

Badger

An updated badger survey will be undertaken prior to construction to identify any new setts that may have become established within or adjacent to the site.

For retained setts, exclusion zones with a 20 m radius will be established using post-and-rail fencing (or similar) to prevent accidental disturbance or damage. Where retention is not feasible due to technical constraints, a Natural England Badger Development Licence will be obtained to allow the temporary or permanent closure of affected setts between July and November, in accordance with Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) advice.

No works will commence within the vicinity of a sett until the relevant licence has been secured and all closure works completed in accordance with the approved Method Statement.

Reptiles

Vegetation clearance will be undertaken in accordance with a Method Statement and under ECoW supervision between April and October. Clearance will follow a phased approach:

- Initial cut to 150 mm, with arisings left for a minimum of three days to allow reptiles to disperse;
- Second cut to ground level and subsequent maintenance to below 50 mm;
- Stripping of subsoil prior to SuDS installation.

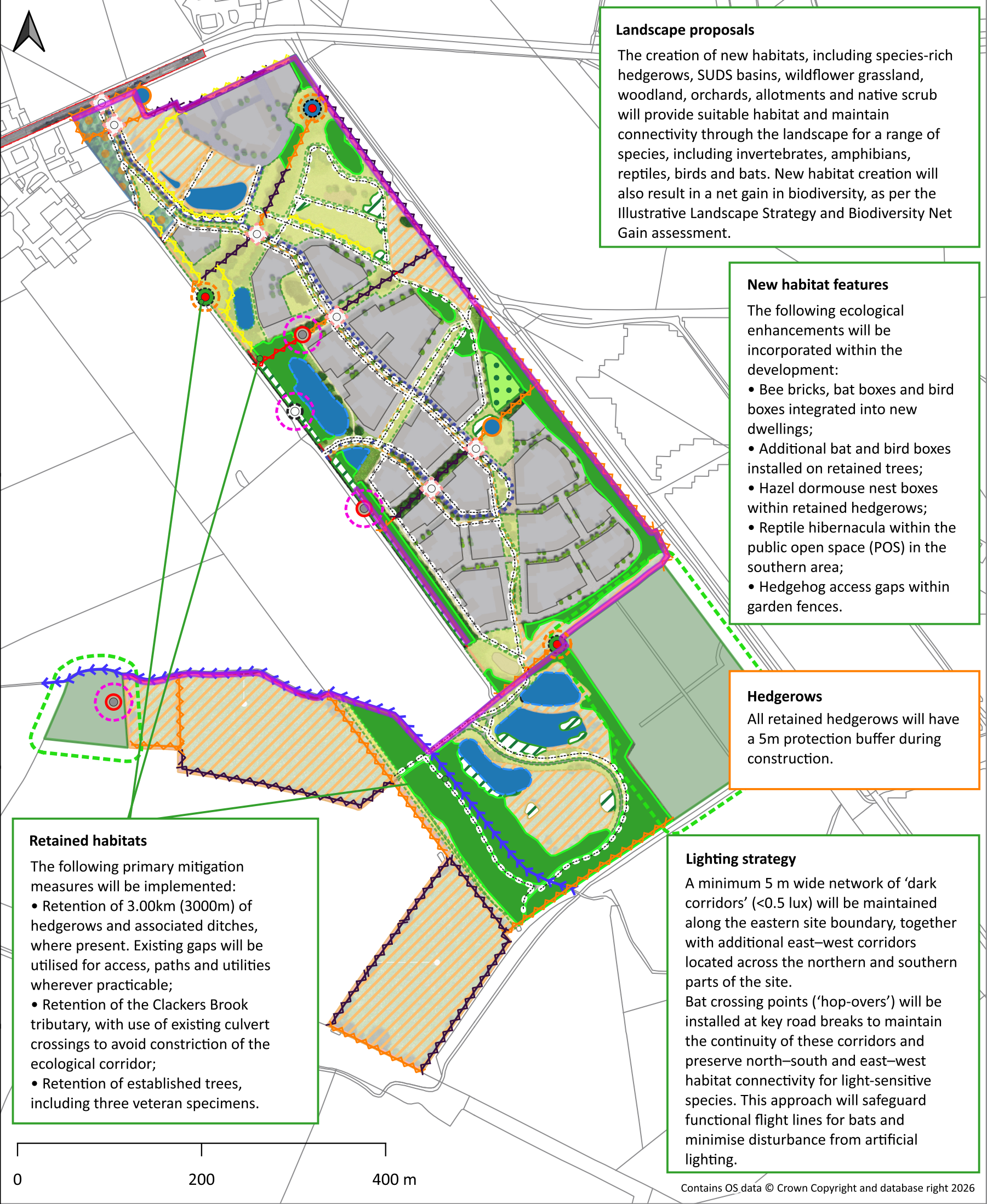
Dormouse

Removal of hedgerows and scrub will be undertaken under a Natural England Dormouse Mitigation Licence. Mitigation measures will be detailed within the licence Method Statement and will include appropriate timing and methodologies to minimise impacts on individual dormice.

Hedgerow removal will follow either a one-stage or two-stage clearance process to reduce risk to the species.

Nesting birds

Hedgerow removal will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (November–February inclusive). If works are required during the nesting season, they will be subject to a prior inspection by the ECoW to confirm the absence of active nests.



Landscape proposals

The creation of new habitats, including species-rich hedgerows, SuDS basins, wildflower grassland, woodland, orchards, allotments and native scrub will provide suitable habitat and maintain connectivity through the landscape for a range of species, including invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and bats. New habitat creation will also result in a net gain in biodiversity, as per the Illustrative Landscape Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain assessment.

New habitat features

The following ecological enhancements will be incorporated within the development:

