

SARUM ACADEMY

Ecological Appraisal

for

Morgan Sindall

May 2026

THE Landmark
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FV3	KS/ACIEEM 10/06/2026	SR/ACIEEM 10/06/2026			Revised planning policy

**D denotes a Draft version*

The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Landmark Practice was commissioned by Morgan Sindall to undertake an Ecological Appraisal to inform a hybrid planning application for the proposed extension to the existing school and creation of a new sports pitch and car park at land at Saram Academy, Westwood Rd, Salisbury SP2 9HS.

This report describes ecological survey work undertaken, considers the potential for ecological features to be present within the Site and the surrounding area in relation to the Proposed Development.

A desk study was undertaken to find details of designated sites within the Zone of Influence of the Site. A UK Habitat Classification survey habitat survey was conducted of the Site in April 2025 to map the habitats present and highlight potential for protected species to occur.

No statutory designated sites for nature conservation have the potential to be impacted by the proposals.

The Site was found to comprise the following habitats:

- Bramble scrub
- Developed land, sealed surface
- Modified grassland
- Non-native, ornamental hedgerow.

The following protected/notable species have been considered during this assessment, albeit none have been identified as being an Important Ecological Feature:

- Amphibians, including great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*)
- Badgers
- Bats
- Birds
- Brown hare
- Dormice
- Flora
- Hedgehogs
- Invertebrates
- Reptiles

Precautionary working methods and suitable mitigation and enhancement measures have been proposed to avoid and mitigate potential for impacts during construction/enabling works for other protected/notable species in line with best practice, planning policy and legislation.

CONTENTS

	Page
1.0 INTRODUCTION	2
Site Location and Description	2
Proposed Development	2
Scope of Assessment	2
2.0 LEGAL AND PLANNING CONTEXT	3
3.0 METHODS	4
Zone of Influence	4
Desk Study	4
Field Surveys	5
Assessment of the Likely Importance of Protected / Priority Species.....	5
Notes and Limitations.....	10
Longevity of Baseline Data	10
Nomenclature	11
4.0 RESULTS	12
Designated Sites	12
Habitats.....	16
Protected & Notable Species.....	20
5.0 EVALUATION	29
Ecological Features Scoped Out	29
6.0 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES	37
Construction Phase.....	37
Operational Phase	37
7.0 CONCLUSIONS	39
REFERENCES.....	40

APPENDIX A: LANDSCAPE GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

APPENDIX B: LEGAL AND PLANNING CONTEXT

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: DESIGNATED SITES

FIGURE 3: UKHAB SURVEY MAP

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Landmark Practice (TLP) was commissioned by Morgan Sindall in February 2025 to assess the potential ecological impacts associated with a hybrid planning application at Sarum Academy, Westwood Rd, Salisbury SP2 9HS, hereafter referred to as the 'Site.'

Site Location and Description

- 1.2 The Site broadly comprises the school, including the buildings and associated infrastructure such as access, parking and green space. To the north, lies a field which comprises rough grassland, scattered immature trees and scrub. The Site is approx. 7 ha in size. This Site is bound by agricultural land to the west, residential development to the east, further fields to the north and a construction site for further residential development and to the south the former Quidhampton Quarry which is now partially in use as a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- 1.3 The Site is located in the north east edge of Salisbury (approximate central grid reference SU 11604 31859, **Figure 1**). The local planning authority (LPA) is Wiltshire County Council.

Proposed Development

- 1.4 The project proposals comprise a hybrid planning application for the expansion of Sarum Academy, which comprises the following:
- Detailed application for the construction of a new science block with associated ancillary accommodation, new landscaping and surface water attenuation, the existing underutilised sports pitch is to be redeveloped into a floodlit AGP facility and additional cycle parking. Hereafter referred to as '8FE'
 - Outline application for the further school expansion which will comprise a new school block within the current school car parking, a sports pitch and replacement parking both in the field to the north of the school. Hereafter referred to as '10FE'.
- 1.5 Taken together, 8FE and 10FE are hereafter known as the 'Proposed Development'.
- 1.6 The Proposed Development site layout is shown in **Appendix A**.

Scope of Assessment

- 1.7 This Ecological Appraisal (EA) sets out the findings of the desk based and field-based ecological assessment, undertaken by TLP during 2025. The report considers the potential for ecological impacts to occur and outlines opportunities for avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures based upon the development proposals in the context of relevant legislation and planning policy.
- 1.8 The aims of this report are to:
- Identify the likely ecological constraints associated with a project.
 - Identify any mitigation measures likely to be required, following the 'Mitigation Hierarchy'¹.
 - Identify the opportunities offered by a project to deliver ecological enhancement.

¹ BS 42020:2013 Clause 5.2

2.0 LEGAL AND PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 A range of habitats and species that may actually or potentially be present at the Site are afforded legal protection under domestic and European legislation (**Appendix B**).

2.2 In summary, the following legislation is relevant to the Proposed Development:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- The Environment Act 2021

2.3 National and Local Planning Policy has been considered within the assessment. The relevant policies are reproduced in **Appendix B**.

- Salisbury Neighbourhood Plan, produced by Salisbury City Council, adopted in 2025. The following policies are applicable:
 - Policy 10: Safeguarding and Enhancing Green and Blue Infrastructure
 - Policy 11: Biodiversity Net Gain
 - Policy 12: Habitat Improvement and Restorations Schemes
- Wiltshire Core Strategy, produced by Wiltshire County Council, adopted in 2015. The following policies are applicable:
 - Core Policy 50: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- National Planning Policy Framework (last updated 2025)
- National Planning Policy Guidance (last updated 2024)

3.0 METHODS

- 3.1 The method for carrying out this assessment follows standard guidance published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2017).
- 3.2 The assessment has been undertaken by appropriately qualified ecologists using recognised best practice methodologies wherever possible and where these exist. Reasons for any deviation from best practice methodologies are provided below, but usually relate to timing of instruction, access restrictions and/or application of professional judgement, as appropriate.

Zone of Influence

- 3.3 The Zone of Influence (Zoi) for a project is the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the Proposed Development and associated activities.
- 3.4 Based on the scale and nature of the Proposed Development, it has been assessed that the Zoi arising from these works is as described below.
- 3.5 The habitat survey area focussed on the Site. Adjacent land was viewed where possible. As referenced in industry guidance, Important Ecological Features (IEF) that are present or potentially present on and off the site which may be impacted by the Proposed Development have been considered.

Desk Study

- 3.6 The desk study involved the collation and review of contextual information such as designated sites and past records of protected and priority species occurring within the potential Zoi of the Site.
- 3.7 The desk study involved collating information from the following sources:
- Wiltshire Core Strategy: Interactive Policy Map
 - Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)
 - Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre
 - Aerial photography
 - Great Crested Newt Risk Zone Mapping Natural England
- 3.8 The desk study was undertaken during November 2025 and involved obtaining the following information:
- International statutory designations (10 km radius)
 - National statutory designations (5 km)
 - Non-statutory designated sites (2 km)
 - Section 41 Habitats of Principal Importance (1 km)
 - Protected/notable species records (2 km)
 - Bat species records (4 km)
 - Granted European Protected Species Mitigation Licences (EPSML) for bats (2 km)
 - Granted EPSML for great crested newts and dormice (1 km)

- 3.9 In light of the scope of the Proposed Development, the abovementioned search areas are considered sufficient to cover the potential Zol of the Proposed Development in relation to designated sites, habitats and species.
- 3.10 Geological designated sites have not been included as these are not relevant to ecological assessment. Only biological records that are no more than 10 years old have been included.

Field Surveys

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Survey

- 3.11 A UKHab survey was conducted of the survey area on 24th April 2025 by a suitably experienced ecologist from TLP.
- 3.12 UKHab is a unified and comprehensive approach to classifying habitats, designed to provide a simple and robust approach to survey and monitoring for the 21st century. The classification, which covers terrestrial and freshwater habitats, is flexible enough for use in a wide range of survey types from walkover surveys of small urban sites to regional and national scale rural habitat mapping.
- 3.13 Each identifiable and definable land parcel was assigned a Primary Habitat, using the professional edition of the hierarchy, at a minimum of a Level 4 habitat (where applicable) using the UKHab Habitat Definitions as a guide. Once a Primary Habitat was assigned, Secondary Codes were added where appropriate to further define the habitat type.
- 3.14 Dominant plant species present were recorded in accordance with plant species nomenclature in Stace (2019). This level of survey does not aim to compile a complete floral and faunal inventory for the Site.
- 3.15 The appropriate scale of mapping was determined to be a fine scale Minimum Mapping Unit (MMU), meaning no areas of habitats less than 25m² or 5m in length (if a linear feature) were recorded.

Assessment of the Likely Importance of Protected / Priority Species

- 3.16 As part of the appraisal the Site was assessed for its potential to contain protected or notable species. The assessment was based on the habitats present on-site and their suitability for protected species. Further information on the legal protection of these species is presented in **Appendix B**. Relevant protected species assessed for were:
- amphibians, including great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*)
 - badgers (*Meles meles*)
 - bats (foraging / commuting and roosting)
 - brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*)
 - dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)
 - flora
 - hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*)
 - notable birds
 - notable invertebrates
 - other mammals
 - reptiles

3.17 The Site is not suitable for otters (*Lutra lutra*), beavers (*Castor fiber*), white clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), notable fish, water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*). This is due to the lack of suitable aquatic and/or terrestrial habitats on and near the Site. These species are not considered further in this PEA.

3.18 In addition, a search was made for evidence of invasive non-native species.

Amphibians

3.19 A desk-based scoping exercise was undertaken using Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial photographs to highlight any ponds within 250 m of the Site that could potentially support great crested newts (GCN).

3.20 No waterbodies were identified within 250 m of the Site boundary.

Bats - Daytime Bat Walkover

Categorisation of Habitat Suitability for Bats

3.21 Following the UKHab survey, the habitat on Site was categorised according to its likely value for bats (on a scale of none, negligible, low, moderate or high suitability for commuting and foraging bats). The categories are based on the observations and information set out in **Table 1**, which is based on current good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023).

Table 1 - Categorisation of Foraging Habitat

Potential Suitability	Description of Potential Flight Paths and Foraging Habitats
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines, or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

Ground level tree assessment

- 3.22 Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) of trees on Site was conducted concurrently with the UKHab survey by a suitably experienced ecologist from TLP, in compliance with the Bat Conservation Trust's Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023).
- 3.23 The inspections were undertaken during daylight hours from ground level. Binoculars were used to identify potential roost features (PRFs). These include, but are not limited to:
- Woodpecker holes.
 - Rot hollows.
 - Cracks and splits.
 - Loose and flaking bark.
 - Thick-stemmed ivy.
 - Hollows and cavities.
 - Bird and bat boxes.
- 3.24 Following the GLTA, each tree was categorised according to good practice survey guidelines (Collins, 2023). Criteria for each category are set out in **Table 2** below.

Table 2 - Criteria for the Categorisation of Bat Roosting Suitability of Trees

Suitability	Description
NONE	Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any.
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree.
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present.

