

Environmental Statement: Chapter 7

Technical Appendix 7.17: Designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham

Gleeson Land Ltd

March 2026

Report reference	Report Status	Date	Prepared by	Authorised
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1 Methodology

1.1.1 For the purposes of the desk study, the study areas around the Site were identified as follows:

- 10km: European and marine designated sites;
- 5km: Nationally-designated sites; and
- 2km: Non-statutory designated sites.

1.1.2 Information on statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance was obtained from the following websites in April 2024, and updated in November 2025:

- <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> – Information on protected sites;
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk> – information on protected sites, Priority Habitats and Species; and
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england> – information on protected sites and standing advice.

1.1.3 Information on non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance was requested from Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) for a study area of 2km radius around the application site boundary in April 2024, and updated in November 2025.

2 Statutory Designated Sites

2.1.1 One internationally-designated statutory site of nature conservation importance occurs within 10km of the Site boundary; this is the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which lies approximately 9.5km north-west of the Site at its nearest point; refer to Table 7.17.1 and Figure 7.17.1.

2.1.2 One nationally-designated site of nature conservation importance lies within 5km of the Site; Spye Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which lies approximate 2.1km northeast of the Site at its nearest point; refer to Table 7.17.1 and Figure 7.17.1.

Table 6.17.1: Statutory designated sites within the study area

Site and designation	Qualifying features / reasons for selection	Distance and direction from site
European designated sites within 10km		
Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC	Designated for the presence of greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> and Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> . Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> is also a qualifying feature but not the primary reason for designation.	9.5km northwest
National and local designated sites within 5km		
Spye Park SSSI	Designated for breeding bird assemblages, assemblages of lichen, lowland mixed deciduous woodland and wet woodland.	2.1km northeast

2.1.3 One further SSSI, Seend Ironstone Quarry and Road Cutting SSSI, occurs within the 5km study area; this SSSI is designated for geological interest and is therefore not considered further.

