

Ecological Mitigation, Enhancement and Management Plan

Survey site: Land near Touchwood, Stockbridge Road, Lopcombe Corner, SP5 1BW

Client: Rob Jones

Date: 24/05/2026

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Wiltshire Council. The proposal is described as: *change of use of land to a Travellers caravan site*

Introduction

This Ecological Mitigation, Enhancement and Management Plan (EMEMP) has been prepared for the above-named client to outline measures to be implemented during construction works at the above named site.

The purpose of this plan is to ensure the protection and mitigation of ecological receptors, adhere to best practices and industry standards, and provide adequate supervision by licensed professionals. The EMEMP also outlines the management frameworks required for the planning and implementation of construction activities that comply with legislation and the environmental commitments.

EMEMP The below table provides the wider ecological context of the site and details any associated planning conditions.

Site Context and Landscape History	
A detailed description and history is provided in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. (Katie Warren, 2022). The site which is just north of Stockbridge Road lies on the outskirts of the hamlet of Lopcombe Corner. The site is located approximately 11km northwest of the city of Salisbury. The site is surrounded by arable and pasture fields with a network of trees and hedgerows as well as Stockbridge Road (A30) adjacent to the southern boundary and a small number of commercial and residential properties within close proximity. Two woodlands are located within close proximity to the site including a small woodland (c. 3.5 acres) which is located 125m north of the site and a large woodland (> 250 acres) which is located approximately 200m to the south.	
Planning Conditions	
Condition 13	No development or removal of trees or shrubs shall take place until full details of a Wildlife Protection and Enhancement Scheme have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. These details shall include: a. Details of proposed measures that will be taken to manage the site for biodiversity, including retention of grassland and woodland features, b. Management proposals to enhance calcareous grassland features c. Quantification of biodiversity net gain provision including a plan showing the location(s) and type(s) of feature(s) to enhance the site for reptiles, nesting birds, invertebrates and hedgehog.

The below table describes the ecological baseline conditions on site.

Ecological Background Information
Detailed using desk study and site survey.
The site had a PEA undertaken by Katie Warren in 2022. Habitats identified at the site include- • Calcareous grassland • Mixed scrub • Other mixed woodland • Individual trees • Ruderal vegetation This does not include habitats identified outside of the development boundary, in the wider site landscape. Value for protected species on the site includes the following- • Birds- The woodland trees, scattered trees and scrub are likely to provide suitable nesting habitat for common bird species during the breeding season. It is also possible that some areas of the grassland may provide ground nesting suitability for (ground nesting) birds such as skylarks <i>Alauda arvensis</i> but the suitability is reduced by the number of predator perches within the site (e.g., trees, fences and scrub) which may reduce the likelihood of ground nesting birds • Badgers- The site does have areas suitable for sett building particularly in the areas with embankments (towards the northern and southern boundaries within areas of scrub and woodland) and raised areas within the site. No badger setts or evidence of badgers (e.g., latrines, footprints or snuffle holes) were identified during the survey. • Bats- The surrounding environment is predominantly rural supporting areas of woodland including a small woodland (c. 3.5 acres) which is located 125m north of the site and a large woodland (> 250 acres) which is located approximately 200m to the south. These provide habitats of high suitability for foraging and commuting. The site itself has open areas which are less preferable to bats however other vegetative features such as the woodland and dense scrub were considered suitable to support commuting and foraging bats from the surrounding areas and to provide connectivity. • Reptiles- Slow-worms and common lizards were the reptiles found on the site. Both species were identified covering the same general areas with the majority of the individuals found in the north and in the centre towards the eastern side of the site. It is noted that all reptiles apart from one count of a slow-worm on two separate occasions were within the blue line boundary rather than the red line boundary. A maximum count of 9

adult slow-worms (3 males and 6 females) were recorded during any one visit (survey 2). A maximum of 2 common lizards (1 male and 1 female) were recorded during any one visit (survey 7).

- **Amphibians-** The site contains no standing water that could provide potential breeding habitat for great crested newts or other amphibians. Opportunities for great crested newts and other amphibians exist in their terrestrial phases including tall grassland, woodland, scattered trees, areas of dense and scattered scrub and other features such as wood piles. A single pond was identified within 500m of the site using aerial photography, OS maps and ground-truthing (see Figure 1). This pond is located 150 metres west of the site at grid reference SU 25702 35396 and when it was surveyed it was found to be dry.
- **Terrestrial mammals-** The habitats on the site and wider site are likely to support a variety of terrestrial mammals, such as hedgehogs, foxes, rabbits and rodents.

