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South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon SN5 4FH

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Lovell

P.1464.21
May 2026

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Reference	Site	Client	Date
P.1464.21	South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon SN5 4FH	Lovell	27 May 2026

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Revision	Date	Details	Name
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This document contains sensitive information regarding the location of a badger. The report is issued in confidence and on the basis that the material will not enter the public domain.

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Executive Summary

Ascerta has been instructed by **Lovell** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal at South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon SN5 4FH (hereafter referred to as **the site**).

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal comprised of a desk study and biological records search, as well as a site walkover survey in order to map habitat types. The survey was extended to assess the potential for protected species to use the site. The assessment provides baseline data regarding the current site conditions and, where appropriate, allows recommendations to be made in respect of further potential work in order to satisfy current UK wildlife legislation.

Assessed against the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland 2nd Edition* (2018), the site's habitats range in ecological value from negligible to within the zone of influence.

The site provides a habitat for nesting birds, badgers, hedgehogs, reptiles and bats. A large portion of habitats assessed are likely to be lost to the proposals. However, as the habitats to be lost to the proposals are small in area and not of high ecological value, it is considered that their loss can be mitigated for, and the proposals will not adversely affect the ecological value of the wider area, provided the recommendations detailed below are followed.

Bat surveys are conducted in accordance with the *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines*, published 2024 (the Guidelines). Strict adherence to these is not necessary, but where practice deviates from them, clear reasons and rationale are required.

- If works have not begun by May 2028, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site
- Production and implementation of a badger Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production and implementation of a reptile RAMS to avoid any harm to these species during the proposed works
- Production of an invasive species method statement to avoid the spread of invasive species into the wider landscape during the proposed works
- Precautionary check for badger prior to works commencing to assess if badgers are using the habitats within the site for shelter
- Precautionary check for invasives prior to works commencing
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting that includes native, species-rich hedgerows, trees and areas of wildflowers plus provision of integrated bat and bird features within newly constructed buildings
- Production of a management plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around a new development site
- Vegetation clearance or pruning should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1 March to 31 August inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds, or a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing

1. Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by **Lovell** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal at the site. The site OS grid reference is SU 07761 87326 and the What3Words reference is sour.cherubs.bookshop. The extent of the site is displayed in photograph 1.1 below.



Photograph 1.1: Extent of the site

This report presents the results of the survey including evaluation of habitats on-site and potential for protected species to be using the site. The report includes recommendations for further actions where applicable, in order to satisfy current UK wildlife legislation and to achieve our client's objectives. Relevant legislation is detailed within Appendix 4.

2. Objectives

Our client's objectives are to assess the potential ecological constraints of the proposed development site.

Our objectives are as follows:

- Identify and evaluate any features of ecological value and the potential of the site to support protected species based on the walkover survey and biological records search
- Identify designated sites within 2km of the site
- Review protected species records within 2km of the site
- Map the habitats within the site using Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2010) methods
- Provide recommendations for further species-specific surveys and mitigation measures where current legislation requires
- Provide recommendations that seek to enhance the ecological value of the site
- Provide recommendations to assist our clients in achieving their objectives whilst satisfying current UK wildlife legislation

3. Survey Methods

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal involved the collection and review of data from a desk study and field survey, along with an assessment of the value of the habitats following the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines.

3.1 Desk Study

A desk study was undertaken in April 2026 to identify protected and notable habitats and species, and nature conservation designations potentially relevant to the proposed development. The desk study was carried out using the sources detailed in Table 3.1 below. For the purposes of this report, protected and notable species records have been restricted to the last 15 years.

Table 3.1: Desk study data information

Source	Date obtained	Data obtained
Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)	28 April 2026	- Statutory designated sites within 2km of the site - Protected and notable habitats within 2km of the site - Ancient woodlands within 2km of the site - European Protected Species Licenses (EPSLs) within 2km of the site
WSBRC – Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre	08 May 2026	- Non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site - Protected and notable species records within 2km of the site
Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan	28 April 2026	Additional protections afforded to species/habitat

3.2 Field Survey

A walkover survey of the site was conducted on 19 May 2026 by Jack Kay MRes and Rebecca Donnan MRes. The habitat types and features of ecological interest were identified and mapped in compliance with *the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 2010). During the survey, weather conditions were recorded to ensure optimal surveying conditions according to guidelines. Any sub-optimal conditions will be discussed in the limitations.