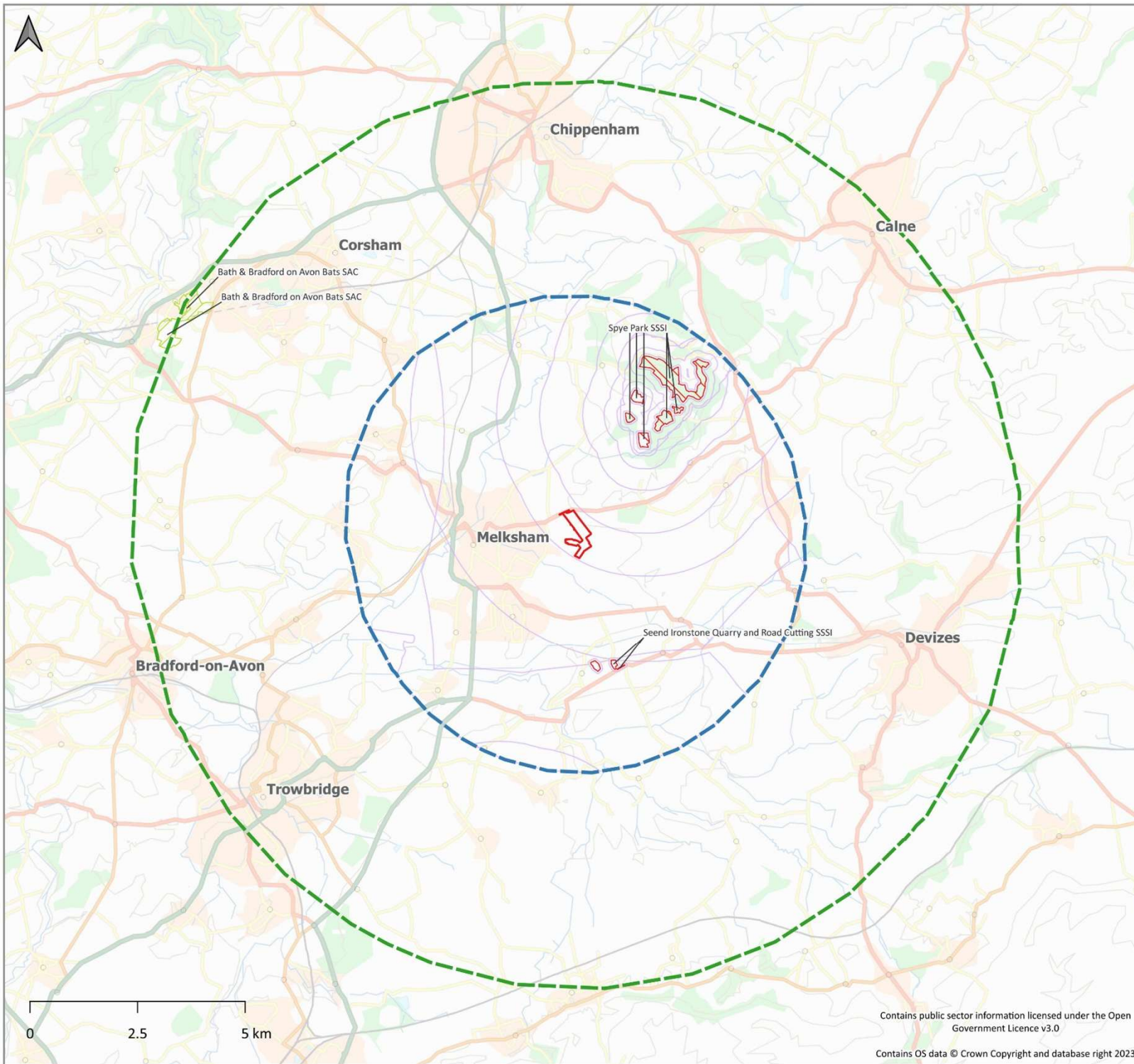
3 Non-statutory Designated Sites

- 3.1.1 A total of ten non-statutory designed sites of nature conservation interest (all Local Wildlife Sites; LWS) were identified within 2km of the Site; refer to Table 7.17.2.

Table 7.17.2: Non-statutory sites within the study area

File code	Grid Ref.	Site name	Area (Ha)	Site Description
ST96.017	ST940628	Prickly Sevens Meadow LWS	2.82	An unimproved species-rich hay meadow enclosed by mature hedgerow
ST96.024	ST940660	Southview Farm Meadow 2 LWS	5.62	A neutral hay meadow on gently rolling clay land with semi-improved mesotrophic grassland and large in-field Oaks.
ST96.025	ST938658	Hack Farm Meadow	1.98	A small area of species-rich neutral meadow.
ST96.026	ST937653	Hanging Wood LWS	4.21	Mature poplar plantation on a very wet ancient site with Hazel understorey and characteristic ground flora throughout.
ST96.027	ST942654	Basin Covert LWS	5.39	Ancient woodland site with large areas of conifer plantation surrounded by a perimeter of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
ST96.034	ST951649	Maple Wood LWS	3.05	A small stand of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
ST96.036	ST940645	Morass Wood LWS	14.71	Former coppice woodland on a moderate greensand slope with large areas of very wet flush.
ST96.043	ST905643	Bristol Avon River LWS	150.76	One of the main river systems draining north-west Wiltshire.
ST96.050	ST936641	Eighteen Acre Plantation LWS	2.91	Plantation woodland with much field maple, ash and oak.
ST96.052	ST937662	Hill Planting LWS	3.86	Uniform even-aged plantation of mature oak in eastern half and ash and oak in western half, separated by a shallow ditch. Understorey of neglected hazel coppice, together with small hawthorn trees and suckering elm in western half.