The following tables detail the proposed mitigation, habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement measures for the development as well as management requirements to ensure the longevity of these measures. as detailed in the PEA and BNG. These include further details of the habitats on site and the impacts of the development upon them and will be read in conjunction with this document.

Scope

This EMEMP outlines construction and ecological measures for the following works:

The clearance of land to allow for the site to be used as a traveler site.

Aims and Objectives

This report aims to identify key stakeholder requirements, ensure compliance by all stakeholders with all relevant legislation, to provide ecological and biodiversity enhancement measures for the site and include a management strategy in order to achieve long-term success and improvements.

Work Schedules and Ecological Presence

Work schedules will be developed to ensure activities with specific timing requirements are carried out in a manner that minimises harm to ecological receptors. These schedules will be provided to all relevant personnel and contractors involved in the project. The following measures will be implemented:

Ecological Clerk of Works

A qualified and suitably experienced ecologist will be present on-site during critical phases of construction activities, namely turf stripping. Their role will be to oversee and monitor compliance with the EMEMP, provide guidance, and take immediate action to prevent any harm to ecological receptors. Should protected species be identified during vegetation clearance, works will be halted whilst a suitably licenced ecologist and/or Natural England is contacted.

Persons Responsible and Lines of Communication

A Development Biodiversity Champion is selected for the construction phase of the development. The Biodiversity Champion will be someone with significant influence during construction, such as the contract, site or project manager. They are responsible for ensuring all actions outlined in the approved LEMP are implemented including the provision of a toolbox talk prior to works commencing. Any queries with regards to the mitigation prescriptions will be addressed to the project ecologist and communication will be retained between the Development Biodiversity Champion and project ecologist and/or a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) throughout the construction phase of the development where necessary to ensure the mitigation is applied and impacts to adjacent ecological receptors are effectively minimised. The project ecologist's contact details are located on the title page of this report. It is recommended that the Biodiversity Champion informs the project ecologist and designated ECoW of the commencement of construction works and provides updates where necessary. The ECoW will provide ecological expertise and guidance throughout.

1.0 Habitat Creation and Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

Table 3 details the habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement measures for the site. These are also illustrated in **Appendix 2 for habitat** and **3 for fauna species**.

Ecological/Biodiversity enhancement and management measures	This table includes any measure required to obtain or comply with planning permission, conditions ,or other consent and to comply with legislation.
Works	Specification
Calcareous grassland	Overview Areas of lowland calcareous grassland will be enhanced and created, as shown on the proposed landscape plans (Appendix 1) and habitat creation plan (Appendix 2). Objectives • To create and enhance a successful lowland calcareous grassland that will provide high-quality habitat for pollinating invertebrate species. This will, in turn, support foraging opportunities for protected and/or notable species groups, including amphibians, bats, birds, and hedgehogs. • To prioritize natural regeneration techniques over artificial seeding to protect and preserve the site's pre-existing ecological integrity. • To proactively manage and clear scattered scrub to ensure the long-term favorable condition of the calcareous grassland is established and maintained. Creation & Management Method: Lowland Calcareous Grassland <i>Ground Preparation & Establishment (Natural Regeneration)</i> Because the site supports a pre-existing NVC community, no artificial seed mixes will be introduced. The underlying soil contains a valuable, localized natural soil seed bank and rootstocks that are already adapted to the site's specific conditions. Introducing external seed mixes risks disrupting this existing community. Establishment will instead rely on natural regeneration. Existing grassland areas will be managed to encourage these native species to spread, following the specific management protocols detailed in Table 3.1. <i>Long-Term Management (Non-Grazed Regime)</i> As the land will not be utilized for livestock grazing, the grassland structure will be maintained through mechanical intervention. An annual hay cut and rake must take place to remove biomass, prevent nutrient build-up in the soil, and expose bare ground for seed germination. (Full operational details of this cutting regime are outlined in Table 3.1).

