

ECOLOGICAL CLARIFICATION NOTE

Wiltshire Throwback Festival (WTF) 2026

Melksham Rugby & Football Club, Eastern Way, Melksham, SN12 7GU

Application Reference: PL/2026/01809

1. Introduction

This Ecological Clarification Note has been prepared in support of the above planning application, in response to queries raised by the Local Planning Authority regarding:

- Potential ecological impacts
- Site layout and areas of use
- Protective measures for sensitive habitats
- Reinstatement proposals

The purpose of this note is to demonstrate that the proposed development is **temporary in nature**, incorporates **appropriate and enforceable mitigation measures**, and will result in **no permanent habitat loss, degradation, or change in condition**.

2. Site Context

The application site forms part of an established sports and recreational facility comprising:

- Maintained grass sports pitches
- Managed amenity grassland
- Existing access routes and associated infrastructure

Areas adjacent to the maintained pitches include **less frequently managed grassland**, which is recognised as having ecological value and sensitivity.

These areas are clearly distinguishable from the maintained event footprint and are capable of being effectively protected from public access.

3. Description of Development

The proposal relates to a **temporary outdoor music and community event**.

Key characteristics of the development include:

- No permanent structures
- No excavation, groundworks, or soil disturbance
- No change of land use
- Temporary infrastructure only, fully removed following the event

The duration of the event is limited, and the site will be returned to its original condition immediately thereafter.

4. Event Layout and Site Usage

All event-related infrastructure and public activity will be confined to:

- Existing maintained grass areas
- Established circulation routes
- Clearly defined event zones (including stage, audience areas, and facilities)

A detailed site layout plan accompanies the application and identifies:

- The event footprint

- Defined pedestrian routes
- Areas excluded from use (ecological protection zones)

No infrastructure or general public access will be permitted within ecologically sensitive grassland areas

5. Ecological Protection Measures

A comprehensive suite of mitigation measures will be implemented to prevent any encroachment into sensitive habitats.

5.1 Physical Barriers

- Installation of **rope and post fencing** around all identified ecological areas
 - Continuous boundary treatment forming a clear and robust exclusion zone
 - Positioned prior to the event and maintained throughout
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5.2 Signage

- Clear and visible signage along all protected boundaries
 - Identification of **“No Access / Protected Area”** zones
 - Reinforcement of physical barriers
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5.3 Stewarding and Management

- Trained stewards deployed throughout the event
 - Active monitoring of all boundary areas
 - Immediate intervention in the event of any attempted access
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5.4 Controlled Movement of Attendees

- Event layout designed to **naturally direct footfall** toward:
 - Maintained grass areas
 - Defined pathways and facilities
 - Ecologically sensitive areas consist of longer grassland and are not attractive for general public use
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6. Assessment of Ecological Impact

The proposed development has been designed to avoid ecological harm through:

- Complete avoidance of sensitive habitats
- Physical and operational controls to prevent access
- Use of existing maintained areas only

There will be:

- No removal of vegetation within sensitive areas
- No soil disturbance
- No long-term or permanent change to habitat condition

As such, no significant ecological impact is anticipated

7. Reinstatement Strategy

Following the event:

- All temporary infrastructure will be removed promptly
- The site will be cleared of all materials and waste

- Maintained grass areas will be inspected and, where necessary, minor remedial works undertaken
- Ecologically sensitive areas will remain undisturbed

The site will be restored to its **pre-event condition** immediately following de-rig.

8. Conclusion

The proposed event is:

- **Temporary in nature**
- Confined to **existing maintained areas**
- Supported by **clear, enforceable ecological protection measures**
- Designed to prevent any encroachment into sensitive habitats

On this basis:

There will be **no permanent habitat loss, degradation, or change in ecological condition**

This document is provided to assist the Local Planning Authority in determining:

- Whether Biodiversity Net Gain is applicable to the proposal, or
- Whether ecological considerations can be satisfactorily addressed through mitigation and planning conditions