- 3.25 Visible PRFs were categorised according to the criteria set out in **Table 3** which is based on current good practice guidance (Collins, 2023).

Table 3 - Criteria for Categorisation of the Potential Suitability of PRFs

Suitability	Description
PRF-I	PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats.
PRF-M	PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) – structures

- 3.26 A Preliminary Roost Assessment of the garage building proposed for demolition was conducted on 9th April 2026 by suitably experienced ecologist. Conditions during the survey were 50% cloud cover, dry, 13°C, Wind 2 (Beaufort). External and internal inspection of the garage building was undertaken.

External Survey

- 3.27 The external inspections were undertaken during daylight hours from ground level using binoculars and a high-powered torch. A systematic search of the exterior of the structure was undertaken.

3.28 The following evidence was sought:

- The presence of potential access and egress points for bats into the building.
- The presence of potential crevice roosting location on the external of the building.
- Evidence of the use of such potential access points or crevice roosts by bats such as scattered droppings, fur-oil staining, urine staining and squeaking noises.
- Any other signs of use by bats including the presence of bats themselves.

3.29 The search included particularly focusing on looking for evidence of bats:

- Windowsills, walls
- Windowpanes
- Peeling paint
- Lifted render
- Hanging tiles
- Weatherboarding/wooden sarking
- Eaves
- Soffit boxes
- Fascias
- Under tiles and slates
- Lead flashing
- Gaps in brickwork and stonework.

3.30 This list is not exhaustive, and any areas deemed suitable for roosting bats were inspected.

Internal Survey

3.31 The internal inspection was undertaken during daylight hours and was aided by the use of a high-powered torch. Buildings were searched for evidence of bats in the form of bats themselves, droppings and feeding remains. Internal signs of roost access and egress points were also identified, for example light shining into internal building spaces from the exterior of the building.

3.32 Evidence of the use of the internal building by bats were search for in the form of:

- Bats
- Bat droppings
- Urine splashes
- Feeding remains
- Squeaking noises
- Fur-oil staining.

3.33 Roosting bats and signs of their presence are not always visible, so any potential bat roosting locations were also noted during the survey.

3.34 Habitat suitability for foraging bats within the surrounding area was also assessed. As this increases the chances of bats being present.

3.35 The structures were then placed in one of the following bat roost suitability categories (**Table 4**), based on a current good practice guideline (Collins, 2023).

Table 4: Categorisation of Roosting Habitats in Structures

Potential suitability	Rationale
High	A structure 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. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats).
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all ground/ underground levels).

Bat Emergence Surveys: Garage building

- 3.36 Following the PRA, one bat emergence survey was carried out by suitably experienced ecologist, using good practice methodologies as recommended by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins, 2023).
- 3.37 In accordance with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023), the number of emergence surveys depends on their roost suitability:
- High – three emergence/re-entry surveys
 - Moderate – two emergence/re-entry surveys
 - Low – one emergence/re-entry survey
 - Negligible/none – no further survey.
- 3.38 Surveyor was situated so that all Potential Roosting Features for bats (PRFs) could be observed. Visual observations were supported with surveyor being equipped with ultrasonic bat detector and observed the building for any emerging/re-entering bats. One thermal camera (Pixfra Arc A613) was also deployed to assist with observations.
- 3.39 The bat detector (Echo Meter Touch Pro) was used to transpose, listen to and record bat echolocation calls. Species (or in some cases genus) of bat were subsequently identified from the recorded calls using appropriate analysis software where necessary (Kaleidoscope).
- 3.40 The footage of the thermal camera was reviewed to ascertain if any bats were recorded emerging.

- 3.41 Emergence/re-entry surveys using bat detectors are techniques used for locating roosts and gauging general bat activity in the area, and in this instance to determine whether the building within the survey area support bat roosts. The technique is based on the following principles:
- The closer a bat is observed to sunrise or sunset, then the closer the roost (species dependant) is likely to be in relation to the surveyor's location
 - Bats fly away from their roost around sunset and return to their roost around sunrise (timings species dependant). During the dusk emergence surveys, the building in question will be observed for bats emerging from the building.
- 3.42 The emergence surveys commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued for at least 90 minutes after sunset.
- 3.43 Timings and prevailing weather conditions of the emergence survey are provided in **Table 5** below.

Table 5: Weather Conditions During the Emergence Survey

Date	Survey Type	Start/End Time		Time of Sunset/Sunrise	Temperature (°C)		Rain (0-5)		Wind (Beaufort 1-10)	
		Start	End		Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
27/05/2026	Emergence (Dusk)	20:51	22:36	21:06	26	21	N	N	1	1

Notes and Limitations

- 3.44 UKHab surveys can be undertaken at any time of the year; however, the optimum time of year for these surveys to be undertaken is between April and September (inclusive). This survey was undertaken in August which is within the optimal time of year.
- 3.45 However, the optimal time of year to survey woodland is in the spring months, as such the survey being undertaken in August would not pick up all species, particularly those associated with Ancient Woodland habitat. This will also indicate whether the on-site habitats meet the criteria for a Habitat of Principal Importance.
- 3.46 Whilst any trees with obvious PRFs were assessed for their suitability for roosting bats during the UKHab survey, it was not an exhaustive check as at the time of the survey, trees lost to facilitate the development are not yet known.
- 3.47 The survey area was visited over the period of one day. As such seasonal variations could not be observed and it is likely that only a selection of all species that occur within the Site will have been recorded.

Longevity of Baseline Data

- 3.48 The evidence set out in this report describes the characteristics of the Site at the time at which the survey was undertaken. Many species of wildlife are highly mobile by nature and will routinely take advantage of new opportunities, which arise within their home ranges (CIEEM, 2019). Over time this will alter the baseline conditions present at the Site. Should there be delays in the delivery of this project, it is possible that the baseline ecology will change. In the event of a significant delay (12-18 months) between the baseline survey

and commencement of works at the application site, advice on the implications of potential changes at the Site should be sought from a suitably experienced ecologist.

Nomenclature

- 3.49 Plant species nomenclature follows New Flora of the British Isles 4th Edition (Stace, 2019) and bird species nomenclature follows the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) English vernacular names in The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (9th edition, 2017). Mammal nomenclature follows Mammals of the British Isles: Handbook 4th Edition (Harris and Yalden, 2008).

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 This section details the baseline ecological conditions within the Site's ZoI and evaluates the value of identified potential IEF, which are relevant to the assessment in the context of the Proposed Development.

Designated Sites

Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.2 Statutory designations often represent the most significant ecological receptors, being of recognised importance at an international and/or national level. International designations include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs, including marine components), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) and Ramsar sites. This includes those designated as 'possible'. Whilst national designations include Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR).
- 4.3 The Site is not covered by any such designation. There are, however, areas covered by such designations within the Site's ZoI, described in **Table 6** below and shown in **Figure 2**.

Table 6 - Statutory Designated Sites within the Site's Potential Zone of Influence

Name of Site and Designation	Approximate Distance/Direction from Site (km)	Feature(s) of interest.
<i>International</i>		
River Avon SAC	0.82km south	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation. Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: - Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) - Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) - Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) - Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) - Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>)
Porton Down SPA	8km north east	During the breeding season the area regularly supports stone curlew (<i>Burhinus oedipnemos</i>) (Western Europe - breeding) 10.6% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1995 - 1999
Salisbury Plain SAC	8km north east	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

		Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</i>.
Great Yews SAC	8.3km south	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles
National		
River Avon System SSSI	0.65km south	The Avon is richer and more varied than in most chalk streams with over 180 species of aquatic plant having been recorded, one of the most diverse fish faunas in Britain and a wide range of aquatic invertebrates.
Camp Down SSSI	1.66km north	The site is a well grazed botanically rich chalk grassland overlooking the Avon Valley near Salisbury. The downland is rich in plants characteristic of South Wiltshire chalk grasslands, including several species of nationally restricted distribution.
Lower Woodford Water Meadows SSSI	2km north	Lying alongside the River Avon, this site includes one of the last two actively managed water-meadow systems in Wiltshire, and possibly in Britain. It is one of the few sites which retains the grassland community characteristic of this long established and once widespread form of management. The sward is grass dominated with a low cover of herbs and is of particular importance for the various hybrids between fescues and perennial rye-grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>). The marginal vegetation of ditch and river contribute additional interest.
East Harnham Meadows SSSI	4.1km south east	East Harnham Meadows is an area of botanically rich, neutral grassland lying within the floodplain of the River Avon near the centre of Salisbury. The complex of small pastures, criss-crossed with ditches and bordered by the River Avon and its channels, was formerly under water meadow management. This type of management, where controlled flooding was used to increase the early growth of plants for grazing, was once widespread along the River Avon. With the decline of water meadow management most meadows in the area have become intensively farmed, and through the use of fertilisers and reseeded have lost their wildlife interest. East Harnham Meadows is one of the few sites which has been managed in a way which encourages wildlife, and the herb-rich grassland which it supports is now rare both in Wiltshire and in Britain as a whole.
Burcombe Down SSSI	4.5km south west	Burcombe Down supports botanically rich, grazed, chalk grassland on a north facing scarp slope of the Middle Chalk and on the sides of a dry valley running south-west to north-east. Nationally restricted plant species are present in the turf. A flat-topped spur separating the two areas supports a different grassland community with a higher nutrient-status.
Cockey Down SSSI	4.9km east	Cockey Down is an area of botanically rich chalk grassland, a habitat which has become increasingly scarce with the intensification of modern agriculture.

		The considerable variety of calcareous plants growing here includes two nationally restricted species, eight species of orchid and a wide range of grasses. In addition the downland supports a range of butterfly and snail species, and a rare robber fly (<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>).
Local		
Bemerton Heath and Barnards Folly LNR	0.3km east	Mixed woodland. A third of the canopy is larch, with the rest a variety of broad-leaved species.
Avon Valley Reserve LNR	1.4km east	Avon river valley with marshy vegetation, willow wood, grassland, earth bank and reedbeds

- 4.4 The Site lies within the SSSI risk impact zone (MAGIC, 2025) for the River Avon SAC however, the Proposed Development does not fall within the relevant categories which require further consultation with Natural England and no further action is required.
- 4.5 Furthermore, according to the Wiltshire Planning Explorer, the Site partially falls within the Outer Zone for the New Forest SAC Recreational Influence.

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.6 Non-statutory designations are 'local sites' which are commonly of at least County level importance, and which receive protection under local planning policy only. In Wiltshire these sites are referred to as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).
- 4.7 The Site is not covered by any such designation. There are, however, areas covered by such designations within the Site's ZoI, described in **Table 7** below.