		raking and removing all arisings entirely off-site.			gives invertebrates time to relocate unharmed. Raking and removing the arisings is critical to prevent nutrient enrichment, which would otherwise favour competitive, rank grasses over delicate calcareous flora.
	Continuous Scrub & Invasive Species Monitoring	At all times.			Early identification prevents successional scrub and invasive species from becoming established and outcompeting the target NVC grassland community.
	Regularly inspect the site for scrub re-growth (e.g., hawthorn, bramble) and invasive or highly competitive ruderal weeds.				
	Targeted Scrub & Invasive Removal	As required, immediately following identification.			Ensures the open, high-quality condition of the lowland calcareous grassland is maintained and allowed to successfully re-develop.
	Promptly remove any identified emerging scrub or invasive species by hand-pulling or targeted cutting.				
	No Chemical Application	At all times.			Calcareous grasslands thrive exclusively in low-nutrient (oligotrophic) soils. Chemical inputs will encourage vigorous, dominant agricultural grasses and weeds, destroying the specialized NVC community.
	Do not apply chemical fertilizers, artificial nutrients, or non-selective herbicides				

Tree and Shrub Planting

Overview

New native tree and scrub planting is proposed across the site as shown on the proposed landscape plans (see **Appendix 1 and 2**). This will focus primarily to include a range of native species, such as English oak, beech, chestnut, birch, hazel and hawthorn. Plant species listed on the landscape master plant in Appendix 1.

Ornamental species such as laurel, rhododendron and non-native cotoneasters listed on the schedule 9 invasive species list must be avoided.

Objectives

- To plant a range of trees that will provide pollinating, foraging, commuting, and refuge opportunities for protected and/ or notable species groups including amphibians, bats, birds, hedgehogs, and reptiles.
- Ensure that good horticultural practice is employed to encourage the long-term health and vitality of all trees and shrubs.
- Ensure well-balanced crowns and/ or natural shape by preventing over-competition.

Creation Method

- Ground preparation and planting**

Each tree and shrub will be planted within a hole three times as wide of the supplied pot and of a similar depth. Root balls will be soaked thoroughly in water before planting and root balls will be loosened to expose restricted roots before planting. The planted trees and shrubs will then be backfilled ensuring there are no air pockets around roots or any roots protruding out of the ground.

- Timing**

It is best to prepare the land during the summer ready for planting between November and March. Planting trees and shrubs before the new year helps ensure better rooting and subsequent establishment including faster growth during the first growing season.

Recommended management prescriptions:

Table 3.2: New tree and shrub planting.

Management	When	Rationale
At the end of each growing season all plant failures are to be 100%	When required; checked annually in Autumn.	To maintain amenity and wildlife value.

	replaced		
	If required, provision of stakes and guards. Guards to be left on for a minimum of 5 years	N/A	Protect from damage
	Stakes will be checked and any broken or damaged stakes during this time would be removed (as above) and replaced with ties re-fixed	When required; checked annually in Autumn.	Maintain protection
	Remove weeds	When required; checked twice annually in early spring and in Autumn.	Reduce competition for resources nutrients etc.by weeds
	Application of bark mulch at a depth of 50 mm	Immediately after planting and then when required; checked annually in Autumn.	Reduce competition for resources nutrients etc.by weeds
	Do not apply chemical fertilisers	At all times.	The use of chemical fertilisers will encourage vigorous grasses and weeds to grow
	Apply a light dressing of well-rotted manure	Annually in the winter	Note the overuse of manure fertilisers will encourage vigorous grasses and weeds to grow.
	Removal of spent flowers from perennial plants will be removed through 'deadheading'	Twice annually, late spring and in the Autumn.	Allows plants to place more energy into re-growth.
	Watering will be undertaken before and after planting out and as necessary for the continued thriving of all planting.	When required; provide more water during periods of draught and less water during times of	Ensures plants do not dry out and subsequently fail.

	prolonged rain. Check and replace any plant failures For the first 5 years To ensure no gaps form. once a year
Native Hedgerow Planting	Overview: It is proposed to create native hedgerow, as shown on the landscape plans provided in Appendix 1 & 2. Objectives: • To create native hedgerows of moderate condition. • To create dense hedgerows that will provide foraging, commuting, and refugia opportunities for notable species groups including bats, birds, badgers, and hedgehogs. • To ensure native species only are planted. • Ensure cultural techniques are employed which use a variety of mulches and organic fertilisers and which minimise the use of chemicals and peat wherever possible. Creation Method: • Ground preparation Prepare the ground by digging over a strip approximately 60-90cm (2-3ft) wide and one spit (or spade blade) deep. Soils that become waterlogged in winter may require a permanent drainage system. Alternatively, form the soil into a ridge about 15-20cm (6-8in) high and 50-70cm (20-28in) across to plant into. • Planting Plants will be positioned set back from hardscaped boundaries to allow space for the hedgerow to develop and mature prior to requiring any significant management/ cutting back. Plant density will focus on achieving a hedgerow width >1m; as such, plants will be planted in a staggered double row approximately 45-60cm apart, where individual plants are planted 90cm apart within each row. • Timing It is best to prepare the land during the summer ready for planting between November and March. Planting before the new year helps ensure better rooting and subsequent establishment including faster growth. Table 3.3: hedgerow planting management prescriptions.

