

Ecological Appraisal

Land Adjacent to Sopworth Road, Sherston

Client	Silverwood Partnership
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CROSSMAN ECOLOGY

Non-technical Summary

Background

In April 2026, Crossman Associates was commissioned by Silverwood Partnership to undertake an ecological appraisal of the south-east corner of an arable field adjacent to Sopworth Road, Sherston, Gloucestershire, SN16 0QB. Proposals are for a planning in principle (PIP) application for 5 dwellings.

Methods

The ecological appraisal follows standard Phase 1 habitat survey methodology that was extended to record provisional signs and potential for protected or notable species. The survey work was undertaken by Fairbrass Knowles, full member of CIEEM an experienced ecologist and licenced bat worker; licence number 2015-12392.

Results

The survey site, which amounts to approximately 4,675m², is the south-east corner of a circa 3-hectare arable field. The site is dominated by cropland with narrow margins along the south and east boundaries. Also along the south boundary is a low dry-stone wall. Two trees are present along the south boundary and one along the east boundary. The majority of the site provides low ecological interest. Small amounts of overgrown vegetation and two of the trees provide birds with limited nesting potential and one tree provides bats with low roosting suitability.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the following is undertaken as part of the works.

- Exterior lighting (if employed) will be sensitively designed with regard to bats and nocturnal wildlife.
- Sensitive removal of vegetation in respect of bats, birds, hedgehog and other wildlife.
- New landscape planting should incorporate native hedgerows and trees that will support local wildlife
- Ecological enhancements to consist of bat, bird and bee boxes

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Field adjacent to
Sopworth Road,
Gloucestershire.

6. REFERENCES

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. In April 2026, Crossman Ecology was commissioned by Silverwood Partnership to undertake an ecological appraisal of the south-east corner of a large arable field of wheat which is adjacent to Sopworth Road, Sherston, Gloucestershire, SN16 0QB; site Ordnance Survey grid reference ST 84886 86018.
- 1.2. Figure 1 under Appendix I provides a site location map.
- 1.3. The objectives of the ecological appraisal were to;
 - Produce a map of the habitats on site.
 - Assess the likely presence of any notable/protected species.
 - Identify any policy or legislative constraints relevant to the project.
 - Provide recommendations for further surveys, compensation or mitigation as appropriate.

Site Description

- 1.4. The site covers an area of approximately 4,675 m² and occupies the south-east corner of a large (c. 3 hectare) arable field of wheat. Other habitats include narrow field margins along the south and east boundaries. The south boundary is defined by a low traditional drystone wall. Two native trees are present along the south boundary and one along the east boundary.
- 1.5. The site is located on the western edge of the rural village of Sherston, where it is located adjacent to the north side of Sopworth Road. Adjacent to the east is a private dwelling with a long narrow garden that runs along the entire length of the fields east boundary and in part is separated by a managed ornamental hedge. To the south is Sopworth Road which has wide grassy verges.

- 1.6. Beyond Sopworth Roads is the River Avon and a number of less-intensively managed fields associates with the flood plain.
- 1.7. The wider landscape to the north, south and west is largely composed by intensively managed farmland of mixed arable/pasture, Fields are mainly divided by dry stone walls and native hedges. To the east lays the village of Sherston, which comprises mainly residential areas, served by a complex of roads.
- 1.8. There are no significant areas of woodland or significant ponds laying close by.

Proposals

- 1.9. Proposals are for a Permission in Principal application for five dwellings. A preliminary drawing shows the use of trees and hedgerows within the development.

2. Methodology

Data Search

- 2.1. The MAGIC website was accessed for information on any statutory site designations within 2 km of the site.
- 2.2. National planning policy has been reviewed for policies that relate to nature conservation relevant to the site.

Field Survey

Ecological Appraisal

- 2.3. The ecological appraisal follows Phase 1 habitat survey methodology which is a survey method and classification system that was developed by the Nature Conservation Council now Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC, 2003) to map habitats and land use categories to a “consistent level and accuracy”. Vegetation and habitats are mapped using standard colour codes, allowing rapid visual assessment of the extent and the distribution of the different habitat types. Where appropriate, Target Notes highlight potential features of interest.

Species observations

- 2.4. An extended Phase 1 survey also records provisional signs of protected or notable species and assesses suitability of habitats on-site and within the assessable surroundings to support such species.

Evaluation

- 2.5. The site evaluation for habitat areas and species present (where appropriate) is based on published criteria given in CIEEM guidelines for ecological impact

assessment. The values are assigned between International Value and Negligible Value for all habitats that are likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development.

2.6. The value categories used in assessment are as follows:

- International – Europe
- National – England
- Regional – South-west
- County – Gloucestershire
- District – Cirencester
- Local – Sherston
- Site - Within the immediate zone of influence

3. Results

Desktop Study

- 3.1. The MAGIC website informed of no statutory sites designated for nature conservation within 2 km.
- 3.2. The MAGIC website informed of no statutory sites specifically designated for bats within 4 km.

