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Ecological Impact Assessment Part 1

Client

Hallam Land

Project

**Church Road,
Laverstock**

Date

June 2026

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1.0 NON-TENCHINCAL SUMMARY

Report Scope and Methodology

FPCR were instructed by Hallam Land to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment on land off Church Road, Laverstock to provide an ecological baseline for the Site and determine its ecological importance. The proposal is to develop the Site to provide 110 dwellings.

Further ecological surveys were recommended and undertaken by FPCR during 2025, and these studies aimed to evaluate potential impacts on onsite habitats and protected species (bats and birds) and provide sufficient information to allow a biodiversity net gain assessment to be completed.

Ecological Baseline

The Site is approximately 8.09ha and comprises two arable fields lined by hedgerows and three woodland belts on the south-east, south and north-west boundaries. There is a small patch of scrub to the west of the southern field and a strip of modified grassland to the west of this lining Church road.

The Site lies within 46m of Cockey Down SSSI and recreational studies have been carried out to assess impacts of increase in SSSI usage by pedestrians.

The Site lies within 12km from New Forest SAC/RAMSAR/SPA, and this has been assessed for impacts of increases in potential recreational pressures on nationally designated sites.

The survey results indicate that the Site is used by common and widespread species of bat for commuting and foraging purposes. One Annex II species was recorded in low numbers. No trees with bat roosting potential were recorded.

One badger dropping was recorded on Site with no other obvious signs. It is likely that the Site is used for foraging and commuting purposes.

Breeding bird surveys indicate to Site usage by widespread species. The Site does provide some foraging and breeding habitat, such as within the woodland and hedgerows for urban fringe specialists, and within the arable fields for widespread farmland species.

Assessment of Impacts

Habitat loss will include all areas of arable land and some sections of hedgerow for improved access. This is unlikely to produce a significant effect on species, such as commuting bats due to the proposed green infrastructure enhancements across all habitats.

There is potential for proposed works to cause disturbance to nesting birds during the removal of habitat on Site and any habitat removal could result in injury or death of individuals if carried out during the breeding season (March to August inclusive)

The increase in recreational pressure on Cockey Down SSSI may result in an increase in erosion, trampling and nutrient enrichment of sensitive habitats.

The increase in recreational pressure on the New Forest SAC/RAMSAR/SPA may result in adverse effects of the designated features and conservation objectives of the sites.

Recommended Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement

To ensure the proposals do not cause significant negative effects on the integrity of Cockey Downs SSSI the client has agreed to a financial contribution to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to assist with upkeep of SSSI protected habitats and maintenance.

To mitigate for recreational pressures on New Forest SAC/RAMSAR/SPA a large SANGS area will be developed within the northern field on Site to encourage use by new residents and deflect daily visits to the New Forest.

Removal of vegetation on Site will be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive) where possible. If not practicable, then all areas will be checked prior to clearance by an experienced ecologist and if active nests are found these will be untouched and buffered from works until the chicks have fledged.

The green infrastructure recommendations to enhance the grasslands, woodland and hedgerows on Site will ultimately provide habitat enhancements for bird and bat species and badgers.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of Hallam Land to support an outline planning application for the development of 110 dwellings on land at Church Road, Laverstock (Central OS Grid Ref: SU16503175) herein referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.2 The Site currently has an ongoing outline planning approval for up to 49 units which the client is seeking to increase.
- 1.3 To inform this assessment, a suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken on the Site. The results of these surveys are discussed where relevant in the EclA report, with details of survey methodologies and results included in separate, appended reports which include:
- Bat Survey Report (FPCR, 2025)
 - Breeding Bird Survey Report (FPCR 2025)
 - Biodiversity Net Gain Report (FPCR 2025)

Site Context

- 1.4 The majority of the Site is used for arable crop production and consists of two land parcels which have been in consistent use as arable crop production since first surveyed by FPCR in 2014. Hedgerows form full to partial field boundaries across the Site, and two small woodland belts are located along the southern and north-eastern boundaries of the fields, and these range from non-native dominated to species rich native. There are two patches of scrub towards a southern entrance into the Site.
- 1.5 The site spans an area of approximately 8.09 ha and is located on the northeastern side of Salisbury, east of Laverstock village (central grid reference: SU164317). The Site is bordered to the west by Church Road and existing residential dwellings. The north of the Site is bounded by arable land and a small woodland strip along the south, leading on to an area of grassland, half of which is associated with a boundary to a light industrial unit. To the east of the site, an area of land under intensive arable tenure separates the site from the Cockey Down SSSI.

Site Proposals

- 1.6 The proposals include a residential development of up to 110 dwellings with improved access into the Site from Church Road. The Site has Green Infrastructure (GI) provisions including retention of existing hedgerows and trees, proposed amenity landscaping and a proposed SANGs area to the north, a children's play area and drainage basin in the southwest of the Site, and improved official pedestrian access from the Site, to link into the Cockey Downs SSSI to the east (see *Figure 6450-XX-XX-DR-L-09-P03-Access and Walking Routes Plan*)
- 1.7 Previous consultation comments received from Natural England and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust raised concern over the planning application in 2021, which would provide an increase in habitation in the Laverstock area, within close proximity to the SSSI, and therefore a corresponding increase in potential recreational pressures on sensitive habitats associated with Cockey Down SSSI.

- 1.8 Visitor surveys were conducted in 2022 by FPCR to determine a baseline usage of the SSSI pre-potential development, and to determine any increase in usage, and how the effects of this may impact the SSSI. The results of these surveys have been summarised, assessed and provided within this report.

Report Aims and Objectives

- 1.9 This report has been prepared to achieve the following objectives:
- provide a summary of the methods and results of survey work and refer to previous work to establish an ecological baseline;
 - identify and describe all potentially significant ecological effects associated with the proposed development on important ecological features;
 - set out the mitigation measures required to ensure compliance with nature conservation legislation and to address any potentially significant ecological effects;
 - provide an assessment of the significance of residual effects;
 - identify appropriate enhancement measures and consider biodiversity net gain; and
 - set out the requirements for post-construction monitoring.

2.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

2.1 This report has been prepared to establish an Ecological Baseline and to conduct an Ecological Impact Assessment on Important Ecological Features as informed by relevant international, national and local legislation and policy. Detail on the relevant national and local policy and legislation for ecology in relation to development sites are provided in *Appendix A*. The national policy and legislation most relevant to this assessment include:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (CHSR) (as amended) in relation to the European Protected Species (EPS) great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) and bats (all species); and European protected sites i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Internationally protected "Ramsar Sites" (collectively known as "National Site Network site" following the UK's exit from the EU). Annex II bat species of particular relevance in relation to SACs designated for bats.
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) (as amended) in relation to all wild birds (including Schedule 1 species), other animals (notably Schedule 5 species), flora (those listed in Schedules 8 and 9) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- The Environment Act 2021 which covers a range of environmental protections and enhancements including requiring developments to demonstrate a mandatory biodiversity net gain following publication of secondary legislation;
- Protection of Badgers Act (PBA) 1992 which protects badgers from killing or harm;
- Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 in relation to various priority species and habitats listed under Section 41 (S41);
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997 made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2025 which sets out the Government's planning policy for England including measures to conserve and enhance the natural environment by protecting and enhancing value landscapes, recognising the value and wider benefits of natural capital and minimising impacts/providing net gains for biodiversity;
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR) as designated most recently by the NERC Act 2006;
- Non-statutory protected local sites including County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) sites;
- Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP); and
- British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC).
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019)

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Desktop Study

- 3.1 In order to compile existing baseline information, relevant ecological information was requested from both statutory and non-statutory nature conservation organisations including:
- Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC)
 - British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
 - Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (www.magic.defra.gov.uk); and
 - Inspection of colour 1:25,000 OS base maps (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk) and aerial photographs from Google Earth (www.maps.google.co.uk) was also undertaken in order to provide additional context and identify any features of potential importance for nature conservation in the wider countryside.
- 3.2 The search area for biodiversity information was related to the significance of sites and species and potential zones of influence, as follows:
- 10km around the application area for sites of International Importance e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites.
 - 2km around the application area for sites of National or Regional Importance e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and species records e.g. protected, Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) or notable species.
 - 1km around the application-site for sites of County Importance e.g. Biological Heritage Sites or Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

Previous surveys

- 3.3 FPCR have carried out previous habitat and protected species surveys on Site beginning 2014 repeated almost every year through to 2025. As such there is extensive information regarding the Site and use of the Site by species over time. Some of this survey data has been used within this assessment to provide an accurate assessment of the Site, and if referenced, where relevant, to assess the impacts of the updated proposals.

UKHab Survey

- 3.4 A field survey was conducted on 23rd July 2025. Survey methods broadly followed the UK Habitat Classification System¹ (UKHab) to map habitats present onsite. This involved a systematic walk over of the Site to classify the broad habitat types and identify any Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) for the conservation of biodiversity as listed within Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Habitats were broadly mapped in the field using a detailed topography map produced for the scheme using pens or pencils as appropriate.

¹ Butcher, B., Edmonds, B., Norton, L., & Treweek, J. (n.d.) The UK Habitats Classification System V2. UKHab. Available at: <https://ukhab.org/>

- 3.5 Where feasible, target notes and species lists were compiled for individual areas and assessments of abundance were made using the DAFOR scale. Vascular plant nomenclature follows the latest edition of Stace (4th edition, 2019)². Whilst the species lists collected should not be regarded as exhaustive, sufficient information was gained during the survey to enable classification and assessment of broad habitat types and identify features likely to be of interest.

Invasive Plants, Notifiable Weed Species and Other Notable Flora

- 3.6 Consideration has been given as to the presence of invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA 1981) and the presence of any notable weeds including those covered under the Weed Act 1959 (where population is significant enough to be considered injurious).

Designated Site Recreational Study

- 3.7 Visitor surveys were carried out on Cockey Down SSSI on 3rd and 8th December 2022 and included face-to-face interviews with SSSI visitors to carry out a questionnaire at pre-determined locations and questions included:
- Maximum numbers of vehicles in parking area (where appropriate);
 - noting of any obvious "professional dog-walking services" accessing the sites;
 - total numbers of people entering/leaving the interview point
 - any site access issues
 - typical visitor type observed
 - general "busy-ness" of site
- 3.8 Other information collected included date, time and location of interviews, weather conditions, numbers of refusal and numbers of people already interviewed.
- 3.9 This was to determine an approximate level of current site use to enable an assessment of likely impacts on the designation features of the SSSI within the expected impact zone of the development from any resultant increase in recreational activity, once the proposed development is operational.

Faunal Surveys

- 3.10 Following the initial assessment of the Site for protected/notable species potential, a series of further surveys were completed. These included Bat Activity Surveys in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition³, and the preceding 3rd Edition for surveys pre-2023 (*Appendix F*, further information on specific methodologies is described within the species report), and Breeding Bird Surveys which were completed 2015, 2017 and 2020 (*Appendix G*).

² Stace, C.A. (2019) New Flora of the British Isles (4th Ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

³ Collins, J. (ed) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition) The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Impact Assessment

- 3.11 The assessment of significant ecological effects has been undertaken in accordance with CIEEM EclA guidelines. Details of the assessment methodology followed are provided in *Appendix A*, however in summary, the process involves:
- **Establish Baseline** – this is based on desk study and field surveys which describes the existing and potential Important Ecological Features (IEFs) within the zones of influence specified.
 - **Determine the Scale of Importance of Ecological Features** – importance is determined using geographical frames of reference: Local, Country, Regional, National and International. This assessment is based on a variety of factors, including statutory protection, statutory designation, conservation status, abundance and rarity.
 - **Assess Significant Ecological Effects** –based on the importance of the ecological feature, magnitude of the effect and sensitivity of the features considered. This is description-based rather than applying a matrix which considers construction and operation effects only where relevant. The assessment assumes the proposed layout, intrinsic mitigation and routine ecological mitigation normally conditioned, and these are outlined clearly.
 - **Mitigation** – This is based on the mitigation hierarchy – avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement. Any further mitigation measures required will be outlined to ensure residual effects are lowered to a level considered acceptable. Enhancements will seek biodiversity net gain in line with the NPPF and Local Plan Policy DP19: Biodiversity, Geological Conservation and Green Infrastructure. Monitoring will be considered where applicable.
 - **Future Baseline and Residual Effects** – final conclusionary statements for the short, medium and long term.

Limitations

- 3.12 The UKHab survey took into consideration the presence of invasive non-native species, however this survey did not constitute a full survey for the presence of this group which would come with its own survey requirements.
- 3.13 In regard to the visitor surveys on Cockey Down SSSI (2022) all estimates were made assuming new residents will have similar behaviours to surveyed visitors. There is no way to ascertain whether new residents would fall into the behavioural patterns recorded from visitor surveys.
- 3.14 All calculations were made using the population of Laverstock (which falls within the 1 km buffer most surveyed visitors to Cockey Down SSSI travelled from) and not the whole Parish. The inclusion of settlements within the extended Parish and therefore calculating/estimating based on a larger population would have, in this instance served only to dilute the predicted increase and known visitor numbers. Calculated figures were made rounding up results to the next highest number or whole person.
- 3.15 All calculations were based on results obtained during two survey dates in early December 2022, reflecting the behaviour of visitors in that given point in time. This is not considered to be a significant limitation as FPCR identified two published visitor surveys that had only undertaken surveys during winter months.

- 3.16 No other limitations specific to this survey influenced this assessment.

4.0 RESULTS

Desktop Study

- 4.1 The locations of statutory and non-statutory designated sites identified through the desktop study search area have been presented on *Figure 1* and *Figure 1a*.

Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.2 The consultation request returned one Special Protected Area (SPA) and three Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) within 10km of the Site.

Table 1: Statutory Designated Sites within the Desktop Study Search Area

Site Name	Distance from Site at Closest Point	Description (as provided by WSBRC)
Porton Down SPA	3.7km northeast	An extensive area of chalk grassland with areas of scrub and woodland, designated for its internationally important breeding population of Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i> . The site supports a significant proportion of the UK population and comprises extensive areas of unimproved chalk (calcareous) grassland and sparsely vegetated habitat suitable for nesting. The site is also important for downland breeding birds and supports non-qualifying, non-breeding species of conservation interest including Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> and Short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> (all Annex I species).
Great Yews SAC	900m southeast	Designated for its internationally important yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>) woodland, a nationally rare habitat.
River Avon SAC	356m west	Designated for its habitat of water-crowfoot dominated lowland rivers and associated flora, particularly stream water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i> ssp. <i>Pseudofluitans</i> and river water-crowfoot <i>R. fluitans</i> . The river also supports protected species of European importance, including 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> , and bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> , underpinning its SAC status.
Salisbury Plain SAC	3.7km northeast	This site is the best remaining example in the UK of lowland juniper scrub on chalk. Believed to be the largest surviving semi-natural dry grassland within the EU and is therefore the most important site for this habitat in the UK.

SSSI Risk Impact Zones

- 4.3 The Site sits within Natural England's SSSI Risk Impact zone for the following proposals:
- Discharges: Any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 5m³/day to ground (i.e. to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream (NB This does not include discharges to mains sewer which are unlikely to pose a risk at this location).

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.4 Within 2km of the Site there are three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and two Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). The local wildlife sites consist of Cockey Down and Laverstock Down.

Table 2: Non-Statutory Designated Sites within the Desktop Study Search Area

Site Name	Distance from Site at Closest Point	Description (as provided by WSBRC)
Bracknell Croft SSSI	1.5km northeast	Bracknell Croft is a mosaic of botanically rich chalk grassland and developing juniper scrub. More than 300 juniper bushes are scattered over the downland which has a diverse flora characteristic of the south and south-west chalk. Such areas are remnants of a habitat which has become increasingly scarce with the intensification of modern agriculture.
Cockey Down SSSI	46m 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.
River Avon SSSI	40m west	The River Avon and its tributaries are of national and international importance for their wildlife communities. 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.

Cockey Down SSSI Visitor Surveys

- 4.5 The results of the visitor surveys are based on 38 completed survey sheet responses (total of 40 visitors) carried out on 3rd and 8th December 2022. These indicate that an average of 20 people visit the site per day with 84% bringing a dog. Approximately 52% of visitors visited the site once per day, with a slight increase in morning visits (36%). 81% of visitors walked to the site from their home address within or close by to the nearby village of Laverstock. 87% of people confirmed they walked their dogs off lead within the SSSI and a further 47% confirmed they did not remain on the designated footpaths through the SSSI.
- 4.6 A Natural England condition assessment of Cockey Down SSSI determined 57.67% of the 16ha site to be in 'favourable' condition, with the remaining 42.33% being 'unfavourable recovering' with scrub encroachment recorded as the main reason. More recent condition assessment of Cockey Down SSSI in 2022 cites lack of grazing and scrub encroachment as continued issues. In the context of increased recreational pressure and the likely potential effects this would have with regards the condition status of sites' qualifying features, the key potential likely significant impacts are trampling / erosion leading to a decline or loss of chalk grassland habitat and nutrient enrichment caused by dogs.

Protected/Notable Species

- 4.7 The results from WSBRC returned during the desk study have been filtered to only include species records within 2km of the Site. The locations of protected species records provided by WSBRC are shown on *Figure 2* and presented in *Appendix B* as a comprehensive list.
- 4.8 Bat records were returned within 2km of the Site. Eleven species / species groups of bats were identified within these search results, including the annex II species barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*.

- 4.9 Records of badgers *Meles meles* were returned within 2km of the Site. Precise distances and bearings of these records in relation to the site are omitted for confidentiality of badger sett locations.
- 4.10 Bird records were returned within the Site boundary, and within 2km of the Site. Sixty-three species of birds were identified within these results, of which fifty-nine are considered notable.
- 4.11 Ten records of otter *Lutra lutra* were returned within 2km of the Site.
- 4.12 Several records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* were returned within 2km of the Site.
- 4.13 No records of hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* were returned within the Site boundary or within 2km of the Site boundary.
- 4.14 Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* and white clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* were recorded within 590m north of the Site and are qualifying features of the River Avon SAC. No watercourses are located on the proposal Site, so these species are likely to be restricted to the area they are recorded within.

Field Survey

UKHab Survey

- 4.15 The locations of the habitats described below are illustrated in Figure 3: Baseline Habitat Plan
- Arable field
- 4.16 During the 2025 survey the arable crop consisted of barley *Hordeum vulgare* which was not yet harvested.
- 4.17 Previous historical surveys carried out by FPCR ecologists in 2015, 2017, 2020 and 2023 all recorded that this arable land has been in constant cultivation on a crop rotational basis.
- 4.18 This arable field habitat is considered typical of arable environments in the locality, and cereal crop cultivation is a common and widespread habitat with limited ecological value. This habitat was therefore considered to be of no more than **Site value**.

Arable field margins

- 4.19 In past surveys noticeable arable field margins consisting of tall ruderal growth were present along the majority of the boundaries of the fields; however, these were mostly reduced to thin, shorter field margin strips, with a reduced species assemblage, notably in the southern field. This includes species, such as nettle *Urtica dioica*, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, false-oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, poppy *Papaver agg.* and fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* amongst other common successional plant species.
- 4.20 The arable field margins are considered typical of early successional growth within cultivated environments and are common and widespread habitats with limited ecological value. This habitat was therefore considered to be of no more than **Site value**.

Woodland

- 4.21 There are three sections of woodland on Site consisting of W1 along the southeastern boundary, W2 in the north-west and W3 along the southern boundary. During the 2025 update survey, the woodlands were largely recorded to have remained unchanged since the previous

surveys. Some additional species were recorded within the woodland ground flora, largely consistent with species recorded within the adjacent field margins.

- 4.22 W1 consists of a recently planted native broadleaved woodland approximately 8m in width, leading off the south end of hedgerow H1. The wood forms a belt along the boundary here and consists of sapling trees previously noted as recently planted in the 2023 report. As such, the wood is scattered with areas of sheltered open space, and the wood is too young to contain any standing deadwood. The species composition includes ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, silver birch *Betula pendula* and willow *Salix spp.* planted to form the canopy and an understory of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and spindle *Euonymus europaeus* with bramble *Rubus fruticosus* present across the floor space.
- 4.23 W2 lies along the north-western boundary and consists of a steep roadside verge, dominated by semi-mature / mature planted sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, with ash, elder and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* also present. The ground flora is dominated by ivy *Hedera helix* with occasional dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, perennial rye grass *Poa annua* and nettle.
- 4.24 W3 consists of a recently densely planted woodland belt located along the southern boundary. The canopy overshadows the ground flora which has resulted in scantily scattered vegetation. This includes nettle, wood avens *Geum urbanum* and bramble. The woodland widened towards its eastern end, giving way to a long thin belt towards the west.
- 4.25 The woodland habitats comprise low species-richness across all three woods. There is some range of flowering plants which can be of benefit to a variety of faunal species, notably in woodland W1 and W2. W1 and W3 are connected to adjacent hedgerows leading to areas connecting off site, however, W2 is connected northwards off site towards the river and along into adjacent woodland and scrub habitat fringing the riparian areas here. These woodland habitats are therefore considered to be of **Local Value**.

Modified grassland

- 4.26 There is a long strip of modified grassland in poor condition located along the western boundary of the southern land parcel. This consists of the road verge between the arable field and Church Road.

Developed land, sealed surface

- 4.27 Church road lies parallel to the land parcels on Site, and part of this road is included within the red line boundary along the southern parcel.

Hedgerows

- 4.28 A total of nine hedgerows are present onsite. *Table 4* provide a summary description of each hedgerow and an assessment of their importance and priority habitat status.
- 4.29 There were no hedgerows on-site assessed as in good condition. Six hedgerows were in moderate condition and three were in poor condition. Hedgerows H1 and H3 had been relatively recently planted (estimated to be within c.10-15 years).
- 4.30 Hedgerow H7 consisted of mostly non-native species and hedgerow H8 consisted of approximately 50% non-native species.

