Statement 9 - Translocation Measures for Reptiles	A translocation schedule has been devised from April to June 2026. See aLyne Ecology's reptile mitigation strategy.	ECoW: Ensure the reptile mitigation strategy is adhered to by contractors and carried out without incurring damage or death to reptiles.
Nesting Birds	Possible destruction or disturbance to nesting birds due to construction activities.	Method Statement 1 – Toolbox Talk Method Statement 3: Sensitive Lighting Strategy During Construction Method Statement 4: Precautionary Measures for Nesting Birds	The ECoW should provide a toolbox talk to contractors highlighting all ecological features that could be impacted in the process of the construction work. Prior to commencement of groundwork phases, the ECoW will supervise the removal of unretained	ECoW: Provide toolbox talk to vegetation clearance contractors and supervise works to ensure no nesting birds are not harmed during the bird nesting season.

Ecological Features/Species	Potential Adverse Impacts During Construction Phases	Relevant Method Statement to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 7)	Timing/Schedule to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 8)	Persons Responsible to Implement Risk Avoidance Measures
			vegetation sensitively and ensure bird nests are not adversely impacted.	
Bats	Long term damage to local bat populations through loss of foraging and commuting habitats. Deterrent for foraging and commuting routes through improper use of lighting	Method Statement 2: Biodiversity Protection Zone Safeguarding Method Statement 3: Sensitive Lighting Strategy During Construction	Prior to commencement of construction phases, fencing should be installed to protect the BPZs so foraging and commuting by bats is preserved during construction phases. Artificial lighting should be avoided where possible, but if this cannot be avoided it should be directed away from retained areas in BPZs.	ECoW: Ensure artificial lighting arrangements are in place and adhere to this CEMP. Client / Main Contractor: adhering to the CEMP risk avoidance controls highlighted in method statements.
European Hedgehogs	Fencing school grounds with no access points, which limit passage of hedgehogs through the local area.	Method Statement 1 – Toolbox Talk Method Statement 6: Precautionary Measures for Amphibians, European Hedgehogs, Brown Hare and Badgers	Prior to commencement of groundwork phases, the ECoW will supervise the removal of suitable habitats between April and October to ensure no	ECoW: Provide toolbox talk to vegetation clearance contractors and supervise works to ensure no hedgehogs are harmed.

Ecological Features/Species	Potential Adverse Impacts During Construction Phases	Relevant Method Statement to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 7)	Timing/Schedule to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 8)	Persons Responsible to Implement Risk Avoidance Measures
	Accidental damage or death from vegetation clearance activity.		European hedgehogs will be adversely impacted.	Client / Main Contractor: adhering to the CEMP risk avoidance controls highlighted in method statements. Client / Main Contractor: adhering to the CEMP risk avoidance controls highlighted in method statements.
Badger	Badgers falling into deep excavations without means of escape	Method Statement 1 – Toolbox Talk Method Statement 6: Precautionary Measures for Amphibians, European Hedgehogs, Brown Hare and Badgers	The ECoW should provide a toolbox talk to contractors highlighting all ecological features that could be impacted in the process of construction works.	ECoW: Provide toolbox talk to vegetation clearance contractors and supervise works to ensure no badgers are harmed. Client / Main Contractor: adhering to the CEMP risk avoidance controls highlighted in method statements.
Brown Hare	Brown hare falling into deep excavations without means of escape	Method Statement 1 – Toolbox Talk Method Statement 6: Precautionary Measures for Amphibians, European Hedgehogs, Brown Hare and Badgers	The ECoW should provide a toolbox talk to contractors highlighting all ecological features that could be impacted in the	ECoW: Provide toolbox talk to vegetation clearance contractors and supervise works to ensure no brown hare are harmed.

Ecological Features/Species	Potential Adverse Impacts During Construction Phases	Relevant Method Statement to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 7)	Timing/Schedule to Avoid Impacts to Ecological Features (see Section 8)	Persons Responsible to Implement Risk Avoidance Measures
			process of construction work.	Client / Main Contractor: adhering to the CEMP risk avoidance controls highlighted in method statements.
Orchids	Damage and destruction of orchids leading to long-term local population impacts	Method Statement 1 – Toolbox Talk Method Statement 8: Translocation Measures for Orchids	The ECoW should provide a toolbox talk to contractors highlighting all ecological features that could be impacted in the process of construction works. Suitable timing of translocation of orchids to occur within optimal periods of either early spring or autumn. Further details and method statement are provided in Appendix 2.	ECoW: Ensure orchids are safely translocated and provide supervision to contractors. Client / Main Contractor: adhering to the CEMP risk avoidance controls highlighted in method statements.