		Management	When	Rationale	BNG condition criteria compliance
		At the end of each growing season all plant failures are to be 100% replaced	When required; checked annually in Autumn.	To maintain amenity and wildlife value.	B1 & B2
		If required, provision of stakes and guards. Guards to be left on for a minimum of 5 years	N/A	Protect from damage	A1 & A2
		Stakes will be checked and any broken or damaged stakes during this time would be removed (as above) and replaced with ties re-fixed	When required; checked annually in Autumn.	Maintain protection	D2
		Remove weeds	When required; checked twice annually in early spring and in Autumn.	Reduce competition for resources nutrients etc.by weeds	D1
		Application of bark mulch at a depth of 50 mm	Immediately after planting and then when required; checked annually in Autumn.	Reduce competition for resources nutrients etc.by weeds	D1
		Apply a light dressing of well-rotted manure	Annually in the winter	Note the overuse of manure fertilisers will encourage vigorous grasses and weeds to grow.	A1 & A2
		Watering will be undertaken before and after planting out and as necessary for the continued thriving of all planting.	When required; provide more water during periods of draught and less water during times of prolonged rain.	Ensures plants do not dry out and subsequently fail.	A1, A2, B1, & B2
		Check and replace any plant failures once a year	For the first 5 years	To ensure no gaps form.	A1, A2, B1, & B2
		Once the hedgerow reaches an average height of 1.5m or above along the hedgerow length, this height or above must be retained.	To be checked annually once hedgerow reaches 1.5m in height.	To ensure the hedgerow is not maintained at a low level of worse value to biodiversity.	A1
		Once the hedgerow reaches an average width of 1.5m or above	To be checked annually once hedgerow reaches 1.5m in	To ensure the hedgerow is not maintained at a thin density of	A2

	along the hedgerow length, this width or above must be retained. Flailing to be avoided- due to increase risk of disease entering individuals. Management to include a mixture of pruning, live head and dead hedge layering once at a suitable size.	width. Once hedge has reach desired size, to be undertaken in winter months after any berry producing plants have finished. No cutting between 1st March and 31st September. Laying recommended every 5-10 years	worse value to biodiversity. To increase hedge density and to prevent high volumes of damage which will reduce hedgerow health and quality over time.
Bat Boxes	Overview: A total of four bat boxes will be installed at each site, comprising external bat boxes onto retained mature retained trees. These will be installed as integrated These can also be included during construction as intergrade bat boxes within the walls. The proposed locations are shown on the plans provided in Appendix 2. Details of the bat boxes recommended for the sites are as follows: <i>External bat boxes to be installed onto retained trees</i> - The recommended external bat boxes will be constructed of woodcrete/ woodstone. Boxes of this construction are known to require minimal maintenance and have a lifespan of 25 years plus. 4 No. Vivara Pro Low Profile Woodstone Bat Boxes (or similar) (see Figure 13) will be installed onto retained mature trees within Sites 2 and 6. This bat box type is suitable to support a range of species including noctules <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> and soprano pipistrelles <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>. - The bat boxes will be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing a southern elevation with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light and facing vegetated habitats.		



Figure 13 Vivara Pro Low Profile Woodstone Bat Box (image credit: <https://www.nhbs.com/equipment?qtview=194583>)

Recommended management:

The proposed bat boxes are designed to require no management or maintenance. Furthermore, preventing physical disturbance of bat boxes will increase the chances of occupation by roosting bats. However, it is recommended that the bat boxes are inspected annually for the first five years outside of the typical active season for bats (May to September inclusive) following installation. Bat boxes must be replaced if they are damaged, removed, or have fallen from their recommended location.

Bird Boxes

Five bird boxes are recommended to be installed on site, upon mature retained trees around the site.

Bird box specification:

- The recommended bird boxes will be constructed of woodcrete/ woodstone. Boxes of this construction are designed to require no maintenance and a lifespan of 25 years plus.
- 5x Woodstone Nest Boxes (or a similar alternative brand) with 28mm entrance holes are proposed on the trees, as shown in **Figure 15**.