Figure 7.17.1: Statutory Designated Sites Plan



Key

- Site boundary
- 5km buffer
- 10km buffer

European Designated Sites (located within 10km)

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Nationally Designated Sites (located within 5km)

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

SSSI Risk Zones

Non-statutory designated sites are not detailed on this plan

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Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham

Statutory Designated Sites Plan

10/11/2025

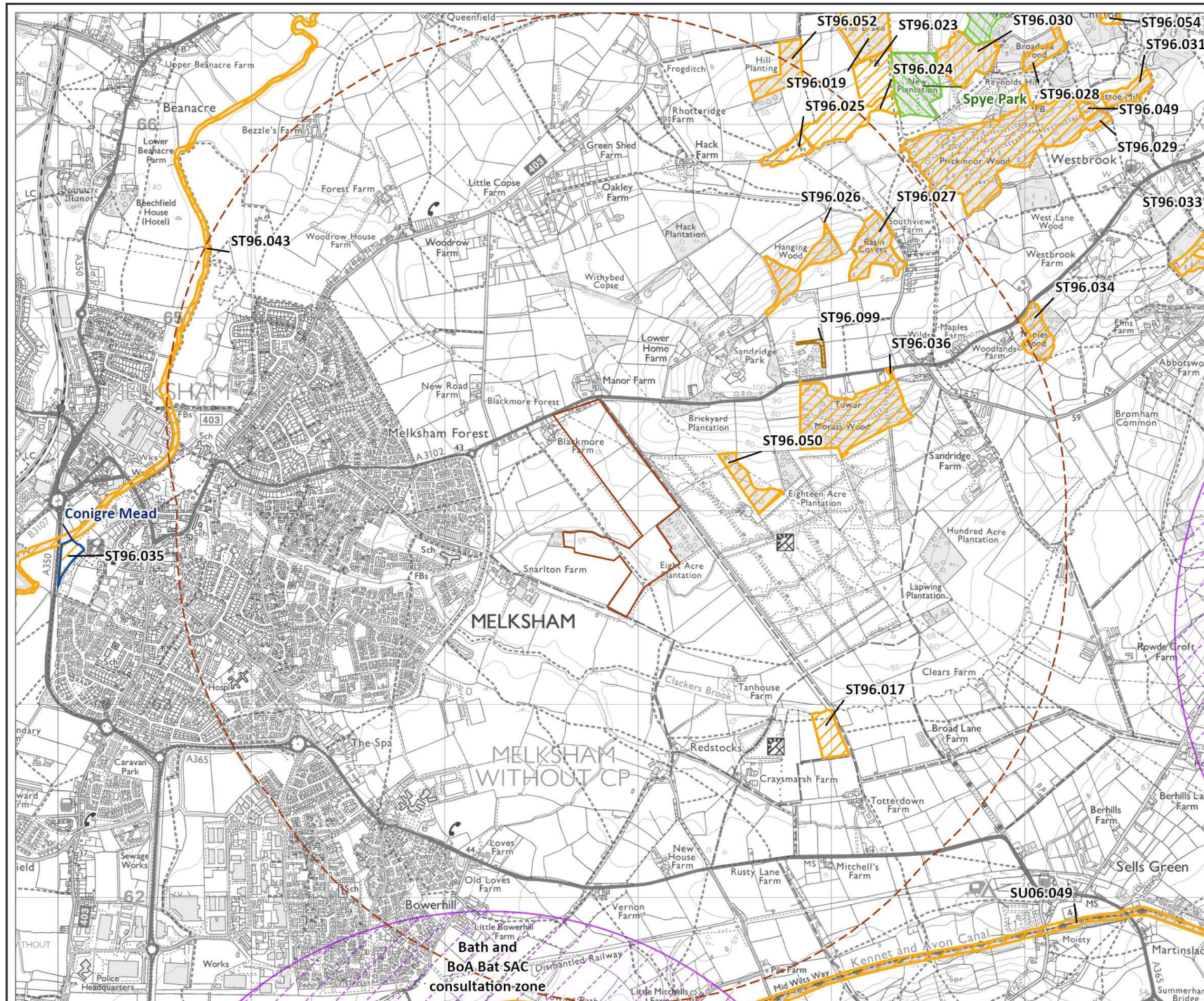
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Scale at A3 1:85,000

Figure 7.17.2: Non-statutory Designated Sites Plan

Notified Sites Within
2000 metres of
Blackmore Farm, Melksham:
ST9291364245

Exported: 17/11/2025



- Search Area
- WWT Reserves
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- National Nature Reserve
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Local Geological Site
- Protected Road Verge
- Woodland Trust Reserve
- Bat Consultation Zone
- County Boundary



Scale: 1:25,909



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