- 4.31 Hedgerows H1 and H2b comprised 80% native species cover therefore met the criteria to be classified as a priority habitat type under S.41 of the NERC Act 2006. None of the hedgerows met the criteria to be classified as 'important' under the Hedgerow Regulation 1997.

Table 4: Onsite Hedgerow Descriptions

Ref	Canopy Species	Length	Description of hedgerow	Priority Habitat?	Important under REGS?
H1	Fe, Ps, Cb, Bp, Ac, Cm, Ca, Vl	82m	Tall and wide hedgerow along the field margin consisting of some previous planting. The margins along the hedgerow were arable land with no diversity of species present here. Connects to W1 on the northern end and becomes denser towards this end as it transitions into the woods.	Yes	No
H2a	Fe, Sn, Cb, Lo, Ah	103m	Approx 50% non-native / native species mix hedge. Hedgerow lines a neighbouring property and contains garden variety species. The margins therefore are limited on the property and field sides. These measure approximately 0.5 – 1m wide.	No	No
H2b	Cb, Fe, Cm, Vl, Bp, Ca, Ee, Rc, Sa	60m	Species diverse hedgerow with some non-native species present, which partly lines a neighbouring garden and then continues on to become more species rich and less managed. Margins are similar to above consisting of arable land and residential garden. No mature trees but saplings emerging.	Yes	No
H3	Rc, Cm, Vl, Pt, Fe, Ca, Sf	143m	Boundary hedgerow to the west which is tall and broad. There is a stronger presence of non-native species towards the southern end where the hedge bounds with H2a and neighbouring gardens.	No	No
H4	Cm, Ap, Sn	63m	Comprises a boundary consisting of a line of trees along the north-west. There is little to no understory and the row leads into the northern woodland W2. The space is gappy and more scrub like towards the south.	No	No
H5	M spp., Ps, Tb	59m	A narrow (less than 1.5m wide) short hedgerow along the south-western edge of the Site which has been heavily managed. Verge consists of a narrow arable margin dominated by Blackthorn.	No	No
H6	Rc, Ap, Cm, Sn, Ca, Fe, Pt, Cb	55m	Short section of hedgerow lining the southern edge of the northern section of Site. Consists of a planted belt of trees lining a neighbouring garden and contains a mixture of native and non-native species.	No	No

H7	Cl	23m	Non-native ornamental hedgerow consisting entirely of Leyland Cypress. Located to the west of H6.	No	No
H8	Lspp., Rf, Cm, Pspp., Sspp., Cl	144m	Hedgerow consisting of a mixture of non-native and native species. Lining a footpath and field edge along the southern Site boundary. Connects to W3 on the eastern end and is a continuous intact hedgerow.	No	No

Fauna

4.32 The Site is considered to have the potential to support the following species/groups:

- Badger
- Bats
- Birds

4.33 Full details of the further surveys are provided in the appended reports; however, *Table 5* summarises the key findings during such specific surveys and also provides justification for scoping out specific protected species from further site surveys.

Table 5: Summary of Protected / Notable Species Assessments

Species/Group	Survey Results Summary and / or Site Suitability Assessment
Badger	A badger dropping was recorded on Site however, no boundary latrines or setts were recorded as present, and it is likely that this species commutes across the Site with potential for foraging along the field margin and woodland habitats. Badgers are common and widespread in England, and the Site is therefore considered to be of no more than Local value for this species. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 however requires development proposal to have regard for this species.

Bats (Appendix F)	No trees on Site were deemed suitable to contain potential bat roosting features and no further survey work for these is required. The boundaries and woodland edges provide suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats. Bat activity was consistent across the Site however, a higher level of activity was recorded along the north-western woodland edge and southern boundary, demonstrating connectivity here to both access the Site and offsite areas. The activity surveys identified a range of bats using the Site, which for the most part included common and widespread species; with the most commonly encountered bats including common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> and soprano pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>. Activity was moderately low in Autumn; however, activity was consistently high for the Site across Spring and Summer. Across all surveys, the vast majority of registrations comprised common or soprano pipistrelle contacts. The rarer species, Nathusius's pipistrelle, was identified during static detector analysis with a total of 12 registrations in spring and 35 in summer, accounting for 0.32% of total contacts. This species was not encountered during transect surveys. The Annex II species Barbastelle was recorded once in the walkover transects along the central hedgerow, and was also recorded during the static detector surveys amounting to 317 recordings, peaking in September. The Site provides foraging and commuting habitat for an assemblage of common and widespread bat species and one Annex II species. It is therefore considered to be of Local importance.
Birds (Appendix G)	During the five surveys carried out over three separate years (2015, 2017, 2020), a total of 39 species were recorded within the Site, including ten 'notable' species – i.e. those that appear on WCA Sch.1, NERC S.41 species of principle importance or the BTO BoCC red/amber lists. Species recorded are typical of the habitat present onsite. Arable habitats onsite are generally of limited suitability for the majority of species recorded, though they do provide supplementary foraging habitat for species such as skylark. The Site provides some foraging and breeding habitat for an assemblage of widespread bird species, particularly within woodland and hedgerow habitats and it is therefore considered to be no more than of Local importance.
Dormouse	No records of dormouse within 2km of the Site were returned from WSBRC. During the initial habitat assessment, hedgerow and woodland habitat was recorded as suboptimal for dormice within or connected to the Site. Hedgerows on site were limited in diversity of species, height and density, and well managed, and the woodlands were relatively young and did not contain the appropriate canopy cover and structural diversity for dormouse. The scheme retains and buffers all existing woodland belts and habitat loss or disturbance from construction and operational will be minimal.
Great crested newt	No records were returned from within 2km of the Site and no ponds were present on Site or within 200m. The nearest pond was recorded over 380m away and this was separated from Site by two roads which are considered to provide barriers to species dispersal.
Riparian mammals	No suitable riparian habitat was present on Site and is separated from the nearest river to the west by development and a main road, limiting the potential of riparian mammal use of the Site.

Summary of Important Ecological Features

- 4.34 The suite of surveys have demonstrated that the proposals have the potential to affect a range of important ecological features. These are summarised in *Table 6* and assigned a geographic context based on survey results, relevant legislation and policy.

Table 6: Summary of Important Ecological Features

Important Ecological Feature	Relevant Legislation/Policy	Geographic Scale	Rationale
Bats	CHSR, WCA Sch 5, NERC S41	Local	Moderate levels of bat activity on Site. Commuting and foraging opportunities provided by the range of habitats present onsite.
Breeding Birds	WCA, NERC S41	Local	Woodland and hedgerow habitats provided suitable habitat for an assemblage of common and widespread urban edge/generalist species and woodland edge species for nesting, foraging and commuting.
Badger	WCA, Protection of Badgers Act	Local	Habitats provide some commuting and foraging opportunities along the crop boundaries and through the boundary woodlands.
Cockey Down SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National	Moderate impact of increase of disturbance by trampling, erosion and nutrient enrichment through increase of use by future residents of proposed development. On-site habitats which are designated features may be affected including sensitive chalk grasslands.
New Forest SAC/RAMSAR/SPA	RAMSAR convention (1971), WCA, Habs Directive, Environment Act 2021, NERC Act 2006, Birds Directive 2009,	National / international	Located 12km from Site. The development falls within the Zone of Influence within which the proposed development has the potential to adversely affect the interest features and conservation objectives of the protected site through recreational pressures.

5.0 DISCUSSION

Development Proposals and Intrinsic Mitigation

- 5.1 The proposals are for a planning application for the development of the Site for up to 110 new homes along with the creation of accesses, landscaping with SuDS basin and SANGS area, and associated works to facilitate the development.
- 5.2 The proposals sought ecological input during an early phase of the design process to ensure that the impacts on ecological receptors will be kept to a minimum. The results of faunal surveys have been used to design the scheme to keep negative impacts to a minimum. The proposed scheme includes the following intrinsic ecological avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures:
- Green infrastructure proposals will provide opportunities for habitat creation, including a SANGS area comprised of rough neutral grassland to the north under relaxed management and enhancements to existing hedgerows.
 - Two areas of hedgerow are proposed to be removed to aid access within and across the Site. These will be restricted to hedges H2b and H5.
 - Development platforms have been sited on areas which are currently subject to intensive management, and which are dominated by arable fields that are common and widespread habitats.
 - Retained woodlands will be protected from damage and to allow sufficient room for management in line with RPAs identified in the Arboricultural Assessment.
 - A SuDS basin will provide a green/blue area within the scheme and offers opportunities for habitat creation and increased habitat diversity.

Cockey Down SSSI Mitigation

- 5.3 Following assessment of the visitor surveys and consultation with Natural England and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, it has been demonstrated that the scheme will likely result in an increase of recreational visitors to the reserve and therefore an increase in disturbance by trampling, erosion and nutrient enrichment through dog use.
- 5.4 The study demonstrated that from the 40 visitors surveyed on the SSSI, up to 87% of existing visitors allow their dogs off lead and 47% do not remain to the provided paths on site. The increase in site use by proposed residents, particularly through the easement of access of the SSSI through a designated path, is likely to greatly increase the impacts highlighted above.
- 5.5 In order to mitigate for these impacts, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have requested a financial contribution to be made by the client to provide resources for habitat management and maintenance and access management on Cockey Downs SSSI (refer to *Appendix I* for full details).

Biodiversity Net Gain and Habitat Enhancements

- 5.6 A Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been completed to support the application. Full details of the BNG assessment prepared for the Site are provided in *Appendix H*.

- 5.7 Areas of other neutral grassland in moderate condition will be introduced to the east and south of the development areas. Part of the eastern area adjacent to a LEAP will provide a wildflower meadow. Modified grassland in moderate condition will constitute the remainder of the green spaces, including within the SANGS area to the north and around the remainder of the space around the development to the south.
- 5.8 Areas of mixed scrub will be introduced towards the western boundary in the southern field parcel to replace the bramble scrub proposed to be removed.
- 5.9 A SuDS area will be introduced to the west of the developed area, and this will be planted with a diverse number of aquatic species.
- 5.10 New sections of hedgerow will be provided along the northern and north-eastern boundaries. These will be species-rich native hedgerows and will provide an enhancement in hedgerows for the Site. This will also assist with compensating for the loss of a section of hedgerow to provide access through the Site.

Standard Mitigation - Core Documents

- 5.11 The following lists the core documents that will secure the mitigation and enhancement measures described in this report. They can be secured through appropriately worded pre-commencement planning conditions, attached to the application to be submitted and discharged prior to the commencement of works.
- Construction and Environmental Management Plan for Ecology (CEMP: Ecology): This pre-commencement document contains the necessary Method Statements to ensure protected species are not unlawfully harmed during ground clearance, earthworks and during construction. The document will include an Ecological Constraints and Mitigation Plan drawing that clearly shows the location of constraints and details mitigation required, where necessary. This will also provide measures for removal WCA Sch9 Invasive Non-native plant species from the Site.
 - Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP): this provides planting/landscape information that includes both the landscape and ecology features and their management for an appropriate period. In accordance with the planning practice guidance (PPG) for BNG, this document can be submitted as part of a Biodiversity Gain Plan once full planning permission has been received. This document can also include ecological enhancement and management information as appropriate to demonstrate how the biodiversity net gain measures will be delivered and can also include the final Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan that shows location of wildlife boxes and other proposed features.

Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on Important Ecological Features

- 5.12 The status of the important ecological features (IEFs) identified within the survey area have been reviewed against the proposals and intrinsic mitigation to determine whether there are any impact pathways and whether any of these will lead to a likely significant effect. These are assessed in *Table 7*. The requirement for additional mitigation measures above the intrinsic mitigation has been considered for each of the IEFs where they can reduce the scale of negative effects or encourage a positive effect.

Table 7. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on Important Ecological Features

IEF: Badger	
Assessment of Impacts	Badger activity is limited on Site and one dropping only was recorded. The proposals will result in a temporary loss of foraging habitat available for badgers through the loss of field edge habitats, particularly to the south. These effects are not considered to be significant due to the limited use of the Site by badgers, which are common and widespread in England. The proposals include habitat creation and enhancement measures along all boundary edges, including the hedgerows and woodland, and will include the development of a large area of SANGS grassland in the northern parcel, which will enhance the existing foraging habitats for badgers. This includes the creation of native grassland habitats. During construction, there is a risk of badgers becoming trapped and killed or injured within open trenches.
Predicted Effect	Not Significant Effect at a Local Level
Mitigation	During construction the Site will include measures to protect badgers from harm. This can include measures such as covering trenches overnight, fencing and restricting working hours.
Compensation	To offset losses of foraging habitat for badger, the grassland species-mix selected will include a range of seed-rich species to provide additional foraging opportunities.
Enhancement	Additional enhancements will include
Residual Effects	No Effect
IEF: Bats	
Assessment of Impacts	Bat activity was widespread across the Site, with some higher levels recorded towards the north-western woods. The majority of bats recorded included common and widespread species, with one Annex II species listed. The proposals will result in the loss of habitat temporarily along the edges of all boundaries, which will remove some foraging and commuting habitat; however, all boundary features, which are currently being used mainly for commuting purposes, will be retained. There will be an increase in commuting and foraging habitat for bats following the introduction of the proposed SANGS area to the north, enhanced boundaries and boundary buffer zones.
Predicted Effect	Not Significant Effect at a Local Level
Mitigation	It must be assured that no external lighting from the development spills onto the boundary features or onto the SANGS area to the north. This will ensure existing bat commuting routes remain functional, and no commuting behaviour is disturbed.
Compensation	To offset losses of foraging and commuting habitat for bats, the grassland species-mix selected will include a range of seed-rich species to provide additional foraging opportunities.
Enhancement	Additional enhancements to include the introduction of bat boxes onto mature trees on the boundaries.
Residual Effects	No Effect
IEF: Cockney Down SSSI	

Assessment of Impacts	There is likely to be an increase of visitors to the SSSI through increase of residents to Laverstock and addition to SSSI site access through a proposed footpath from the proposed development resulting in an increase of erosion, trampling and nutrient enrichment of sensitive chalk habitats.
Predicted Effect	Moderate Significant Effect at a County Level
Mitigation	Hallam Land has agreed a financial contribution to be paid directly to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to assist with the upkeep of the SSSI including habitat maintenance and site access, to assist with offsetting some of the increase in visitor pressures.
Compensation	As above, to compensate for increase in visitor usage the Wildlife Trust will increase habitat management and maintenance of the SSSI.
Enhancement	Additional enhancements may come through habitat management provided by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Residual Effects	No Effect
IEF: New Forest SAC / SPA / RAMSAR	
Assessment of Impacts	The New Forest lies approximately 12km from the Site and therefore falls within an identified Zone of Influence (13.8km) within which development holds the potential to adversely affect designated features and conservation objectives through recreational pressure (full details of these will be detailed within the accompanying sHRA report which will be completed following details required regarding drainage and traffic strategies for the Site). There is likely to be an increase of visitors to the New Forest through increase of residents to Laverstock.
Predicted Effect	Moderate Significant Effect at a National Level
Mitigation	Mitigation for recreational impacts set out by New Forest District Council SPD ⁴ indicates that for developments providing over 50 net additional dwellings, alternative recreational natural greenspace is to be provided for at least 8ha per 1,000 of population of new residential development for sites of 50 or more dwellings. This area must be designed in a way which will encourage use by new residents to deflect visits from the New Forest and as such designated European sites.
Compensation	To offset recreational pressures on the Site and looking at the UK average of people per house, this would equate to approximately 279 people over the 110 proposed dwellings and therefore a requirement of 2.2ha of alternative greenspace. This has been provided within the northern development including the northern field which equates to 2.33ha of SANGS space and 2.54ha of public open space across the remainder of the Site.
Enhancement	Habitat enhancements within the northern field will be provided to ensure of the longevity of the alternative greenspace area and ensure of its attractiveness to local people so that they continue to utilise this space rather than continuously visit the New Forest.
Residual Effects	No Effect
IEF: Birds	

⁴ Mitigation for Recreational Impacts on New Forest European Sites Supplementary Planning Document, (2021) New Forest District Council.

Assessment of Impacts	Three SPA designated Sites for breeding birds are located within 12km of the Site. The Site is not considered to provide suitable habitat for these designated bird species, and the impact is considered to be negligible. Bird assemblages recorded on Site included farmland and urban fringe species, with ten notable species recorded. The species were recorded in low numbers over three years; however, the loss of arable land from the Site is likely to result in a reduction of suitable foraging habitat for skylark. The removal of areas of H2a and H5 is likely to result in the loss of a small area of nesting habitat for urban birds such as robin, wren and blackbird. The development of the Site is likely to result in an increase in disturbance of breeding birds within the hedges and woodland belts, particularly during the construction phase.
Predicted Effect	Minor Significant Effect at a Local Level
Mitigation	<u>Habitat loss</u> To mitigate for fragmentation of hedgerows H2a and H5, the remaining sections of these hedgerows will be enhanced with tree and scrub planting, which will be provided either side of the gaps to be created and along the hedge lengths to provide further future habitat for breeding birds. <u>Disturbance</u> Removal of any vegetation on Site will be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive). If not practicable, then all areas will be checked prior to clearance by an experienced ecologist, and if active nests are found, these will be untouched and buffered from works until the chicks have fledged.
Compensation	Fragmentation caused by the partial loss of H2a and H5, H2b, and H3 are to be enhanced to native species- rich hedgerow and native hedgerow with trees, Respectively, which will provide enhanced commuting routes through the Site, as well as additional nesting and foraging habitat for the bird assemblages on Site.
Enhancement	The attenuation feature will be designed, where possible, to encourage a varied bed profile and allow marginal vegetation to establish. This will provide improved nesting and foraging habitat for bird species. Nest boxes could be incorporated into the Site design, and these could be erected onto proposed dwellings and into existing trees and scrub.
Residual Effects	No effect

Other Species

Hedgehogs

- 5.13 Given the urbanised nature of the locality, with interspersed scrub and woodland blocks, it is considered likely that hedgehog would be present onsite. The habitat enhancement to be delivered by the proposals will improve the Site for this species and the recommendations provided to protect badgers during construction operations will also help prevent harm to hedgehogs.
- 5.14 As a further enhancement for the Site, it is recommended that a 'hedgehog highway' is implemented across proposed gardens whereby a small hole measuring 13x13cm is cut into the base of garden fences to provide an escape route to prevent hedgehogs becoming trapped in gardens.

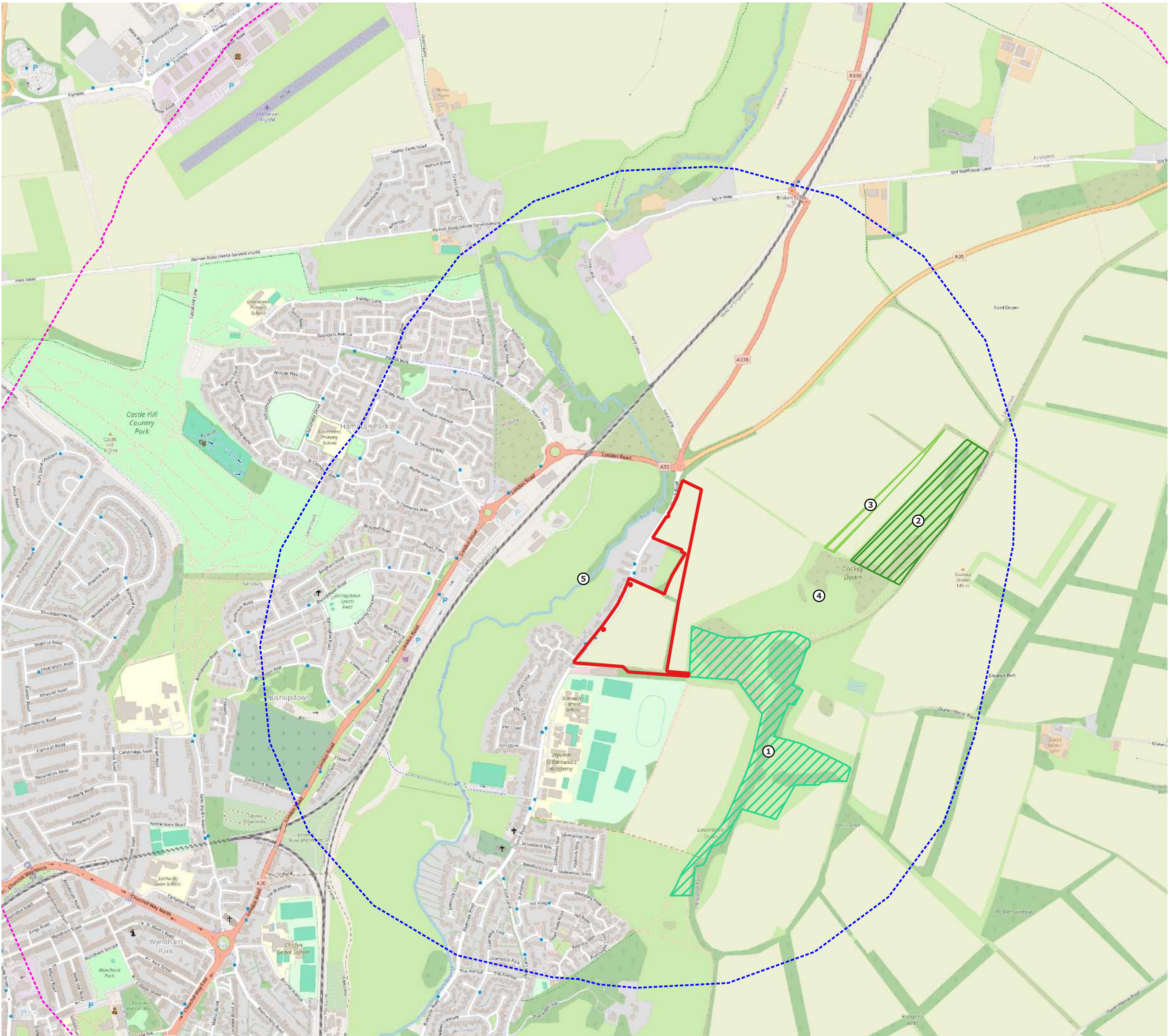
6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The suite of ecology surveys identified a range of important ecological features on Site and within its zone of influence. The impacts on these were assessed against the proposals for a mixed-use development of up to 110 dwellings and an area designated for SANGS to mitigate recreational impact to the New Forest.
- 6.2 The assessment has demonstrated that in the absence of mitigation, proposals would lead to, at most, a **Moderate Significant Effect at a National Level** as a result of an increase in recreational pressures to nearby designated areas and a **Minor Significant Effect at a Local Level** as a result of indirect construction operations. A **Not Significant Effect at a Local Level** could also be anticipated on the local bat population as a result of lighting.
- 6.3 Proposals have been landscape and ecology led from an early stage in the process, ensuring that the scheme can be designed to mitigate for negative effects associated with the construction proposals and anticipated habitat losses. Biodiversity net gain calculations have been considered early in the design process to ensure that losses to hedgerows and woodland belts are minimised and that sufficient opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement could be incorporated into the proposals. This has led to the proposals including significant green infrastructure areas being enhanced with ecology as a focus. This will comprise new grassland areas including a more species rich grassland to the north of the Site and managed grassland around the proposed development areas, a small SuDS attenuation basin and the enhancement of retained habitats wherever possible.
- 6.4 Through this combination of intrinsic mitigation, targeted mitigation, compensation and enhancement detailed within this EclA and appendices, have demonstrated that the proposals will lead to at most short-term negative effects on breeding birds. However, in the **mid- to long-term, negligible to not significant positive effects** are anticipated for all important ecological features.