Planning Policy

- 3.3. National policy guidance is provided by National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2024), which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied to planning applications;

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

- Planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
 - a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
 - b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
 - c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;

- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

Habitats and Biodiversity

- To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity 68; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
 - b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁷⁰ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
- d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

Field Survey

- 3.4. The habitats on site are described in the paragraphs below and are shown in Figure 2, Appendix I. Photographic reference can be found in Appendix II. The survey took place on 23 April 2026.

3.5. All survey work was undertaken by Fairbrass Knowles, full member of CIEEM, an experienced ecologist and licenced bat worker; licence number 12392 CLS-CLS.

3.6. The habitats are considered to fall into following categories;

- Cropland
- Modified grassland
- Trees
- Dry-stone wall

Arable

3.7. The dominant habitat is an arable crop, which is believed to be wheat, which is well established and laid out in neat rows with no significant presence of weeds.

Modified grassland

3.8. Running along the south and east boundary is an unplanted field margin that ranges in width from approximately 2 – 2.5 m. A slighter wider area exists in the extreme south-east corner.

3.9. The verges are dominated by grass species, including Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. A few other non-grass species are present and include commonly encountered ruderal and herb species as well as a few garden species, which have presumably colonised from the adjacent garden. Species include:

- Cleavers *Galium aparine*.
- Cow's parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.
- Nettle *Urtica dioica*
- Common hog weed *Heracleum sphondylium*

- Cut leaved cranesbill *Geranium dissectum*
- Common cranesbill *Geranium pratense*
- Ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea*
- Green alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens*
- Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*
- Periwinkle *Vinca Major*

3.10. Present in the south-east corner is a small parch of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and some Russian vine *Polygonum baldschuanicum*.

Trees

3.11. Three trees (designated Tr1, Tr2 and Tr3) are described below.

- Tree Tr1 is a mature hawthorn with a stem diameter of approximately 400 mm. The tree is growing in a healthy state and presents a dense canopy.
- Tree Tr2 is a mature ash tree with a stem diameter of approximately 750 mm. The tree appears to be growing well but does have some dead wood. The stem and principal boughs have become encroached by ivy *Hedera helix* which is well established and dense.
- Tree Tr 3 is a multi-stemmed ash which are all growing tightly grouped together. Stem diameters are approximately 300 mm, 150 mm & 100 mm.

Dry stone wall

3.12. The southern boundary is defined by a historical and classic Cotswolds style dry-stone wall which is approximately 1.3 m high and 600 mm wide. The wall

appears to remain in good order with no gaps. Accompanying the wall is some bramble and ivy which has established into the gaps.

Species Observations

Flora

- 3.13. No rare or notable species of flora were noted, and no non-native invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as Amended) were noted on site. However, heavy management may conceal roots or corms of invasive species, so absence of invasive species cannot be confirmed within the remit of this work.

Invertebrates

- 3.14. The site offers low habitat suitability for invertebrates but is likely to support species associated with agricultural habitats.

Reptiles and amphibians

- 3.15. The site is dominated by an arable crop which provides no significant habitat for either reptiles or amphibians.
- 3.16. The field margins and the dry-stone wall provide some limited habitat for common reptiles and amphibians. The proposals will see no significant change to the dry-stone wall, which will be (apart from the new entrance) retained.

Great crested newt

- 3.17. Great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* are typically found in their highest densities within 250 m of suitable breeding ponds, with numbers declining progressively beyond this distance (Froglife 2001).
- 3.18. Defra's map application was reviewed for the occurrence of ponds within a 250 m radius of the site, none showed up.

- 3.19. No further survey effort is assessed to be necessary for great crested newt.

Birds

- 3.20. During the survey no birds or bird nesting activity was recorded in any aspect of the plot. No skylark activity was noted.
- 3.21. The dominant habitat is an arable crop which provides no significant nesting or sheltering opportunities for birds. The dry-stone wall and trees Tr1 & Tr2 provide some nesting suitability for species such as wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* and black bird *Turdus merula*.
- 3.22. Current proposals will see no significant loss of potential bird nesting / sheltering habitat. No further survey effort is assessed to be necessary.

Badger

- 3.23. There are no badger setts on site and no definitive evidence of badger activity such as mammal paths crossings the boundaries or evidence of foraging activity.

Hedgehog

- 3.24. The site provides no significant hedgehog habitat. It is possible that the site is used in passing by foraging hedgehogs as they carry out nocturnal foraging activity that would likely include the local environs.

Bats

- 3.25. The site has no buildings.
- 3.26. The site is considered is not considered to provide any significant foraging or commuting habitat for bats. The site is predominantly a crop monoculture and field margins are narrow and species poor. The trees increase the structural diversity slightly but are ecologically isolated.

Tree Tr2

- 3.27. Tree Tr2 is a mature ash tree with a covering of dense ivy which on its own forms a dense network of stems and foliage, which can offer bats with concealment and shelter from the weather, the ivy may also obscure and enhance other potential roosting features such as cracks, cavities, and areas of loose / lifted bark. The trees' location adjacent to a road is likely to lower the trees suitability for roosting bats and therefore the tree is assessed to offer bats with Low Roosting Suitability.