Table 7: Non-statutory Designated Sites within the Site's potential Zone of Influence

Name of Site and Designation	Approximate Distance and Baring (km)	Feature(s) of interest.
Bemerton Heath and Barnard's Folly Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	0.36km east	Two stands of plantation woodland on a low hill within a residential district of Salisbury. Managed as a Local Nature Reserve.
Avon and Judd's Meadow LWS	0.5km north east	A large complex of former water-meadows on the River Avon with semi-improved neutral grassland and areas of fen vegetation.
The Mill, Straford-sub-Castle LWS	1km north east	A small area of former water-meadow with unimproved grassland and wetland communities.
Bull Plot Meadow LWS	1.13km south	A small area of former water-meadow with damp neutral grassland.
Stratford-sub-Castle Meadow LWS	1.42km east	A series of former water-meadows in the Avon valley.
Bemerton Mainland Meadow LWS	1.44km south east	A small area of neutral grassland
Avon Valley Meadows LWS	1.5km east	Part of a local nature reserve comprising a series of water-meadows and other

		grassland and scrub as well as a small area of wet woodland.
Bemerton Meadows West LWS	1.57km south east	A small area comprising three fields of neutral grassland adjoining the River Nadder
River Wylfe East LWS	1.6km west	A small section of the river excluded from the SSSI citation
Island Meadow LWS	1.6km south east	Wet woodland, fen and unmanaged neutral grassland on a derelict water-meadow site on an island in the River Nadder.
Fitzgerald Farm Meadows LWS	1.7km south east	A large complex of derelict water meadows, bordering the River Nadder. Supports neutral grassland with fen vegetation in low-lying areas and drainage channels and areas of scrubby wet woodland.
Stratford-sub-Castle Verge Protected Road Verge	1.7km east	No citation
Parsonage Farm Meadows LWS	1.73km east	An area of former water-meadow in the Salisbury Avon Valley, with neutral grassland and wetland habitats.
Chilhampton Down LWS	1.9km north west	A large, northwest facing chalk down with unimproved grassland on steeper slopes and mesotrophic grassland elsewhere.
North Hill Down LWS	2km north east	Unimproved calcareous grassland on a low, west-facing chalk bank with a larger area of improved grassland above.
Old Sarum LWS	2km north east	Hill fort with Roman and Norman archaeology with unimproved calcareous grassland on grazed ramparts, neutral grassland on mown areas within and rank mesotrophic grassland, scrub and scrub woodland elsewhere.

Habitats of Principal Importance and Ancient Woodland

- 4.8 The desk study identified deciduous woodland, a Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI) near to the Site. Several areas of HPI are present within the 2 km search radius. **Table 8** provides a summary of HPIs within the 1km search area.

Table 8 - Habitats of Principal Importance

Habitat	Distance from site of nearest feature (km)	Summary of Features
Deciduous woodland	0.008km west	Semi-natural deciduous woodland. 38 units
Lowland meadow	0.70km south	Meadows and pastures containing a rich mixture of native grasses and broad-leaved herbs. 2 units

Habitat	Distance from site of nearest feature (km)	Summary of Features
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	0.90km north east	The upper, vegetated portions of intertidal mudflats. 5 units

Habitats

4.9 The principal habitats within and around the Site, together with their dominant/characteristic plant species, were identified during the UKHab survey. The distribution of different habitat types within the Site is mapped in **Figure 3**.

4.10 Area Habitats recorded within the red line boundary of the Site were:

- g4 -modified grassland
- h2b – non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- h3d – bramble scrub
- u1b - developed land; sealed surface

4.11 The following secondary codes were recorded:

- SC 10 – scattered scrub
- SC 32 – scattered trees
- SC 27 – traditional orchards
- SC 800 - road
- SC 804 – car park
- SC 813 – educational building
- SC 814 – educational premises open space
- SC 820 – natural sports pitch
- SC 846 - flower beds
- SC 847 – introduced shrub
- SC 849 - bioswale

h3d – bramble scrub

4.12 A large area of dense scrub dominated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*. agg.) (**Photo 1**) was located on the north side of the of the Hedgerow (H1), encroaching the modified grassland field. This area of bramble is connected and on its western end to a small area of deciduous woodland.

Photo 1: Dense bramble scrub



u1b - developed land; sealed surface (SC 800, SC 804, SC 813, SC 847 and SC 846)

- 4.13 This included the buildings and infrastructure associated with the school, including the buildings (SC 813) roads (SC 800), car parks (SC 804) and footpaths.
- 4.14 Introduced shrubs (SC 847) and flower beds (SC 846) are present throughout this area outside the school buildings and within the car park. Species recorded included shrubs such as sweet box (*Sarcococca confusa*), hydrangea, *Buddleja spp*, common box (*Buxus sempervirens*), as well as perennials such as *Bergenia spp* and ivy (*Hedera helix*). Travellers joy (*Clematis vitalba*) was recorded scrambling through the flower beds in the carpark.

Photo 2: Example of the school building with flower beds**Photo 3:** Car park and shrubsg4 -modified grassland

- 4.15 Approximately three parcels of modified grassland were found throughout the Site, within both the 8FE and 10FE areas. Whilst the parcels were the same habitat type, each had distinct characteristics and therefore split out below.

School gardens/landscaped areas (g4, SC 10, SC 32, SC 849)

- 4.16 The grassland here had a reasonably diverse mix of commonly found grasses and forbs.
- 4.17 Within a meter quadrat there was abundant to frequent red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), abundant Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), frequent sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) and smooth meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*) were recorded.
- 4.18 Forbs present included abundant yarrow (*Achillea millifolium*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), occasional sticky mouse-ear (*Cerastium glomeratum*), common stalks-bill (*Eriodinium cicutarium agg.*), red dead-nettle (*Lamium purpureum*), spotted medic (*Medicago aribica*), frequent rough hawkbit (*Lamium pupureum*) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). Two 1m quadrats were carried out in this area and the first had a total of 15 species and the second 12. Additional species were seen outside quadrats including dove's-foot cranesbill (*Geranium molle*) and pineapple weed (*Matricaria discordea*). Whilst there was a good species diversity, i.e. greater than the nine species per meter², the grassland did not meet the requirements to be classified as other neutral grassland. This included criterion one, greater than 20% cover of broadleaved herbs and sedges and criterion four, cover of rye-grass is less than 30%.
- 4.19 Planted ornamental trees (SC32) of a mixed age range were scattered throughout this area (**Photo 4**). Species included false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), silver maple (*Acer*

saccharinum), lime (*Tilia* spp.), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* spp.).

- 4.20 The grassland was less intensively managed giving some variation in sward height. Some physical damage was apparent, but this created a little bare ground potentially conducive to seed germination. Areas of this habitat are used as swales (SC 849) as part of the School's SUDs (**Photo 5**).
- 4.21 Scattered scrub (SC10) was present adjacent to the swales, species included gorse (*Ulex europeaus*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) (**Photo 5**).
- 4.22 The grassland to the north of the car park was found to support the same grassland species as above, with the addition of ivy, germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*) and barren strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*). The trees species recorded (SC32) comprised common walnut (*Juglans regia*), cherry (*Prunus* spp.), cypress species (*Cupressus* spp.), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), common holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), cut leaf beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Laciniata') and Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*).



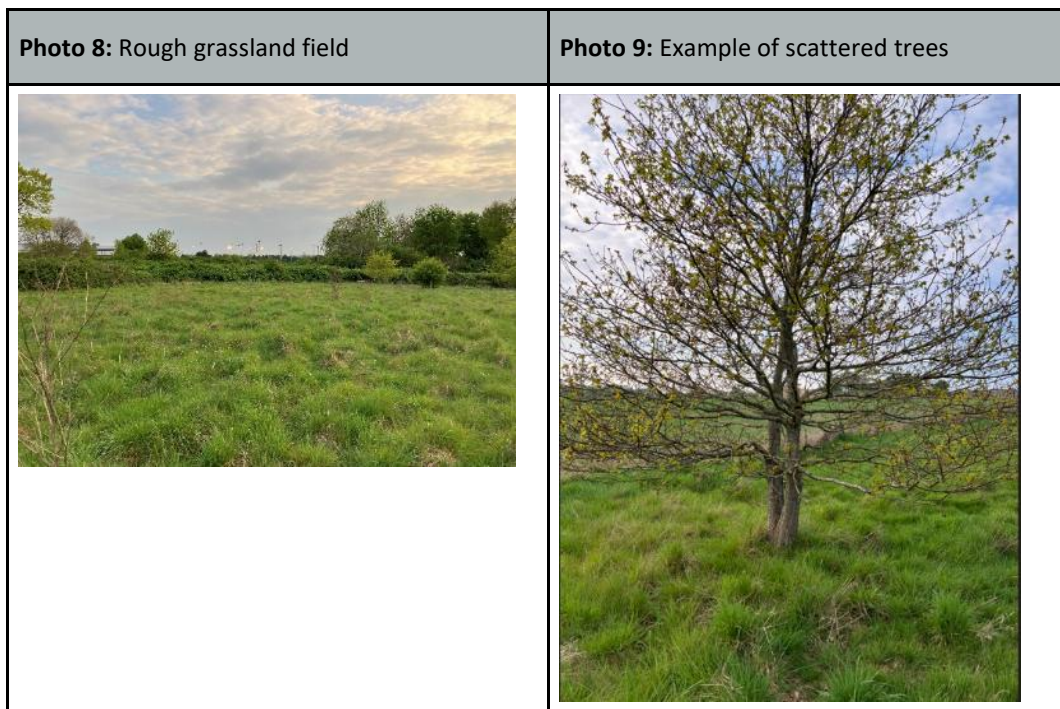
Sports pitch (g4, SC 27, SC814, SC 820)

- 4.23 A fenced off grassed sports pitch (SC 814, SC 820). This area was in use at the time of the survey and so it was viewed from outside the perimeter fence (**Photo 6**). The grassland here was more intensively managed and trampled with resultant physical damage and uniform sward height. The sports pitch is flood lit.
- 4.24 Along some of the western boundary of sports pitch, lies several orchard trees (SC 27, **Photo 7**). The orchard area does not meet the requirements to be an HPI.



Rough grassland field (g4, SC 32, SC 202)

- 4.25 A large field modified grassland was located in the northern part of the Site (in the 10fe area, **Photo 8**). This was tussocky in structure and dominated by common course grassland species including cocksfoot (*Dactylus glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) with occasional sweet vernal grass, red fescue and common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*). False brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) was rare.
- 4.26 Patches of colonising species such as common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), and creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) were present indicating local disturbance or nutrient enrichment. Also recorded was hogweed (*Heracleum spondylium*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale agg.*) and lesser stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*).
- 4.27 Small, scattered trees (SC32) were present (**Photo 9**), with the majority appearing to be self-set (SC 202). Species recorded included ash (*Fraxinus spp.*), hawthorn and non-native oak (*Quercus spp.*).
- 4.28 This habitat did not meet the criteria to be classified as other neutral grassland as it did not meet three or more criteria for the habitat type. Namely, there was not >20% cover of broadleaved herbs and sedges, nor have a greater than 8 species per m².



h2b – non-native and ornamental hedgerow

- 4.29 Hedgerow H1 was an outgrown ornamental beech (*Fagus sp. cultivar*) hedgerow (**Photo 10**) which had become colonised by native woody species, albeit less than 20%. It is located to the north of the carpark. These included hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), rowan (*Sorbus acuparia*) a species of rose (*Rosa sp.*) as well as bramble. A species of honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), travellers joy and bramble were noted within the hedgerow base.