- Bee bricks, bat boxes and bird boxes integrated into new dwellings;
- Additional bat and bird boxes installed on retained trees;
- Hazel dormouse nest boxes within retained hedgerows;
- Reptile hibernacula within the public open space (POS) in the southern area;
- Hedgehog access gaps within garden fences.

Hedgerows

All retained hedgerows will have a 5m protection buffer during construction.

Lighting strategy

A minimum 5 m wide network of 'dark corridors' (<0.5 lux) will be maintained along the eastern site boundary, together with additional east–west corridors located across the northern and southern parts of the site.

Bat crossing points ('hop-overs') will be installed at key road breaks to maintain the continuity of these corridors and preserve north–south and east–west habitat connectivity for light-sensitive species. This approach will safeguard functional flight lines for bats and minimise disturbance from artificial lighting.

Retained habitats

The following primary mitigation measures will be implemented:

- Retention of 3.00km (3000m) of hedgerows and associated ditches, where present. Existing gaps will be utilised for access, paths and utilities wherever practicable;
- Retention of the Clackers Brook tributary, with use of existing culvert crossings to avoid constriction of the ecological corridor;
- Retention of established trees, including three veteran specimens.

Key

- Confirmed bat roost
- Veteran tree
- Confirmed bat roost (veteran tree)
- Bat 'hop over'
- Active outlier badger sett
- Disused outlier badger sett
- Development footprint - (Total area = 4.91 ha)
- Proposed attenuation basin - (Total area = 1.23 ha)
- Proposed allotments - (Total area = 0.14 ha)
- Proposed scrub - (Total area = 0.49 ha)
- Proposed woodland planting - (Total area = 4.00 ha)
- Proposed amenity grassland - (Total area = 4.97 ha)
- Proposed wildflower meadow - (Total area = 7.15 ha)
- Existing woodland (UK Priority Habitat)
- Proposed orchard (Total area = 0.29 ha)
- 5m dark corridor
- 20m buffer around badger setts
- 15m buffer for veteran trees
- 15m buffer around existing woodland
- Proposed roads/paths (Total area = 3.87 ha)
- Retained/enhanced watercourse (Total length = 0.56 km)
- Retained hedgerow (Total length = 1.48 km)
- Proposed hedgerow (Total length = 0.56 km)
- Lost hedgerow (Total length = 0.23 km)
- Enhanced hedgerow (Total length = 1.52 km)

ead ecology www.eadecology.co.uk	Gleeson Land		
	Land at Blackmore Farm, Melksham - Phase 2		
	Ecological Parameters Plan		
	16/04/2026	Created by: EH	Scale at A3 1:4,500