Evaluation

- 3.28. The site consists of a portion of arable field, which is typical of the surrounding agrarian landscape. Rarity and fragility are absent. The presence of trees affords the site an element of permanence and naturalness.
- 3.29. Habitats on site are widespread and common within the surrounding landscape.
- 3.30. Based on this habitat assessment, the site is considered to have Site Value.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. The recommendations in the paragraphs below are provided to help ensure that wildlife and important ecological features are protected during the course of works. Recommendations also set out mitigation measures to minimise harm where this cannot be avoided and provide compensation measures to allow the proposals to meet current legislative and planning policy objectives.
- 4.2. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) states that a public authority must 'in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity; Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat'.
- 4.3. Under the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged.

Species recommendations

Bats

Tree Tr2

- 4.4. Where possible all trees should be retained and incorporated into the development. In the case of Tree Tr2 if this is not possible then the following advice should be followed.
- 4.5. Tree Tr2 has been assessed to provide bats with low roosting suitability. In line with current guidelines, Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists (Collins, 2023)

published by the Bat Conservation Trust, trees with low roosting suitability do not require further surveys.

- 4.6. If tree Tr2 requires felling or pruning then the following advice should be followed.
- 4.7. Trees which provide bats with low roosting suitability should be pruned / felled in a careful and phased manner and in the case of felling not just merely dropped from the base, instead the trees should be soft felled in sections with the work should be carried out by a qualified tree surgeon who has been made aware of the trees bat roosting potential. As an added precaution it is recommended that tree surgeons are provided with a pre-felling toolbox talk by a suitable qualified ecologist.

Lighting

- 4.8. Exterior lighting (if employed) should take into account the likely presence of foraging / commuting bats and other nocturnal wildlife.
- 4.9. New exterior lighting should consist of a modern LED-type and should be directional and or cowled.
- 4.10. The choice of lighting is important to minimise light spill and it is recommended that the following factors are considered to reduce the impact as much as possible;
 - Narrow spectrum lights with no UV content
 - Low pressure sodium and/or warm white LED
 - Directional downlighting, illuminating downwards and below the horizontal plane to avoid light trespass.

- 4.11. To further avoid over illumination lighting units should be used only on locations where it is absolutely necessary and be fitted with a motor sensor system with a timer which exceeds no longer than 1 minute.
- 4.12. An information sheet on lighting is provided under Appendix III; information sheets.

Hedgehog

- 4.13. In the UK hedgehogs are listed on schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as Amended which makes it illegal to kill or capture wild hedgehogs. Hedgehogs are also listed as a species of 'principal importance' under the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities Act 2006, which is meant to confer a 'duty of responsibility' to public bodies.
- 4.14. Excavated holes and trenches on building sites have the potential to trap wildlife including hedgehogs leading to the potential suffering and death of the animal (s) particularly if they become filled with water.
- 4.15. If during the development excavated holes / trenches are likely to be left open, then timber builders' planks should be fitted as ramps to enable any wildlife including hedgehogs a means of escape.

Vegetation, including tree cutting and dry-stone wall removal

Birds, small mammals and other wildlife.

- 4.16. The proposals will require the creation of a new entrance along the south boundary which will involve cutting out a short section of the dry-stone wall and the cutting back of vegetation. The following advice should be followed;
 - All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), which makes it an offence to damage or destroy a

nest when being built or in use. This legislation has implications for the timing of vegetation clearance and renovation works.

- 4.17. Ideally the removal of vegetation and the creation of the new entrance through the dry-stone wall should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season and therefore should take place between September and February of any given year.
- 4.18. If any clearance works are to be carried out within the nesting period (March – September), it should be overseen by an ecologist or an ecological clerk of works (ECoW). Prior to the commencement of works, a thorough check will be made for nesting birds or dependent young. If birds are found to be nesting and/or rearing young, then works in the vicinity will be deferred until young have fledged and left the nest.
- 4.19. In order to reduce the likelihood of killing or injuring wildlife e.g. small mammals, common toad, slow worm etc. during development, the following mitigation strategy should be followed.
- 4.20. Any existing ground vegetation deemed suitable will be subject to destructive search employing a finger-tip search around all potential refugia / vegetation in a careful and controlled manner, with constant vigilance for any sheltering hedgehogs (and other wildlife). Particular attention should be taken when removing the dry-stone wall which should be dismantled carefully by hand. Any species encountered should be carefully captured and removed to adjacent habitat where they will be placed within an area that provides suitable conditions for the species concerned.
- 4.21. All cut materials should be removed by the end of each working day and must not be left store on site.
- 4.22. Vegetation removal should be carried out with extra care during colder months to avoid disturbing hibernating reptiles and amphibians, which may be present. Where possible, cut vegetation down to ground level but avoid disturbing,

scraping or digging into the soil, as some species overwinter below the surface in the root system. Leaving the soil intact helps protect these animals until they become active again in spring or autumn, when further ground disturbance can be undertaken with significantly reduced risk to wildlife.