Protected & Notable Species

Amphibians

- 4.30 The data search returned records for the following species of notable/protected amphibians:
- Common toad (*Bufo bufo*) – two records
 - Common frog (*Rana temporaria*) – six records
- 4.31 The closest record is for both species from 2023 and is 0.06 km to the north.

- 4.32 The Site offers terrestrial opportunities for amphibians, including foraging, commuting and rough grassland habitats.

Great crested newts

- 4.33 MAGIC returned no records for a GCN EPSL, nor any other records associated with GCN within the search area.

- 4.34 The data search returned no records for GCN.

- 4.35 According to the Natural England Risk Zone Mapping, the Site falls within the Green Zone.

- 4.36 According to MAGIC, there are no pond / ditches present on the Site, furthermore none are within 250m of the Site. One pond is located 325m south of the Site albeit there is limited connectivity between the suitable habitats on Site.

Badger

- 4.37 The data search returned nine records for badger; the closest record is from 2017 and is 0.5km to the south.

- 4.38 During the UKHab survey, no evidence of badger was observed, albeit an exhaustive search was not conducted.

- 4.39 There is some suitable habitat for sett building, foraging and commuting badgers in the scrub and grassland habitat within the northern field of the Site. However, there is only limited opportunities within the area actively use as the school.

- 4.40 It is, however, likely that the Site falls within at least one badger clan's territory and parts of the Site may be utilised by them on occasion as a foraging resource.

Bats

- 4.41 There are seven records of EPSL within 4 km of the Site (**Table 9**).

Table 9 - Granted EPSL Records Present Within 4 km Search Radius

Date of Granted Application	Species	Licensable Activity	Approximate Distance from Site (km)
2014	BLE C-PIP S-PIP	Destroy and affects breeding place	0.8km west
2011	C-PIP;S-PIP;SER;BLE;NATT	Destroy resting place	1.4km north east
2019	BLE C-PIP S-PIP	Destroy resting place	1.8km south
2011	BLE	Destroy resting place	1.9km north east
2018	C-PIP L-HORSE	Destroy resting place	1.9km south east
2020	SER S-PIP WHISK	Destroy breeding and resting place	2.9km south west
2015	BLE C-PIP L-HORSE NATT S-PIP	Destroy breeding and resting place	2.9km south west

KEY: C-PIP = Common pipistrelle, S-PIP = Soprano pipistrelle, BLE = Brown long-eared, L-HORSE = lesser horseshoe, WHISK = whiskered bat, BLE = brown long eared, NATT = Natterer's, SER = Serotine

- 4.42 The data search returned over 2,500 records for the following species of bats:

- Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*)
- Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*)
- Brandt's bat (*Myotis brandtii*)
- Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)
- Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)
- Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)
- Greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*)
- Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)
- Lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)
- Nathusius' pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*)
- Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*)
- Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)
- Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*)
- Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)
- Long ear species (*Plecotus spp.*)
- *Myotis spp.*
- *Nyctalus spp*
- Pipistrelle species
- Whiskered / Brandt's
- Unidentified bats

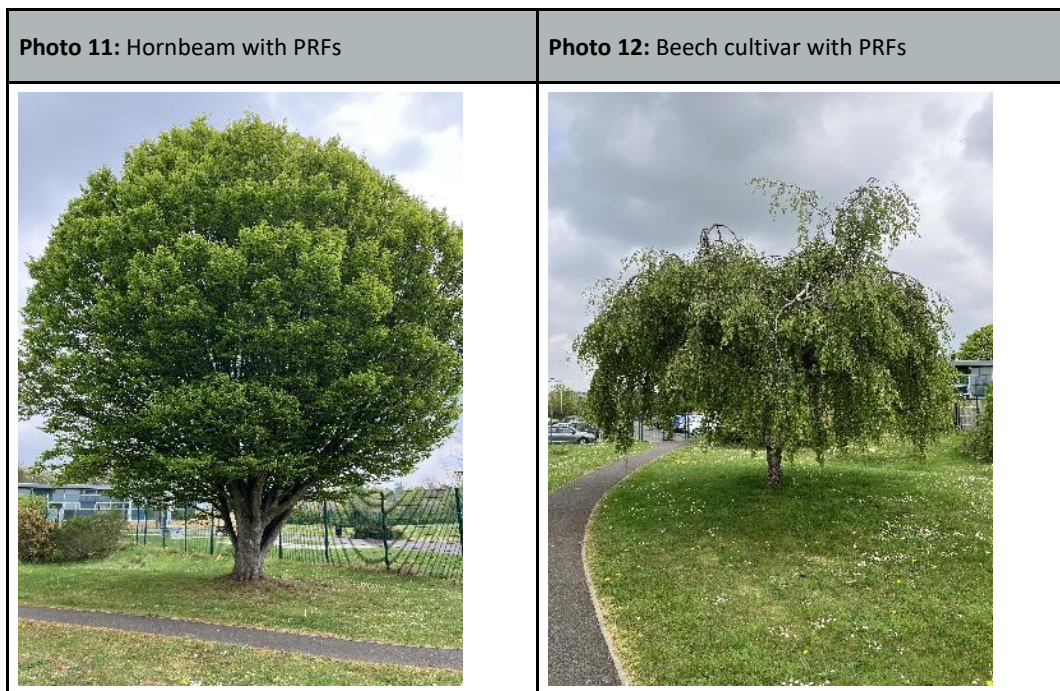
- 4.43 The closest records are for barbastelle, serotine, myotis spp, noctule, pipistrelle spp, common and soprano pipistrelles, brown long ear and lesser horseshoes from 2022 and is 0.35km to the west.

Assessment of Foraging and Commuting Quality

- 4.44 Overall, the Site was assessed as offering 'low' suitability for foraging bats, in line with best practice guidelines (Collins, 2023).
- 4.45 This is due to the northern half of the Site having limited linear features, with a woodland block and scrub along the southern boundary of the field only. There are immature scattered trees within the rough grassland habitat offering some foraging opportunities. In the southern half of the Site, where the school is situated; there is commuting and foraging habitat along the southern, eastern and western boundary comprising woodland and hedgerow with trees. Albeit, the presence of artificial lighting associated within the sporting facilities and around the school and carparking reduces the suitability, fragmenting this habitat somewhat.
- 4.46 Within the school itself, there are scattered trees, some of which are mature, but habitats typically comprise buildings, introduced shrub, hardstanding and modified grassland. In the local landscape, housing lies to the east, to the north lie grassland with further housing, to the west lie arable fields and to the south lies a woodland block acting as a buffer between the Site and a defunct quarry.

Roosting Opportunities

- 4.47 Two trees which are being impacted by the Proposed Development have the potential for roosting bats. This included the large hornbeam (**Photo 11**, TN1 and a cultivar birch 'Youngii', (**Photo 12**, TN2).
- 4.48 Both trees are rated to be PRF-I due to the features identified only offering opportunities for individual bats.



Preliminary Roost Assessment – garage building

- 4.49 PRA of the garage building proposed for demolition was undertaken on the 9th of April 2026.
- 4.50 Garage is a rectangular structure of red brick construction with a pitched roof covered in double roman tiles with concrete ridge tiles. Wooden fascia board and soffit box are present on northern and southern aspects and skylight is present on the south-western section of the roof. Access to the garage is via metal and roller shutter door at southern aspect. Internally, roof void is present, the roof structure is wooden with a king post truss and roof is lined with bitumen felt. Bags of roof insulation material are present on the floor. Garage is currently used as a workshop. (**Photograph 17**).
- 4.51 Building inspection results, and relevant photographs are presented in **Table 10** below.

Table 10: PRA Results of Garage Building

Building descriptions, bat roost suitability and photos	
Photograph 13: 	Photograph 14: 
Photograph 15: 	
Bats-External Roosting Suitability : No evidence of bats was recorded during the external inspection of building. Garage is in a good state of repair with no access for void dwelling species noted. Three PRFs suitable for crevice-dwelling species were noted in form of: • Open soffit box in the south-western corner (Photographs 13). • Gaps under the tiles (western aspect) (Photograph 14). • Holes in the wall from missing mortar (southern aspect) (Photograph 15).	

Photograph 16:**Photograph 17:****Bats-Internal Roost Suitability:**

No evidence of bats was recorded during the internal inspection of the garage.

Internal crevice roosting locations were noted in the form of:

- Gaps from missing bricks in the main section of the garage (**Photograph 16**).
- Gap in metal pipe trunking in the main section of the garage (**Photograph 16**).
- Gaps at the intersections of bitumen felt roof membrane (**Photographs 17**).

However, there are no ingress points for bats to the main section of the garage or roof void. In addition, garage is used as a workshop and is regularly subjected to high levels of noise and light pollution.

Summary of PRA results

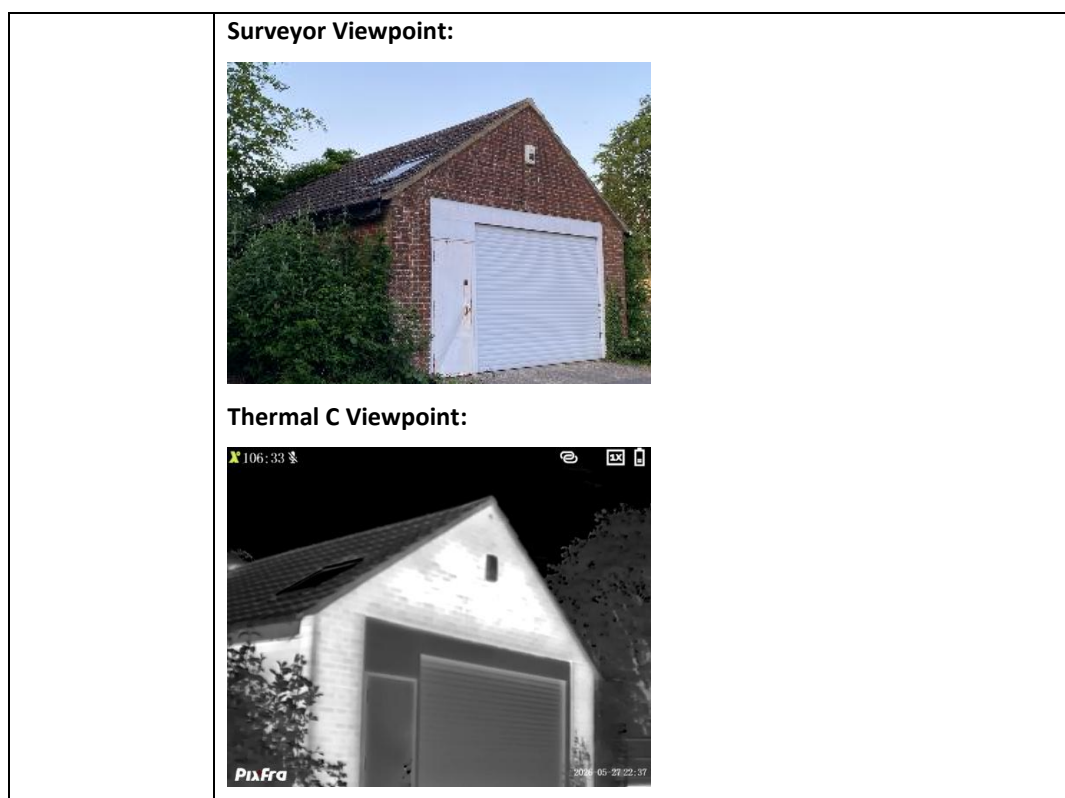
- 4.52 Garage is considered to offer Low suitability for roosting bats due to no ingress/egress points and limited crevice roosting features for bats. Garage is currently used as a woodwork workshop and contains large circular saw workstation. It is therefore regularly subjected to high levels of noise and light pollution making it unsuitable for roosting or hibernating bats.

