

Environmental Statement: Chapter 7

Technical Appendix 7.4: Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham

Gleeson Land Ltd

March 2026 Ltd

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1 Methodology

- 1.1.1 An Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey of the Site and adjacent parcels of woodland (together referred to as the 'Survey Area') was undertaken on 14 May 2024. The survey followed guidelines published by JNCC (2010) and the Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995) and identified the main habitat types within the Survey Area and the presence / potential presence of protected and notable species. The results of the survey were detailed on a Phase 1 Habitat plan, with target notes used to identify specific features of ecological interest; refer to Figure A11.4.1. A botanical species list was recorded, although no attempt was made to record every plant species within the Survey Area; refer to Appendix 11.5 for the botanical species list.

2 Limitations

- 2.1.1 There were no limitations to the survey.

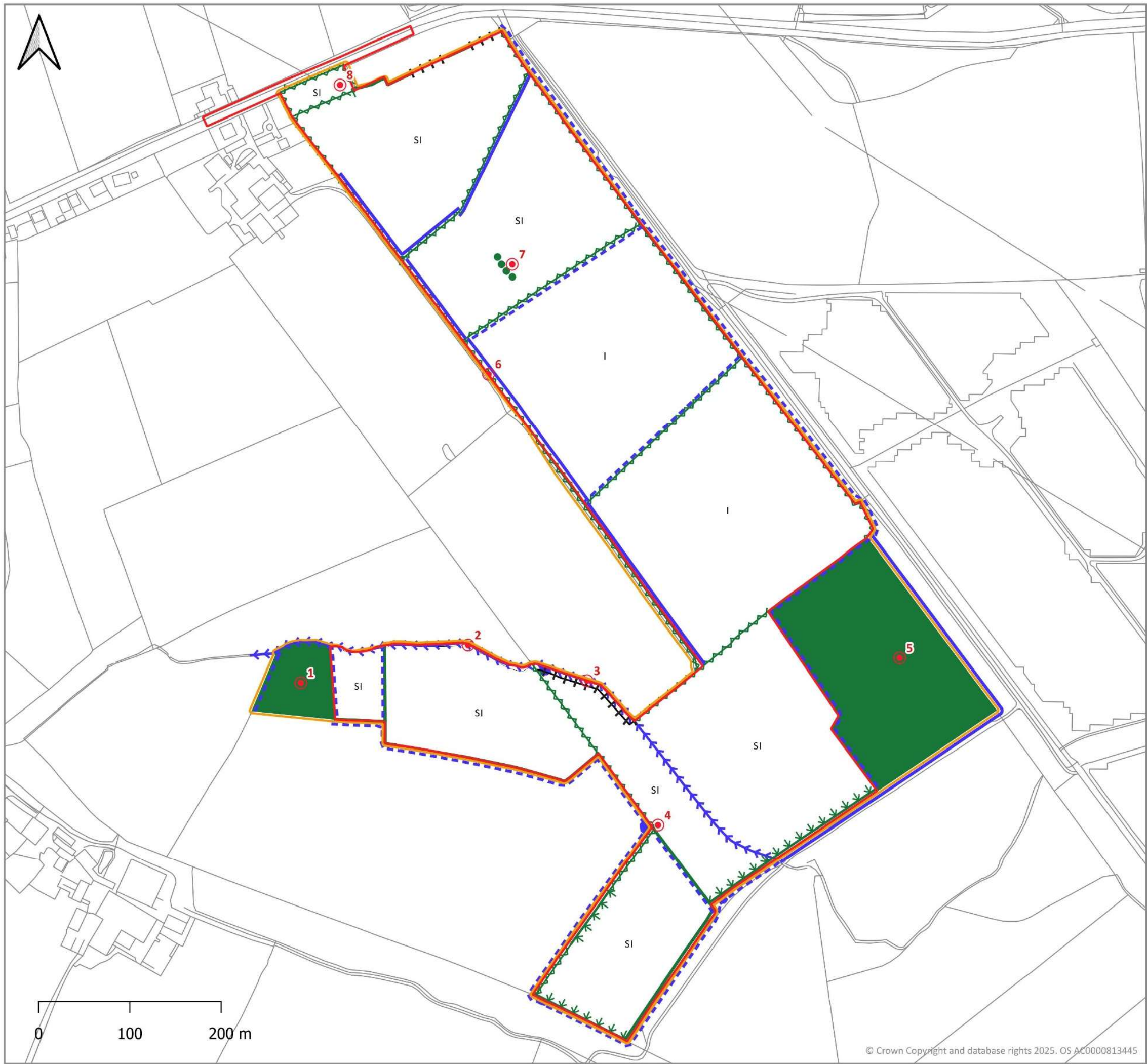
3 Results

- 3.1.1 The results of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey are presented in Figure A11.4.1, and Target Notes and photographs are provided in Table A11.4.1.

4 References

- 4.1.1 Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995) Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment. E and F Spon, London.
- 4.1.2 JNCC (2010) Handbook for Phase-1 Habitat Survey: a technique for environmental audit. JNCC, Peterborough.

Figure A7.4.1: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan



Key

- Site boundary
- Survey boundary
- Target note
- Scattered broadleaved tree
- Dry ditch
- Fence
- Running water
- Species-poor hedgerow
- Species-rich hedgerow
- Species-rich hedgerow with trees
- Wet ditch
- Improved grassland
- Poor semi-improved grassland
- Semi-natural broadleaved woodland
- Standing water

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	Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham		
	Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan		
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Table A7.4.1: Target Notes

Target Note number	Description
1	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Variably dense mature canopy with frequent ash, sycamore and pedunculate oak. Understorey also variable, dominated by hawthorn and sycamore with occasional hazel, bramble, blackthorn and elder. Ground flora generally sparse with frequent to locally abundant ivy and ground ivy, occasional wood sedge, wood dock and wood false brome. 
2	Wet ditch, c.1m wide and 5cm deep with silty substrate. Emergent vegetation included occasional to locally abundant hemlock water-dropwort, lesser spearwort, yellow iris and willowherb sp. 

3	Wet ditch ponded by gateway crossing, c.2m wide and 30cm deep with sloping grassy banks. Suitable amphibian and water vole habitat. 
4	Pond in north-east corner of field, located offsite but immediately adjacent to the Site boundary; heavily shaded by adjacent hedgerow vegetation. Approximately circular, 5m diameter and c.10cm deep, no emergent vegetation. Suitable amphibian breeding habitat. 

5

Semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Mature canopy dominated by pedunculate oak and ash. Understorey contained frequent to abundant hazel, hawthorn and sycamore with occasional elm sp, blackthorn and field maple. Ground flora comprised frequent ivy, nettle, bramble and cleavers, with greater botanical diversity found in woodland rides where occasional to frequent wood avens, wood sedge, wood dock, enchanter's nightshade and cow parsley.



6

Wet ditch with frequent fools watercress, hemlock water-dropwort and herb-robert.



7

Four mature pedunculate oaks in line in middle of field. Potentially suitable for roosting bats



8

Log pile; suitable reptile habitat.





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