7. Practical Measures to Avoid Ecological Risks (Method Statements)

Table 4. Method Statement 1: Toolbox Talk

Method Statement 1: Toolbox Talk			
Project:	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	Persons Responsible:	ECoW
Timings (See Section 8):	To be undertaken twice (Prior to both groundwork and construction phases). As required, in the event of change of site manager or main contractor.		
Description of Work:	Toolbox talk to alert contractors to specific ecological features on site that may be encountered during construction phases.		
Method:	Prior to all construction operations being undertaken, a toolbox talk will be undertaken by the ECoW and communicated to all contractors. The toolbox talk should communicate the CEMP (Biodiversity) and highlight any ecological features that might be encountered such as protected species and what to do in the event of their discovery. The site manager(s) should be present during this and subsequently, any new contractors to the site will be inducted by the site manager with the inclusion of ecological features to be protected. In the event that the site managers change in post, then a new toolbox talk is likely to be given to induct the site manager of the key ecological features to ensure the CEMP (Biodiversity) is adhered to.		
Reporting:	Signatures and dates from each recipient of the toolbox talk/ site induction kept in the site office.		

Table 5. Method Statement 2: Biodiversity Protection Zone Safeguarding

Method Statement 2: Biodiversity Protection Zone Safeguarding			
Project:	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	Persons Responsible:	ECoW and Main contractor / Client
Timings (See Section 8):	Prior to groundwork and construction phases.		
Description of Work:	Fencing and signage to protect BPZs should be installed and maintained.		
Method:	Protection of BPZs will ensure nesting birds and retained off-site trees will be protected from adverse impacts arising from construction activities. Fencing will appropriate and comply with British Standard 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction'. The fencing should be installed prior to preliminary groundworks and shall remain in place until the completion of the construction activities. There will be no storage of materials, machines, fuels, oil or contaminates in this area during construction. The BPZ fencing shall follow the same construction specifications (British Standard 5837: 2012) as those provided in the Arboricultural Method Statement by Tyler Grange (Drawing Reference: Tree Protection Plan 11468_P04) (Tyler Grange, 2025). RPA fencing will serve the same purpose as BPZ fencing. Laminated signs will be attached to the fencing which demarcate the area as a BPZ.		
Reporting:	Records to be kept by the ECoW of each inspection of the fencing. Monitored by the ECoW and any issues to be noted to the main contractors.		

Table 6. Method Statement 3: Sensitive Lighting Strategy During Construction

Method Statement 3: Sensitive Lighting Strategy During Construction			
Project:	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	Persons Responsible:	Contractors, ECoW to sign off
Timings (See Section 8):	Prior to construction commencing.		
Description of Work:	Artificial lighting should be avoided where possible. If artificial lighting cannot be avoided, any lighting should be directed away from adjacent retained habitats such as trees and scrub in BPZs.		
Method:	During construction phases, no nighttime working will be undertaken, and no artificial lighting will be used unless a prior agreement is made with the ECoW. Site external lighting should be restricted to the site compound and for security purposes only. Post-development, all external lighting will adhere to a sensitive lighting strategy in line with guidance produced by the Bat Conservation Trust as outlined below (Bat Conservation Trust, 2023): • Avoid prolonged use of outside lighting during the period dusk to dawn, particularly during the bat active season (April to October). • Security lighting should be on a motion sensor and short duration timer (1 minute). • Lighting that is required for security or safety reasons, should use a lamp of no greater than 2000 lumens (150 Watts) and should comprise sensor activated lamps. • Red light bulbs should be used, where possible. Particularly along the southern and northern boundaries, as light-phobic species like great horseshoes, lesser horseshoes, and barbastelles, were recorded foraging/commuting. • LED luminaires with a warm white spectrum (<2700 Kelvin) are the preferred option and should be used where possible. Luminaires should feature peak wavelengths higher than 550 nm to minimise disturbance to bats. All luminaires should lack UV elements; metal halide and fluorescent sources should not be used. • Lighting should be directed to where it is needed with minimal light spillage. This can be achieved by limiting the height of the lighting columns and by using as steep a downward angle as possible and/or a specialist bollard that directs the light below the horizontal plane (<90°). • Internal luminaires should be recessed where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill.		