- 4.23. Excavated holes and trenches on building sites have the potential to trap wildlife including hedgehogs leading to the potential suffering and death of the animal (s) particularly if they become filled with water.
- 4.24. Any injured or un-well hedgehogs or other wildlife should be taken to a local vet or wildlife rescue organisation. The closest wildlife rescue centre is Vale Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre, Ashdown Lane, Beckford, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 7BJ. Telephone number 01386 882288.

Ecological enhancements

- 4.25. Under the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged.
- 4.26. There is an opportunity during the development works to enhance the ecological value of the site and adjoining habitats relatively inexpensively for birds and bats.

Bats, birds and insects

- 4.27. To boost the sites ecological capacity in respect of bats, birds and insects and meet the government NPPF guidance it is recommended that the following ecological boxes are fitted to each dwelling.

Bats

- 4.28. It is recommended that 1 number Habibat bat box (type 001) is installed to each dwelling. This model is the size of a large shoebox and is designed for a variety

- of bat species and has good thermal properties making it suitable as both a maternity roost and hibernation roost. A variety of facings can be fitted to suit any existing brick, wood, stonework or rendered finish, making the box unobtrusive and aesthetically pleasing.
- 4.29. The bat box ideally should be placed beneath the eaves or on gable ends and away from windows and doors and ideally should be fitted in a location that gives bats immediate access to foraging habitat.
- 4.30. An information sheet detailing this type of bat roosting box can be found in Appendix III.
- 4.31. Boxes are available from www.habibat.co.uk

Birds

- 4.32. During the construction phase of the works, there is an opportunity to incorporate inexpensive ecological enhancements that aim to increase the biodiversity of the site.
- 4.33. Swifts (*Apus apus*) are a declining species in the UK, largely due to the loss of suitable nesting sites in modern and renovated buildings. To support local biodiversity, fulfil policy objectives and contribute to swift conservation efforts, it is recommended that
- At least one swift nest box be installed on each dwelling.
- 4.34. The nest box should be positioned at least 4 m above ground level, under the eaves or on an appropriate sheltered wall, with a clear flight path and minimal disturbance. Ideally, the box should face north or east to avoid excessive heat exposure.
- 4.35. For a long-term, low-maintenance solution, we recommend incorporating the Action for Swifts S Brick into the development. The S Brick is a discreet,

integrated nest box designed to be built directly into the structure of the building, providing a secure and permanent nesting site without affecting aesthetics or maintenance requirements. Models can be found on www.actionforswifts.com.

Invertebrates

- 4.36. Each dwelling should be fitted with one number bee bricks. The bricks should be fitted at least 1 m from ground level, with no upward height limit. The bee bricks are used in place of standard bricks. In the case of block work the brick can be fitted in a vertical position in association with a shortened concrete block.
- 4.37. A southerly facing aspect is recommended.
- 4.38. Bee bricks are available from www.wildlifeservices.co.uk telephone number 0333 900 0927.

Landscaping

- 4.39. New landscape planting should be chosen to have maximum value to wildlife and should include a range of native and non-native species that flower and fruit.
- 4.40. If a solid fence is necessary, then this should be combined with a hedgerow. In the case of solid fences small holes measuring approximately 130 mmx 130 mm should be created at the bases to allow the passage of wildlife, including hedgehogs.

Tree and hedge planting

- 4.41. A preliminary drawing shows that the new boundaries will be defined by hedgerows and trees.
- 4.42. Hedgerows should use native species. The hedgerow should be planted as a double row 30 – 45 cm apart in a zigzag pattern, with plants 30 – 50 cm apart

- and offset between rows (about 5-7 plants per metre total. Use mixed native woody whips, plant in a weed free strip during dormancy, firm in well, protect with guards and lightly prune early to thicken the hedge.
- 4.43. It is recommended that new trees should be fruit trees, which provide a nectar resource and fruit for people and wildlife. Fruit trees have the advantage of remaining relatively small and easy to maintain.
- 4.44. The choice of fruit trees is an important consideration, and it is absolutely essential that older traditional varieties are chosen over modern commercial types, as these will live longer allowing the trees to develop the structural diversity that has higher value for wildlife.
- 4.45. Frank P Mathews of Worcester will offer advice on traditional orchard trees and can provide trees of the correct provenance. The company can be contacted on 01548 810214 and <http://www.frankpmatthews.com/catalogue&treetype=Fruit>.
- 4.46. An information sheet on Traditional Orchards is provided under Appendix III; Species Information.

5. Limitations

- 5.1. This report records wildlife found during the survey and anecdotal evidence of sightings. It does not record any plants or animals that may appear at other times of the year and were therefore not evident at the time of visit.
- 5.2. This report represents a preliminary assessment only. Recommendations and conclusions are subject to change should further findings significantly differ from those collected from the survey efforts to date.
- 5.3. The advice contained in this report relate primarily to factual survey results and general guidance only. On all legal matters you are advised to take legal advice.