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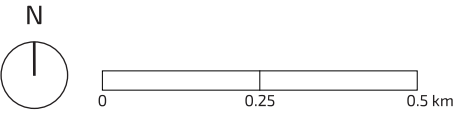
Registered Office: Lockington Hall, Lockington, Derby DE74 2RH
Company No. 07128076. [T] 01509 672772 [E] mail@fpcr.co.uk [W] www.fpcr.co.uk

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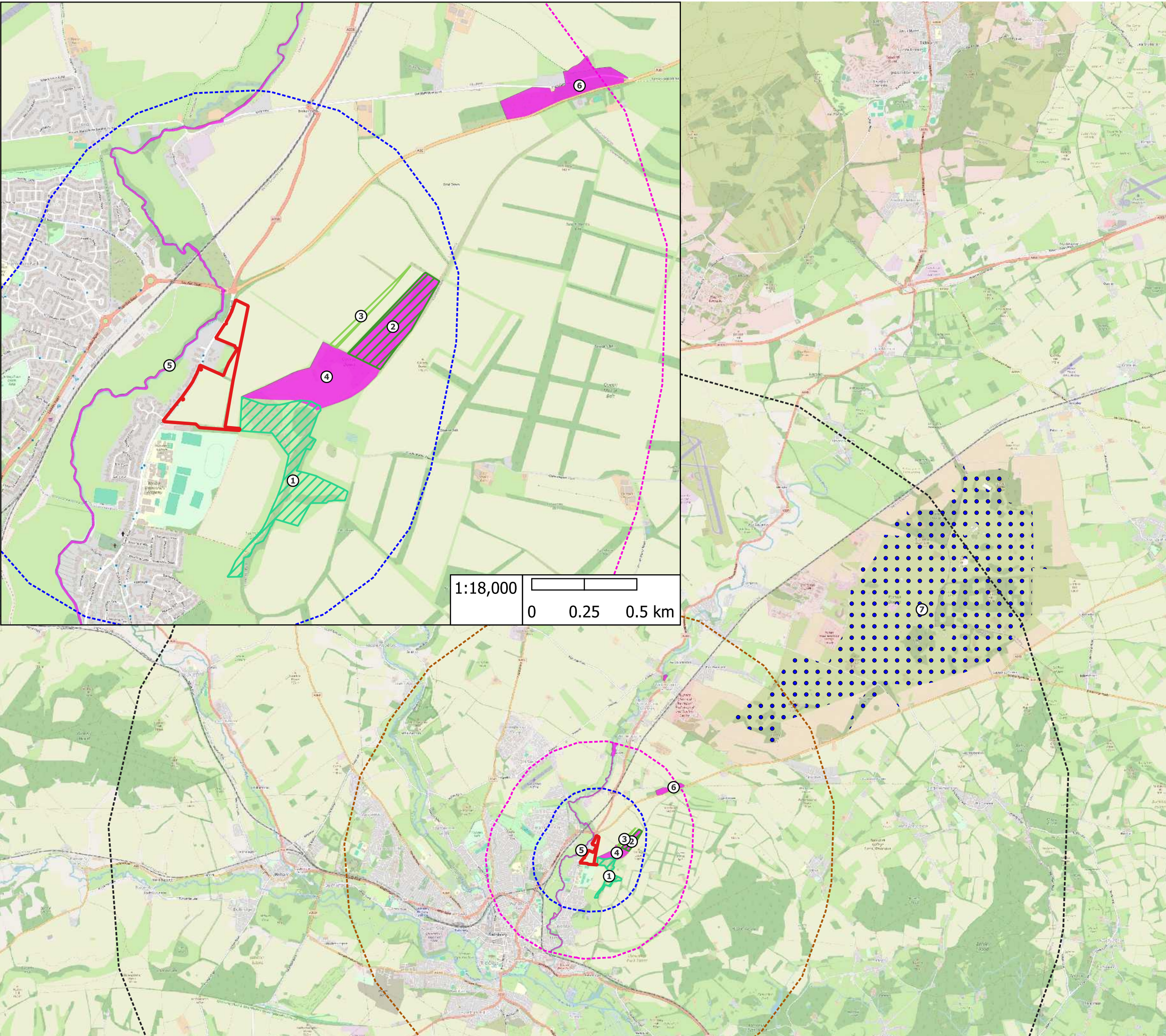
- 1km Buffer
- 2km Buffer
- 5km Buffer
- 10km Buffer
- LWS
- Special Protection Area
- WWT

Ref.	Name	Designation
1	Laver Stock Down	LWS
2	Cockey Down	WWT
3	Cockey Down	Special Protection Area
4	Cockey Down	SSSI
5	River Avon	SSSI
6	Bracknell Croft	SSSI

date 23/06/26 drwn/chkd LS / AU

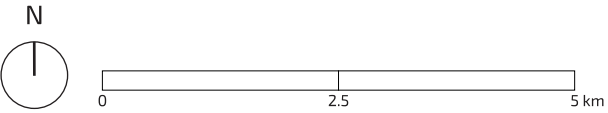
client Hallam Land
project Church Road, Laverstock
Salisbury, SP1 1QZ

title Site Location and Consultation Results Plan - Designated Non-statutory Sites Plan
number
FIGURE 1a
scale 1:12,000 @ A3
rev A



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- 1km Buffer
- 2km Buffer
- 5km Buffer
- 10km Buffer
- LWS
- Special Protection Area
- WWT
- SSSI
- SPA

Ref.	Name	Designation
1	Laver Stock Down	LWS
2	Cockey Down	WWT
3	Cockey Down	Special Protection Area
4	Cockey Down	SSSI
5	River Avon	SSSI
6	Bracknell Croft	SSSI
7	Porton Down	SPA, Classified

date 23/06/26 drwn/chkd LS / AU

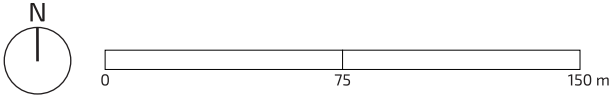
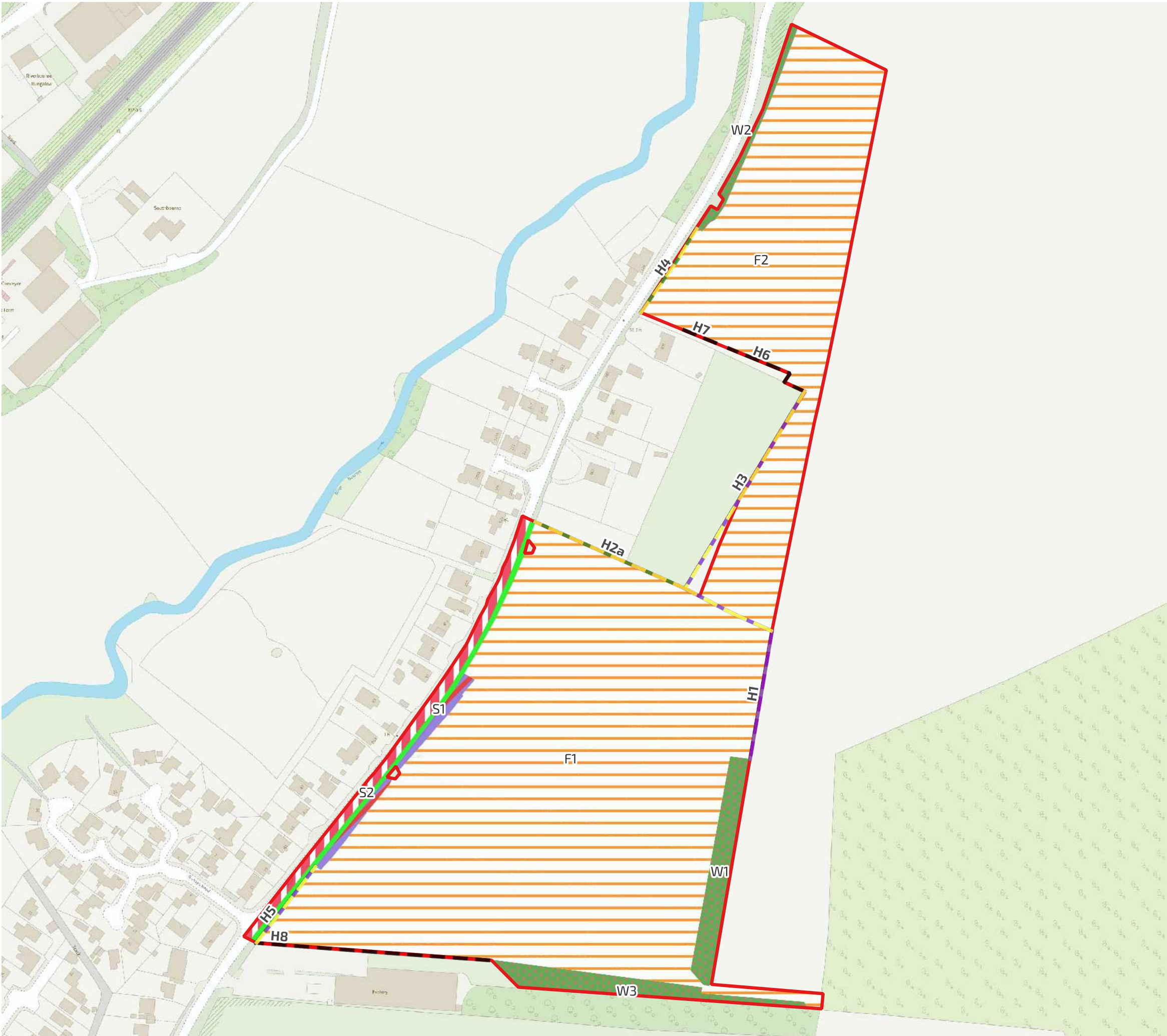
client Hallam Land

project Church Road, Laverstock
Salisbury, SP1 1QZ

title Site Location and Consultation Results
Plan - Designated Statutory Sites Plan scale 1:80,000 @ A3

number FIGURE 1b rev A

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& design

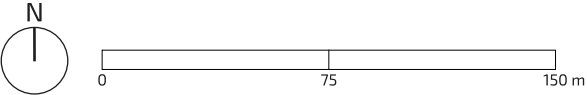


Legend

- Baseline hedgerows**
- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
 - Native hedgerow
 - Native hedgerow with trees
 - Species-rich native hedgerow

- Baseline habitats**
- Bramble scrub
 - Cereal crops
 - Developed land; sealed surface
 - Modified grassland
 - Other woodland; broadleaved

date	23/06/26	drwn/chkd	KH / MEL
client	Hallam Land		
project	Church Road, Laverstock		
title	BASELINE HABITAT PLAN	scale	1:2,387 @ A3
number	FIGURE 03	rev	-



Legend

Baseline Habitat Condition

- Moderate
- Poor
- N/A - Other
- Condition Assessment N/A

Baseline Habitat Distinctiveness

- Medium
- Low
- V.Low

Baseline Hedgerow Condition

- Moderate
- Poor
- N/A

Baseline Hedgerow Distinctiveness

- Medium
- Low
- V.Low
- N/A

date 23/06/26
 drwn/chkd LPL / MEL

client
Hallam Land
 project
**Church Road,
 Laverstock**

title **BASELINE HABITAT CONDITION
 AND DISTINCTIVENESS PLAN**
 scale 1:2,500 @ A3

number **FIGURE 04**
 rev -

APPENDIX A: ENGLISH NATURE CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

The Environment Act 2021

In England, biodiversity net gain is now required under statutory frameworks introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021). Under this framework, every grant of planning permission will be deemed to have been granted subject to a general biodiversity gain condition. This will require an objective for developments to deliver at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value relative to the pre-development biodiversity value of all onsite habitats.

This is a pre-commencement condition requiring the provision of a Biodiversity Gain Plan to be submitted and approved before works can be commenced, but after planning permission has been granted.

In principle, the grant of planning permission is not within the scope of BNG, however it is important to consider as part of the consenting body's decision-making process how a scheme will be able to demonstrate BNG after permission is granted. Therefore, this biodiversity net gain report presents the results of a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment that has been completed in order to demonstrate how the proposals will be compliant with the requirements of the Environment Act. Bat roost present in tree avenue – cursory mention of observation during activity surveys. No location given in previous work, although mitigation suggested in ES.

Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy

The statutory framework allows for the 10% biodiversity gain to be delivered through onsite biodiversity gains, registered offsite biodiversity gains or statutory biodiversity credits. However, as set out in Articles 37A and 37D of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, development must consider the biodiversity net gain hierarchy when designing scheme proposals.

Proposals must demonstrate how the biodiversity hierarchy has been applied to or provide the reasons for any deviation. This biodiversity net gain hierarchy is distinct from the mitigation hierarchy set out in paragraph 186(a) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023).

Exemptions

There are a number of circumstances where a Site will be exempt from biodiversity net gain including:

- Development impacting habitat of an area below a 'de minimis' threshold of 25m², or 5m for linear habitats.
- Householder applications (as defined within article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015).
- Self-build and custom-build applications (no more than 9 dwellings, site no larger than 0.5 ha and consists exclusively of self-build/ custom dwellings).
- Biodiversity gain sites (where habitats are being enhanced for wildlife only).
- Previously developed land with a baseline score of zero (exempted via the metric).

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

The Regulations ensure that the habitat and species protection and standards derived from EU law as per "The Habitat Regulations" Amendment will continue to apply after Brexit.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations ("The Habitats Regulations") (Amendment) 2017

European Protected Sites

The Habitats Regulations ratifies into UK law the "Habitats Directive" (92/43/EEC) and the "Birds Directive" (79/409/EEC). It places a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for species listed in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive respectively to the European Commission. Once the Commission and EU Member States have agreed that the sites submitted are worthy of designation, they are identified as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). The EU Member States must then designate these sites as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within six years.

The Regulations require the compilation and maintenance of a register of European sites to include SACs as well as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated for birds and sites designated as internationally important wetlands under the Ramsar Convention known as "Ramsar Sites". These three designations form a collective Europe wide network of internationally protected sites known as Natura 2000. All European sites are also designated under UK law as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs; please see below).

Habitats Regulation Assessment

There is a requirement under EU law that Member States' take measures to reach and maintain European Protected Sites' at Favourable Conservation Status (FCS). An Appropriate Assessment is required for plans or projects that may potentially damage a European Protected Site. This is based on an assessment against a given European Protected Site's Conservation Objectives. The process is commonly known as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

The HRA must be conducted by, or on behalf of, the Competent Authority. The HRA process assesses plans or projects alone or in combination. It involves a four stage approach as follows:

- Stage One: Screening - also known as the Test of Likely Significant Effect (TOLSE). If the Competent Authority cannot screen out a likely significant effect, an Appropriate Assessment is required.
- Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment - the Competent Authority will only agree to plans or projects that will not affect the integrity of a European site also known as the "Integrity Test".
- Stage Three: Alternative Solutions - assesses any alternative solutions of a potentially damaging plan or project that failed the Integrity Test, and if it is determined there are no alternative solutions, the project cannot be agreed to and it will either need to be changed or refused.
- Stage Four: The final stage may allow a plan or project to proceed if after failing stage three if it is for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, and only if suitable compensatory measures are secured.

Any plan or project that may have a potentially damaging effect on a transient species or the habitat on which it relies (for example bats or birds), that is both a Qualifying Features of a European Protected Site and considered functionally linked with a European Protected Site, are required under law to be considered as part of any HRA process.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

The Habitats Regulations includes a list of animals and plant species taken from the Annex IV of the Habitats Directive that have a natural range which includes any area in Great Britain. These are collectively known as European Protected Species (EPS). The regulations make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, take or destroy eggs of, or damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of animals listed in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, and to pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy wild plants listed in Schedule 5 of the Regulations. All listed EPS are shown in Table 1 below. The Regulations also protect these species alive or dead and parts thereof from various forms of possession and trade.

Table1: The Habitats Regulations Schedule 2 and Schedule 5 Species.

Schedule 2 European Protected Animal Species		Schedule 5 – European Protected Plant Species	
Common name	Scientific name	Common name	Scientific name
Horseshoe bats – all species	<i>Rhinolophidae</i>	Shore dock	<i>Rumex rupestris</i>
Bats – all species	<i>Vespertilionidae</i>	Killarney fern	<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>
Large blue butterfly	<i>Maculinea arion</i>	Early gentian	<i>Gentianella anglica</i>
Wild cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	Lady's slipper	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>
Dolphins, porpoises & whales – all species	<i>Cetacea</i>	Creeping marshwort	<i>Apium repens</i>
Hazel dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Slender naiad	<i>Najas flexilis</i>
Pool frog	<i>Rana lessonae</i>	Fen orchid	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>
Sand lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Floating-leaved water plantain	<i>Luronium natans</i>
Fisher's estuarine moth	<i>Gortyna borelli lunata</i>	Yellow marsh saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>		
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>		
Lesser whirlpool ram's-horn snail	<i>Anisus vorticulus</i>		
Smooth snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>		
Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>		
Natterjack toad	<i>Bufo calamita</i>		
Marine turtles	<i>Caretta caretta</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>		

These actions may be made lawful in certain circumstances through the granting of licences by the appropriate authority (Natural England). Licences must only be granted after the appropriate authority is satisfied that no satisfactory alternatives are available. In most circumstances, licences are only applied for and granted following full planning permission.

In determining whether or not to grant a licence Natural England must apply the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012 (amendment) and, in particular, the three derogation tests:

- Test 1: A licence can be granted for the purposes of "preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment".
- Test 2: The appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that there is no satisfactory alternative".

- Test 3: The appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) (as amended) is the principal legislation providing protection for wildlife in the UK. It prescribes legislation for wild birds, other animals, wild plants and non-native species. In addition, it provides for the designation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in England.

Wild birds

The WCA as amended by Schedule 12 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 makes it an offence (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) to intentionally or recklessly:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built (also [take, damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird included in Schedule ZA1] under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006); or
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

For birds listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, protection extends to offences relating to the intentional or reckless disturbance of these birds while at their nests or their dependent young.

Other animals

The WCA (as amended) makes it an offence to (subject to exceptions) intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take wild animals listed on Schedule 5 of the Act. For some species, the protection extends to interference with places used for shelter or protection, or disturbing animals occupying or obstructing access to such places. These species are regarded as "fully protected" and as well as the EPS species listed above include the mammal species water vole *Arvicola amphibius*, pine marten *Martes martes* and red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* as well as selected others from a range of species groups including, fish, butterflies, hemipteran bugs, beetles, crickets, dragonflies, moths, spiders, crustaceans, sea-mats, molluscs, Annelid worms and sea anemones (and allies).

There are seven species on Schedule 5 of the Act that not fully protected but are still protected against killing and injuring these include the common reptile species slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, viviparous lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, grass snake *Natrix helvetica* and adder *Vipera berus*.

The Act prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals, and numerous species are protected against sale only as well as other variations for example Atlantic stream (white-clawed) crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* are protected against taking and sale.

Vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens and fungi

With regards to native flora the Act makes it an offence to (subject to exceptions) intentionally or recklessly pick, uproot or destroy any wild plant listed in Schedule 8. Similarly, the Act

prevents the sale, offer or expose for sale, or possess (for the purposes of trade), any live or dead wild plant included in Schedule 8, or any part of, or anything derived from, such a plant.

Non-native species

The Act contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9 in England and Wales.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

The Act provides for the notification and confirmation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). These sites can be identified for their flora, fauna, geological or physiological interest. In England, the power to confirm an SSSI lies with Natural England.

Laws protecting areas designated as SSSIs are described in Sections 28 to 33 of Part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). SSSIs are the principle statutory designation of sites in the UK and offences are enforced through Natural England. Offences include the following:

SSSI owners and occupiers

- carrying out, causing or allowing operations likely to damage an SSSI without Natural England consent.
- failing to keep to a management notice.
- failing to let us know about a change in ownership or occupation of land in an SSSI.

Public bodies

- carrying out or authorising operations likely to damage an SSSI without meeting the requirements to notify Natural England.
- failing to minimise any damage to an SSSI and if there is any damage, failing to restore it to its former state so far as is reasonably practical and possible.