Emergence Survey Results – Garage Building

- 4.53 Emergence survey results are presented in the **Table 11** below.

Table 11: Emergence Survey Results

Date	Results
27/05/2026	No bats were observed emerging from the building and none were recorded on thermal cameras. First bat recorded was serotine at 21:56, 50min after sunset and it was observed flying from west of the Site towards white beam tree. Bat continued foraging around the tree and above the garage building until 22:04. Number of serotine passes were recorded until the end of the survey but were all heard but not seen. Due to the timings, it is unlikely that bat emerged in close vicinity of the Site.



- 4.54 The overall bat activity within the vicinity of the Site was low, with the majority of the activity attributed to serotine bat foraging on Site. Low numbers of common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and single *Myotis* spp. pass were also recorded but were all heard but not seen.

Brown hare

- 4.55 The data search returned one record for brown hare, 0.88km south west of the Site from 2018.
- 4.56 The Site offers limited opportunities for brown hare, including foraging, commuting and breeding in the form of rough grassland in the northern field.

Birds

- 4.57 The data search returned over 1,700 records from the past 10 years for a variety of protected and/or notable species of bird. However, the following species are relevant to the Site:
- Barn owl (*Tyto alba*)
 - Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*)
 - Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)
 - House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
 - Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
 - Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)
- 4.58 The Site's habitats are suitable to support breeding birds due to the presence of trees and scrub habitats.

- 4.59 The grassland habitat in the northern field is of limited value to ground nesting birds such as skylark, due to the presence of scattered trees throughout, which limit sight lines and provide perches for predators.

Dormouse

- 4.60 According to MAGIC, there are no records of EPSL within 1 km of the Site.
- 4.61 The data search returned no records for dormouse.
- 4.62 The Site has discrete areas suitable for dormice due to the presence of scrub in the south of the field, albeit this habitat has limited connectivity to the wider landscape. The scrub offers limited opportunities for hibernating, foraging and nesting dormice.

Flora

- 4.63 The data search returned nine records for protected/notable plant species, including those for grape hyacinth (*Muscari neglectum*) and basil thyme (*Clinopodium acinos*) with the closest record from 2022, 1.6km to the north east.
- 4.64 No rare or protected plant species were recorded on Site during the habitat surveys. Given the Site's location and habitats, it is unlikely to support such species.

Hedgehog

- 4.65 The data search returned 308 records for hedgehog, with the closest record from 2019, 0.06km to the south east.
- 4.66 The Site offers opportunities for hedgehog, including foraging, commuting and hibernating in the form of scrub and rough grassland habitats.

Invertebrates

- 4.67 The data search returned 10 records for the following relevant species of invertebrate:
- Black oil beetle (*Meloe proscarabaeus*)
 - Jersey tiger (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*)
 - Knot grass (*Acronicta rumicis*)
 - Mottled rustic (*Caradrina Morpheus*)
 - Small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)
 - Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)
- 4.68 The closest record is for mottled rustic is from 2023, 1.15 km to the west.
- 4.69 The Site's habitat of most value to terrestrial invertebrates is the scrub habitats.

Reptiles

- 4.70 The data search returned 318 records for the following relevant species of reptile:
- Common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), 200 records
 - Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), 114 records
 - Grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*), 2 records
- 4.71 The closest record is for slow worm from 2017 and is 0.1km to the east.

-
- 4.72 The Site typically offers opportunities for common species of reptiles, including foraging, commuting and hibernating in the form of the grassland and scrub habitats in the northern section of the Site.
- 4.73 During the precautionary methods of works when the grassland was mowed to allow topographical surveys, a number of common lizards was observed by the supervising ecologist, confirming presence. Based on the close proximity of the Site to the records and suitable habitats, it is considered that slow worms are also likely to be present, despite none being observed during the works on Site.

Schedule 9 species

- 4.74 No schedule 9 plant/animal species were observed during the survey however, an exhaustive search was not undertaken.

5.0 EVALUATION

Ecological Features Scoped Out

- 5.1 As part of the appraisal process, due to their size, because the area likely to be affected by the Proposed Development is of insufficient size or diversity to be of ecological value, and/or because there is no potential effect pathway between the Proposed Development and these features.
- 5.2 The rationale for scoping out each ecological feature is provided below. Any measures in line with the mitigation hierarchy are included as are any legislative requirements relating to the protection of these ecological features, if required.

Designated Sites

Statutory Designated Sites

- 5.3 The closest statutory designated Sites are the River Avon SSSI and River Avon SAC which are 0.65km and 0.82km respectively of which the Site falls within the SSSI risk zone for.
- 5.4 The key pressures on the SSSI / SAC comprise nutrient enrichment, siltation, toxic contamination, physical changes / modification of the riverbanks / riverbed, change in drainage and ground water and disturbance during construction and increased recreational pressure. Given the distance between the Site and the nature of the proposals, there is no pathway of effect. **No significant impacts are anticipated.**
- 5.5 With regards to the remainder of the other designated sites, they are not close enough to have a pathway of effect. **No significant impacts are anticipated.**

Non-statutory designated sites

- 5.6 The closest non-statutory site is Bemerton Heath and Barnard's Folly LWS which is 0.36km east and designated due to the woodland habitats present. There is residential properties between the Site and the woodland and therefore there is no pathway of effect.
- 5.7 Furthermore, all the other non-statutory designated sites are at a distance where there is not pathway of effect. **No significant impacts are anticipated.**
- 5.8 Those mitigation measures during construction detailed in the habitat section below will minimise any pollution affecting designated sites.

Habitats

- 5.9 All habitats present on the Site are widespread and locally common. Those habitats which are of most value at the trees, particularly the large, native trees. Several trees are being lost as part of the proposals due to the layout constraints of the Site. Those trees protected during the construction phase, as denoted in the tree survey produced by Arbor-call (ref: CO42502.TS, (Arbor-Call, 2025). Several trees (c. 10) are to be lost, however extensive tree planting as part of the landscape proposals (**Appendix A**) is to be implemented, compensating for the loss of trees. The majority of the proposed trees will be natives, with some cultivars which are of benefit to wildlife.
- 5.10 The Site is located within the vicinity of a woodland HPI, which is separated from the Site by hedgerow with trees. No works are proposed within the RPA of the woodland and with the hedgerow acting as a buffer, there will be no adverse effects during the construction or operational phases.

5.11 No significant impacts on habitats are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.

Best practice, planning policy and legislative mitigation measures

Construction Phase

5.12 During construction, retained habitats are to be protected via the implementation of protection measures, including:

- Root Protection Area (RPA), as detailed in Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Arbor-Call, 2025).
- Pollution prevention measures: spill kits, bunds etc. for all tools and vehicles; avoidance of storage and works in or close to sensitive habitats, similar to those set out in the now withdrawn Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines (Environment Agency, 2012).
- Lighting during construction will be avoided or limited so that it does not spill onto retained habitats.
- Dust control measures such as wheel washing and damping down of haul roads to avoid smothering of vegetation.

5.13 All the above measures will be included within a Construction and Environment Management Plan: Biodiversity (CEMP-B) and be fully compliant with BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity — Code of practice for planning and development.

Operational Phase

5.14 As part of the Proposed Development, greenspace is being provided, comprising a mix of habitats including:

- Wildflower grassland, including the enhancement of retained grassland.
- Tree planting and retained trees.
- Orchard tree planting
- Scrub planting

5.15 To protect retained habitats in the long-term and to ensure successful establishment of new habitats (i.e. any new landscape planting) will be detailed within a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) or Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP).

Amphibians

5.16 No waterbodies which could provide breeding opportunities are on Site, nor within 250m of the Site, with only one pond within 500m. Overall, the Site does offer suitable terrestrial habitats for foraging, commuting and hibernating amphibians including GCN in the form of rough grassland and scrub. However, given the lack of waterbodies it is considered that amphibians would only use it on a very infrequent basis and GCN are highly unlikely to be present in the suitable habitat.

5.17 As part of the Proposed Development c. 1.07ha of suitable GCN terrestrial habitat is being lost, albeit this is predominantly within the 10FE in the north of the Site and therefore outside 500m. Using Natural England GCN method Statement Rapid Risk Assessment (Table 12), the risk of an offence occurring is considered highly unlikely if the pond identified were to support GCN.

Table 12: Natural England's GCN Rapid Risk Assessment

Component	Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)	Notional offence probability score
Great crested newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	0.5 - 1 ha lost or damaged	0.03
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
	Maximum:	0.03
Rapid risk assessment result:	GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY	

5.18 No significant impacts on amphibians are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.

Best practice, planning policy and legislative mitigation measures

Construction Phase

- 5.19 Taking a precautionary approach, it is recommended that vegetation clearance works are undertaken sensitively under a method statement.
- 5.20 To ensure that amphibians are not injured or killed during development works, the following staged approach should be implemented during Site clearance:
- Clearance of vegetation suitable for amphibians should be undertaken as a two phased cut, the first cut down to c.150 mm, followed by a second cut to ground level no less than 24 hours later.
 - Vegetation clearance should be undertaken in a directional manner towards areas of retained habitat.
 - Clearance of any suitable refugia (e.g. log piles, brash or piles of debris) should be undertaken carefully by hand during this period by the ECoW or under ecological supervision.
 - Following this, vegetation and grass should be regularly maintained at ground level to discourage movement back into Site development areas, or the topsoil immediately stripped and turned, using a toothed bucket and under supervision of an ecologist who would carry out hand searches prior to removal and oversee removal of any root systems etc.
 - Any building materials should be stored on pallets to discourage reptiles from using them as shelter, at least 5 m from the boundary habitats

Operational Phase

- 5.21 Inherent measures as a result of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) comprising the enhancement of the habitats on Site, creating more species rich grassland and scrub. This will in turn create a greater abundance of invertebrates, offering a better foraging resource for all amphibians as well as providing better quality hibernation and commuting habitats.
- 5.22 In addition, further enhancements in the form of one log piles/hibernacula are to be provided within the 10FE area, providing additional hibernating opportunities.