6. References

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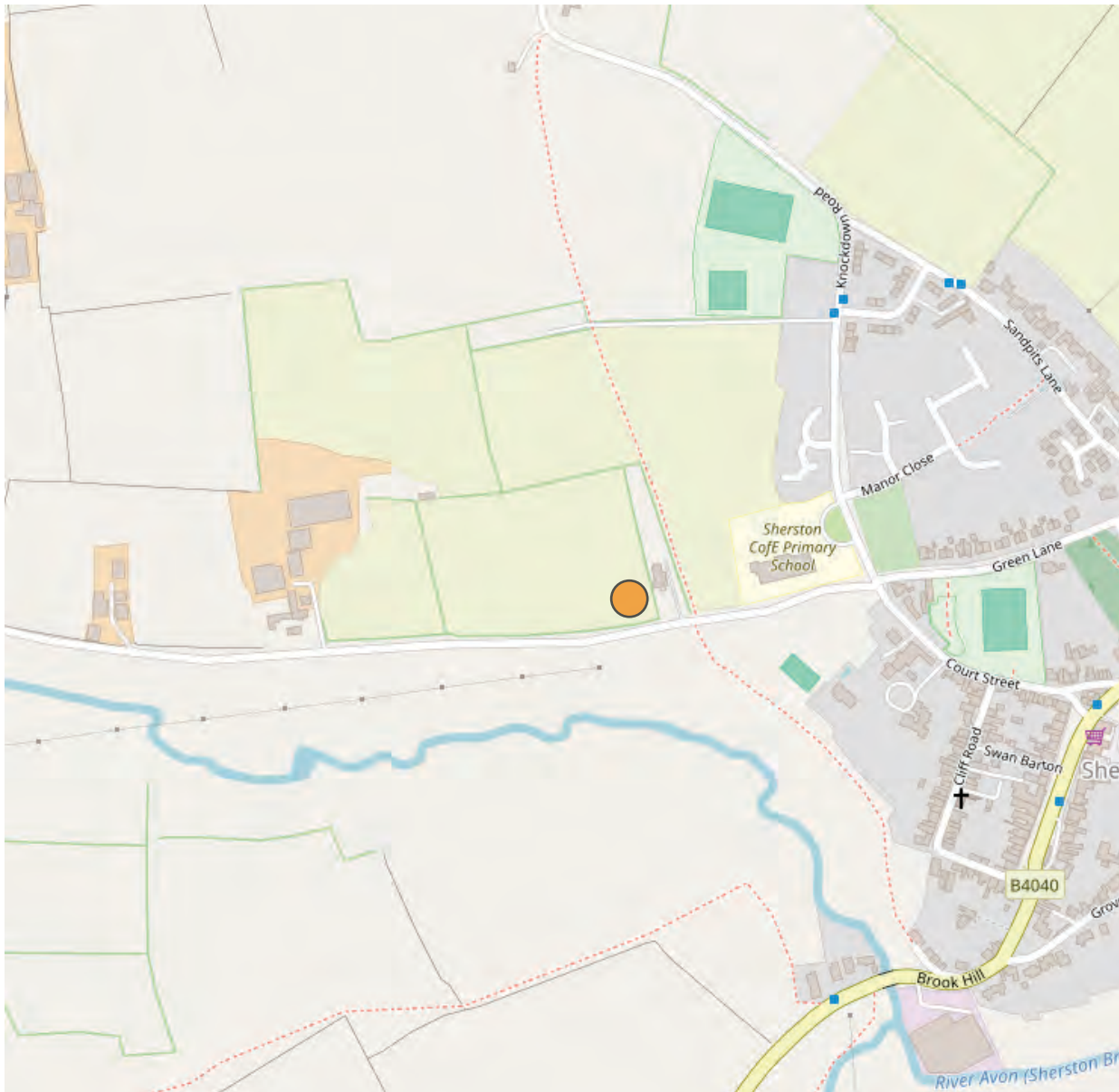
Appendix I – Site Figures