Method Statement 3: Sensitive Lighting Strategy During Construction	
	- Waymarking inground markers with a low output and with cowls should be used to delineate path edges. - Artificial lighting should not directly illuminate any potential bat roosting features or habitats of value to foraging bats, i.e., hedgerows and line of trees.
Reporting:	Any lighting strategy should be agreed with the LPA and ECoW prior to commencement of construction.
Reporting:	Record to be kept by the ECoW of activities and ensure that any external lighting strategy is adhered to.

Table 7. Method Statement 5: Dust and Silt Control

Method Statement 5: Dust and Silt Control			
Project:	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	Persons Responsible:	Main Contractor
Timings (See Section 8):	Prior to and during the construction phase.		
Description of Work:	Measures implemented to control spread of dust and silt.		
Method:	Control and safe organization of the site layout during construction to avoid any environmental damage that may detrimentally affect local wildlife and their habitats. Materials are to be stored in a specific area at the direction of the site manager(s) away from the woodland on site. All loads entering and leaving site as well as skips on-site should be covered to avoid rubbish being carried by the wind. A washing area for machine tracks and wheels will be designated on-site to avoid the spread of dust and silt into BPZs and off-site neighbouring areas.		
Reporting:	Records of dates and actions of all measures to reduce dust and silt are to be kept in the site office.		

Table 8. Method Statement 4: Precautionary Measures for Nesting Birds

Method Statement 4: Precautionary Measures for Nesting Birds			
Project:	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	Persons Responsible:	Main Contractor, ECoW Supervising
Timings (See Section 8):	Prior to commencement of construction.		
Description of Work:	Unretained nesting bird habitats to be sensitively removed.		
Method:	Where it is not possible for vegetation to be removed outside the peak nesting bird season (1st March to 31st August, inclusive) to avoid disturbance to nesting birds, a pre-works check for nesting birds will be carried out by the ECoW. A nesting bird check of suitable nesting habitat to be removed will be carried out no more than 48 hours prior to vegetation clearance. Any evidence of nesting birds will be noted. Should any active bird nests be identified during the check, works within 5 m of the active nest will be delayed until the young have fledged, and the nest is deemed to be no longer active. Red tape will be attached to the nearest trees/shrub to the active nest, to flag the location of the nest to contractors.		
Reporting:	Record to be kept by the ECoW of any animals found on site and actions taken.		

Table 9. Method Statement 6: Transport of Building Materials & Waste

Method Statement 6: Transport of Building Materials & Waste			
Project:	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	Persons Responsible:	Main Contractor ECoW (To sign-off)
Timings (See Section 8):	During construction phase.		
Description of Work:	Measures to protect the environment and retained habitats from pollution incidents during transportation of materials and waste within the site and to off-site areas.		
Method:	Any building materials delivered to site or moving across the site should be securely transported and follow appropriate best practice guidelines and local planning policy. Any waste materials transported and disposed of off-site should be carried out following best practice guidelines and ensure that none is allowed to enter the woodland during transit or loading. Construction routes should be confirmed with the ECoW prior to works commencing to ensure no impact on BPZs.		
Reporting:	Any contamination event should be recorded, and any action taken should be noted in site records.		

Table 10. Method Statement 7: Precautionary Measures for Amphibians, European Hedgehogs and Badgers

Method Statement 7: Precautionary Measures for Amphibians, European Hedgehogs, Brown Hare and Badgers			
Project:	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	Persons Responsible:	ECoW Main Contractor
Timings (See Section 8):	Prior to commencement of groundwork and construction phases.		
Description of Work:	Habitats and features suitable for great crested newts, common toad, European hedgehogs and badgers to be sensitively removed and any excavations during construction be either covered or have escape routes provided.		
Method:	The District Level License for great crested newts should be granted and in place prior to commencing any sensitive site clearance and should be undertaken within the conditions of the license (Natural England, 2025). Vegetation clearance works should be conducted between April and October when any reptiles are outside of hibernation periods. If animals are found, these shall be relocated to suitable retained habitats outside of the site and open areas away from the construction zone. During the construction phases, excavations should ideally not be left open overnight. Where this is not possible, timber planks should be placed in any exposed open trenches overnight to allow any trapped animals including hedgehogs, brown hare and badger to escape.		
Reporting:	Records to be kept by the ECoW of any animals found on site and actions taken.		