Badger

- 5.23 The Site overall offers foraging habitat in the form of grassland and scrub, particularly in the 10FE area in the north of the Site. No evidence was recorded during the survey.
- 5.24 There are opportunities for sett building in the scrub. There are extensive foraging and sett building habitats off-site, to the north, south and west of the Site.
- 5.25 Taking in to account the wider landscape and Proposed Development it is unlikely that the Site would support a significant enough in population size or diversity to be of significant ecological value. **No significant adverse impacts on badger are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.**

Best practice, planning policy and legislative mitigation measures

Construction Phase

- 5.26 The following mitigation measures are to be implemented to reduce any adverse effects during construction:
- Pre-commencement check prior to the start of the construction phase to ascertain the current status of badgers on Site².
 - Precautionary measures employed during the construction phase, included within the CEMP-B such as, no excavations should be left open overnight. Where this cannot be avoided, measures to provide a means of escape for any animals that may fall in (such as a wide plank of rough sawn wood) should be provided.

Operational Phase

- 5.27 During the operational phase, the following is to be implemented:
- Site permeability allowing continued access across the Site, maintaining habitat connectivity. This is being achieved by providing access through the open space habitats.
 - Inherent measures comprising the enhancement of habitats, providing better quality foraging habitat throughout the Site. Namely the enhancement of species rich grassland and provision of orchard trees.

Bats, commuting and foraging

- 5.28 It is likely that bats commute and forage within the linear habitat features albeit, much of the school is well lit as part of the day-to-day operations of the school. This includes flood lights within the existing sport pitch which is to be upgraded as part of the 8FE proposals. The presence of lighting at the baseline will deter light sensitive species such as horseshoe, but unlikely to affect species such as pipistrelles. The proposed pitch at 10FE is not proposed to be lit and therefore no adverse effects are anticipated. Furthermore, the conversion of the grassland to a sports pitch, would have little impact on the foraging resource. Taking this into account, it is not considered there is a pathway of effect, **no significant adverse impacts are anticipated on foraging / commuting bats as a result of the Proposed Development.**

² The results of which may impact the mitigation measures required.

Best practice, planning policy and legislative mitigation measures*Construction Phase*

5.29 The following mitigation measures are to be implemented to reduce any impacts during construction:

- If lighting is required during the construction phase, this should be directed away from retained commuting features and follow best practice guidance (ILP/BCT, 2023). This will be detailed in the CEMP-B.

Operational Phase

5.30 During the operational phase, the following is to be implemented:

- Implementation of a sensitive lighting scheme along commuting / boundary features to minimise impacts resulting from artificial lighting, based best practice guidance (ILP/BCT, 2023)
- Inherent measures comprising the enhancement of habitats, providing better quality foraging and commuting habitat throughout the Site, namely the enhancement of grassland and provision of new tree planting.

Bats (roosting)

5.31 No bats were observed emerging from the garage building which is proposed for demolition, indicating the building is not a bat roost. Two trees proposed for removal have been rated to be PRF-I. Given the number of bats these trees could support, i.e. individual numbers, it is not considered that these roosting features would be any higher than site value, especially taking in to account the regular disturbance and the artificial lighting. As such, **no significant adverse impacts are anticipated on roosting bats as a result of the Proposed Development.**

Best practice, planning policy and legislative mitigation measures*Construction Phase*

5.32 The following mitigation measures are to be implemented to reduce any impacts during construction:

- Prior to the removal of the trees, they will be subject to an update preliminary roost assessment to ascertain if the roosting suitability has changed. This will be detailed in the CEMP-B. This may trigger further mitigation measures as required.
- The two trees which are classified as PRF-I will be subject to soft felling techniques under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist.

Operational Phase

5.33 During the operational phase, the following is to be implemented:

- Inclusion of eight bat boxes (four within 8FE and four within 10FE) within the school buildings, providing additional roosting habitat. They will be sited, south, south-west or west facing, 2 to 7m above ground level. Suitable designs include Vivara Pro UK Build-in WoodStone® Bat Box or 1FR Schwegler Bat Tube

Birds

5.34 The habitats available on Site are widespread within the local area. The majority of the habitats suitable for breeding birds are being retained, with the exception of some

scattered trees and very small extent of bramble scrub. The grassland within 10FE does not offer suitability for ground nesting birds given the present of scattered trees.

- 5.35 The habitats available on Site are widespread within the local area and the breeding bird assemblage and numbers are not significant enough in population size or diversity to be of significant ecological value. The habitats on site of most value to breeding birds are the scrub and trees which are largely being retained and to be enhanced for those species recorded on Site. **No significant adverse impacts on birds are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.**
- 5.36 As per best practice/legislative compliance, the following mitigation measures are to be implemented to reduce any adverse effects and provide overall enhancement:
- Precautionary measures employed during the Site clearance stage, including removal of suitable nesting habitat outside breeding bird season (March to August inclusive). If this is not practicable, then works should be preceded by a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist within 48 hours of the commencement of works. If evidence of nesting is recorded, works within that particular area should not proceed until the chicks have fledged, with a buffer zone around the active nest of 10m minimum.
 - Retained habitats are to be buffered during the construction phase due to the root protection area (RPAs) to be employed.

Operational Phase

- Inherent measures comprising the enhancement of habitats, particularly the enhancement of the existing grassland and the tree planting providing better quality foraging and nesting habitat throughout the Site for species such as song thrush and house sparrow.
- Inclusion of twelve bird boxes within the proposed school buildings (six in 8FE and six in 12FE), providing additional nesting habitat.:
 - Swift boxes x 6, for example: Pro UK rendered building swift box or Schwegler 1. They should be sited in shade, out of direct sunlight, at least 5m above ground level, away from windows, in groups of two.
 - House sparrow x6, such as 1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace or Vivara Pro WoodStone® House Sparrow Nest Box. They should be sited east facing, out of direct sunlight, away from windows, at least 2m above ground level in groups of two.

Dormouse

- 5.37 Habitats of most value to the dormice comprises scrub which is largely being retained. Whilst it cannot be completely discounted that dormice would never utilise suitable on-site habitats, it is considered this would only be on a very occasional basis and the Site is not important to the local population. **No significant adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.**

Best practice, planning policy and legislative mitigation measures

Construction

- 5.38 As per best practice/legislative compliance, the following proportional mitigation measures are to be implemented to minimise any adverse effects during construction:

- Precautionary measures are to be employed during any vegetation clearance which could support dormice. **Table 13** sets out the methods and will be detailed in the CEMP-B.

Table 13 - Precautionary Method of Works

Scrub Removal	
Carry out metre by metre search for nests within the vegetation by a licensed ecologist.	Prior to commencement of coppicing
'Coppice' vegetation to 30cm, metre by metre in a directional manner towards suitable habitat not to be impacted. Under supervision of a licensed ecologist.	December – February inclusive
Remove the rest of the vegetation. Under supervision of a licensed ecologist.	May to September inclusive

Operational Phase

- 5.39 The following enhancement measures are to be implemented to maximise opportunities for dormice on the Site:

- Inherent measures comprising scrub and tree planting, providing better quality foraging, hibernating and nesting habitat throughout the Site.
- Species valuable to dormice such as hazel, honeysuckle, hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), hawthorn and blackthorn to be planted as part of the scrub creation.

Invertebrates

- 5.40 The Site offers opportunities for invertebrates, with a variety of habitats offering foraging and nesting such as the grassland and scrub. It is, however, unlikely that population(s) of invertebrates present on Site would be significant enough in population size or diversity to be of significant ecological value. **No significant effects on invertebrates are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.**

Best practice, planning policy and legislative mitigation measures*Construction Phase*

- 5.41 None required.

Operation

- 5.42 The following enhancement measures are to be implemented to maximise opportunities for invertebrates on the Site:

- Inherent measures comprising the enhancement of the grassland to species rich grassland and the provision of tree and scrub planting, providing foraging and nesting habitat throughout the Site.
- Provision of four artificial habitats such as 'bee bricks' or equivalent within the new school buildings (two in 8FE and two in 10FE). They should be south facing, at least 1m above ground level near vegetation.

Other mammals

- 5.43 The Site offers foraging, commuting and hibernating opportunities for hedgehogs however, none were observed on Site during the surveys. It is highly unlikely that brown hares are using the Site on a regular basis.

- 5.44 Given the extent of the Site, it is unlikely that any population(s) of hedgehog or brown hare present on Site would be significant enough in population size or diversity to be of significant ecological value. **No significant effects on hedgehogs or brown hare are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.**

Best practice, planning policy and legislative mitigation measures

Construction

- 5.45 As per best practice/legislative compliance, the following mitigation measures are to be implemented to minimise any adverse effects during construction:

- Any suitable hedgehog habitat proposed for removal (scrub) will be done sensitively i.e. under supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist.

Operation

- 5.46 The following enhancement measures are to be implemented to maximise opportunities for hedgehogs on the Site:

- Inherent measures comprising the enhancement of the grassland to species rich grassland and the provision of tree and scrub planting, providing foraging, hibernating and nesting habitat throughout the Site.
- Site permeability will be maintained for hedgehogs.

Reptiles

- 5.47 The Site offers foraging, commuting and hibernating opportunities for common species of reptile in the form of scrub and grassland. Reptiles are present within the 10FE grassland field, as common lizard was noted during the precautionary methods of works when the grassland was mown to facilitate surveys. It is likely that reptiles are restricted to this area given the rest of the Site is dominated by buildings and hardstanding and heavily managed vegetation.

- 5.48 Some of grassland within 10FE will be converted into a grass sports pitch (c. 0.742ha) and lost to create a carpark (c. 0.01ha). The rest of the grassed area will be subject to enhancement comprising tree planting, scrub and species rich grassland which will be optimal for reptiles.

- 5.49 Given the extent of the suitable habitats on Site, it is unlikely that any population(s) of reptile present on Site would be significant enough in population size or diversity to be of significant ecological value. Furthermore, given the habitat enhancement / creation proposals, it is considered there **No significant effects on reptiles are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.**

Best practice, planning policy and legislative mitigation measures

Construction Phase

- 5.50 As per best practice/legislative compliance, the following mitigation measures are to be implemented to minimise any adverse effects during construction:

- Reptile surveys will be undertaken within 10FE prior to the commencement of works.

- Any suitable habitat proposed for removal will be done sensitively i.e. two stage clearance under supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist following a method statement outlined within the CEMP-B.

Operational Phase

- 5.51 Inherent measures comprising the enhancement of the habitats on Site, creating more species rich grassland and scrub and enhancing retained grassland. This will in turn create a greater abundance of invertebrates, offering a better foraging resource for all amphibians as well as providing better quality hibernation and commuting habitats.
- 5.52 In addition, further enhancements in the form of one log pile/hibernaculum are to be provided in a suitable location within 10FE, providing additional hibernating opportunities.

Flora

- 5.53 No rare or notable plants were recorded during the UKHab survey. **No significant effects on notable / rare flora species are anticipated from the Proposed Development.**

6.0 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

- 6.1 In summary, the following mitigation and enhancement measures are proposed.