CROSSMAN ECOLOGY



Site location



Client Silverwood Partnership

Title Location plan

Site Land adjacent to Sopworth Road

Figure 1

Date 23 April 2026

Scale Not to scale

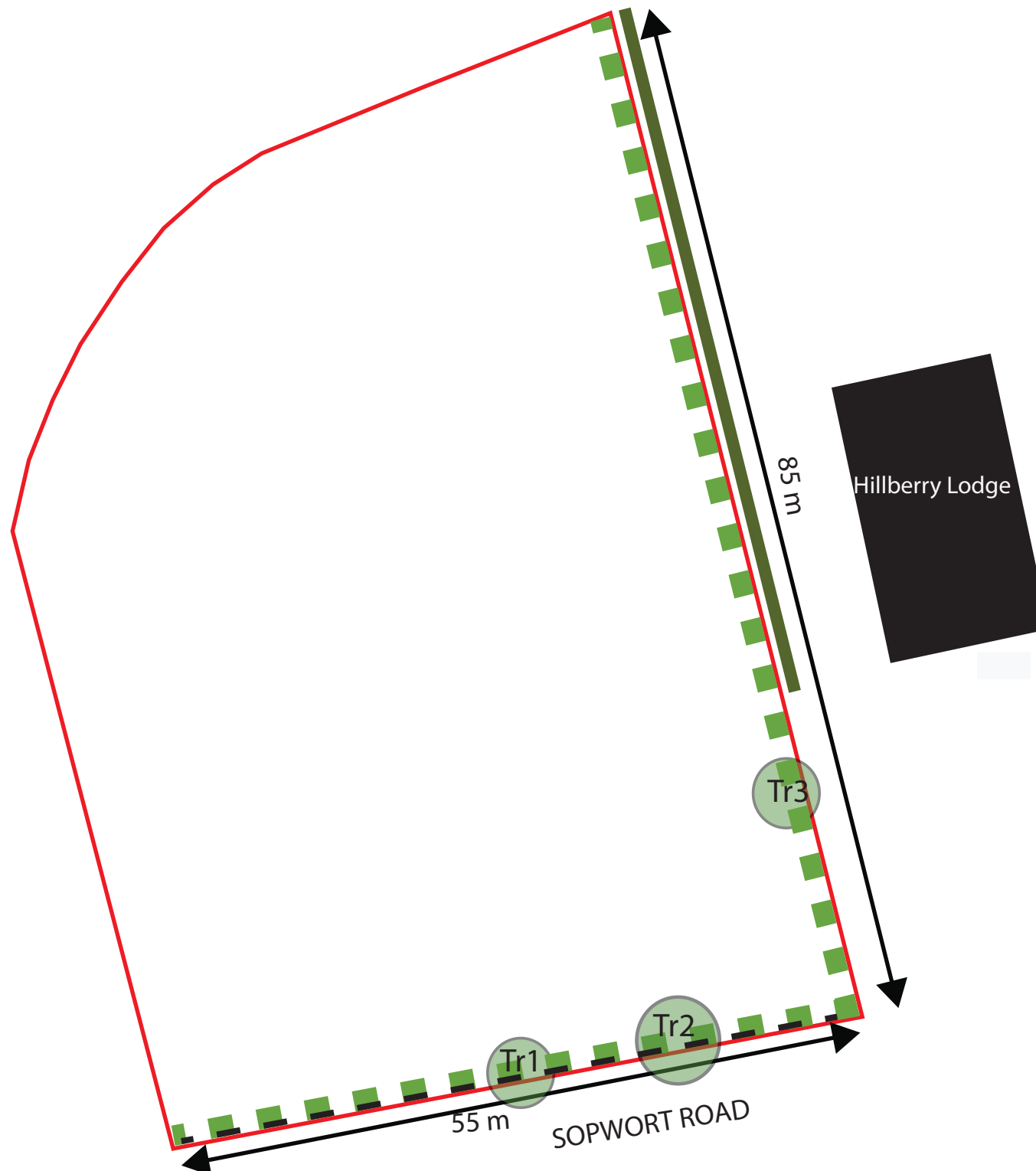


**Crossman
Ecology**
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-  Development boundary
-  Planted arable field
-  Field margins
-  Trees
-  Drystone wall
-  Adjacent hedgerow



Client Silverwood Partnership

Title Habitat map

Site Land adjacent to Sopworth Road

Figure 2

Date 27 April 2026

Scale 1,2500

Appendix II – Site Photographs



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Photographs 1- 3



Photograph 1:

Detail; showing the southern boundary, which is defined by a low dry stone wall. Present are a mature ash and hawthorn tree. An un-planted narrow headland of approximately 2 m is present and consists mainly of grass with some common ruderal and herb species.



Photograph 2:

Detail; Showing the eastern boundary which includes a narrow un-planted narrow headland of a approximately 2 m, which is mainly grass with some common herb and ruderal species. Also present along the boundary is a semi-mature ash tree. The field is divided from a neighbouring dwelling by a well trimmed ornamental hedge which belongs to the dwelling.



Photograph 3:

Detail; showing the ash tree

Photographs 4 - 6



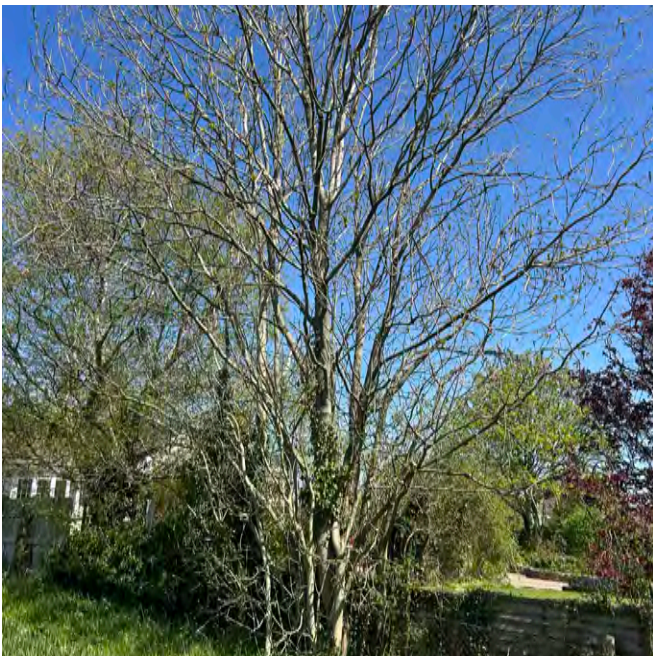
Photograph 4:

Detail; showing the dense ivy and dead wood present within the canopy of the mature ash tree present along the south boundary.