Any person

- intentionally or recklessly damaging, destroying or disturbing any of the habitats or features of an SSSI.
- intentionally or recklessly damaging, destroying, obscuring or taking down a site notice put up on land within an SSSI.
- preventing a Natural England officer lawfully accessing an SSSI.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This act is based on the need to protect badgers from persecution by baiting and deliberate harm or injury.

The act makes it an offence to:

- intentionally capture, kill or injure a badger;

- damage, destroy or block access to their setts;
- disturb badgers in setts;
- treat a badger cruelly;
- deliberately send or intentionally allow a dog into a sett; and
- bait or dig for badgers.
- A sett is defined as:

"Any structure or place that displays signs indicating current use by a badger".

Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 imposes a duty on every public authority to conserve biodiversity in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

Section 41 (S41) of the NERC Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list (including 56 habitats and 943 species) has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England and draws upon the UK BAP List of Priority Species and Habitats. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policy for England. As such, the NPPF must be a material consideration for local authorities when considering planning decisions. The following points highlight those policies/statements which particularly relate to ecology/biodiversity and the planning system.

Policy 15 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

180. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

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

(d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

(e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and

(f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

181. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

182. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited. Planning permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

(a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;

(b) the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and

(c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.

184. Within areas designated as Heritage Coast (and that do not already fall within one of the designated areas mentioned in paragraph 182), planning policies and decisions should be consistent with the special character of the area and the importance of its conservation. Major development within a Heritage Coast is unlikely to be appropriate, unless it is compatible with its special character.

185. To protect and enhance areas of biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

(a) Identify, map and safeguard components of wildlife rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and

(b) Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

186. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

(a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

(b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

(c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons 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.

187. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

(a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

(b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and

(c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Area of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

188. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and amended by Schedule 11 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, by principal local authorities.

Local authorities have the powers to acquire, declare and manage LNRs. Parish and town councils can declare LNRs providing power is given by the district or county council. LNRs may or may not have other statutory designations such as SSSI status. LNRs must be controlled by the local authority through ownership, lease or agreement with the owner. The main aim must

be to care for the natural features which make the site special. LNRs are of local, but not necessarily national, importance.

LNRs are usually owned by local authorities, with management often passed onto other organisations such as County Wildlife Trusts etc. They often have good public access and facilities. There is no legal necessity to manage an LNR to any set standard but management agreements and plans often exist. Protection of LNRs is usually provided through local planning policy and through local bylaws.

Non-Statutory Protected Local Sites

Non-statutory Designated Sites are sites designated by local authorities which fall outside the statutory criteria for designation. They are policy protected and included in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as "Local Sites". Local Planning Authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for developments on or affecting protected wildlife sites should be judged. Non-statutory sites are given various names including County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). To this end Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) sites are also considered non-statutory sites.

Hedgerows

Hedgerows are designated as Habitats of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) emphasises the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats and ecological networks. Hedgerows are important components of ecological networks linking other important habitats and designated sites.

Hedgerows also receive statutory protection under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995, which came into force in 1997. The regulations introduced new arrangements for local planning authorities in England and Wales to protect important hedgerows in the countryside, by controlling their removal through a system of notification. Important hedgerows are defined by complex assessment criteria, which draw on biodiversity features, historical context and the landscape value of the hedgerow.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level) and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)

The Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) is jointly prepared by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The report classifies birds according to the extent that they are known to be declining. The classifications are split into groups, Red, Amber and Green, with species classified as Red being those with the greatest declines. The criteria for classifications are presented in *Table 2*.

Table 2: BoCC species classification criteria

Red list criteria	Amber list criteria	Green list criteria
Global Conservation Status - Species listed by BirdLife International as being Globally Threatened using IUCN criteria.	European Conservation status - Categorised as a Species of European Conservation Concern.	All regularly occurring species that do not qualify under any of the red or amber criteria are green listed.
Historical Decline - A severe decline in the UK between 1800 and 1995, without substantial recent recovery.	Historical Decline – Recovery - Red listed for Historical Decline in a previous review but with substantial recent recovery (more than doubled in the last 25 years).	Includes those species listed as recovering from Historical Decline in the last review that have continued to recover and do not qualify under any of the other criteria.
Breeding Population Decline - Severe decline in the UK breeding population size, of more than 50%, over 25 years or the entire period used for assessments since the first BoCC review, starting in 1969 ("longer-term").	Breeding Population Decline - As for red list criteria and, but with moderate decline (by more than 25% but less than 50%).	
Non-breeding Population Decline - Severe decline in the UK non-breeding population size, of more than 50%, over 25 years or the longer-term.	Non-breeding Population Decline - As for red list criteria and, but with moderate decline (by more than 25% but less than 50%).	
Breeding Range Decline - Severe decline in the UK range, of more than 50%, as measured by number of 10 km squares occupied by breeding birds, over 25 years or the longer-term.	Breeding Range Decline - As for red list criteria and, but with moderate decline (by more than 25% but less than 50%).	
	Rarity - UK breeding population of less than 300 pairs, or non-breeding population of less than 900 individuals.	
	Localisation - At least 50% of the UK breeding or non-breeding population found in 10 or fewer sites.	
	International Importance - At least 20% of the European breeding or non-breeding population found in the UK.	
Fisher's estuarine moth	Gortyna borelli lunata	Yellow marsh saxifrage
Great crested newt	Triturus cristatus	
Otter	Lutra lutra	
Lesser whirlpool ram's-horn snail	Anisus vorticulus	
Smooth snake	Coronella austriaca	
Sturgeon	Acipenser sturio	
Natterjack toad	Bufo calamita	
Marine turtles	Caretta caretta Chelonia mydas Lepidochelys kempii Eretmochelys imbricata Dermochelys coriacea	

APPENDIX B: PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES LIST

Species	Relevant Legislation	Distance from Site at Closest Point (m)	Description of Record(s) (as provided by WSBRC)
Amphibians			
Common Frog, <i>Rana temporaria</i>	HSD5	544	1 record in 1999 and 1 record in 2024
Common Toad, <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	544	1 record in 1999
Bats			
Barbastelle, <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	1120	5 records in 2022
Serotine, <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	977	22 records between 1998 and 2023
Myotis Bat species, <i>Myotis</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	1120	36 records between 1960 and 2022
Noctule Bat, <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	811	43 records between 1963 and 2023
Nyctalus Bat species, <i>Nyctalus</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	811	1 record in 2004 and 1 record in 2017
Nathusius's Pipistrelle, <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	1120	1 record in 2022
Common Pipistrelle, <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	529	72 records between 1966 and 2023
Soprano Pipistrelle, <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	925	44 records between 1998 and 2023
Pipistrelle Bat species, <i>Pipistrellus</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	966	18 records between 2003 and 2017
Brown Long-eared, <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	1120	16 records between 1985 and 2022
Long-eared Bat Species, <i>Plecotus</i>	NERC S41, WCA Sch5	1120	1 record in 1990 and 2 records in 2015
Reptiles			
Slow-worm, <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/I	424	1 record in 1999 and 1 record in 2021
Grass Snake, <i>Natrix helvetica</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/I	424	1 record in 2008
Common Lizard, <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/I	679	4 records between 1999 and 2022

Species	Relevant Legislation	Distance from Site at Closest Point (m)	Description of Record(s) (as provided by WSBRC)
Birds			
Barn Owl, <i>Tyto alba</i>	WCA1i	0	5 records from 2008 to 2021
Black-headed Gull, <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BAmb, RLGB.VU	156	1 record in 2019
Brambling, <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	WCA1i	679	2 records in 1992
Cetti's Warbler, <i>Cettia cetti</i>	WCA1i	1199	1 record in 1992
Collared Dove, <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	593	1 record in 2019 and 1 record in 2020
Cormorant, <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	679	1 record in 2019 and 1 record in 2020
Cuckoo, <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	BRed, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	679	2 records in 1990
Dunnock, <i>Prunella modularis</i>	BAmb	679	4 records from from1995 to 2019
Fieldfare, <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	BRed, RLGB.CR(PE), WCA1i	679	2 records in 1995
Golden Plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	BD1	679	2 records in 1995
Greenfinch, <i>Chloris chloris</i>	BRed, RLGB.EN	455	4 records from 1990 to 2019
Grey Heron, <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	96	6 records from 1990 to 2023
Grey Partridge, <i>Perdix perdix</i>	BRed, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	679	1 record in 1995 and 1 record in 1997
Hawfinch, <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	BRed, RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP	671	1 record in 2017
Hen Harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	BD1, BRed, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, WCA1i	769	1 record in 1997
Herring Gull, <i>Larus argentatus</i>	BRed, RLGB.EN	593	1 record in 2019

Species	Relevant Legislation	Distance from Site at Closest Point (m)	Description of Record(s) (as provided by WSBRC)
Hobby, <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	WCA1i	679	1 record in 1992 and 1 record 2005
House Martin, <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	BRed, RLGB.VU	593	4 records from 1995 to 2024
House Sparrow, <i>Passer domesticus</i>	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP	592	4 records from 2019 to 2023
Kestrel, <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	BAmb, RLGB.VU	282	6 records from 1992 to 2024
Kingfisher, <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	BD1, WCA1i	424	4 records from 1997 to 2015
Lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	BRed, RLGB.EN, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	128	4 records from 1994 to 2019
Lesser Black-backed Gull, <i>Larus fuscus</i>	BAmb	455	1 record in 2019 and 1 in 2020
Lesser Redpoll, <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	225	1 record in 2010
Linnet, <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	BRed, RLGB.Lr(NT)	455	4 records 1995 to 2022
Little Egret, <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	BD1	486	3 records from 2014 to 2020
Mallard, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	BAmb, RLGB.Lr(NT)	592	4 records from 1990 to 2021
Marsh Tit, <i>Poecile palustris</i>	BRed, RLGB.VU	1199	1 record in 2019
Meadow Pipit, <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	BAmb	443	4 records from 1993 to 2019
Mediterranean Gull, <i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	BAmb, BD1, WCA1i	1199	1 record in 2021
Merlin, <i>Falco columbarius</i>	BD1, BRed, RLGB.EN, WCA1i	769	1 record in 1998
Mistle Thrush, <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	BRed, RLGB.VU	455	4 records from 1995 to 2019
Moorhen, <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	BAmb, RLGB.VU	90	4 records in 1997

Species	Relevant Legislation	Distance from Site at Closest Point (m)	Description of Record(s) (as provided by WSBRC)
Osprey, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	BAmb, BD1, RLGB.Lr(NT), WCA1i	959	1 record in 2020
Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	BAmb	1199	1 record in 2020
Peregrine, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	BD1, WCA1i	1199	1 record in 2021
Red Kite, <i>Milvus milvus</i>	BD1, RLGLB.NT, WCA1i	0	6 records from 1992 to 2023
Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	BAmb	455	1 record in 2002 and 1 record in 2019
Redwing, <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	BAmb, RLGB.CR, WCA1i	679	2 records in 1995
Reed Bunting, <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	BAmb, Sect.41, UKBAP	225	1 record in 2010
Ring Ouzel, <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	BRed, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	678	1 record in 2008
Rook, <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	BAmb, RLGB.Lr(NT)	592	2 records in 1995 and 1 in 2019
Short-eared Owl, <i>Asio flammeus</i>	BAmb, BD1, RLGB.EN	679	2 records in 1993
Skylark, <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	BRed, Sect.41	455	2 records in 1995 and 1 record in 2019
Snipe, <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	BAmb, RLGB.Lr(NT)	424	1 record in 2008
Song Thrush, <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	BAmb	188	3 records between 1991 and 2019
Sparrowhawk, <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	BAmb, RLGB.Lr(NT)	21	4 records between 1990 and 2024
Spotted Flycatcher, <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP	225	3 records between 1990 and 2024
Starling, <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	BRed, RLGB.VU	128	7 records between 1995 and 2021

Species	Relevant Legislation	Distance from Site at Closest Point (m)	Description of Record(s) (as provided by WSBRC)
Stock Dove, <i>Columba oenas</i>	BAmb	32	1 record in 2018
Stone-curlew, <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	BAmb, BD1, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA1i	444	1 record in 2010
Swift, <i>Apus apus</i>	BRed, RLGB.EN	0	8 records between 1990 and 2021
Tawny Owl, <i>Strix aluco</i>	BAmb, RLGB.Lr(NT)	679	2 records in 1995
Tree Pipit, <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP	679	2 records in 1995
Turtle Dove, <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	BRed, RLGB.CR, Sect.41, UKBAP	1199	1 record in 2020
Wheatear, <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	BAmb	679	1 records in 1990 and one record in 2008
Whinchat, <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	BRed, RLGB.Lr(NT)	769	1 record in 2002
Whitethroat, <i>Curruca communis</i>	BAmb	455	3 records between 1990 to 2019
Whooper Swan, <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	BAmb, BD1, RLGB.EN, WCA1i	959	1 record in 2021
Willow Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	BAmb	455	2 records between 1995 and 1 from 2019
Woodpigeon, <i>Columba palumbus</i>	BAmb	156	9 records between 1995 and 2022
Wren, <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	BAmb	592	5 records between 1995 to 2024
Yellowhammer, <i>Emberiza citronella</i>	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP	71	9 records between 1995 to 2022
Invertebrates			
Adonis Blue, <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	32	1 record in 1991 and 1 record in 1992

Species	Relevant Legislation	Distance from Site at Closest Point (m)	Description of Record(s) (as provided by WSBRC)
Black Oil-beetle, <i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	645	1 record in 2018
Brown Hairstreak, <i>Thecla betulae</i>	RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	427	1 record in 2014
Chalk Hill Blue, <i>Polyommatus coridon</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	267	6 records between 1990 and 2012
Cinnabar, <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	217	4 records between 2018 and 2024
Common Darter, <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	RLGB.DD	668	1 record in 2012 and 1 record in 2024
Dingy Skipper, <i>Erynnis tages</i>	RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	346	1 record in 1990 and 1 record in 2006
Forester, <i>Adscita statice</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	679	2 records in 1994
Grizzled Skipper, <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	142	9 records from 1997 to 2022
Hornet Robberyfly, <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	267	5 records from 1996 to 2022
Jersey Tiger, <i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	HSD2p	684	1 record in 2023
Marsh Fritillary, <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	HSD2p, RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/l, WCA5/9.1t, WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4.a, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c	32	3 records from 1990 to 1997
Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth, <i>Hemaris tityus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	267	1 record in 1994 and 1 record in 2008
Red-shanked Carder Bee, <i>Bombus rupestris</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	769	1 record in 1994
Red-tailed (Hill) Cuckoo Bee, <i>Bombus rupestris</i>	Nb	769	1 record in 2006
Red-tailed Mason Bee, <i>Osmia bicolor</i>	Nb	769	1 record in 2006

Species	Relevant Legislation	Distance from Site at Closest Point (m)	Description of Record(s) (as provided by WSBRC)
Rugged Oil-beetle, <i>Meloe rugosus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	679	1 record in 2021
Silver-spotted Skipper, <i>Hesperia comma</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	32	1 record in 1990 and 1 record in 1996
Silver-studded Blue, <i>Plebejus argus</i>	RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	959	1 record in 2013
Small Blue, <i>Cupido minimus</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP	267	3 records between 1990 and 2007
Small Heath, <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP	142	4 records between 2012 and 2023
Wall Brown, <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP	679	2 records in 1991
Plants			
Alexanders, <i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	County	1199	1 record in 1995
Box, <i>Thesium humifusum</i>	NR- excludes, RLGB.DD	1093	1 record in 2006 and 1 record in 2011
Bastard-toadflax, <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	NS-excludes	679	1 record in 2018
Buck's-horn Plantain, <i>Plantago coronopus</i>	County	0	1 record in 2011 and 1 record in 2018
Burnt Orchid, <i>Neotinea ustulata</i>	NS- excludes, RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP	769	1 record in 1994
Common Eyebright, <i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	203	1 record in 2018
Corn Parsley, <i>Petroselinum segetum</i>	County	597	1 record in 2018
Cotton Thistle, <i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	County	179	1 record in 1990
Deadly Nightshade, <i>Atropa belladonna</i>	County	679	1 record in 1991
Dense-flowered Fumitory, <i>Fumaria densiflora</i>	County	85	1 record in 1994 and 1 record in 2013

Species	Relevant Legislation	Distance from Site at Closest Point (m)	Description of Record(s) (as provided by WSBRC)
Dwarf Sedge, <i>Carex humilis</i>	NS-excludes	679	1 record in 2011
Dwarf Spurge, <i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	RLGB.VU	85	1 record in 2013 and 1 record in 2023
Fat Duckweed, <i>Lemna gibba</i>	County	81	1 record in 2018
Fennel, <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	County	681	1 record in 2011
Field Fleawort, <i>Tephrosia integrifolia</i>	NS-excludes	679	1 record in 2006
Fly Honeysuckle, <i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	NR-excludes	1094	1 record in 2018
Frog Orchid, <i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	326	1 record in 1993 and 1 record in 2012
Greater Butterfly-orchid, <i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	326	1 record in 1996
Green-winged Orchid, <i>Anacamptis morio</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	326	7 records between 1996 and 2019
Hare's-foot Clover, <i>Trifolium arvense</i>	County	777	1 record in 2018
Hound's-tongue, <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT)	201	4 records between 1990 and 2011
Meadow Brome, <i>Bromus commutatus</i>	County	1094	1 record in 2018
Sainfoin, <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	RLGB.VU	228	1 record in 2005
Small-flowered Sweet-briar, <i>Rosa micrantha</i>	County	656	1 record in 2011
Mammals			
Badger, <i>Meles meles</i>	PBA	391	3 records between 2013 to 2022
Brown Hare, <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Sect.41, UKBAP	0	10 records between 2013 and 2023
Harvest Mouse, <i>Micromys minutus</i>	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP	225	1 record in 1996 and 1 record in 2018

Species	Relevant Legislation	Distance from Site at Closest Point (m)	Description of Record(s) (as provided by WSBRC)
Hedgehog, <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP	158	9 records between 2013 and 2022
Otter, <i>Lutra lutra</i>	HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c	95	10 records between 1997 and 2020
Polecat, <i>Mustela putorius</i>	HabRegs4, HSD5, Sect.41, UKBAP	776	1 record in 2020
Water Shrew, <i>Neomys fodiens</i>	County	0	3 records between 2005 and 2018
Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4.a, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c	454	11 records between 2017 and 2020

APPENDIX C: SURVEY PERSONNEL

Surveyor Details				
Initials	Name and position	Qualifications and Memberships	Class Licences	Years' Experience
PJP	Paul Perrins Associate Ecologist	BSc (Hons), MSc RCA	Dormouse	10
EH	Ebony Hayes Ecologist	BSc (Hons), MSc	-	2
AB	Alice Brown Assistant Ecologist	BSC (Hons)	-	0.5
TH	Tom Holland Assistant Ecologist	BSc (Hons)	-	2

Survey Details		
Survey	Date(s)	Surveyors
Habitats	23 July 2025	PJP
Bats - Transects	19 May, 24 June, 28 July, 18 August, 24 September, 15 October 2025	AB, EH, TH

APPENDIX D: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS – 23.08.25



Photo 1: View across part of the arable land containing cereal crops



Photo 2: View along a section of woodland bordering the Site.



Photo 3: Bramble / nettle scrub along the south-western boundary



Photo 4: Hedgerow H2 within the centre of the Site



Photo 5: Hedgerow area along H6 / H7 bordering a neighbouring property



Photo 6: Hedgerow H8 along the southern boundary

APPENDIX E - BOTANICAL SPECIES LIST**Arable Fields**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Barley

Arable Field Margins

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oatgrass
<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Betony
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St. John's-wort
<i>Kickxia elatine</i>	Sharp-leaved Fluellen
<i>Kickxia spuria</i>	Round-leaved Fluellen
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple weed
<i>Papaver agg.</i>	Poppy
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Common Knotgrass
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Fleabane
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle

Bramble scrub

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False oatgrass
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle

Woodlands (W1-3)**W1 – South-eastern woodland belt**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oatgrass
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Willow spp.
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle

W2 – north-western broadleaved planted wood

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Rosa</i> spp.	Rose spp.
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle

W3 – southern woodland strip

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn

<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Aven
<i>Quercus sp.</i>	Oak sp.
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree

Hedgerows (H1-8)**H1**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Buddleia
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field Rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Willow spp.
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree

H2a

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>	Cotoneaster
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Ligustrum agg.</i>	Privet spp.
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	Garden Privet
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree

H2b

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Ligustrum agg.</i>	Privet spp.
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	Garden Privet
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Willow spp.
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree

H3

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>	Cotoneaster spp.
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Aspen
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree

H4

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder

H5

Scientific Name	Common Name
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<i>Malus spp.</i>	Apple spp.
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew

H6

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Aspen
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder

H7

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Cupressus leylandii</i>	Leyland Cypress

H8

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer platanoides drummondii</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
<i>Buddleija davidii</i>	Buddleia
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Cupressus leylandii</i>	Leyland Cypress
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut
<i>Prunus spp.</i>	Prunus spp.
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Willow Spp.
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan

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APPENDIX F: BAT SURVEY REPORT

Client

Hallam Land Limited

Project

**Church Road,
Laverstock**

Date

March 2026

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Figure F-5b: Bat Flight Line Survey Results Plan

Figure F-5c: Bat Transect Survey Results Plan

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Wildlife Legislation

Appendix B: Protected and Notable Species List

Appendix C: Survey Personnel

Appendix D: Site Photographs

Appendix F1: Static Detector Data May, August, September, October 2025

Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Final	SB / LG / 02.03.2026	AU / 11.03.2026

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Bat Survey Report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of Hallam Land to support a planning application for the development of residential housing on land at Church Road, Laverstock, Salisbury (Central OS Grid Ref: SU 16413167) herein referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.2 This report should be read in conjunction with the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclIA, FPCR, 2026) for the Site. Surveys to inform this assessment comprised a desktop study, bat activity transects, and automated static bat detector surveys.