Table 11. Method Statement 8: Translocation Measures for Orchids

Method Statement 8: Translocation Measures for Orchids			
Project:	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	Persons Responsible:	ECoW Main Contractor
Timings (See Section 8):	Prior to commencement of groundwork phase. Optimal period of early spring/autumn. Sub-optimal period of summer (with restrictions).		
Description of Work:	Translocation of orchids from the development site to a secure area nearby will not be impacted by construction.		
Method:	See Appendix 2.		
Reporting:	Records to be kept by the ECoW of any plants found on site and actions taken.		

Table 12. Method Statement 9: Translocation Measures for Reptiles

Method Statement 9: Translocation Measures for Reptiles			
Project:	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	Persons Responsible:	ECoW Main Contractor
Timings (See Section 8):	Prior to commencement of groundwork phase. Proposed between April to June.		
Description of Work:	Translocation of reptiles from the development site to a secure area nearby will not be impacted by construction.		
Method:	See aLyne Ecology's Reptile Mitigation Strategy for full details (aLyne Ecology Ltd, 2026).		
Reporting:	Records to be kept by the ECoW of any animals found on site and actions taken.		

8. Ecological Clerk of Works Timing Schedule

Table 13 provides a schedule for the ECoW in relation to the project timelines.

Table 13. ECoW Timing Schedule

Task	Timeframe	Duration	Responsibility
Reptile Translocation	April to June	As required	Contractors, ECoW Supervising
Orchid Translocation	Early Spring/Autumn or Summer (with restrictions)	As required	Contractors, ECoW Supervising
Toolbox Talk Induction of Contractors (Vegetation Clearance)	Prior to vegetation clearance.	30 minutes to 1 hour	ECoW
Vegetation clearance of unretained habitats	1 st March to 31 st August – ECoW Supervision required during breeding bird season. Outside of these dates, no supervision is required.	As required	Contractors, ECoW Supervising
Erection of BPZ fencing	Prior to construction commencing.	As required	Contractors, ECoW to sign off
Artificial lighting scheme	Prior to construction commencing.	As required	Contractors, ECoW to sign off
Toolbox Talk Induction of Contractors (prior to Construction)	Prior to construction phases and as required in case of change in site management and main contractors.	30 minutes to 1 hour	ECoW
Checks of BPZ fencing Maintenance of BPZ fencing	During construction phases.	1 to 2 hours	Contractors, ECoW periodic checks