Photograph 5:

Hawthorn tree



Photograph 6:

Semi-mature ash tree present along the eastern boundary.

Photograph 7



Photograph 7:

Detail; showing the arable field of wheat or barley, which is well established as of 23 April 2026.

Bat Habitat Suitably Criteria

Bat Roosting Suitability	Criteria	Survey requirement to prove likely absence
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.	No further survey work required
Low	A building, structure or tree with one or more potential roosting sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically; however, these possible roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used by large numbers of bats and are unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation roosts.	One activity survey
Medium	A building, structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to the size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habit, but is unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.	Two activity surveys
High	A building, structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.	Three activity surveys

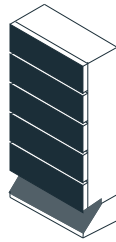
Survey requirements are taken from Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (2024), which is the recognised industry standard guidance used by local planning authorities and other statutory consultees.

Bat Tubes

Woodcrete Bat Tubes

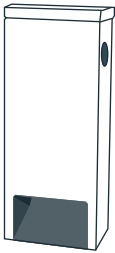
We recommend the use of woodcrete-type bat tubes that are manufactured by Habibat or Schwegler. These are a well known brands so are always accepted as a compensation measure for planning applications and Natural England Licence applications. The tubes also have a low visual impact on the development because they can be built into the exterior wall and then rendered or painted, or in the case of the Habibat, faced with brick or stone.

Recommended bat tubes



Habibat

The great advantage of the Habibat box is that it can be faced with brick, stone or render, so that it blends in and doesn't alter the aesthetic of the build.



Schwegler 1FR & 2FR

There are two similar designs that we use regularly. The 1FR is designed to be used singularly whereas the 2FR has transverse connecting holes (model shown) that allow tubes to be connected together.

Specifications

Height	44 cm
Width	21 cm
Depth	10 cm
Weight	7 kg

Height	47.5 cm
Width	20 cm
Depth	12.5 cm
Weight	9.8 kg

How Many to Install

The number of bat tubes to install is dependent on the level of compensation or mitigation that is required. Typically one tube is recommended on sites where there are low number of bats and multiple groups of tubes are recommended on sites of high ecological significance.



Installation

The tubes should be built into the exterior wall of the building, typically at the gable apex. The tubes should be installed flush with the surrounding wall and can then be rendered or painted with breathable paint if required.

Location

The tubes should be positioned at least 0.5m below the eave or gable apex to prevent predation by domestic cats. It is also recommended that where practical, the tubes are not positioned above windows or doors.

Bat Tubes

Bat tubes are an excellent way to provide discreet and low impact roosting opportunities for certain species of bats that tend to occupy crevices within buildings. They are relatively compact and can be installed flush or beneath a rendered surface and can be painted with an air permeable paint if required.

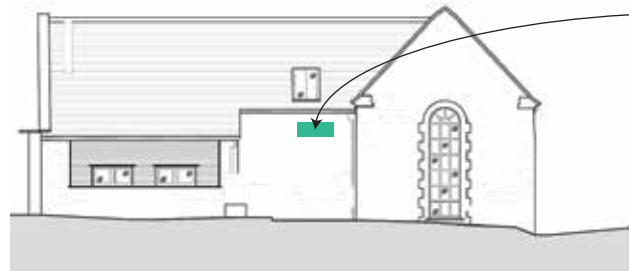


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Bird Boxes for Buildings

Woodcrete Bird Boxes

We recommend the use of woodcrete bird boxes. The boxes are long-lasting and have a low visual impact on a development because they can be built into the exterior wall. In the case of Habibat, boxes can be rendered, or faced with brick or stone.



How Many to Install

The number of bird boxes depends on the level of compensation or mitigation that is required, and depends on the level of bird activity and the scale of the development. Generally one box or a small group of boxes is sufficient.

Location

Bird boxes are best positioned under the eaves of the dwelling as shown on the left. The tops of the boxes should be positioned a short distance below the eaves by approximately 100-200 mm. Boxes should ideally not be located above windows or doors.

Encouraging Birds Is Simple

Installing bird boxes is an easy, cost-effective way to support declining species. They provide vital nesting spaces for birds in built environments—helping biodiversity thrive right where you live or work



Habibat Sparrow Terrace

A simple, durable wooden nest box designed for house sparrows. Install in groups under eaves or on walls to mimic colony nesting and support declining urban sparrow populations.



Schwegler Sparrow Terrace

A long-lasting wood-concrete terrace with three nesting chambers for house sparrows. Encourages colony breeding, excellent insulation, and weather resistance for year-round protection. Mount under eaves or high walls.



Woodstone House Martin Box

Made from breathable wood-concrete, this twin nest replicates natural house martin cups. Fix beneath roof overhangs on north or east elevations.