Site Location and Context

- 1.3 The Site spans an area of approximately 8.09ha and is located on the northeastern side of Salisbury, east of Laverstock village. The Site is bordered to the west by Church Road and existing residential dwellings. The north of the Site is bounded by arable land and a small woodland strip along the south, leading on to an area of grassland, half of which is associated with a boundary to a light industrial unit. To the east of the Site, an area of land under intensive arable tenure separates the Site from the Cockey Down Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 1.4 The majority of the Site is used for arable crop production and consists of two land parcels which have been in consistent use since initial surveys by FPCR in 2014. Hedgerows form full to partial field boundaries across the Site, which range from non-native ornamental to native species rich. Two small woodland belts are located along the southern and north-eastern boundaries, with two patches of scrub either side of the southern field access.

Site Proposals

- 1.5 The proposals include a residential development of up to 110 dwellings with improved access into the Site from Church Road. The Site has Green Infrastructure (GI) provisions including retention of existing hedgerows and trees, proposed amenity landscaping and a proposed SANGs area to the north, a children's play area and drainage basin in the southwest of the Site and improved pedestrian access from the Site to link into the Cockey Downs SSSI to the east.

2.0 LEGISLATION

- 2.1 Before any proposals take place, measures must be taken to ensure that the legislation concerning bats is not breached as a result of works. Bats are afforded full protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)¹ and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (EU Exit) (as amended)².
- 2.2 Under Regulation 43 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (EU Exit) (as amended) it is illegal to:
- Deliberately capture, injure, or kill any wild animal of a European Protected Species (EPS),
 - Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS (affecting ability to survive, breed or rear young) – disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young,
 - Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS (impairing ability to migrate or hibernate) – disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability in the case of hibernating or migratory species to hibernate or migrate,
 - Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS (affecting local distribution and abundance) – disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong,
 - Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS (whilst occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection) – intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection,
 - Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a wild animal and EPS.
- 2.3 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is illegal to:
- Recklessly or intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild animals included in Schedule 5.
 - Recklessly or intentionally damage or destroy, or obstruct access to any structure or place which any wild animal included in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection,
 - Recklessly or intentionally disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection.
- 2.4 If impacts to bats or their roosts cannot be avoided a European Protected Species Licence from Natural England is required in order to allow proposals to derogate from the Legislation (Licences cannot be obtained to provide protection against offences under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)).

¹ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) [online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> [Accessed 6 July 2021].

² The Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) [online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made> [Accessed 6 July 2021].

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

- 3.1 In order to compile existing baseline information, relevant ecological information was requested from both statutory and non-statutory nature conservation organisations including:
- Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC)
 - Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (www.magic.defra.gov.uk); and
- 3.2 Further inspection of colour 1:25,000 OS base maps (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk) and aerial photographs from Google Earth (www.maps.google.co.uk) was also undertaken in order to provide additional context and identify any features of potential importance for nature conservation in the wider countryside.
- 3.3 The search area for biodiversity information was related to the significance of sites and species and potential zones of influence, as follows:
- 15km around the application area for sites of International Importance (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites).
 - 2km around the application area for sites of National or Regional Importance (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and species records (e.g. protected, Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) or notable species).
 - 1km around the application Site for sites of County Importance (e.g. Biological Heritage Sites Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)).

Field Surveys

Building Roost Surveys

- 3.4 There were no buildings or structures present within the Site boundary.

Tree Roost Assessment

- 3.5 Whilst each individual tree within the woodland boundaries were not assessed for bat roosting potential, the trees along the Site boundary edge of the three woodland areas consist mainly of Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* which forms a dense, closely spaced line of trees. The woodland edge has been subject to regular cutting back associated with adjacent arable field management, resulting in a uniform structure with limited development of mature features such as cavities, splits, rot holes or lifted bark that could support roosting bats. On this basis, the trees were assessed as having negligible potential to support bat roosts and no further bat roost surveys were considered necessary at this time.

Site Assessment

- 3.6 An assessment was undertaken to identify the suitability of the Site for foraging and commuting bats. This was informed by the results of the initial preliminary protected species survey, and subsequent UKHabs survey, and also from information gathered in the desk study, to ensure that potential effects are considered in the context of the onsite habitats within the wider area.

- 3.7 The Site was categorised for its habitat suitability for bats, to inform the necessary survey effort (*Table 1*) using guidance from 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines' (Bat Conservation Trust, 4th Edition, 2023).
- 3.8 *Table 4.1* of the BCT guidelines provides an outline for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape. This should be applied using professional judgement. This groups a site into five categories based on habitat suitability for foraging and commuting bats which has been summarised in *Table 1* below.

Table 1: Criteria for Assessing Habitat Suitability for Commuting and Foraging Bats - Based on table 4.1 (Collins, 2023)

Suitability	Potential flight paths & foraging habitat	Proposed further survey requirements
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).	No Further surveys required.
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on Site likely to be used as flightpaths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.	No Further surveys required.
Low	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flightpaths 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.	Automated static detector monitoring and nighttime bat walkover surveys (flight path and transect) on a seasonal* basis.
Moderate	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flightpaths 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.	Automated static detector monitoring on a <u>monthly</u> basis and nighttime bat walkover surveys (flight path and transect) on a seasonal basis.
High	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flightpaths, 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.	Automated static detector monitoring on a <u>monthly</u> basis and nighttime bat walkover surveys (flight path and transect) on a seasonal basis.

**Seasonal surveys should be increased to monthly where Annex II species are expected/ detected or if significant commuting routes are identified.*

Static Monitoring

- 3.9 Static (passive) monitoring was undertaken on a seasonal basis, in accordance with the low suitability of the Site, as assessed under BCT guidance.

- 3.10 Monitoring was undertaken using an automated logging system (Wildlife Acoustics Inc. Song Meter® SM4BAT FS bat detectors with SMM-U2 microphones). During the survey period three static recording devices were positioned within the Site, and wider surveyed area, to record bat registrations for at least five consecutive nights per season (spring, summer, and autumn).
- 3.11 The number of static detectors to be used and the location of their deployment was determined so that a representative sample of all habitats within the Site could be monitored. The locations were subjectively predetermined using professional judgment to be positioned at least 15m away from any known or likely roosts and also in consideration of likely impacts. In order to provide rigorous analysis, static detectors were placed in the same location during each survey, and these are shown on *Figure F5a*.
- 3.12 The devices were deployed for 5 consecutive nights during suitable weather conditions, typical for the season/ month of deployment, and were programmed to activate 30 minutes before sunset and record continuously until 30 minutes following sunrise.
- 3.13 Static detectors were deployed during the following periods in 2025;
- 16th – 21st May,
 - 24th – 29th June,
 - 28th July – 2nd August,
 - 18th – 23rd August,
 - 24th – 29th September,
 - 15th – 20th October.
- 3.14 The data was analysed as soon as possible after retrieval of the static units using the SonoBat software package to assess the amount of bat activity on Site by recording the number of bat registrations. Measurements including peak frequency, inter-pulse interval, call duration and end frequency were taken to aid in verification of species identification. This analysis was completed by a suitably experienced ecologist (analysts are audited internally for quality control purposes and to maintain consistent results).

Nighttime Bat Walkover (Flightpath / Transect Surveys)

- 3.15 All walkover surveys were carried out by two surveyors per survey.
- 3.16 In line with current guidance (Collins, 2023) night-time bat walkovers were undertaken in two parts. The first part of the survey involved each surveyor positioned stationary in different locations on Site at habitat features most likely to be utilised as flightpaths by commuting bats. These are known as Point Count A and Point Count B and are demonstrated on *Figure 5b*. Once conditions become too dark to see, or once commuting activity has been observed and has largely ended (approximately 1 hour after sunset) both surveyors begin to walk a pre-determined transect route sampling all areas and habitats within the Site and noting any bat activity that is heard or observed along the way (*Table 2*). Whilst this includes two elements it is one survey designed to record information to provide further context to elements that static detectors cannot always identify, such as bat behaviour, or abundance of bats.
- 3.17 The flightpath surveys started at around sunset and lasted for between 30 minutes and one hour after sunset. After this, the transect survey was conducted and continued until two to three hours after sunset, dependant on whether Horseshoe bats were recorded (*Table 2*). The route followed during each transect was repeated on each survey occasion, however the

starting point was varied throughout the season. *Figure 5c* shows the route of the transect and the start/ end points of each survey.

- 3.18 Surveyors were equipped with Wildlife Acoustics Inc. Echo Meter Touch® bat detectors in conjunction with the Echo Meter Touch® app and Samsung Galaxy Tab Active 3® during the transect surveys to detect bats and aid species identification. Any bat activity observed during the survey was also recorded.
- 3.19 All surveys were carried out in what was considered to be suitable weather conditions for bat activity to be effectively recorded to provide an accurate representation of bat utilisation of the Site (*Table 3*).

Table 2: Summary of Night-time Bat Walkover Timings

Survey date	Sunset time	Start time of flightlines survey	Start time of transect survey	End time of transect survey
19/05/25	20:56	20:56	21:59	23:54
24/06/25	21:26	21:26	22:26	00:26
28/07/25	20:59	20:59	22:00	00:00
18/08/25	20:22	20:22	21:22	23:22
24/09/25	19:00	19:00	20:02	21:50
15/10/25	18:14	18:14	19:14	21:14

Table 3: Nighttime Bat Walkover Conditions

Survey date	Starting temp	Wind Beaufort scale	Rain	Cloud cover (%)
19/05/25	14°C	0-1	Dry	15%
24/06/25	18°C	0-1	Dry	40%
28/07/25	17°C	2-3	Dry	5%
18/08/25	19°C	0-1	Dry	90%
24/09/25	12°C	1-2	Dry	25%
15/10/25	11°C	0-1	Dry	100%

- 3.20 The data from the Nighttime Bat Walkover surveys was analysed as soon as possible after the surveys using the Kaleidoscope Viewer© (Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.) software package to assess the amount of bat activity on Site by recording the number of bat registrations. Measurements including peak frequency, inter-pulse interval, call duration and end frequency were taken to aid in species identification. This analysis was completed by a suitably experienced ecologist (Analysts are audited internally for quality control purposes and to maintain consistent results).

Limitations

- 3.21 Due to the overlapping properties of bat echolocation calls from *Myotis* and *Nyctalus* species, it is not always possible to identify a series of echolocation calls from bats included in these genera to species level. In the majority of cases, identification to genus level was possible, which is considered a suitable taxonomic level to allow potential affects to be assessed and appropriate mitigation designed.

- 3.22 The static detector units do not discern between individual bats, or a single bat passing the microphone several times, and therefore the data recorded can only provide an indication of bat activity as bat registrations per unit time.

4.0 RESULTS

Field Surveys

Habitat Assessment

- 4.1 The Site consists mainly of open farmland fields of rotational crops bound by hedgerows, with areas of woodland at the south-east and north-western boundaries and these outlined areas provide suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats across the Site. The Site is connected to the wider landscape and provides opportunities for passing bats to access the Site. A large woodland plantation block made up of many individual copses lies 2km to the south-east and 370m west lies the River Bourne. These habitats provide good connectivity across the wider landscape to the Site from the north and south and provides connectivity to these associated areas of dense scrub, riparian wetland and low-lying deciduous woodland for bat species.
- 4.2 The trees within the woodlands and trees within the hedgerows provide negligible potential roosting opportunities for bats on Site.
- 4.3 As the Site contains habitat suitable for commuting and foraging bats and is well connected to the wider landscape, the Site was assessed as of moderate suitability for bats and is considered to be of Local importance.

Nighttime Bat Walkover Surveys

- 4.4 *Table 4* provides a summary of all point count (PC) survey results and *table 5* lists all walkover survey results, following the point counts. Soprano pipistrelle and common pipistrelle were the most frequently recorded species with foraging behaviour demonstrated by both and serotine along the southern hedgerow and woodland edge, with higher numbers recorded within the earlier months. Other species recorded commuting only include long eared species, myotis species and noctule. The majority of activity was associated with the eastern boundary along the hedgerow and woodland edge, the edge of the northwestern woodland pocket and the southern hedgerow leading to the woodland here. Elevated levels of activity were recorded during the earlier months, notably May, June and July before diminishing to individual numbers towards the end of the survey period.

Table 4: Bat Flightline Survey Summary of Results

Date	PC. 1 Summary	PC. 2 Summary
19/05/2025	Four Noctule, one Myotis and eight Soprano pipistrelle were recorded commuting across the edge of the north-western woodland edge. Soprano pipistrelle was recorded continuously passing and foraging here whilst other species commuted only. One Soprano pipistrelle was seen commuting south across the field.	Nine Noctule, three Serotine, four Common pipistrelle and four Soprano pipistrelle commuted along the southern boundary of the Site with the majority of passes coming from the east or north commuting south across the woodland. Nine passes were recorded along the field to pass along the hedgerow towards the woodland. One Barbastelle was recorded commuting but was only heard and not seen.
24/06/2025	Six <i>Nyctalus</i> sp., two Noctules, two Common pipistrelle, and one Soprano pipistrelle were recorded commuting around the surveyor location. All bats were heard but not seen.	Three Noctule, five Soprano pipistrelle, seven Common pipistrelle and four Serotine were recorded. One Serotine, one Common pipistrelle and one Soprano pipistrelle were recorded commuting east to west towards the woodland edge. All other bat species were recorded commuting but were not seen. One noctule was recorded foraging continuously throughout the survey. One Serotine was recorded commuting east to west before turning back west over the field.
28/07/2025	One Noctule, two Soprano pipistrelle and eight Common pipistrelle were recorded passing the point, all heard and not seen. Serotine were recorded foraging here making several passes during the survey. Two Serotine bats were recorded commuting, one along the treeline and one headed south-east across the field.	Two <i>Nyctalus</i> species, two Noctule, five Common pipistrelle and three Soprano pipistrelle were recorded passing the point count during the survey. The majority of all calls were not seen and passed the surveyor only. One Common pipistrelle was seen commuting along the southern hedge.
18/08/2025	Four Common pipistrelle, two Soprano pipistrelle and one Serotine were recorded. No bats were seen and calls were recorded passing only with no foraging behaviour.	Three Common pipistrelle, two Soprano pipistrelle, seven passes from a <i>Nyctalus</i> sp. and one Myotis passes were recorded. Two <i>Nyctalus</i> sp. bats passed, one east and one west past the surveyor, foraging along the hedgerow on the southern boundary.
24/09/2025	Four Common pipistrelle and two Soprano pipistrelle were recorded passing the point count. None of these were foraging passes.	Five Common pipistrelle, two Soprano pipistrelle, two <i>Nyctalus</i> sp. passes and one Long-eared bat pass were recorded with one Common pipistrelle passing west to east along the woodland edge.

Date	PC. 1 Summary	PC. 2 Summary
15/10/2025	Seven Soprano pipistrelle and two Common pipistrelle passes were recorded although no bats were seen. All recordings come from commuting bats.	Two Noctule and one Common pipistrelle passes were recorded along the edge of the woodland. No foraging behaviour was recorded.

Table 5: Nighttime Walkover Survey Summary

Date	Bat Species Recorded	Summary
19/05/2025	3 Common pipistrelle 13 Soprano pipistrelle 1 Nyctalus sp. 1 Barbastelle	Bat activity was consistent throughout the survey and demonstrated a clear line through the Site along the edge of the north-western woodland along the central hedgerow and down past the south-western hedgerow. The predominant recordings were of foraging and commuting Soprano pipistrelle, with consistent Common pipistrelle activity and occasional activity from other species including Nyctalus sp. and Barbastelle .
24/06/2025	5 Common pipistrelle 10 Soprano pipistrelle 1 Noctule 7 Serotine 3 Myotis 1 Leisler's 1 Nyctalus sp. 1 Nyctalus / Eptesicus sp.	Bat activity was consistent throughout the survey and was concentrated along the eastern boundary, notably in the southern field, along the southern boundary adjacent to the woodland edge here, and the centre of the site connecting the two fields. The majority of bats were not seen however; several were recorded foraging along the southern edge, and these mostly consisted of passing Noctule and Serotine.
28/07/2025	12 Common pipistrelle 7 Soprano pipistrelle 2 Noctule 1 Serotine 1 Myotis sp.	Bat activity was relatively low during this survey across the Site and was concentrated along the western boundary of the north field with some activity recorded along the south-eastern corner of the south field. Activity recorded was mainly from Common pipistrelle with some Soprano pipistrelle and low numbers of other species passing over.
18/08/2025	2 Noctule 1 Nyctalus / Eptesicus sp.	Activity was very low across the survey and Site and consisted of only three contacts from two species. These were all within the lower southern part of the Site along the woodland edge to the east. No foraging activity was recorded.
24/09/2025	4 Soprano pipistrelle 2 Myotis	Bat activity was low throughout the survey and included calls from two species of bat along the western edge of both fields. These were low numbers of calls, and no foraging activity was recorded demonstrating commuting bats only.
15/10/2025	5 Common pipistrelle 5 Soprano pipistrelle 5 Myotis	Low levels of bat activity were recorded with a total of fifteen calls from three bat species. These were all towards the north-western corner of the Site and the centre of the Site where the two fields connect. All calls were from passing bats and no foraging activity was recorded.

Static Monitoring

- 4.5 During the automated detector surveys, a total of 14,069 registrations were recorded by 18 automated detectors during the survey period. Common pipistrelle (PIPPIP) was the most frequently recorded species (accounting for approximately 41.78% of the total data) with further species recorded in lower numbers:
- Soprano pipistrelle (PIPPYG) – 37.49%
 - *Myotis sp.* (MYOSPP) – 8.29%
 - Serotine (EPTSER) – 5.07%
 - Noctule (NYCNOC) – 2.69%
 - **Barbastelle (BARBAR) – 2.16%**
 - *Nyctalus sp.* (NYCSPP) – 1.52%
 - Long Eared sp. (PLESPP) – 0.47%
 - Nathusius' Pipistrelle (PINAT) – 0.32%
 - *Pipistrelle sp.* (PIPSPP) – 0.11%
 - Leisler's (NYCLEI) – 0.10%
- 4.6 The linear woodland and hedgerows provided the most suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats, with the highest number of registrations being recorded on statics deployed along the north-west woodland strip along Church Road. Overall, the species assemblage was dominated by common and widespread species with common pipistrelle displaying to highest number of overall recorded calls by species, followed by soprano pipistrelle. Common and soprano pipistrelle are widespread and adaptable, and as such their abundance on Site is not unexpected. The month of May held the highest number of bat registrations with 2569 recorded along the north-western woodland edge, followed by June with 2047 calls recorded. October held the least number of calls from a detector deployed along the south-eastern linear woodland, with only 81 registrations recorded. This static location consistently demonstrated the lowest number of registrations overall.
- 4.7 One annex II species, barbastelle, was recorded in low numbers on every static deployed on Site during the survey period. The highest number of calls, peaking at 84, was recorded in September, located along the southern hedgerow. Very low levels of activity were recorded at other detector locations, with only single registrations recorded during the May and October deployments along the north-western woodland edge. Similarly, detectors located within the south-eastern linear woodland recorded only minimal barbastelle activity.