- Woodstone Nest Boxes will be positioned approximately 1.5-3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. Box positions will not be facing south as a result.
- Due to the height of the building and the surrounding of trees, swift boxes are not recommended for this site due to the high volume of obstacles which would deter swifts from this area.



Figure 15 Woodstone Nest Box – source arkwildlife.co.uk

Recommended Management:

The proposed bird boxes are designed to require no management or maintenance. Furthermore, preventing physical disturbance of bird boxes will increase the chances of occupation by nesting birds. However, it is recommended that the bird boxes are inspected annually for the first five years outside of the typical nesting bird season (March to September inclusive) following installation. External bird boxes must be replaced if they are damaged, removed, or have fallen from their recommended location. Internal bird boxes will not be blocked or removed.

Invertebrate house

Two insect boxes will be installed adjacent to the retained trees on the northern boundary facing the calcareous grassland (**Figure19**). An insect box suitable for the site (or a similar alternative brand) can be found here: <https://www.nhbs.com/national-trust-apex-insect-house>



Figure 19: Insect box (image credit <https://www.nhbs.com/national-trust-apex-insect-house>)

The proposed habitat removal to facilitate the development does include habitats of value to invertebrates. Without appropriate compensatory habitat creation, there could be an overall reduction in opportunities for other animals foraging at the site. However, there is excellent scope to provide additional refugia and deadwood provision at the site for invertebrates to provide enhanced opportunities post-development.

Hedgehog House

A hedgehog house will be installed adjacent to the retained tree line on the northeast site boundary (**Figure 22**). A hedgehog house suitable for the site (or a similar alternative brand) can be found here: <https://www.nhbs.com/hedgehog-house>. This is to be installed in a quiet area, near retained or created shrub and hedgerows. This will be an area where it will not be regularly disturbed. Hedgehog houses can also be partially buried underneath turf to hide it greater. (**Figure 23**) to create a more permanent structure.



Figure 22: Hedgehog house (image credit www.nhbs.co.uk)

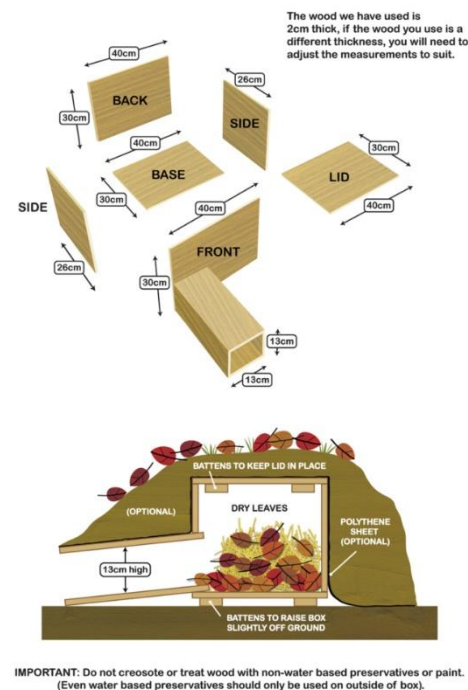


Figure 23- Permanent buried hedgehog house- source www.Britishhedgehogs.org.uk

Access points

Access will be continued to be provided for hedgehogs on the site. This will include the installation of hedgehog access points within the fencing around the site. In particular the northern boundary where this leads to the enhanced grassland. .

Gaps in the fencing will be a minimum 15 x 15cm. A hedgehog highway plaque will be installed over these gaps to indicate the reasoning and to prevent these being accidentally being fixed or blocked off, as demonstrated in **figure 24**.

This will also include gaps between the closed board fencing between the gardens, which will provide safe movement across the site. Location of suitable gaps are noted in the map in appendix 3. This will also provide movement access for smaller fauna such as reptiles.

Deadwood and brash areas created as part of the reptile mitigation plan would also benefit hedgehogs in providing hibernation opportunities.



Figure 24- Hedgehog highway plaque- Source- www.Wildcare.co.uk

Compliance and Reporting

The EMEMP requires stakeholders to comply fully with the pre-construction and construction-related elements of any mitigation strategies agreed with the Local Planning Authority and Natural England under any license requirements. Construction activities will therefore be conducted strictly in accordance with the approved CEMP. Regular inspections and monitoring will be undertaken to ensure compliance with the plan's requirements.