Construction Phase

- 6.2 As detailed in **Section 5**, a CEMP-B is proposed to be implemented which will include specifications for measures to protect, avoid and minimise potential effects which may arise during the construction phase. This will include the following in relation to protected species and retained habitats:

- Pre-commencement surveys for reptiles, roosting bats and badger.
- Any suitable habitats for amphibians, reptiles, nesting birds, dormice, hedgehogs, roosting bats, proposed for removal will be done under a method statement with the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist. To be outlined within the CEMP-B.
- Protection of retained vegetation which will be based on the arboricultural report and identified RPAs.
- Pollution prevention measures: spill kits, bunds etc. for all tools and vehicles; avoidance of storage and works in or close to retained habitats, similar to those set out in the now withdrawn Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines (Environment Agency, 2012).
- Dust control measures such as wheel washing and damping down of haul roads to avoid degradation of retained habitats.
- Sensitive lighting strategy for retained habitats.

Operational Phase

Sensitive Lighting Strategy

- 6.3 A sensitive lighting strategy in the vicinity of sensitive ecological features to minimise disturbance during the operational phase. It will follow those best practice measures set out in ILP/BCT, 2023 where practicable.

Artificial Habitats

6.4 The following artificial habitats are proposed to be incorporated into the Proposed Development:

- Inclusion of eight bat boxes (four within 8FE and four within 10FE).
- Reptile log pile / hibernaculum within 10FE.
- Inclusion of twelve bird boxes within the proposed school buildings (six in 8FE and six in 12FE).
- Provision of four artificial habitats such as 'bee bricks' or equivalent (two in 8FE and two in 10FE).

Biodiversity Net Gain

6.5 A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment has been undertaken by TLP (Biodiversity Net Gain Report, TLP 2025) and should be read in conjunction with this report. Full details are contained within that report, but in brief broadly, the strategy comprises:

- Enhancement of retained species poor grassland to species rich grassland.
- Creation of species rich grassland.
- Creation of scrub habitat and extensive tree planting.

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)

6.6 To protect retained habitats in the long-term and to ensure successful establishment of new habitats (i.e. any new landscape planting) will be detailed within a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) or Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP). This would be treated as a 'live' document, prepared for the 30 years of occupation. The LEMP would include specifications for:

- The ongoing management of retained habitats.
- The management of newly created habitat features.
- Ongoing ecological monitoring.

6.7 The core principles of the LEMP/HMMP should be as follows:

- The maintenance and enhancement of retained habitats.
- The full establishment of habitats as described within the landscape plan.
- The management of habitats through the establishment phase, to ensure they reach their target condition as described within the biodiversity net gain report.
- To ensure that established habitats are subject to appropriate monitoring and aftercare.

6.8 It will include the principles set out within BS42020:2013.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Based on the Ecological Appraisal, no IEF's have been identified which could be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.
- 7.2 Nevertheless, **Section 5** detailed mitigation measures for all ecological features, setting out best practices and adherence to planning policy and legislation.
- 7.3 In summary, these measures comprise:
- CEMP-B – detailing protection methods and precautionary methods of works throughout the construction phase for habitats and a variety of protected and notable species.
 - Creation and enhancement of ecologically valuable habitats managed sensitive for biodiversity via a LEMP/HMMP.
 - Maintaining Site permeability for wildlife during the operational phase.
 - Provision of artificial habitats for a variety of protected species including bat, birds, invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians.
 - Implementation of a sensitive lighting strategy for the operational phase.

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APPENDIX A: LANDSCAPE GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

APPENDIX A: LANDSCAPE GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

 Application boundary

 Land Boundary

 Existing Trees Retained
Refer to arb reporting

Proposed BNG Features
To be read in conjunction with BNG reporting

- **Feature Tree - 9no. trees**
Clear-stem feature trees to courtyard
- **Native tree - 95no. trees**
Feathered trees for wildlife

 Orchard Tree - 9no. trees
To supplement the existing orchard to the north of this space

 BNG Enhancement
Areas of grassland enhancements
5060m²

Retained scrub

Proposed BNG Features
To be read in conjunction with BNG reporting

 Translocated trees 7no.
Small existing trees translocated to facilitate new pitch.
T - denotes new location

Native tree - 30no.
Feathered trees
Exact number to be determined once
10FE block fixed.

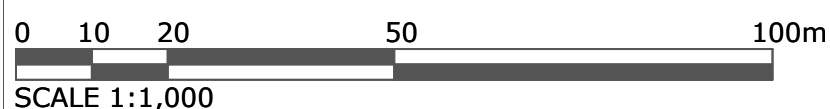
 BNG Enhancement
Areas of grassland enhancements
9400m²

 BNG Enhancement
Areas of native scrub enhancements
390m²



DRAWING NOTES:

TO BE REVIEWED ON FINAL FIXED 10FE
BUILDING AND PITCH LOCATION.

[illegible]

Client:	MORGAN SINDALL
Project:	SARUM ACADEMY
Title:	BNG STRATEGY - SITE WIDE

Status: PRELIMINARY	Drawn: CS	Checked: SB
Scale: 1:1000@A1	Date: 19.11.25	Approved: JS
Drawing Number: 75CC13-TI P-XX-XX-DR-I -11001		Rev: P03

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APPENDIX B: LEGAL AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Protected Sites (European)	
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	SACs are designated under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* ('2017 Regulations') (as amended) which implements The European Community Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC (the 'Habitats Directive', EEC, 1992). Lists of candidate SACs (cSACs) have been submitted to the European Commission for approval. Both possible SACs (pSACs) and cSACs are treated by the planning system as if fully designated. The Habitats Directive also refers to the need for nature conservation outside protected areas (Article 10) and measures to implement this article are incorporated in British legislation through the Habitats Regulations (HMSO, 1994) and ODPM Circular 06/2005 that accompanies PPS9. Article 10 of The EU Habitats Directive 1992 states that: <i>"Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna."</i> Article 10 of The EU Habitats Directive 1992 (and Regulation 39(3) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c. Regulations) 2017 goes on to state: <i>"The features of the landscape referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems of marking field boundaries) or their function as "stepping stones" (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species."</i> 39(3).
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	SPAs are classified in accordance with the European Community Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) (the 'Birds Directive', EEC, 1979). Under this Directive, the UK Government must also take special measures to conserve the habitat of species listed in Annex I of the Directive and all migratory species. The provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented in England through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended)*. .
Ramsar Sites	The Ramsar Convention (UNESCO, 1987) requires signatory states to protect wetlands that are of international importance, particularly as waterfowl habitats.
Protected Sites (National)	
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	Local Nature Reserves are designated under Section 21 of The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (HMSO, 1949) by principal local authorities. The declaring local authority

	must have a legal interest in the land concerned. Local Nature reserves are designated for people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features of special interest locally and that give people special opportunities to study and learn about them or simply enjoy them and have contact with nature
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	National Nature Reserves are designated under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (HMSO, 1949) by the statutory authority. They are usually owned and managed by the statutory authority. National Nature Reserves are designated for the habitats that they support.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended 1991 and varied 1998) (HMSO, 1981, 1991, 1998) requires Natural England, the Government body with authority for nature conservation in England, to designate areas which make a significant contribution to a national network of sites of nature conservation value as SSSIs. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (HMSO, 2000) came into force in full on 30 January 2001. The Act is in five parts. Part III relates to Nature Conservation and amends existing legislation (i.e., the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) through improved protection and management of SSSIs, improved legal protection for threatened species and the provision of a statutory basis for biodiversity conservation.
Non-Statutory Sites	
Local Wildlife Sites; County Wildlife Sites; Sites of Nature Conservation Interest	The majority of Local Authorities have a system of 'second tier' sites which do not wholly fulfil SSSI designation criteria, but which are, nonetheless, of local or regional value. The policies, encouraged by Government advice, recognise that protection should be extended beyond the statutory sites to include the best examples of wildlife habitats, populations of rare species and geological features remaining in the area and are particularly valuable in supplementing and supporting the national framework for SSSIs.
Protected Species (European)	
Bats	All British bats and their roosts are fully protected under international wildlife law against adverse effects including disturbance. Under the terms of the Bonn Convention, which encompasses the Agreement of the Conservation of Bats in Europe, there is a fundamental obligation to protect from damage or disturbance, sites which are important for the conservation status of bats. Such sites include those bats use for shelter or protection and important foraging areas.
Birds	In Britain, all wild birds are granted legal protection under the EC Birds Directive and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This legislation protects the birds, their eggs and nests whilst being built or in use. Under the Bern Convention 1979, Contracting Parties are required to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild fauna species specified in Appendix II. In the UK this is

	implemented through various national wildlife protection policies.
Dormouse	The dormouse is protected under Schedule 2 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) and Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Taken together, the Regulations and Act make it illegal to intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture dormice; deliberately disturb dormice and damage or destroy dormouse breeding sites or resting places.
Great Crested Newt	The great crested newt is fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The legislation protects the newts and their places of shelter or protection, which may extend 500m from the breeding pond.
Invertebrates	Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), invertebrate species listed on Schedule 2 it is an offence to deliberately capture or kill, disturb, take or destroy eggs of such a species or to damage or destroy the breeding site or resting place of such an animal.
Plants	Certain plant species are listed under Annex IVb of the Habitats Directive under which it is an offence to deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy such a plant. Under the Bern Convention 1979, Contracting Parties are required to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild flora species specified in Appendix 1. In the UK this is implemented through various national wildlife protection policies.
Protected Species (National)	
Badger	Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This Act makes it illegal to wilfully kill, injure or take any badger, or attempt to do so and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any part of a badger sett or disturb a badger when it is occupying a sett.
Wild Mammals	Under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 it is an offence to mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.
Reptiles	The slow-worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>), grass snake (<i>Natrix natrix</i>), adder (<i>Vipera berus</i>) and common lizard (<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>) are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect of section 9(1) and 9(5) only. Under section 9(1) it is an offence to knowingly kill or injure a reptile. Section 9(5) refers to sale and trade.
Birds	In Britain, all wild birds are granted legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the EC Birds Directive. This legislation protects the birds, their eggs and nests whilst being built or in use. Legal protection makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, take or have in possession any wild bird or egg. It is also an offence to intentionally damage or destroy the nest of any wild

	bird whilst it is being built or in use. Birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are subject to special penalties and are also protected from disturbance while nesting including the disturbance of dependent young.
Water vole	The water vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>) receives protection under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under the Act it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take water voles and intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or obstruct access to any structure or place used by water voles for shelter or protection or to disturb water voles while they are using such a place.
Invertebrates	Statutory protection in Great Britain is provided by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The invertebrates which have special protection are listed on Schedule 5 under which it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take these invertebrates and intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy, or obstruct access to, any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb any such animal while occupying such a structure or place.
Plants	Statutory protection in Great Britain is provided by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The plants and fungi which have special protection are listed on Schedule 8 under which it is an offence to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy any plant on Schedule 8. Five plant species are listed on the Weeds Act 1959 as injurious: common ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>), broad-leaved dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>), curled dock (<i>Rumex crispus</i>), creeping thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) and spear thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>). The Act requires landowners to eliminate scheduled weeds to prevent their seeds contaminating neighbouring land. The Ragwort Control Act 2003 amends the Weed Act with respect to common ragwort. Thirty-eight species plus all species of <i>Elodea</i> (of which there are currently three species known to have been introduced) are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 under which it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild the scheduled species. Two are marine, thirteen aquatic and the remainder terrestrial.
Biodiversity Conservation	
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act	Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to publish a list (in consultation with Natural England) of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The Government has a duty to take reasonably practicable steps to further the conservation of the species and habitats that are included in lists published under Section 41. Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services sets out the means by which the Government will comply with its duty under Section 41 of the NERC Act to take or promote the taking by others of steps to further the conservation of listed habitats and species, including through the continued implementation of Action Plans.