Table 6: Static Detector Results Summary

Dates	Unit Ref.	Total Registrations	Species & Registration Count	Activity summary
16 th – 21 st May 2025	32	514	PIPPIP – 241 PIPSPP – 3 PLESPP – 8 NYCNOC – 57 NYCSPP – 18 MYOSPP – 21 EPTSER – 72 PIPNAT – 1 PIPPYG – 71 BARBAR – 22	A total of ten species / species groups were recorded across the three detectors over five nights. Soprano pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species on all statics, ranging from 71 registrations on unit 32, to 1848 registrations on unit 34. The annex II species Barbastelle was recorded across all statics. Ranging from just 1 registration on static 34, to 16 on static 33. Unit 34 recorded the highest level of bat activity (2569 registrations), which was deployed along the north-west woodland edge.
	33	493	PIPPIP – 234 MYOSPP – 17 NYCNOC – 44 PIPPYG – 128 NYCSPP – 18 BARBAR – 16 EPTSER – 33 PIPNAT – 3	Long-eared bat species were present on unit 32 in low numbers (8). Myotis bat species were recorded across all units in low numbers (16 – 21). The rest of the species assemblage was composed of common, widespread species in low numbers across all the units.
	34	2569	PIPPIP – 636 MYOSPP – 16 NYCNOC – 44 PIPPYG – 1848 NYCSPP – 14 PIPNAT – 8 EPTSER – 2 BARBAR – 1	
24 th – 29 th June 2025	3	1216	PIPPIP – 730 EPTSER – 137 MYOSPP – 35 NYCLEI – 9 BARBAR – 9 PLESPP – 3 PIPNAT – 4 NYCNOC – 38 PIPPYG – 199 NYCSPP – 52	A total of eleven species / species groups were recorded across the three detectors across five nights. Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species on all units, ranging from 194 registrations on unit 4, to 730 registrations on unit 5. Soprano pipistrelle was also recorded in high numbers, with 1024 registrations recorded on unit 5. The annex II species Barbastelle was recorded across all statics. Ranging from 2 registrations on static 5, to 9 on static 3. Unit 5 recorded the highest level of bat activity (2047 registrations), which was deployed along the north-west woodland edge.
	4	634	PIPPIP – 194 EPTSER – 132 MYOSPP – 48 NYCNOC – 42 PIPPYG – 180 NYCSPP – 25 BARBAR – 6 PLESPP – 3 PIPNAT – 4	Long-eared bat species were present across all units in very low numbers. Myotis bat species were recorded across all units in low numbers (35 – 169). The rest of the species assemblage was composed of common, widespread species in low numbers across all the units.
	5	2047	PIPPIP – 693	

Dates	Unit Ref.	Total Registrations	Species & Registration Count	Activity summary
			MYOSPP – 169 EPTSER – 51 NYCNOC – 36 PIPPYG – 1024 NYCSPP – 44 PIPSPP – 13 PLESPP – 5 PIPNAT – 9 BARBAR – 2 NYCLEI – 1	
28 th July – 2 nd August 2025	3	955	PIPPIP – 606 EPTSER – 90 MYOSPP – 28 NYCNOC – 25 BARBAR – 18 PIPPYG – 167 NYCSPP – 5 PLESPP – 5 PIPNAT – 11	A total of ten species / species groups were recorded across the three detectors across five nights. Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species on all units, ranging from 256 registrations on unit 11, to 606 registrations on unit 3. The annex II species Barbastelle was recorded across all statics. Ranging from 17 registrations on unit 12, to 47 on unit 11. Unit 3 recorded the highest level of bat activity (955 registrations), which was deployed along the north-west woodland edge. Long-eared bat species were present across all units in very low numbers. Myotis bat species were recorded across all units in low numbers (2 – 28). The rest of the species assemblage was composed of common, widespread species in low numbers across all the units.
	11	636	PIPPIP – 256 EPTSER – 146 MYOSPP – 15 PLESPP – 10 NYCLEI – 1 NYCNOC – 57 BARBAR – 47 PIPPYG – 87 NYCSPP – 17	
	12	399	PIPPIP – 266 MYOSPP – 2 EPTSER – 26 BARBAR – 17 NYCNOC – 15 PIPPYG – 53 NYCSPP – 12 NYCLEI – 3 PLESPP – 3 PIPNAT – 2	
18 th – 23 rd August 2025	10	158	PIPPIP – 49 EPTSER – 31 BARBAR – 10 PLESPP – 7 MYOSPP – 7 NYCSPP – 6 NYCNOC – 3 PIPPYG – 45	A total of nine species / species groups were recorded across the three detectors across five nights. Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species on all units, ranging from 49 registrations on unit 10, to 280 registrations on unit 11. The annex II species Barbastelle was recorded across all statics. Ranging from 7 registrations on unit 11, to 11 on unit 12. Unit 11 recorded the highest level of bat activity (355 registrations), which was deployed along the north-west woodland edge.
	11	355	PIPPIP – 280 MYOSPP – 2	

Dates	Unit Ref.	Total Registrations	Species & Registration Count	Activity summary
			NYCNO - 4 NYCSP - 2 EPTSE - 8 BARBAR - 7 PIPPYG - 48 PIPNAT - 3 PLESPP - 1	Long-eared bat species were present across all units in very low numbers. Myotis bat species were recorded across all units in low numbers (1 – 7). The rest of the species assemblage was composed of common, widespread species in low numbers across all the units.
	12	186	PIPPIP - 103 MYOSPP - 1 NYCNO - 9 PLESPP - 5 NYCSP - 2 PIPPYG - 43 EPTSE - 12 BARBAR - 11	
24 th – 29 th September 2025	1	1789	PIPPIP - 290 MYOSPP - 600 NYCSP - 3 PIPPYG - 891 NYCNO - 2 BARBAR - 2 PLEAUR - 1	A total of nine species / species groups were recorded across the three detectors across five nights. Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species on all units, ranging from 27 registrations on unit 3, to 476 registrations on unit 2. The annex II species Barbastelle was recorded across all statics. Ranging from 2 registrations on unit 1, to 84 on unit 2. Highest registrations were recorded along the southern woodland edge. Unit 1 recorded the highest level of bat activity (1789 registrations), which was deployed along the north-west woodland edge. Long-eared bat species were present across all units in very low numbers (1-9). Myotis bat species were recorded across all units, ranging from 13 registrations on unit 3, to 600 registrations on unit 1. The rest of the species assemblage was composed of common, widespread species in low numbers across all the units.
	2	689	PIPPIP - 476 MYOSPP - 24 PIPPYG - 89 BARBAR - 84 PLESPP - 9 NYCNO - 5 EPTSE - 1 PIPNAT - 1	
	3	91	PIPPIP - 27 PIPPYG - 21 BARBAR - 16 MYOSPP - 13 NYCNO - 4 PLESPP - 4 NYCSP - 3 EPTSE - 2 PIPNAT - 1	
15 th – 20 th October 2025	1	1176	PIPPIP - 422 MYOSPP - 197 BARBAR - 1 PIPPYG - 550 NYCNO - 2 PLESPP - 2 NYCSP - 1 EPTSE - 1	A total of eight species / species groups were recorded across the three detectors across five nights. Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species on all units, ranging from 42 registrations on unit 3, to 597 registrations on unit 2. The annex II species Barbastelle was recorded across all statics. Ranging from 1 registration on unit 1, to 44 on

Dates	Unit Ref.	Total Registrations	Species & Registration Count	Activity summary
	2	714	PIPPIP - 597 MYOSPP - 11 PIPPYG - 55 BARBAR - 44 PLESPP - 2 NYCLEI - 1 NYCNOG - 3 EPTSER - 1	unit 2. Highest registrations were recorded along the southern woodland edge. Unit 1 recorded the highest level of bat activity (1789 registrations), which was deployed along the north-west woodland edge. Long-eared bat species were present across all units in very low numbers (1-2). Myotis bat species were recorded across all units, ranging from 11 registrations on unit 2, to 197 registrations on unit 1.
	3	81	PIPPIP - 42 PIPPYG - 13 MYOSPP - 13 NYCNOG - 5 BARBAR - 4 NYCSP - 2 EPTSER - 1 PLESPP - 1	The rest of the species assemblage was composed of common, widespread species in low numbers across all the units.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 During the static detector surveys, eleven species/species groups of bats were recorded in association with the Site, and adjacent, habitats. Common and soprano pipistrelle dominated the assemblage, accounting for approximately 79% of registrations. The majority of the assemblage comprised similarly common and widespread bat species, such as noctule and serotine bats.
- 5.2 One annex II species, **Barbastelle** was recorded. Barbastelles calls registered on all statics across the survey period, with 317 registrations recorded in total, accounting for 2.16% of all bat registrations here and 0.8% of walked transect recordings.
- 5.3 The highest levels of bat activity were recorded from statics located along the north-west woodland edge, with similar activity levels recorded along the southern woodland and hedgerow, with the highest levels of **Barbastelle** recorded here in September. The linear woodland to the south-east of the Site demonstrated the lowest levels of bat activity overall. Barbastelle are rare nationally and the activity levels detected align with what is typically found in edge-of-settlement farmland, bordered by hedgerows and woodland, particularly in the Wiltshire. Given this context, the levels of activity are not considered significant.
- 5.4 The Night-time bat walkover surveys recorded eight species of bat and bat activity was mostly consistent throughout the entire transect route. The highest registrations of bat contacts derived from soprano pipistrelle (41%) and common pipistrelle (34%). Activity was generally consistent across the Site, with elevated levels recorded along the north-west woodland edge and the southern woodland edge and hedgerow. **Barbastelle** was recorded once on the early May transect along the central hedgerow.
- 5.5 All hedgerows on Site are to be retained and enhanced where possible, with approximately 11 metres required to be removed for access over two hedgerows. It is unlikely that these areas will have a significant effect on bat commuting across the Site as the areas are small and enhancements will ensure foraging habitat is not lost. Enhancements will include planting of additional native deciduous trees and scrub species. The woodland edges will also be retained.

Wildflower grassland will be created at hedgerow and woodland margins to strengthen and buffer these habitats, maintaining their function as commuting and foraging corridors for bats. Provision of new SUD's basins, which will be unlit, will provide areas of unmanaged grassland.

- 5.6 The northern arable field parcel, which is currently utilised for crop production, will be converted to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) as part of the development.

Mitigation

- 5.7 The provision of SANGS in the north of the Site will provide a new created habitat over which bats can forage, and remain free of external lighting. This will provide new areas of wildflower grassland and native scrub, increasing opportunities for invertebrates, and in turn increasing the available foraging resource for bats.
- 5.8 A sensitive lighting strategy will be implemented across the development to minimise impacts on bats using the boundaries and woodland edges. This is particularly important for the Annex II species and brown long-eared recorded, as these are both known to be light sensitive species of bat. Best practice measures^{3,4} include:
- The avoidance of unnecessary lighting and direct lighting on boundary habitats,
 - Where lighting is required, minimising light spill with the use of directional lighting,
 - Restricting the height of light columns to reduce horizontal spill; and,
 - Installing low wattage LED security lighting on short, triggered timers on any buildings close to green infrastructure/retained habitat during construction to avoid future installation of unsuitable lighting for bats.

Enhancements

- 5.9 The development should seek to provide roosting opportunities for the local bat population by installing woodcrete bat boxes (Schwegler or similar design) onto existing mature trees located at the boundaries and woodland edges, as well as incorporating bat bricks into the built fabric of residential dwellings. Bat boxes and bricks should be arranged around the development close to green infrastructure and on different aspects, to encourage choice of a variety of alternative roost sites.

³ Institute of Lighting Professionals (2021) *Guidance Note 01/21 The Reduction of Obtrusive Light*. ILP, Warwickshire.

⁴ Institute of Lighting Professionals (2023) *Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting*. ILP, Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Appendix F1: Static Detector Data – May, June, July, August, September and October 2025

Species breakdown across all surveys			
ID Tag	Species	Count	Percentage
PIPIPIPI	Common Pipistrelle	13193	42.124%
PIPIPIYG	Soprano Pipistrelle	1483	37.294%
MYCISPP	Myotis Species	1715	8.264%
PIPISEH	Serotine	746	5.074%
NYCINDE	Noctule	385	2.687%
HARHAR	Harpistella	317	2.156%
NYCISPI	Nyctalus Species	224	1.524%
PIIFACIR	Brown Long-eared	17	0.456%
PIIPNAI	Nathusius' pipistrelle	25	0.170%
PIIPSPH	Pipistrelle Species	16	0.109%
NYCIEFI	Leisler's	15	0.102%
MYCIBAI	Daubenton's	4	0.027%
PIIFSPH	Long Eared Species	2	0.014%
Total		14702	

Sheet ref.	Recording Period	Unit No.	Start Date	End Date	Survey Hours	Total Av. per hour	Total Registrations
May1	May	02 - SCW	16/05/2025	21/05/2025	46:05:30	11.151	514
May2	May	03 - SH	16/05/2025	21/05/2025	46:05:36	10.696	493
May3	May	04 - NWW	16/05/2025	21/05/2025	46:05:24	55.739	2569
Jun1	June	0 - SH	21/06/2025	29/06/2025	42:24:15	28.676	1216
Jun2	June	1 - SCW	21/06/2025	29/06/2025	42:24:10	14.952	624
Jun3	June	5 - NWW	21/06/2025	29/06/2025	42:23:58	48.279	2017
Jul1	July	0 - NWW	28/07/2025	02/08/2025	48:09:31	19.830	955
Jul2	July	11 - SCW	28/07/2025	02/08/2025	48:09:40	12.206	606
Jul3	July	12 - SH	28/07/2025	02/08/2025	48:09:40	8.285	399
Aug1	August	10 - SCW	18/08/2025	23/08/2025	54:05:40	2.921	158
Aug2	August	11 - NWW	18/08/2025	23/08/2025	54:05:41	6.563	355
Aug3	August	12 - SH	18/08/2025	23/08/2025	54:05:34	2.439	186
Sep1	September	1 - NWW	21/09/2025	29/09/2025	65:47:04	27.195	1789
Sep2	September	2 - SH	21/09/2025	29/09/2025	65:47:03	10.474	689
Sep3	September	3 - SCW	21/09/2025	29/09/2025	65:47:03	1.383	91
Oct1	October	1 NWW	15/10/2025	20/10/2025	72:28:30	16.226	1176
Oct2	October	2 SH	15/10/2025	20/10/2025	72:28:25	9.852	714
Oct3	October	3 SCW	15/10/2025	20/10/2025	72:28:26	1.118	81
Totals:					987:01:16	14.895	14702

Sheet ref.	Common Pipistrelle			Soprano Pipistrelle			Myotis Species			
	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total
May1	241	164	5.229	71	89	1.540	21	10	0.456	72
May2	244	98	5.077	128	89	2.777	17	6	0.309	33
May3	636	198	18.799	1848	684	40.095	16	5	0.347	2
Jun1	733	197	17.286	198	89	4.669	35	10	0.825	137
Jun2	197	57	4.646	179	62	4.221	48	20	1.132	132
Jun3	718	175	16.934	1006	251	24.677	169	81	3.986	51
Jul1	620	185	12.387	160	44	3.422	28	13	0.581	90
Jul2	256	83	5.315	87	23	1.806	14	3	0.291	146
Jul3	267	100	5.544	53	18	1.100	1	1	0.021	26
Aug1	49	23	0.906	45	16	0.832	7	6	0.129	31
Aug2	282	138	5.213	48	24	0.887	2	1	0.037	8
Aug3	103	60	1.904	43	28	0.795	1	1	0.018	12
Sep1	291	171	4.424	890	394	13.529	598	201	9.090	0
Sep2	477	331	7.251	89	47	1.353	24	13	0.365	1
Sep3	27	14	0.410	21	7	0.319	13	7	0.198	2
Oct1	423	173	5.836	549	201	7.575	197	175	2.718	1
Oct2	597	512	8.237	55	42	0.759	11	5	0.152	1
Oct3	42	19	0.580	13	10	0.179	13	8	0.179	1
	5193	512	6.274	5483	684	5.555	1215	201	1.231	746

Sheet ref.	Serotine		Noctule			Barbastelle			Nyctalus Species		
	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour
May1	18	1.562	57	19	1.237	22	14	0.477	18	5	0.391
May2	27	0.716	44	12	0.935	16	8	0.347	18	6	0.391
May3	2	0.043	44	17	0.955	1	1	0.022	14	6	0.304
Jun1	44	3.231	38	11	0.896	9	4	0.212	52	21	1.226
Jun2	38	3.113	42	13	0.991	6	4	0.142	25	12	0.590
Jun3	20	1.203	36	23	0.849	2	1	0.047	44	30	1.038
Jul1	37	1.869	25	13	0.519	18	7	0.374	5	2	0.104
Jul2	46	3.031	57	25	1.184	47	15	0.976	17	8	0.353
Jul3	22	0.540	15	6	0.311	17	7	0.353	12	10	0.749
Aug1	26	0.573	3	1	0.065	10	6	0.185	6	5	0.111
Aug2	4	0.148	4	3	0.074	7	4	0.129	2	2	0.037
Aug3	11	0.222	9	5	0.166	11	5	0.203	2	1	0.037
Sep1	0	0.000	2	2	0.090	2	1	0.030	3	2	0.046
Sep2	1	0.015	5	3	0.076	84	21	1.277	0	0	0.000
Sep3	1	0.030	4	2	0.061	16	4	0.243	3	2	0.046
Oct1	1	0.014	2	2	0.028	1	1	0.014	1	1	0.014
Oct2	1	0.014	3	1	0.041	44	37	0.607	0	0	0.000
Oct3	1	0.014	5	2	0.069	4	1	0.025	2	2	0.028
	46	0.756	395	25	0.400	312	71	0.321	224	30	0.227

Sheet ref.	Brown Long-eared			Nathusius' pipistrelle			Pipistrelle Species			Leisler's	
	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count
May1	8	1	0.174	1	1	0.022	3	3	0.065	0	0
May2	0	0	0.000	3	2	0.065	0	0	0.000	0	0
May3	0	0	0.000	8	7	0.174	0	0	0.000	0	0
Jun1	3	1	0.071	2	1	0.047	0	0	0.000	9	5
Jun2	3	2	0.071	2	2	0.047	0	0	0.000	0	0
Jun3	5	3	0.118	2	1	0.047	13	6	0.307	1	1
Jul1	5	2	0.104	1	1	0.080	0	0	0.000	0	0
Jul2	10	3	0.208	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	1	1
Jul3	1	1	0.021	1	1	0.021	0	0	0.000	3	2
Aug1	7	3	0.129	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0
Aug2	1	1	0.018	1	1	0.018	0	0	0.000	0	0
Aug3	5	2	0.092	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0
Sep1	1	1	0.015	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0
Sep2	9	5	0.137	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0
Sep3	1	2	0.061	1	1	0.015	0	0	0.000	0	0
Oct1	2	2	0.028	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0
Oct2	2	1	0.028	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	1	1
Oct3	1	1	0.014	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0
	67	5	0.068	25	7	0.025	16	6	0.016	15	5

Sheet ref.	Daubenton's			Long Eared Species		
	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count	Av. Per Hour	Period Total	Peak Count
May1	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
May2	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
May3	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Jun1	0.212	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Jun2	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Jun3	0.024	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Jul1	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Jul2	0.021	1	1	0.021	0	0
Jul3	0.062	1	1	0.021	2	1
Aug1	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Aug2	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Aug3	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Sep1	0.0000	2	1	0.0000	0	0
Sep2	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Sep3	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Oct1	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Oct2	0.014	0	0	0.0000	0	0
Oct3	0.0000	0	0	0.0000	0	0
	0.015	4	1	0.004	2	1

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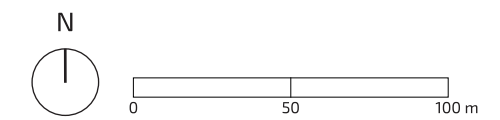
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Key

Static Bat Detector Locations per month (with unit number labels)

- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October

date	drwn/chkd
23/06/26	SB / MEL

client

Hallam Land

project

**Church Road,
Laverstock**

title

scale

STATICBAT DETECTOR

LOCATION PLAN

1:2,400 @ A3

number rev

FIGURE 5a **6450-F-5a**

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Appendix G: Breeding Bird Survey Report

Client

Hallam Land Ltd

Project

**Church Road,
Laverstock**

Date

March 2026

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APPENDICES

Appendix B: Protected and Notable Species List

Appendix G1: Desktop Study Results – Notable Bird Species Within 10km of Site Boundary

Appendix G2: Bird Survey Results (2015, 2017, 2020)

Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Final	KH / 12.03.2026	MEL / 12.03.26

1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Report Scope and Methodology
Five Breeding Bird Surveys were conducted between 2015, 2017 and 2020 on behalf of Hallam Land Limited for Land at Church Road, Laverstock (Central OS grid reference: SU16503175). The Site comprises two large fields, an area of scrub, hedgerows and woodland belts along the boundaries. Breeding bird surveys were conducted broadly following the bird survey guidelines between April 2015 and June 2020. Surveys covered the Site and all the habitats within.
Ecological Baseline
Porton Down SPA (3.7km from Site), Salisbury Plain SPA (10.41km from Site) and New Forest SPA (12km from Site) designated sites are all recognised for national importance for breeding birds. A total of 34 bird species were recorded during the breeding surveys within the Site, of which ten were considered 'notable' species. The species assemblage is typical of the habitats onsite, with farmland and urban fringe specialists being the main species recorded.
Assessment of Impacts
The Site proposals include the loss of all arable habitat and some sections of hedgerow within the Site boundary to facilitate the creation of residential units, access roads, associated infrastructure, and areas of greenspace. This will reduce the suitability of the Site for the farmland bird assemblage recorded and including individually foraging skylark which are expected to be lost from the Site but continue to use neighbouring land. The Site offers limited opportunities for qualifying species of the three listed designated sites. Furthermore, the proposals are sufficiently distant from these sites that no effects are anticipated on its designated status. The inclusion of extensive green infrastructure in the scheme design, in addition to the provision of gardens, will provide additional habitats for the range of common and widespread generalist and woodland edge species recorded, particularly as these habitats mature. The proposals include a residential development which will result in short term habitat loss and disturbance effects during construction. The partial loss of hedgerows H2a and H5 will reduce connectivity across the Site and limit breeding opportunities.
Recommended Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement
The northern field on Site is proposed as SANGS to include rough grassland which can be seeded with a range of native seed-bearing species, notably along the edges. The majority of the remaining hedgerows on Site will be retained or enhanced with the addition of tree species and scrub species to provide dense vegetation with additional breeding and foraging opportunities for birds on Site. This will likely result in a positive significant effect long-term. A SuDS feature will be designed with a varied bed profile to provide suitable condition for a range of wetland plants to establish. Any vegetation clearance works will be completed prior to breeding bird season (March-August). If this is not possible, areas will be checked prior to removal by an experienced ecologist. If active nests are found, vegetation will be left untouched and suitably buffered from works until all birds have fledged. Consideration will be given to the provision of nest boxes for urban birds, including house sparrow, swallow and swift, given the urbanised nature surrounding the Site. These can be erected onto the proposed dwellings or onto existing vegetation within the woodland and hedgerows.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The following Breeding Bird Report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of the Hallam Land Ltd as an appendix to the Ecological Impact Assessment of Church Road, Laverstock (Central OS Grid Ref: SU16503175) herein referred to as 'the Site'.
- 2.2 This document should be read in conjunction with the other ecological documents prepared for this application, comprising the Ecological Impact Assessment and other associated Appendices¹.

Report Aims & Objectives

- 2.3 This report has been prepared to achieve the following objectives:
- Describe the survey methodologies employed to inform this assessment;
 - Identify the presence, species and distribution of breeding birds within or in the vicinity of the Site;
 - Evaluate the conservation importance of habitats within the Site to local bird populations and identify any areas of ornithological interest;
 - Identify and describe potentially significant ecological effects associated with the proposals on breeding birds; and
 - Make recommendations to minimize the potential impact of development and to consider opportunities for additional mitigation, compensation and enhancement where relevant.