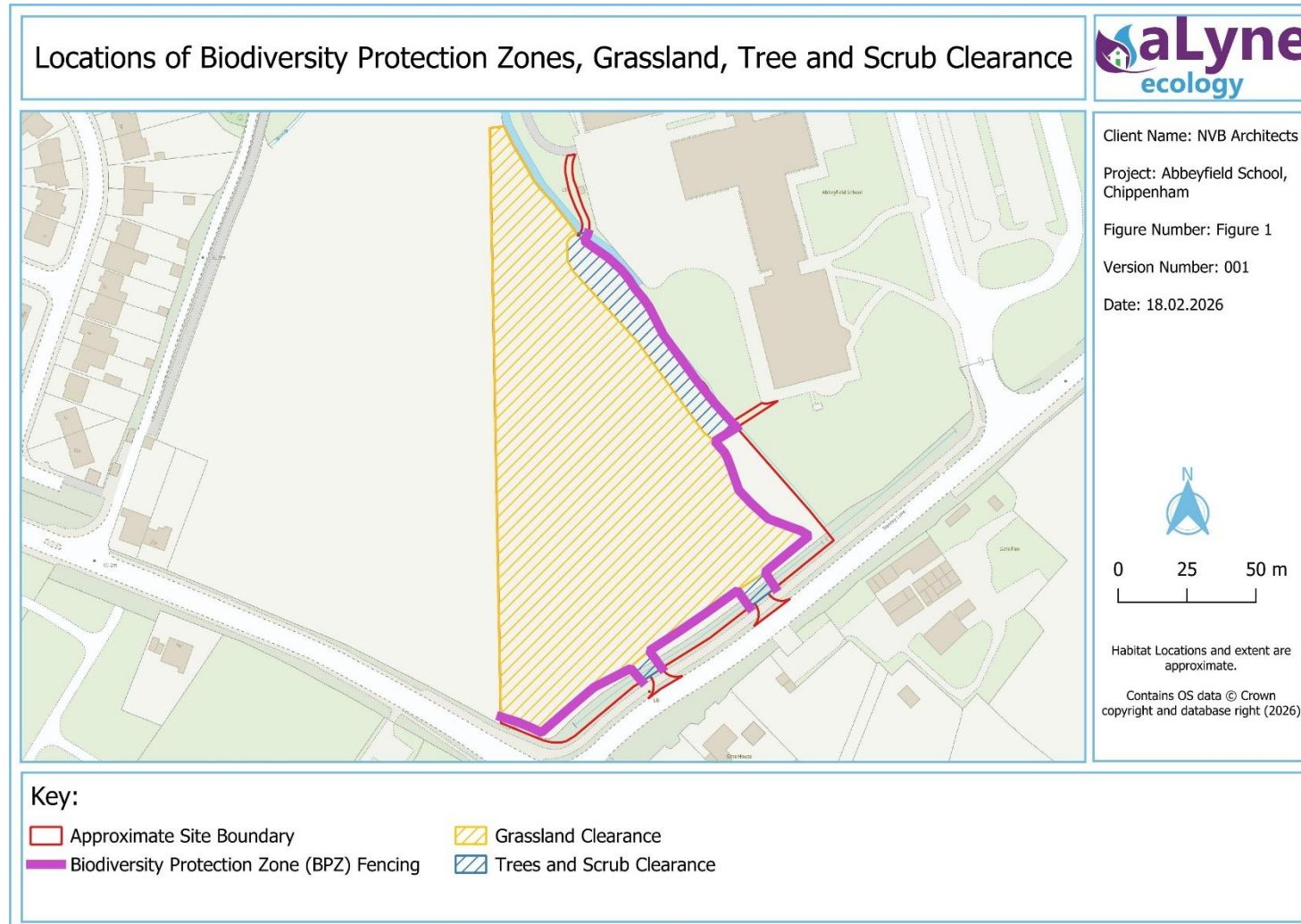
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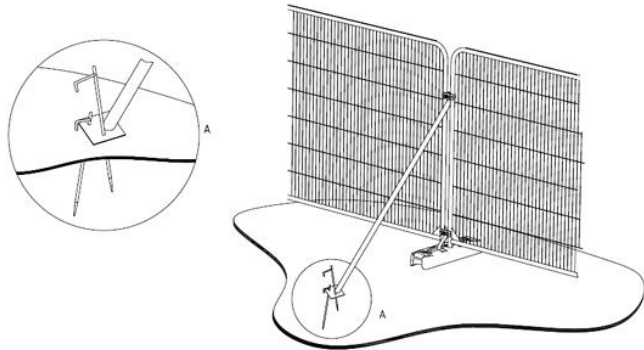
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10. Figures

10.1 Figure 1: Location of Biodiversity Protection Zones, Grassland, Tree and Scrub Clearance



11. Appendix 1 – Examples of Suitable Biodiversity Protection Zone Fencing and Signage



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins

Suitable fencing as specified in the Arboricultural Method Statement by Tyler Grange (Tyler Grange, 2025) that conforms to British Standard 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction'. The same fencing for the RPA shall be used for the BPZ.



Suitable signage to be attached to the BPZ fencing to alert contractors to the purpose of the fenced off area and avoid risk of the fence being removed or tampered with during the construction phases.



Suitable signage to be attached to the RPA fencing as specified in the Arboricultural Method Statement by Tyler Grange (Tyler Grange, 2025).

12. Appendix 2. Orchid Translocation Method Statement

A suitable method statement for the translocation of orchids is provided below.

