

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name: Mary Holmes MCIEEM

Date: 30/04/2026

Application No: PL/2026/01105

Proposal: Installation of 4no. electric vehicle charging stations, including the installation of 1no. substation, 1no. feeder pillar and underground cabling

Site Address: The Churchill, Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon, SN4 8ET

Case Officer: Samantha Stockley

Recommendations:

☐	No Comment
☐	Support
☐	No objection
☐	Condition (no objection subject to conditions)
☒	Objection - further information required
☐	Objection in principle
☐	HRA

Further Information Required

	Issue	Policy/Legislative Compliance	Date information requested & Further information required	Satisfactorily addressed (Document & Date)
1.	Great Crested Newts	Habitat Regulations	30/04/2026. Assessment of impacts on ponds/Great Crested Newts required. See below for further information.	NO

The outstanding document(s) listed above are needed to enable the council's ecology team to consider all the impacts and benefits of the proposed scheme. The council's ecologists will provide a further response once all the above information has been submitted via the case officer. Please note: Any changes to the documents previously submitted must be highlighted, otherwise they will not be considered.

Matters Considered:

Thank you for consulting me on the above application in relation to ecology. I have reviewed the relevant submitted information as listed below and looked at the scheme against various mapping (OS and aerial) of the surrounding areas together with a review of designated sites and existing records of protected/notable species.

Statutory Biodiversity Metric completed by Jen Jones on 28/03/2026 (JBA Consulting).
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Survey Report (JBA Consulting, March 2026).

Biodiversity Net Gain

From 12 February 2024 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). Based on the information available the biodiversity gain planning condition is not considered to apply to this application as:

- the development meets the following criteria and is therefore below the de minimis threshold, meaning the development:
 - o does not impact an onsite priority habitat (a habitat specified in a list published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006); and
 - o impacts less than 25 square metres of onsite habitat that has biodiversity value greater than zero and less than 5 metres in length of onsite linear habitat (as defined in the statutory metric).

The aforementioned Biodiversity Net Gain Survey Report states that the development is exempt from BNG and based on the information submitted, I agree with this statement.

Note to case officer: you should be satisfied that the proposals meet the above criteria and act accordingly. Further information will be required from the applicant prior to determination in the event the application is considered to be subject to mandatory biodiversity net gain.

Great Crested Newts

The Council has records for Great Crested Newt's associated with two ponds within 100m of the proposed development, with the closest pond approx. 15m to the south. Therefore, an Ecological Assessment to consider the impacts on this European Protected Species needs to be undertaken and submitted in support of this application.

In carrying out its statutory function, the LPA must be reasonably sure that the proposal will not result in significant adverse effects on protected species. The information outlined above must therefore be submitted and reviewed by the LPA's ecology team prior to determination of the application.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist	Date