¹ FPCR (2026) 6450_Church Road, Laverstock_EcIA Report_03.26

3.0 LEGISLATION & STATUS

Legislation

- 3.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) is the principal legislation affording protection to UK wild birds. Under this legislation all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law, and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to recklessly or intentionally:
- Kill, injure or take any wild bird.
 - Take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while in use or being built; or
 - Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 3.2 Additional protection is afforded to species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, whereby intentional disturbance whilst building or occupying a nest or disturbance of dependent young is also considered an offence.
- 3.3 Certain species have also been identified as Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

Status

- 3.4 In addition to statutory protection, some bird species are classified according to their conservation status, such as their inclusion on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern² (BoCC) in the UK:
- 3.5 Red list (high conservation concern) species meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They are globally threatened according to IUCN criteria;
 - Their population has declined rapidly (50% or more) in recent years;
 - They that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery; and/or
- 3.6 Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those that meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe;
 - Their population or range has declined moderately (between 25% and 49%) in recent years;
 - Their population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery;
 - They are rare breeders; and/or
 - They have internationally important or localised populations.
- 3.7 Green list (low conservation concern) species fulfil none of the above criteria.

² Stanbury, A.J., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds* 114: 747.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Desktop Study

- 4.1 To compile existing baseline ornithological information, statutory and non-statutory organisations were consulted for data regarding designated sites for which birds are a designating feature and protected/notable bird records. These included Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre and The British Trust for Ornithology. Full details on the methodology for the desk study are provided in the accompanying EclA report.
- 4.2 The following sources were also used to make judgements on population status (both sizes and declines):
- British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Bird Atlas;
 - Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC)
 - Annual National BTO Breeding Bird Survey Report; and
 - Wiltshire bird report.

Field Surveys

- 4.3 The survey methodology employed was in accordance with the protocol specified within current best practice guidelines³. All birds encountered (seen or heard) were recorded on a field survey plan using standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activities and to denote activity, sex, and age where appropriate.
- 4.4 Breeding status was inferred for each species based on the sixteen categories implemented by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee (EOAC)⁴ and their corresponding definitions, in addition to four additional codes to classify non-breeding species as birds recorded away from suitable breeding habitat, summering non-breeders, passage migrants, or flyovers. Birds were considered to be holding a territory and therefore likely to be utilising the Site for breeding activities if they were displaying breeding behaviours, such as singing, nest building, food carrying or territorial defence. If birds did not display such behaviours, e.g. they were only recorded flying over the Site, they were considered non-breeders.

Assigning value to individuals and bird assemblages

- 4.5 A given bird assemblage is usually defined by the survey type and is most commonly either a site's "breeding bird assemblage" or "wintering bird assemblage". Sometimes it is useful to further subdivide the assemblage based on habitat for example "farmland bird assemblage" or "woodland bird assemblage". It may also be suitable to talk about the "aggregation" of breeding birds.
- 4.6 Assemblage value is assigned based on the following:
- bird population size/sizes;
 - number of breeding species;
 - number of notable (as defined above) breeding or wintering species present;

³ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group 2023. *Bird Survey Guidelines for Assessing Ecological impacts* v.1.1.1. Available at: <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Accessed: 10.12.24]

⁴ Sharrock, J.T.R (1973) Ornithological Atlases. *Auspicius* 5:13-15.

- density of breeding species (either across entire site or specific locations within the site); and
 - strength of the association of the recorded species with the habitat on the application site.
- 4.7 Each relevant species assemblage was valued based on the above within a geographical context as either Site, Local, District, County, Regional, National or International value.
- 4.8 Only those birds considered "notable" were selected for individual assessment. A notable species was determined by whether or not they were:
- listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (SCH 1);
 - listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC S.41);
 - listed as Amber or Red on the Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC);
 - known to be significantly in decline against another known regional criteria;
 - listed on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP);
 - a designation feature of nearby statutory or non-statutory protected sites for birds;
 - present in significant number and judged against known county, regional and national values (e.g. using the commonly used >1% criteria); and/or
 - represent a sustainable population of a species considered rare or scarce within a region.
- 4.9 Each notable species was valued based on the above within a geographical context as Site, Local, District, County, Regional, National, or international value.
- 4.10 The site was walked over by an ecologist experienced in bird surveying, between 05:00 and 11:00. A route was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, and surveys paid particular attention to linear features, such as hedgerows and tree lines, and natural features such as areas of scrub and waterbodies. The survey was not undertaken in unfavourable conditions such as heavy rain or strong wind, which may negatively affect the results. *Table 1* details the dates and weather conditions observed during all surveys.
- 4.11 A route was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, paying particular attention to any linear features, such as hedgerows and watercourses, and other features such as ponds and scrub. To provide inter-survey temporal variation between surveys to account for variation in species' detectability throughout the day, the starting location and direction of walking were stratified across the surveys.

Table 1: Scoping bird survey dates and weather conditions (2015, 2017, 2020)

Date	Cloud cover (%)	Rain	Wind	Visibility
29.04.15	100	Showers	Light breeze	Good/Moderate
29.05.15	100	Drizzle	Gentle breeze	Good
25.06.15	20	None	Calm	Good
26.05.17	0	None	None	Excellent
30.06.20	100	Light drizzle	2-3	Good

- 4.12 The results of all three bird surveys have been included and have been used to base an assessment on for the bird assemblages on Site.

Limitations

- 4.13 Habitats within the Site are not complex in terms of available habitat for bird species, which permits greater emphasis to be afforded to visual encounters, and lack any seasonally constrained features that may require additional consideration. Thus, a slightly reduced survey effort is considered proportionate due to the law of diminishing returns where species detection is more efficacious and is not considered to considerably affect the assessment of the Site for breeding bird assemblages.
- 4.14 It is considered that there were no further limitations to the surveys and subsequent assessment.

5.0 RESULTS

Desk Study

- 5.1 The locations of designated sites and notable bird species records identified through the desktop study search area from WSBRC has been presented in *Figure 01, 01a and 02*.

Designated Sites

- 5.2 Three statutory designated sites cited for ornithological interest were identified within the desk study. A brief summary of the bird species and assemblages included within the designated site citation is provided in *Table 2* below. A full description of all designated sites within the search area is provided within the full EclA report.

Table 2: Desktop Study Results – Designated Sites Cited for Ornithological Interest

Site Name	Distance from Site at Closest Point	Description
Porton Down SPA	3.7km northeast	An extensive area of chalk grassland with scrub and woodland which is important for downland breeding birds. 20 pairs of breeding stone curlew <i>Burhinus oedcnemus</i> (representing 10.6% of the UK breeding population) are present at Porton down. The SPA is also used by overwintering hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> , and short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> .
Salisbury Plain SPA	10.41km northeast	Salisbury Plain SPA contains the largest expanse of unimproved chalk downland in NW Europe, amounting to 41% of Britain's chalk downland. The site regularly supports c.10% of the British breeding population of stone curlew <i>Burhinus oedcnemus</i> and 1% of Britain's wintering hen harriers. Other Annex II species also occur in small numbers, including overwintering merlin and short-eared owl. Montagu's harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i> have attempted to breed on at least one occasion. Also supports 20% of the British population of quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> and 1% of the British population of hobby <i>Falco Subbuteo</i> .
New Forest SPA	12km southeast	The New Forest SPA is a vast area formed from Oligotrophic waters, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , European dry heaths, <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty, or clay/silt-laden soils, Atlantic beech, oak woods, bog woodland and alluvial forests. The New Forest is designated as an SPA as it supports 300 pairs of nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> (>15% of the British population) and 51-54 pairs of woodlarks <i>Lullula arborea</i> (24% British population), 454 pairs of Dartford warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i> (75% British population) and two pairs of honey buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i> (7% British population). Other notable species include 10 pairs of kingfishers <i>Alcedo atthis</i> and 15 hen harriers <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (2% British wintering population).

Protected / Notable Species

- 5.3 A summary of records returned from the BTO and WSBRC is provided below, a full description of the bird records within the search area is provided in *Appendix G1* (BTO) below and within *Appendix B* (WSBRC).

BTO data

- 5.4 100 records of notable bird species were returned from within 10km of the Site boundary. This includes stone curlew, merlin, hobby, cetti's warbler and 14 other Schedule 1 WCA 1981 birds.
- 5.5 17 species are also listed under Section 41 NERC Act (2006).
- 5.6 Under the BoCC 5 there were a total of 20 Red listed species, 37 Amber listed species and 43 Green listed species.

WSBRC data

- 5.7 126 records of notable species were returned within 2km of the Site. This included 15 records of Schedule 1 WCA 1981 birds were returned including stone curlew, hen harrier, merlin and hobby.
- 5.8 15 species were listed under Section 41 NERC Act (2006).
- 5.9 There were a total of 23 Red listed species, 13 Amber listed species and 27 Green listed species under the BoCC 5.
- 5.10 The nearest stone curlew record was 444m from the Site to the east from 2010. It is not specified what type of record this is and so may be an individual passing the area here.
- 5.11 The nearest hen harrier record was within 770m of the Site from 1997.
- 5.12 There are two records for short-eared owl within 2km of the Site, both from 1993.

Field Survey

- 5.13 A total of 34 bird species were recorded within the survey area across all survey years (for complete lists for each individual year, see *Appendix G2*). Of these, ten appear on one or more of the following and are hereafter referred to as 'notable species':
- Schedule 1 of WCA;
 - BoCC Red or Amber lists;
 - Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; and/or
 - Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- 5.14 The notable species recorded during surveys are summarised in *Table 3* with their respective distributions illustrated in *Figure G6*.

Table 3: Notable Breeding Species Recorded

Species	Legal / Conservation Status	Peak Count / No. of Survey Visits	EOAC Breeding Status
House sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	NERC S. 41, LBAP, Red listed	1 colony	Non-breeding
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	NERC S. 41, Red listed	1	Non-breeding
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	NERC S.41, LBAP, Red Listed	3	Possible breeding
Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	NERC S.41, LBAP, Red Listed	1	Possible breeding
Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	NERC S.41, LBAP, Red Listed	3	Possible breeding
Reed bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	NERC S.41, LBAP, Red Listed	1	Possible breeding
Red kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	WCA Sch. 1	1	Non-breeding
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	LBAP, Amber listed	1	Non-breeding
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	NERC S.41, LBAP, Red listed	2	Possible breeding
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	LBAP, Amber listed	2	Non-breeding

Breeding Bird Assemblage Description

- 5.15 The majority of bird species recorded on site are typical of the habitats present in a regional context, being heavily influenced by the intensive arable agricultural cultivation of the land.
- 5.16 The arable field interiors supported a fairly limited assemblage of bird species, with singing individuals recorded as territory marking breeding behaviour. Small numbers of other notable species including kestrel and red kite utilise these areas for foraging. Swift (Red List) and swallow (Green List) were both recorded foraging over the southern field briefly during the 2015 survey. In 2015 and 2017 skylark were recorded individually over the northern field and once in 2017 in the southern field. Although yellowhammer were recorded twice, in 2015 and 2020, these were on the edge of the fields towards the eastern boundary moving in between the neighbouring field and Site. Reed bunting were recorded over the southern field twice in 2015 and these are likely to be passing birds from the river 120m to the west.
- 5.17 The hedgerow and woodland blocks provided suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the range of common and widespread generalist and woodland edge species recorded including robin, blackbird and the range of common tit, finch and warbler species recorded. This assemblage included a range of notable, but also common and widespread species that are typical of the habitats present including wren, song thrush and dunnock. The cropland habitats that dominated the site offered limited foraging habitat for these species. The hedgerows offered more in the way of suitability for this assemblage, particularly H1, H2a, H3 and H4 which provide managed but vegetated areas which some species may nest within. The woodland blocks W1 and W2 provide suitable foraging and breeding areas for these bird species, however, W3 is relatively thin in terms of suitable trees which could be utilised by bird species with large gaps between trees and thin ground flora habitat.
- 5.18 An urban bird assemblage was also recorded in the west of the Site where the cropland field bordered residential environs. This include small groups of house sparrow recorded in 2015 and 2020 and starling in 2020, which were likely breeding offsite and using the onsite habitats as occasional foraging resources.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The proposals will result in the total loss of arable environs and bramble scrub from the Site; however, hedgerows and woodland belts will be mostly retained across the Site, with small areas of hedgerow to be removed from H2b and H5 to provide access into and through the Site.
- 6.2 The Site will include a range of habitat creation measures as part of the proposed green infrastructure including a SANGS area within the northern field to include the provision of rough grassland, occasionally managed. The southern field will contain the development however, the areas surrounding the residential units and a child's play area will include modified managed grassland. The drainage proposals for the Site will include the creation of one SuDS feature along the western boundary.
- 6.3 The following section provides an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposals upon breeding bird assemblages within and in the vicinity of the Site. The evaluation has been informed by the most recent indicative layout.

Designated Sites

- 6.4 The Site is 3.7km from designated site Porton Down SPA, 10.41km from Salisbury Plain SPA and 12km from New Forest SPA. One stone curlew was recorded on the SSSI to the east of the Site passing over only. The habitats on Site do not provide suitable resources for the designated features of the designated sites.

Impact Assessment

- 6.5 The following potential impacts to the recorded bird populations and assemblage may result from the proposals:
- Direct loss/change of habitat, including habitat fragmentation of arable landscape and loss of suitable arable crops for farmland bird species.
 - Disturbance during construction and/or operation notably along the hedgerow and woodland boundaries.

Habitat Loss

- 6.6 All arable areas will be lost as part of the development and grassland habitats will be introduced, as part of the GI which will provide a completely different habitat type within the Site. These proposed habitats are more likely increase invertebrate prey items; however, species such as skylark and yellowhammer are less likely to be recorded here. This is not likely to provide a large significant negative effect due to the low numbers of individuals on Site recorded over the three years and will result in the displacement of these species into the locally available suitable habitat. The amount of surrounding arable land to remain available in comparison to the loss of the small size of the existing Site is not likely to result in a loss of breeding habitat.
- 6.7 The proposed green infrastructure grassland areas and SuDS basin will provide some habitat for foraging species recorded on Site including swift and swallow and will also provide some nesting habitat, particularly along the edges for the assemblage of common and widespread generalist, woodland wedge and urban species recorded on the Site. Many of these species will also utilise garden habitats as they mature, such as starling and house sparrow, which will provide further opportunities in the long-term.

- 6.8 The loss of the areas of hedgerow to provide access into and across the Site is not likely to result in a long-term negative impact on breeding bird assemblages as these areas are limited and the majority of these hedges will still be retained, with some hedgerows designated for enhancement as part of the GI. The retention of hedgerows and woodland belts is likely to provide a positive effect on bird species, and the introduction of the SuDS basin may provide species recorded on Site such as reed bunting additional areas to forage.
- 6.9 Although the areas of bramble dominated scrub are relatively small compared to the size of the wider Site, the removal of the areas may result in a minor negative impact, particularly as these areas are being replaced with modified managed grassland which limits the vegetative species present and area of suitable nesting habitat for species including dunnoek, linnet, wren and blackbird.

Disturbance

- 6.10 Construction operations have the potential to disturb birds using the development area for breeding, roosting, and foraging, particularly along the hedgerow and woodland boundaries. Operations likely to disturb breeding birds include noise and displacement during vegetation clearance, initial ground works and some construction activities. During the breeding season disturbance may lead to nest desertion or the avoidance of the area and reduce the suitability of retained nesting areas, such as the retained hedgerows or woodland edge.
- 6.11 Within the Site habitat loss will provide some adverse effect on foraging birds, however, the arable land does not support a large range of breeding bird assemblages. Any impacts from disturbance need only be considered for areas of suitable habitat that remain following clearance. Given the wholesale loss of the arable habitat anticipated from within the Site to facilitate the proposed development, any breeding birds will primarily be outside the main active works area and any anthropogenic noise would have a minimal direct adverse effect to breeding birds on-site. The removal of the areas of hedgerow is likely to provide a direct adverse effect if this was to occur during the breeding season as it cannot be assured whether birds are nesting here without further survey effort beforehand.

Mitigation

Habitat Loss

- 6.12 To mitigate for the fragmentation of hedgerows H2b and H5 as a result of the proposed access road into and through the Site, the remaining sections of these hedgerows will be enhanced with tree and scrub planting which will be provided either side of the gaps to be created and along the hedge lengths to provide further future habitat for breeding birds.

Disturbance

- 6.13 To avoid disturbance to breeding birds, ground and vegetation clearance works will be undertaken prior to the bird-breeding season (March to August, inclusive). If this is not possible, the areas will be checked prior to removal of vegetation or ground works by an experienced ecologist. If active nests are found, vegetation will be left untouched and suitably buffered from works until all birds have fledged. Specific advice will be provided prior to undertaking the clearance. This would be a statutory requirement due to the protection of all nesting birds and their nests under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. A suitably qualified ecologist would supervise this.

Compensation

Habitat Loss

- 6.14 To compensate for the fragmentation caused by the partial loss of H2a and H5, H2b, and H3 are to be enhanced to species- rich hedgerow and native hedgerow with trees respectively which will provide enhanced commuting routes through the Site, as well as additional nesting and foraging habitat for the bird assemblages on Site.

Enhancements

- 6.15 Grassland planting will be incorporated into the Sites GI which would provide additional foraging and breeding habitat for a range of bird species. If buffers are considered for the hedgerows and woodland priority should be given to the provision of native, fruit bearing species of local origin to provide an optimal foraging resource for a range of bird species including the thrush species recorded.
- 6.16 The attenuation feature will be designed where possible to encourage a varied bed profile to allow marginal vegetation to establish where this does not affect the drainage capacity of the features, species mix includes common reed *Phragmites australis*. This will provide improved nesting and foraging opportunities for reed bunting and further encourage onsite breeding by this species.
- 6.17 Additional enhancements that could be integrated with the on-going management of the site include the erection of a mixture of nest box types. The following provides details of other suitable nest box types to be erected at suitable locations:
- A mixture of small hole (26mm and 32mm) boxes placed along the retained habitat around the proposed development area will provide nesting opportunities for blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* and great tit *Parus major*. These boxes generally have a high uptake rate;
 - Small open fronted nest boxes again should be placed throughout the site especially on trees which support a climber such as ivy which provides a degree of concealment. These boxes typically attract *Erithacus rubecula* and blackbird *Turdus merula*;
- 6.18 Consideration should subsequently be given to the provision of nest boxes for urban birds, including house sparrow, swallow and swift, given the urbanised nature surrounding the Site.

Appendix G1: Desktop Study Results from the BTO – Notable Bird Species Within 10km of Site Boundary

Species name		Status		Breeding status within 2km of Site	Breeding status within 10km of site
		WCA Sch.1	NERC S.41		
BoCC Red List					
Grey Partridge	Perdix perdix		✓	Present	
Swift	Apus apus			Present	Probable
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus		✓		Probable
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus		✓		Probable
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus		✓	Present	Present
Merlin	Falco columbarius	✓		Present	Present
Skylark	Alauda arvensis		✓	Probable	Probable
House Martin	Delichon urbicum				Confirmed
Grasshopper Warbler	Locustella naevia		✓		Present >10km
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris		✓	Present	Present
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus			Present	Probable
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	✓		Present	Present
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata		✓		Present
Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra				Present >10km
Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus		✓		Present >10km
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus		✓	Probable	Probable
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris			Present	Probable
Linnet	Linaria cannabina		✓	Probable	Probable
Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra		✓		Possible
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella		✓	Probable	
BoCC Amber List					
Greylag Goose	Anser anser				Present
Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	✓			Present
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos				Confirmed
Stock Dove	Columba oenas			Probable	Probable
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus			Present	Probable
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus				Present
Stone-curlew	Burhinus oedicnemus	✓	✓		Present >10km
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus			Present	Present
Mediterranean Gull	Ichthyaelus melanocephalus	✓			Present
Common Gull	Larus canus				Present
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus			Present	Present
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis				Present >10km
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	✓			Present
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus			Present	Confirmed

Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				Possible
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				Present
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			Probable	Confirmed
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			Present	Probable
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			Probable	Probable
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				Possible
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			Probable	Probable
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			Present	Probable
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	Present	Probable
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	✓		Present	Present
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓			Present
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				Present >10km
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				Present >10km
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	Possible	Probable
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				Possible
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			Present	Present
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓	Present	Present
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓		Present
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				Confirmed
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				Present >10km
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	✓			Probable
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	✓			Present >10km
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				Present >10km
BoCC Green List					
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				Confirmed
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			Present	Present
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			Present	Present
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				Present
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				Present >10km
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			Present	Probable
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				Possible
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓			Probable
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			Probable	Confirmed
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓			Present
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			Present	Confirmed
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			Possible	Possible
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	✓			Confirmed
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓		Present	Confirmed
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>				Probable

Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			Present	Present
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>			Present	Probable
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			Probable	Confirmed
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>			Probable	Probable
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				Present
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			Confirmed	Confirmed
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			Probable	Probable
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				Present
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓		Present	Probable
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				Possible
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			Present	Possible
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			Probable	Probable
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				Present
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			Probable	Confirmed
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			Possible	Possible
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	✓		Possible	Possible
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				Probable
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				Possible
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				Possible
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				Present
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			Probable	Confirmed
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			Confirmed	Confirmed
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				Possible
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			Present	Probable
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	✓		Probable	Probable
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				Present >10km
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			Present	Probable

Appendix G2: Bird Survey Results (2015, 2017, 2020)**Breeding Bird Scoping Survey Results (2020)**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Survey Count	Conservation Status	County Status*
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	3	Green list	Common resident, partial migrant also a winterer from GB/Europe
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2	Green list	Abundant resident of open broadleaved or mixed woodlands, often in gardens.
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	1	Green list	Common and increasing resident, spreading more into urban areas.
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1	Green list	Common resident of suburbs and farmyards (Recent colonist of Wiltshire- 1962)
Dunnoek	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	Amber list	Still common and widespread resident although decreasing in Britain as a whole.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	6	Green list	Common resident, especially at urban edges, more widespread in winter.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1 colony	Red list; NERC S41	Common resident but large decrease nationally.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	3	Green list	Common and increasing resident in woodland and towns.
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	1	Green list	Locally common summer visitor, breeds Europe, winters Africa.
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	1+ family	Green list	Common resident, population stable after series of mild winters.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	2	Green list	Common and increasing resident of open woodlands and gardens.
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	1	Green list, WCA Sch1	Rare resident and scarce wanderer from Wales and re-established populations from England.
Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	1	Introduced	Locally common resident, introduced and bred for shoots.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1	Green list	Abundant resident, partial migrant, also a winter visitor from Scandinavia.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1	Red list	Seriously decreasing resident, common winter visitor from Europe.
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	15	Green list	Widespread and common visitor in arable with trees, also in towns and villages.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	3	Green list	Abundant resident, some dispersal or arrivals from north GB in harsh weather.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	1	Red list	Decreasing resident although still quite widespread on arable farmland.