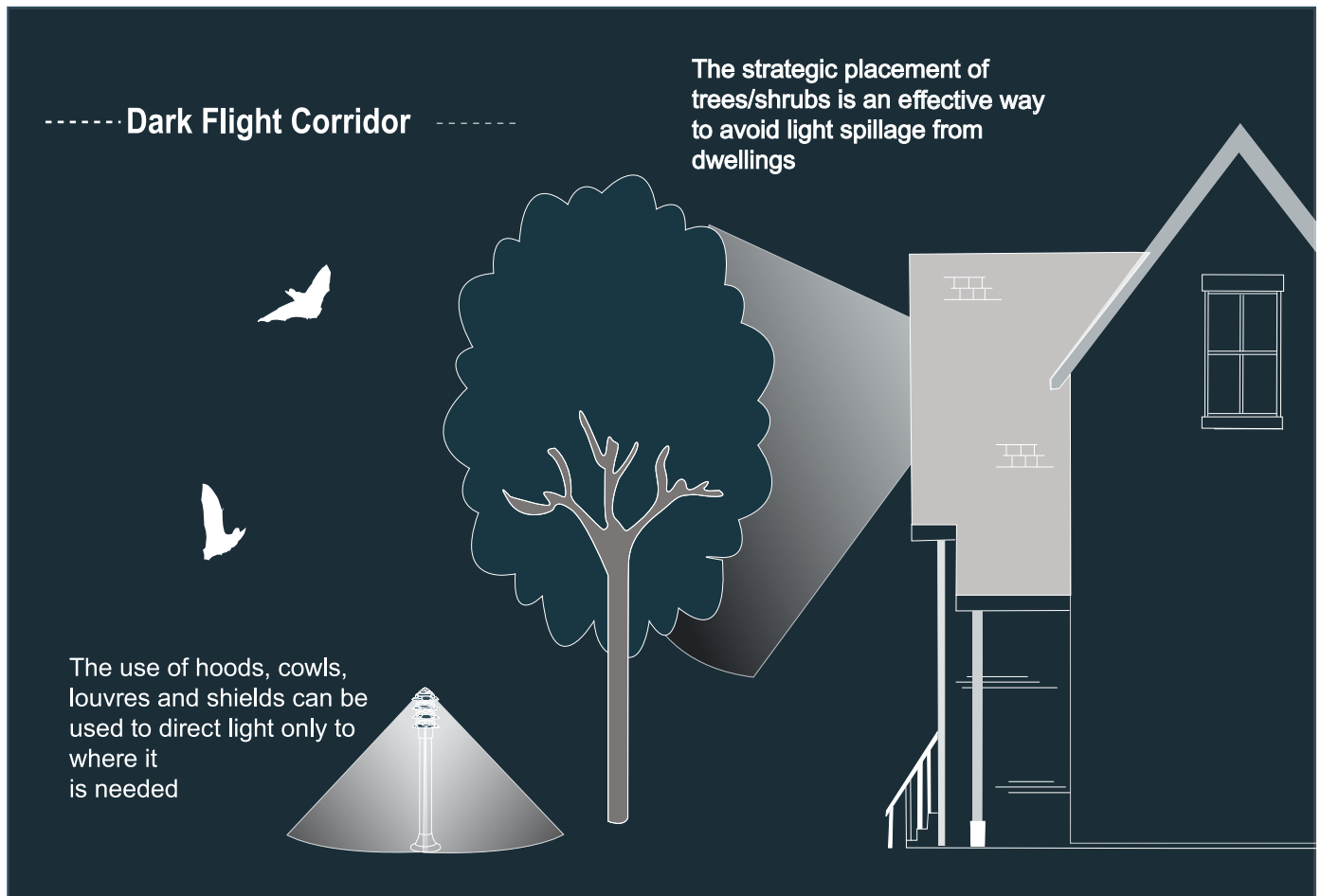
Swift AFS S Box

Purpose-built, durable nest box for common swifts, made from recycled wood-concrete. Suitable for wall or eaves mounting at least 5 m high with clear flight access.



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Sensitive Lighting for Bats



Lamp Type

The impact of light on bats can be minimised by the use of low/high pressure sodium lamps.

Lighting Column

The height of lighting columns should be kept as low as possible to reduce the impact of light spill. For example, when designing lighting for pedestrian walkways, use short bollard lights that produce a low level light (as low as 3 lux) directed downwards.

Light Mapping

Mapping the light spill of a lighting scheme using computer software can prove essential in designing schemes that are fit for purpose, that minimise energy costs and create dark light corridors and foraging areas for bats.

Light Levels

Proposed light levels within landscape plans should be as low as possible. If lighting is not needed, don't light.

Timing of Lighting

The times at when lighting is left on should be limited where possible. The use of movement sensors and timers for lights is useful for saving energy and reducing the amount of time a light is left on.

Impacts of Light on Bats

As nocturnal mammals, light causes disturbance to bats and many species will actively avoid lit areas. The illumination of bat roosts can delay bats emerging and thus shorten their foraging time and may eventually lead to bats abandoning their roost. The illumination of foraging or commuting areas may also lead to an increase in the rate of predation of bats by predators.



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