1. An initial walkover of the donor site should be undertaken to identify and mark early growth rosettes or any developing spikes within the red line boundary that will be impacted. Any orchids will be marked by flag markers and GPS tagged using GIS software.
2. The receptor site and donor site should be within proximity to ensure consistent growing conditions for the orchids and situated within the overall client's land ownership.
3. Once the known number of turves and area required has been marked after the initial walkover. The receptor site should be prepared by being stripping the topsoil to an approximate depth 200cm to 300cm (depending on local soil conditions) to sub-soil level in preparation for receive turves from the donor site. Soil should be stripped after a period of dry weather to ensure ground conditions are not waterlogged.
4. The sub-soil level should be as level as possible to avoid gaps when turves are brought from the donor site. The receptor site would not require to be stripped the same day as turves are transferred.
5. If following the initial walkover, more than four turves are required to be translocated, an excavator should be used to strip the soil of the receptor site and begin work from the furthest away point to avoid increased soil compaction of already stripped areas. The excavator should work backwards carefully avoid compacting the ground. In the event of the sub-soil becoming compacted, a toothed bucket can be used to break apart the ground to ease compaction.
6. If less than four turves are required to be translocated, the same process can be completed using hand tools.
7. Stripped soil should be kept on-site and used for landscaping phases of the project where possible to avoid removal.
8. The extraction of turves with orchids can occur in early spring around late-February to March and autumn when the soils are warm and moist and new root growth is possible. Summer periods for habitat translocations can be undertaken but carry risk given the grassland is already within the growing season and fully developing. If a summer translocation is to be undertaken, an intensive level of watering of the soil of the receptor site and donor site should be conducted before translocation, outside of hottest part of the day, ideally in overcast weather conditions. The translocation of orchids between donor and receptor sites must occur without any delay once commenced.
9. Depending on the number of orchids present within the donor site, turves containing orchids should be extracted and include an area of at least a minimum 1m x 0.5 m of surrounding grassland which will include any mycorrhizal associations required by the orchids for growth. A smaller area of turf can be translocated to suit the area for transportation, should it be required to be undertaken by hand.
10. If more than four turves are required to be translocated, these should be extracted by use of a turf cutting box which can be used as attachment on a small size excavator or depending on area of turves to be extracted, by hand and placed on a pallet for transfer to the receptor area. Given an extracted area of turf is relatively small, depending on the friable nature of the soil, the turves may require to be loaded on sheets of plywood upon the pallets to be transported to

the receptor site and remain whole together. A gentle speed should be adopted by the operator to ensure the turves remain intact and do not spill while in transit.

11. An excavator or telehandler should be mindful of compaction to the sub-soil and work from the furthest away point of stripped soil working backwards to ensure the laid turves do not receive compaction from tyres or tracks that may damage or destroy the orchids.
12. If less than four turves are required to be translocated, turves can be loaded gently on to a wheelbarrow and carried across the receptor area.
13. Turves should be placed at the receptor site location and placed tightly together to avoid spaces which could contain voids and ensure contact with the sub-soil below. Stripped soil from earlier in the process can be used to fill any remaining gaps between turves by hand or fill in space from the turves within the donor site, if necessary.
14. If the orchid translocation runs into following days, hessian sacks will cover edges of any newly laid turves in the receptor site to avoid cracking or heave (depending on soil type).
15. Turves should be watered immediately after arrival at the donor site to ensure settlement and binding to the surrounding soil. It should be noted that over-watering can cause the failure of the translocation as the orchids and associated soil become waterlogged, especially after a period of prolonged dry weather.
16. The orchid translocation will be monitored for 5 years to ensure the establishment of the orchids and provide recommendations for any adaptive management to encourage establishment and development. Recommendations may Bee orchids may take time to establish and may not appear for 2 to 3 years after translocation due to preceding weather conditions before the translocation and the time required to settle into their environment.
17. Long-term management will be responsibility of the contractor, unless otherwise agreed. Measures will include habitat management of surrounding sward heights, effective watering systems and managing competition between dominant neutral grassland species such as oat grasses (*Arrhenatherum* sp.).
18. Depending on the number of turves that require to be translocated, an effective watering option should be considered.

<u><4 Orchid Turves</u>	<u>≥4 Orchid Turves</u>
Backpack sprayer	IBC tanker in combination with a drip-fed water irrigation system (e.g. soaker hose)
Watering can	Mobile watering system (e.g road tow water bowser)