Historic Breeding Bird Scoping Survey Results (2017)

Species	Latin	Survey 26.05.17	Conservation Status	Breeding onsite	Status
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	23	Green list	Possible	
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	3	NERC Red list LBAP	Possible	
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	4	Green list	Non-breeder	
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1	Green list	Possible	
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	4	Green list	Non-breeder	
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1 + 1Family	Green list	Confirmed	
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	Green list	Possible	
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	3	NERC Red list LBAP	Possible	
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2	Green list	Non-breeder	
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	5	Green list	Probable	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	3	Green list	Possible	
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	Green list	Possible	
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	Green list	Possible	
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2	Green list	Possible	
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1	Green list	Possible	
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	1	Green list	Possible	

Historic Full Breeding Bird Survey Results (2015)

Species	Latin	Survey 1 29.04.15	Survey 2 29.05.15	Survey 3 24.06.15	Conservation Status	Breeding Status onsite
Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	1			None (Introduced)	Possible
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		1		None (Introduced)	Possible
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			1	Amber list	Possible
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	14	15	9	Green list	Possible
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2	1	2	Green list	Possible
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			1	Amber list LBAP	Non-breeder
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1	2	3	Green list	Possible
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	2			Green list	Possible
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	1	1	2	Green list	Possible
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1		2	Green list	Probable
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	3	1	4	Green list	Probable
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	1	1	Green list	Probable
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1			NERC Red list LBAP	Possible
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		1		Amber list LBAP	Non-breeder
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			7	Green list	Possible
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	2	1	1	Green list	Probable
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	2	2	Green list	Probable
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1	1	NERC Red list LBAP	Possible
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		1	1	Green list	Probable
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2	1	1	Green list	Probable
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1	2	4	Green list	Probable
Dunnoek	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2	1		NERC Amber list	Probable
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1 colony			NERC Red list LBAP	Non-breeder
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			2	Green list	Possible
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		2	5	Green list	Probable
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		2	1	Green list	Probable
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			2	Green list	Possible
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>		2		NERC Red list LBAP	Possible
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1		1	NERC Amber list LBAP	Possible

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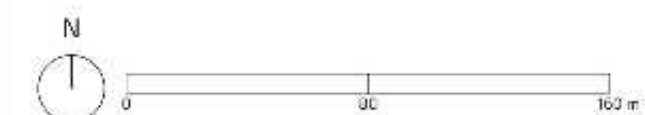
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Legend

BoCC 5 Red List Species

- HS** House Sparrow
- LI** Linnets
- S** Skylark
- SG** Starling
- Y** Yellowhammer
- SI** Swift

Breeding Status

- Non-breeder
- Possible Breeder

Additional Protections

- NERC Species of Principal Importance
- Schedule 1 Species
- LBAP Species

BoCC 5 Amber List Species

- D** Dunnock
- K** Kestrel
- RB** Reed Bunting
- ST** Song Thrush

BoCC 5 Green List Species

- KT** Red Kite
- SL** Swallow

→ Fly over only

drawn date:
23/05/20

drawn by:
KH / MEL

client:
Hallam Land

project:
**Church Road,
Laverstock**

title:
**BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN
- DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES
(2015, 2017, 2020)**

scale:
1:2,500 @ A3

revision:
FIGURE G6

rev:
-

TECHNICAL NOTE: BNG FEASIBILITY REVIEW

Hallam Land

Land off Church Road, Laverstock

Appendix H - June 2026, REV A

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hallam Land Management Ltd commissioned FPCR Environment and Design Ltd (FPCR) to complete a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) feasibility assessment for land located off Church Road, Laverstock (OS Grid Reference: SU16503175), herein referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.2 This Technical Note summarises the survey and assessment methodologies employed, the survey results, and the Statutory Metric results. Any assumptions made to support the assessment have also been outlined.

Site Location and Context

- 1.3 The Site is situated in Laverstock village, located on the northeastern side of Salisbury. The Site is bordered to the west by Church Road and existing residential dwellings. Within the wider landscape, the north of the Site is bounded by arable land and a small woodland strip along the south, leading on to an area of grassland, half of which is associated with a boundary to a light industrial unit. To the east of the site, an area of land under intensive arable tenure separates the site from the Cockey Down SSSI.
- 1.4 The Site comprises 8.09ha of land and consists of arable crops and consists of two land parcels which have been in consistent use as arable crop production since first surveyed by FPCR in 2014. Hedgerows form full to partial field boundaries across the Site, ranging from non-native dominated to species rich native, and three small woodland belts are located along the southern, southeastern and north-eastern boundaries of the fields. There are two patches of scrub towards a southern entrance into the Site.

Proposed Development

- 1.5 The proposals include a residential development of up to 110 dwellings with improved access into the Site from Church Road. The Site has Green Infrastructure (GI) provisions including retention of existing hedgerows and trees, proposed amenity landscaping and a proposed SANGs area to the north, a children's play area and drainage basin in the southwest of the Site and improved official pedestrian access from the Site to link into the Cockey Downs SSSI to the east.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Baseline Habitat Assessment

- 2.1 A baseline habitat survey was completed broadly following the UKHab Classification system and the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. This involved a systematic walkover of the Site boundary to map all habitats present to assess their condition and complete the Statutory Biodiversity metric Calculation Tool. Habitat condition assessment surveys were completed following the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Habitat Condition Assessments. The summary results of the habitat condition assessment survey are presented in this report.
- 2.2 The habitat survey and condition assessment were undertaken on 23rd July 2025, by a suitably qualified ecologist with over 5 years' experience in habitat surveying and FISC Level 3.
- 2.3 The survey was completed during the optimal period, typically from May to September, with no specific limitations.

Biodiversity Net Gain Calculation

- 2.4 Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool was used to inform this BNG note. It is an MS Excel spreadsheet used to quantify the predicted net change in biodiversity value ("biodiversity units") of a proposed development site before and after development. It treats the area-based habitats and linear features such as hedgerows and tree lines separately and is based on pre-determined values, along with published written guidance set by a Natural England-led team of experts.
- 2.5 The Site was surveyed and mapped, as described above. The survey results were digitised using QGIS, with the existing habitats identified and areas automatically generated.
- 2.6 On-site post-development habitats were determined from the Parameters Plan by FPCR Environment and Design (6450-FPCR-DR-XX-XX-DR-L-002, 17/02/2026) with outline proposals mapped and digitised using QGIS to generate areas for each habitat proposed for enhancement.
- 2.7 These pre- and post-enhancement habitat areas were input into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation tool. The metric automatically assigns a habitat distinctiveness score for each baseline and proposed habitat.
- 2.8 The metric also assigns a range of pre-assigned factors to each proposed habitat. Subject knowledge experts have advised these and are universal multipliers generated by the metric itself for the following variables relevant to habitat creation, enhancement or restoration proposals:
 - *difficulty of creating or restoring/enhancing a habitat*: This pre-assigned score is based on how complex a particular habitat type is to create or restore/enhance
 - *temporal risk*: this is the 'time to target condition' for any habitat and determines how long a particular habitat type is likely to take to reach the condition score that the desired condition score is assigned to it.
 - *spatial risk*: this score is based on the distance between the site of habitat loss and any habitat creation or enhancement proposals at any off-site offsetting solutions.

- 2.9 A desk study review has informed the strategic significance multiplier within the metric. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide provides full details of the calculation methodology.

3.0 BASELINE

Strategic Significance

- 3.1 Wiltshire's Local Nature Recovery Network Strategy and national and local guidance have been consulted to assign strategic significance. The Site does not fall into any existing strategic area, does not contain any high distinctiveness or priority habitats. The proposals do include providing a footpath linkage to a statutory designated site, however the habitats from the Site are not linked to these. Therefore, it is considered to be of low strategic significance in both the baseline and proposed scenarios.

Baseline Habitats

- 3.2 The survey area is mainly comprised of cropland area within both fields with small field margins between these and the boundaries. There are two areas of bramble dominated scrub along the south-western corner of the Site and three pockets of woodland belt located along the north-western, south-eastern and southern boundaries.
- 3.3 Table 1 below provides a summary description and baseline conditions of the baseline habitats. These are all illustrated by Figures 3 and 4. Condition tables are provided in Appendix H1, and Photographs are provided in Appendix D.

Table 1: Baseline Habitat Conditions

Ref	Habitat	Condition	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Description
F1, F2	Cropland – cereal crops	N/A	Low	Cropland does not require a condition assessment as it is fixed at poor.
S1, S2	Heathland and shrub – Bramble scrub	N/A	Low	Two sections of bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> dominated scrub line either side of the existing field entrance from Church Road. Other species present within the scrub include nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , false-oat grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> and hedge bindweed <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> .
W1	Woodland and forest – other woodland; broadleaved	Moderate	Medium	Lining the south-eastern boundary. Recently planted native broadleaved woodland approximately 8m in width. Less than 10% non-native species present. The wood forms a belt along the boundary and consists of sapling trees. As such, the wood is scattered with areas of sheltered open space, and the wood is too young to contain any standing dead wood. The species composition includes ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> and willow <i>Salix spp.</i> planted to form the canopy and an understory of hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , rowan <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> , elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> and spindle <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> with bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> present across the floor space.
W2	Woodland and forest – other woodland; broadleaved	Poor	Medium	Lining the north-western boundary consisting of a steep roadside verge dominated by semi-mature / mature planted sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> , with ash, elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> and dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> . No non-native species are present. The ground flora is dominated by ivy

Ref	Habitat	Condition	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Description
				<i>Hedera helix</i> with occasional dog's mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> , perennial rye grass <i>Poa annua</i> and nettle.
W3	Woodland and forest – other woodland; broadleaved	Moderate	Medium	Lining the southern boundary the woodland is a recently densely planted woodland belt. The canopy overshadows the ground flora which has resulted in scanty scattered vegetation. No non-native species are present. This includes nettle, wood avens <i>Geum urbanum</i> and bramble. The woodland widens towards its eastern end and gives way to a long thin belt towards the west.
-	Modified grassland	Poor	Low	A strip of grassland lining the verge side between Church Road to the west and the Site.
-	Developed land, sealed surface	N/A	Very low	The length of Church Road which runs parallel to the southern land parcel on the western boundary.

- 3.4 Preintervention the site delivers a total of 18.65 habitat units of low and medium distinctiveness. The majority of these units (15.12 units) are created by the dominant habitat on-site: cereal crops (fields F1 and F2).
- 3.5 Three patches of broadleaved woodland are located on site (W1, W2 and W3). W1 and W3 are located in the southeastern corner of the site and have been classified as being in moderate condition. W2 on the other side, runs along the northwestern boundary and has been classified as being in poor condition. In total, these habitats deliver 3.23 habitat units.
- 3.6 Two patches of bramble scrub (S1 and S2) located in the southern half of the site provide 0.28 habitat units.
- 3.7 A strip of modified grassland which lines to verge between the Site and the adjacent road provides 0.02 habitat units.

Baseline Hedgerows

- 3.8 There is a total of 9 hedgerows on site of very low, low and medium distinctiveness, with three being native hedgerows, three non-native and ornamental hedgerows, two native hedgerows with trees and one species-rich native hedgerow. These are listed in *Table 2* below.

Table 2: Baseline hedgerow conditions

Ref	Habitat	Condition	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Description
H1	Species-rich native hedgerow	Moderate	Medium	Tall, wide diverse native hedgerow along the field margin consisting of some previous planting. No non-native species. The margins along the hedgerow were arable land and disturbed with no diversity of species present. Connects to W1 on the northern end and becomes denser towards this end as it transitions into the woods.
H2a	Native hedgerow with trees	Poor	Medium	Approx 50% non-native / native species mix hedge. Hedgerow lines a neighbouring property and contains garden variety species. The margins therefore are limited on the property and field sides and disturbed. These measure approximately 0.5 – 1m wide.

Ref	Habitat	Condition	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Description
H2b	Native hedgerow	Moderate	Low	Species diverse hedgerow with some non-native species present, which partly lines a neighbouring garden and then continues on to become more species rich and less managed. Margins are similar to above consisting of arable land and residential garden which is disturbed ground. No mature trees but saplings emerging.
H3	Native hedgerow	Moderate	Low	Boundary hedgerow to the west which is tall and broad. There is a stronger presence of non-native species towards the southern end where the hedge bounds with H2a and neighbouring gardens. Disturbed verges and no change in tree class along the hedge.
H4	Native hedgerow with trees	Moderate	Medium	Consists mainly of a mature line of sycamore trees. There is little to no understory, and the row leads into woodland W2. The hedge is gapped and more scrub like towards the south. No verge present cultivated disturbed field margin only.
H5	Native hedgerow	Moderate	Low	A narrow - less than 1.5m wide - short hedgerow along the south-western edge of the Site which is heavily managed. Verge consists of a narrow disturbed arable margin dominated by Blackthorn. Gaps greater than 10% of space along hedge.
H6	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	Poor	Very Low	Short section of hedgerow lining the southern edge of the northern section of Site. Consists of a planted belt of trees lining a neighbouring garden and contains a mixture of native and non-native species.
H7	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	Poor	Very Low	Non-native ornamental hedgerow consisting entirely of Leyland Cypress. Located to the west of H6.
H8	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	Poor	Very Low	Hedgerow consisting of a mixture of non-native and native species. Connects to W3 on the eastern end and is a continuous intact hedgerow. Disturbed verge on field side with no vegetation present. Gaps in hedge greater than 10%.

3.9 Preintervention hedgerows on site deliver a total of 2.87 hedgerow units. The majority of these units are delivered by native hedgerows H2b, H3 and H5 in moderate condition (1.06 hedgerow units). Native hedgerows with trees H4 and H2a are a hedgerow of medium distinctiveness which deliver a total of 0.50 hedgerow units in moderate condition and 0.42 hedgerow units in poor condition, respectively. Species-rich native hedgerow H1, is a hedgerow type of medium distinctiveness that in moderate condition provides 0.66 hedgerow units. Finally, there are three non-native and ornamental hedgerows on site (H6, H7 and H8) delivering 0.23 hedgerow units in poor condition.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Site is proposed for residential development to include 110 dwellings, a LEAP area, soft landscaping around the development and improved access from Church Road in the southern field, a drainage basin and Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) in the northern field.
- 4.2 As landscaping details, such as seed mixes or tree species, are not yet known, proposed habitats have been mapped using a reasonable and conservative approach. For example, grassland areas immediately surrounding the development areas to the south have been mapped as modified (amenity) grassland rather than other neutral ('wildflower meadow') grassland. Target conditions have been selected based on our experience, reflecting what can realistically be achieved on-site while adopting a precautionary 'worst-case' approach for areas likely to experience high levels of disturbance. Proposed habitats and their target conditions are illustrated in *Figures H01 and H02*.
- 4.3 Greenspace around the development includes the retained woodland patches, grassland and mixed scrub. The three existing patches of broadleaved woodland will be fully retained as part of the proposals as it can be seen in *Figure H03*. The retention of these habitats can provide 3.25 habitat units.
- 4.4 The proposed SANG area and the majority of the grassland surrounding the development has been classified as modified grassland in moderate condition. This is a habitat of low distinctiveness that can provide 7.26 habitat units. Areas of grassland immediately surrounding the development to the south and east have been classified as other neutral grassland in moderate condition and can deliver a total of 2.34 habitat units. Part of this grassland will provide a wildflower meadow under the same distinctiveness adjacent to the proposed LEAP.
- 4.5 The suburban mosaic of houses, driveways, smaller roads, and gardens (i.e., Residential area) has been scored via a percentage split as set out in the metric guidance. Vegetated gardens, a low distinctiveness habitat, will make up 30% of these areas, delivering 1.62 habitat units. The remaining 70% residential housing, as well as roads, play areas, footpaths and cycle paths will be classified as developed area, and will not deliver any units, as these do not provide habitat valuable to biodiversity.
- 4.6 Patches of mixed scrub are necessary to satisfy trading rules and to offset the loss of bramble scrub. This is a habitat of medium distinctiveness that in moderate condition can provide 0.45 habitat units.
- 4.7 A sustainable drainage system (SuDs) in moderate condition can deliver a total of 0.12 habitat units.
- 4.8 This demonstrates that post-intervention, the site can deliver 2.59 extra units resulting in a 13.91% habitat net gain.
- 4.9 Approximately 0.06km of existing hedgerow will be removed to create access points. The remaining areas of hedgerow will be retained where possible. Retained hedgerows can provide a total of 2.84 hedgerow units.

- 4.10 There are opportunities to create 0.423km of new hedgerows along the northern and eastern boundaries. Newly planted species-rich native hedgerow in moderate condition could provide a total of 2.83 hedgerow units.
- 4.11 This demonstrates that post-intervention the site is capable of delivering extra 2.81 units resulting in a 97.97% hedgerow net gain.
- 4.12 Opportunities for enhancement will be explored in detail as part of the detailed design phase alongside assessing the proposals to ensure that the scheme can demonstrate a minimum 10% net gain via on-site or a mixture of on-site and off-site, required to discharge the mandatory BNG condition once planning permission has been received. This will be demonstrated by submitting a Biodiversity Gain Plan, which will provide full details of how the scheme will achieve the minimum BNG requirements, per the BNG PPG.
- 4.13 If a detailed review of the Site determines that a gain will not be achievable onsite, then offsite compensation options will need to be sought to ensure that the scheme can discharge the mandatory BNG condition that will be applied.

Additionality

- 4.14 Additionality rules for BNG state that mitigation measures can get a proposal to 'no net loss only' and the remaining 10% of post-intervention habitat units are required to be delivered by habitats which are not counted towards mitigation. In order to determine if additionality rules have been satisfied, two separate metrics have been created.
- 4.15 The first metric, "Laverstock Statutory Metric 09.04.2026", includes all habitats pre and post intervention. Summarised above, this scenario results in a +20.98% habitat net gain.
- 4.16 The most up to date metric, "6450 Church Road, "Laverstock_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_Laverstock 23.06.26", includes all habitats pre and post intervention. However, habitats have been included to contribute up to a minimum net gain in order to meet basic requirements to act as recreational impact mitigation for Cockey Down SSSI. These habitats include modified grassland, other neutral grassland, broadleaved woodland, and mixed scrub. This scenario results in an increase of 2.59 habitat units, resulting in a 13.91% net gain score.

5.0 SUMMARY OF STATUTORY METRIC

- 5.1 The baseline and outline habitat proposals have all been inputted into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. *Table 3* provides a summary of the headline results of the assessment completed for the proposals.

Table 3: Statutory Biodiversity Metric Headline Results

Baseline	Habitat Units	18.65
	Hedgerow Units	2.87
Post-Intervention	Habitat Units	21.25
	Hedgerow Units	5.67
Total Net Change	Habitat Units	+ 2.59 (+ 13.91%)
	Hedgerow Units	+ 2.81 (+ 97.97%)

- 5.2 The Statutory Metric has demonstrated that the scheme can result in a gain of 13.91% in habitat units and 97.97% in hedgerow units.

Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy

- 5.3 The Biodiversity Net Gain hierarchy, outlined in the Government's PPG, offers guidance on prioritising habitat avoidance, retention, and compensation for more valuable habitats. These measures should shape the Site design.
- 5.4 Habitat loss will almost wholly include habitats of low distinctiveness (arable land) with a small area of medium distinctiveness bramble scrub also being removed. These areas are very limited in regard to ecological value. The project will result in the retention of all medium-distinctive other broadleaved woodland existing on Site.

Compensation

- 5.5 Compensatory units will be delivered through the following options, in order of preference and in accordance with the Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy:
- **Bespoke Compensation:** An agreement can be sought with the Wiltshire County Council to deliver bespoke compensation somewhere within the authority area.
 - **Purchasing Units from a Local Habitat Bank:** Where an agreement cannot be sought for bespoke compensation, units can be purchased from any habitat banks run by the local planning authority or a private provider. This will be delivered within Wiltshire Local County Council where possible.
 - **Purchasing Units from a Nearby Habitat Bank:** Where units are not available in Wiltshire County Council, units will be purchased from a habitat bank in an adjacent Local Planning Authority Boundary/National Character Area.
 - **Purchasing Units from a National Habitat Bank:** Where a local habitat bank cannot be found, units can be purchased from a habitat bank elsewhere in England. Proximity will be considered while sourcing units, and the closest available units will be preferred.
 - **Purchasing Statutory Credits:** Where units cannot be sought from a national habitat bank, statutory credits will be purchased as a last resort. A sufficient number of units can be bought to meet the trading rules and deliver the minimum 10% net gain requirement.
- 5.6 To ensure the allocation of off-site units to a development, units should be registered on Natural England's BNG Sites Register. Consequently, they will be secured under a minimum 30-year legal agreement, with habitat enhancements delivered through an agreed habitat management and monitoring plan (HMMP).
- 5.7 The delivery of off-site habitat units will be secured through the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain condition imposed by the Environment Act 2021. Details of the off-site provision will be supplied as part of a Biodiversity Gain Plan, which is to be submitted following receipt of planning permission under the Environment Act 2021 requirements.

Securing BNG

- 5.8 Further details regarding habitat creation, enhancement, and management should be provided at the detailed design stage of the proposals, where ecologists will directly input into landscape planting. A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will also be included as part of a Biodiversity Gain Plan, which, under the requirements of the Environment Act, will be submitted following receipt of full planning permission. This HMMP will detail how the creation, retention,

and enhancement of habitats across the Site that significantly contribute to the Site's BNG will be managed for a minimum of 30 years.