Environment Act 2021	Part 6 – all planning applications in England will be required to demonstrate how a development will enhance biodiversity and protect habitats from 2023 (anticipated date November 2023). As outlined in Environment Bill (Defra, 2021), all planning submissions must include assessments demonstrating a commitment to achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) using the most recent Defra 3.1 Metric. The Environment Act 2021 sets out the following key components to mandatory BNG: • Minimum 10% gain required calculated using Biodiversity Metric and approval of net gain plan; • Habitat secured for at least 30 years via obligations or conservation covenant; • Habitat can be delivered on-site, off-site or via statutory biodiversity credits; • There will be a national register for net gain delivery sites; • The mitigation hierarchy still applies of avoidance, mitigation and compensation for biodiversity loss; • Will also apply to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs); • Does not apply to marine development; • Does not change existing legal environmental and wildlife protections.
Hedgerow Regulations 1997	The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 were made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995 and came into operation in England and Wales on 1 June 1997. They provide important protection by prohibiting the removal of most countryside hedgerows (or parts of them) without first notifying the local planning authority (LPA). Removal includes acts which could result in the destruction of a hedgerow. If the hedgerow is 'important' according to criteria set out in the Regulations, the LPA may prohibit its removal by issuing a retention notice within 42 calendar days from receipt of notification.

Local Planning Policy

Local planning policy which is material to the Proposed Development includes the Wiltshire Core Strategy (Adopted January 2015).

Core Strategy contains one policy that is directly relevant to this report, Core Policy 50: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

Core Policy 50: Biodiversity and Geodiversity:

Protection

Development proposals must demonstrate how they protect features of nature conservation and geological value as part of the design rationale. There is an expectation that such features shall be retained, buffered, and managed favourably in order to maintain their ecological value, connectivity and functionality in the long-term. Where it

has been demonstrated that such features cannot be retained, removal or damage shall only be acceptable in circumstances where the anticipated ecological impacts have been mitigated as far as possible and appropriate compensatory measures can be secured to ensure no net loss of the local biodiversity resource, and secure the integrity of local ecological networks and provision of ecosystem services.

All development proposals shall incorporate appropriate measures to avoid and reduce disturbance of sensitive wildlife species and habitats throughout the lifetime of the development.

Any development potentially affecting a Natura 2000 site must provide avoidance measures in accordance with the strategic plans or guidance set out in paragraphs 6.75-6.77 above where possible, otherwise bespoke measures must be provided to demonstrate that the proposals would have no adverse effect upon the Natura 2000 network. Any development that would have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European nature conservation site will not be in accordance with the Core Strategy.

Biodiversity enhancement

All development should seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Major development in particular must include measures to deliver biodiversity gains through opportunities to restore, enhance and create valuable habitats, ecological networks and ecosystem services. Such enhancement measures will contribute to the objectives and targets of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or River Basin/ Catchment Management Plan, particularly through landscape scale projects, and be relevant to the local landscape character.

Local sites

Sustainable development will avoid direct and indirect impacts upon local sites through sensitive site location and layout, and by maintaining sufficient buffers and ecological connectivity with the wider environment. Damage or disturbance to local sites will generally be unacceptable, other than in exceptional circumstances where it has been demonstrated that such impacts:

- i. cannot reasonably be avoided*
- ii. are reduced as far as possible*
- iii. are outweighed by other planning considerations in the public interest*
- iv. where appropriate compensation measures can be secured through planning obligations or agreements.*

Development proposals affecting local sites must make a reasonable contribution to their favourable management in the long-term.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF (MHCLG, 2024) emphasises that planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity value (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan) and “*minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*” (paragraph 187 refers).

The NPPF advises that when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to protect and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles (paragraph 193 refers):

“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 reasons⁵⁸ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.”

National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)

Current NPPG (DCLG, 2024) advises that information on biodiversity impacts and opportunities should inform all stages of development, from site selection and design, to include any pre-application consultation as well as the application itself. The guidance notes that:

"An ecological survey will be necessary in advance of a planning application if the type and location of development are such that the impact on biodiversity may be significant, and existing information is lacking or inadequate. Pre-application discussion can help scope whether this is the case and, if so, the survey work required" (Paragraph 016).

The guidance also notes that:

"Local planning authorities should only require ecological surveys where clearly justified, for example if they consider there is a reasonable likelihood of a protected species being present and affected by development. Assessments should be proportionate to the nature and scale of development proposed and the likely impact on biodiversity" (Paragraph 016).

'The guidance requires that local planning authorities prepare Local Nature Recovery Strategies that support local planning authorities in preparing local plans that conserve and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment. With regard to decision making the guidance states the following:

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy is an evidence base which contains information that may be a 'material consideration' in the planning system, especially where development plan documents for an area pre-date Local Nature Recovery Strategy publication. It is for the decision-maker to determine what is a relevant material consideration based on the individual circumstances of the case.

In cases where there is a draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy that has been consulted upon but not yet finalised and published, the draft strategy may contain useful evidential information that can support appropriate decision making.' (Paragraph: 047 Reference ID: 8-047-20250219)

FIGURES



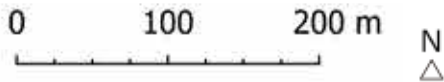
Legend:



Site location



Site boundary



Scale 1 : 5,000 @ A3

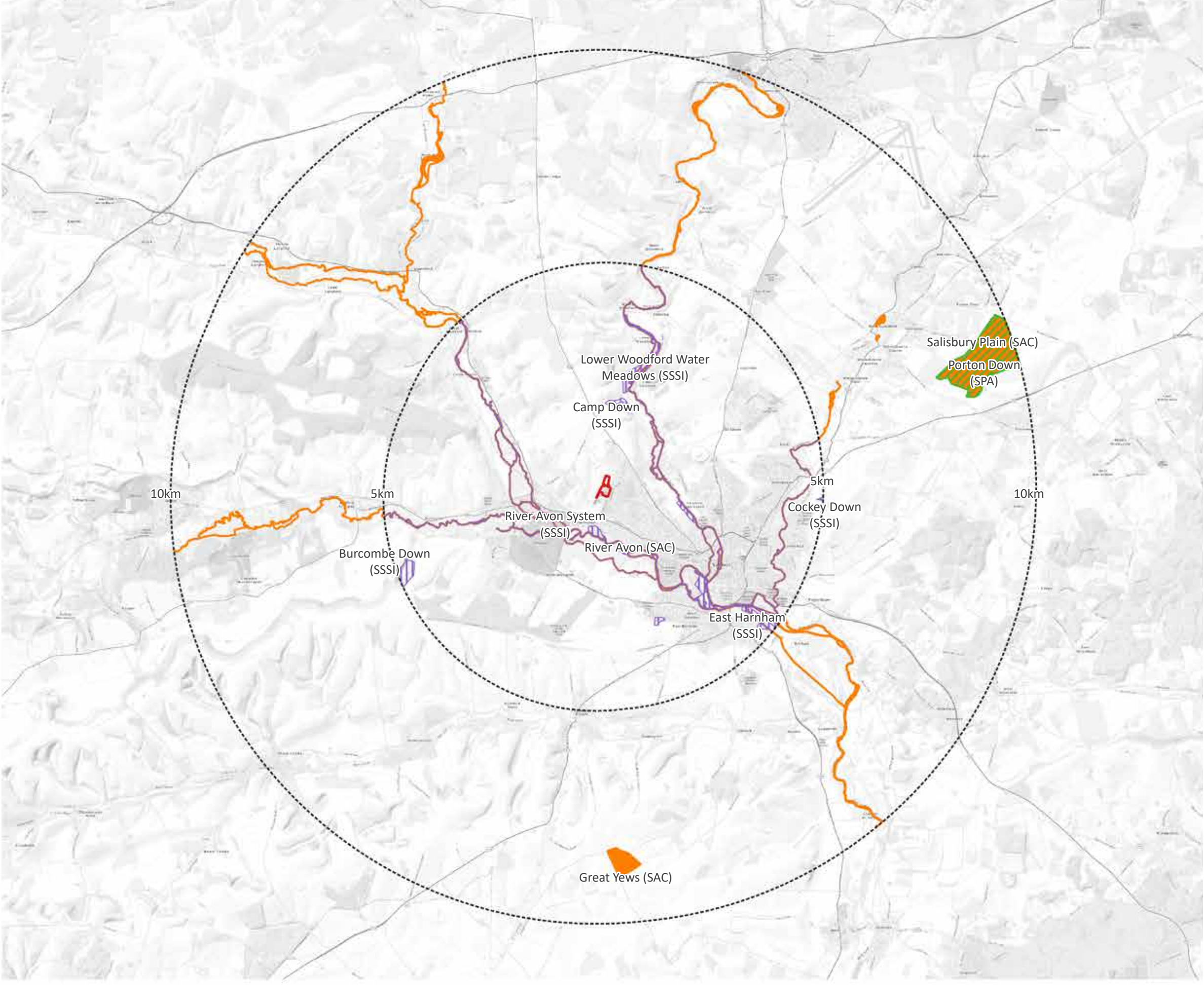
SARUM ACADEMY

FIGURE 1
Site Location

THE Landmark
PRACTICE

1 - 2 Theynes Court, Long Ashton Business Park, Yanley Lane, Bristol BS41 9LB
T: +44 (0)117 923 0455 E: enquiries@thelandmarkpractice.com
www.thelandmarkpractice.com

Drwn: GM Chkd: SR Auth: SR Date: 17 Dec 25



Legend:

- Site boundary
- Radial extent
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Within a 5km radius
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
Within a 10km radius
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Within a 10km radius



Scale 1 : 90,000 @ A3

SARUM ACADEMY

FIGURE 2
International and National Designated Sites

THE **Landmark**
PRACTICE

1 - 2 Theynes Court, Long Ashton Business Park, Yanley Lane, Bristol BS41 9LB
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www.thelandmarkpractice.com

Drwn: GM Chkd: SR Auth: SR Date: 17 Dec 25



Legend:

- Site boundary
- h2b - Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3e - Gorse scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Target Note
Trees with bat roost potential

Secondary Codes:

- 10 Scattered scrub
- 27 Traditional orchard
- 32 Scattered trees
- 800 Road
- 804 Car park
- 813 Educational building
- 814 Educational premises open space
- 820 Natural sports pitch
- 847 Introduced shrub



Scale 1 : 2,500 @ A3

SARUM ACADEMY

FIGURE 3
UKHab Map

THE Landmark
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