Rob Jones

Land near Touchwood, Stockbridge Road, Lopcombe Corner, SP5 1BW

Any deviations or incidents that may affect ecological receptors will be immediately reported to the designated ecologist / Natural England. Updates to the EMEMP will be relayed to the Local Planning Authority.

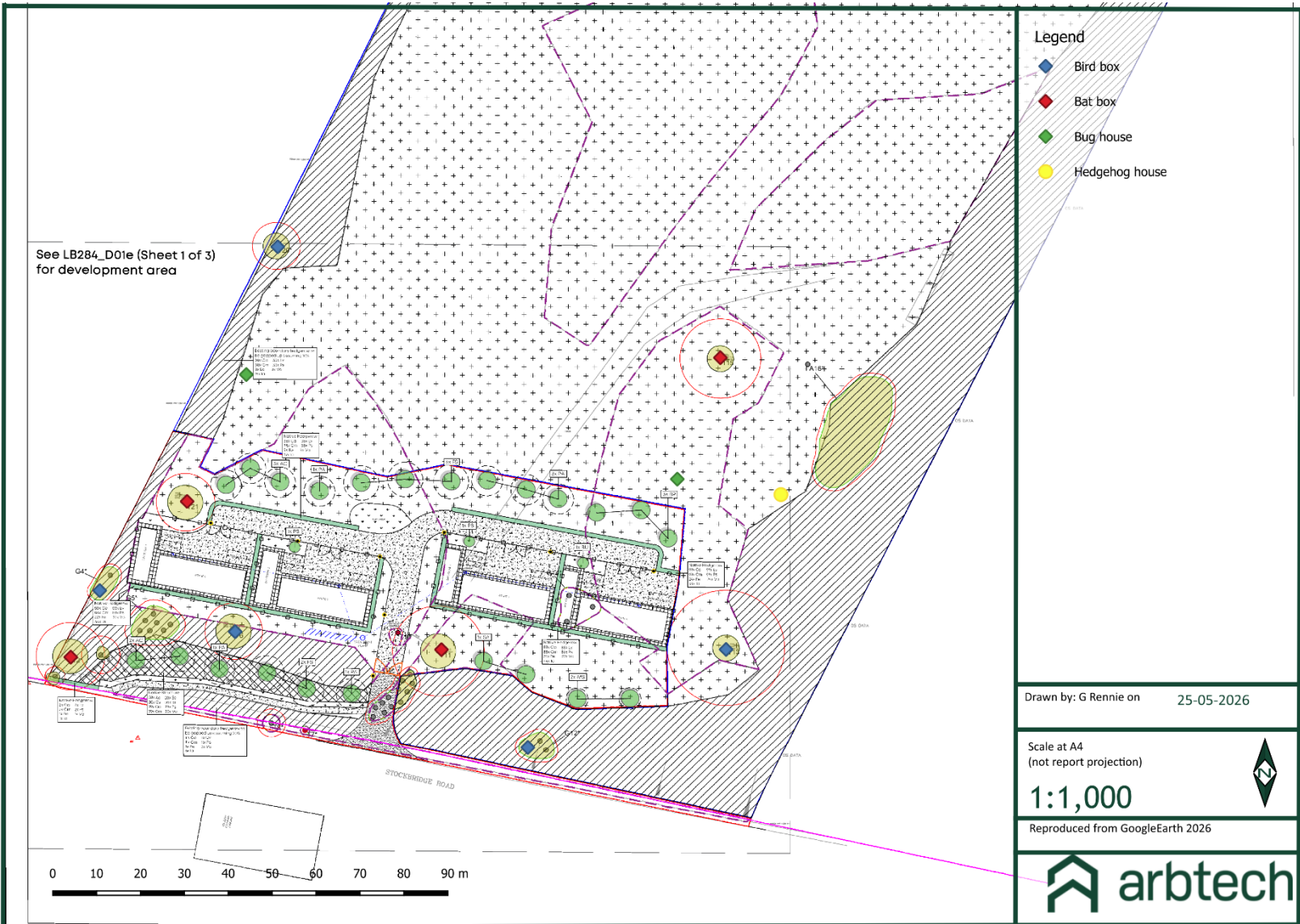
The EMEMP will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary throughout the construction phase to address changing site conditions and evolving ecological considerations.

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Appendix 2: Habitat on-site creation and enhancements.



Appendix 3: Species specific enhancements.



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Final	1.0	Georgina Rennie BSc (Hons), MSc. Consultant Ecologist. CL17 Bat Survey Licence.	22/05/2026

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