This includes the identification of the main species present and examination of the potential for any protected species. Habitats were mapped (Appendix 1) and target notes (Appendix 2) made for any interesting features.

The surveys particularly focused on the following species and habitat features:

- Mammals including badgers (*Meles meles*), bats, dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), otters (*Lutra lutra*), red squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*) and water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)
- Birds (including species potentially associated with 'European Sites')
- Amphibians and reptiles
- Invertebrates
- Hedgerows and boundaries
- Invasive plant species
- Plant communities and trees

3.3 Bat Survey Methods

The survey methods followed the guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition* (2024). Habitats, buildings and trees were assessed for suitability for use by bats and categorised independently using Table 4.1 page 44 within the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Collins, 2024).

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for bats

Habitats on site were assessed for their suitability for bats to use them for roosting, commuting and foraging, both on the site and surrounding area. Commuting and foraging habitat suitability was categorised **low to high**. Any commuting and foraging habitat valued as **moderate** or above may need further survey effort if lost to the proposals.

3.4 Badger Survey Methods

The site was searched for setts and badger field signs including foraging areas, latrines and tracks. Badger surveys are carried out following *Best Practice Badger Survey Guidance Note (2018)*. Attention was paid to the presence of the following field signs:

- Setts: Single holes or a series of holes likely to be interconnected underground
- Latrines: Badgers usually deposit faeces in excavated pits
- Paths and footprints
- Scratching posts: At the base of trees
- Snuffle holes: Areas where badgers have searched for insects
- Day nest: Bundles of vegetation where badgers may sleep above ground
- Traces of hair

3.5 Evaluation

Habitats and species on the site were evaluated following the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland* (2018). A geographical frame of reference is assigned to each habitat and species, with **International Value** being most important, then **National, Regional, County, District, Local** and lastly, within the immediate **Zone of Influence** (Zoi) of the proposals only.

Value judgements are based on characteristics that can be used to identify ecological resources or features likely to be important in terms of biodiversity. These include site designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). For undesignated features, the size, conservation status (locally, nationally or internationally), and the quality of the ecological resource are considered. Ecological resource quality can refer to habitats (for instance if they are particularly diverse, or a good example of a specific habitat type), other features (such as wildlife corridors or mosaics of habitats) or species populations or assemblages. The recommendations detailed within this report aim to meet requirements of the Environment Act and Statutory Biodiversity Metric as far as possible at this stage.

3.6 Limitations

The absence of biological records does not necessarily mean the absence of species. This has been considered within the report conclusions. No ponds or ornamental water features were identified within any residential gardens located adjacent to the site. However, it should be noted that unidentified ponds / water features may exist in nearby gardens (within 250m of the site). In general, such water features are usually relatively small in size and are more likely to be used by common amphibians i.e. smooth newt, and/or palmate newt and/or common frog (albeit great crested newt and common toad may use them in certain circumstances; for example, if there is a larger waterbody close by that supports either of these species).

4. Survey Results

4.1 Desk Study

Statutory sites

One statutory designated site was identified within a 2km radius of the proposed development site. These are listed in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Statutory designated sites

Statutory designated site	Reason for designation	Distance to proposed development
Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood Site of special scientific interest (SSSI)	Diverse habitats including unimproved hay meadows, permanent pasture, mature hedgerows, scrub and ancient woodland.	190m southwest

Non-statutory sites

Eight non-statutory designated sites were identified within a 2km radius of the proposed development site. These are listed in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Non-statutory designated site	Reason for designation	Distance to proposed development
South Pavenhill farm meadow Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	A fragment of species-rich unimproved neutral grassland.	540m west
Bagbury Green Farm Meadow (LWS)	A small damp meadow surrounded by high hedges and woodland.	1.2km southeast
Brickkiln Copse	Ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland with very rich plant species relative to site size.	1.3km west
Manor Farm Quarry Local Geological Site (LGS)	Old quarry for building stone, one of the best remaining examples of Wheatley Limestone.	1.4km east
Parley Copse (LWS)	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland on ancient site.	1.5km west
Frith Copse (LWS)	A Small strand of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland of oak over hazel and bluebell.	1.5km south
Cowleaze Copse (LWS)	A small stand of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland.	1.7km southwest
Flaxlands Manor (LWS)	Neutral pastures and hay meadows with differing hydrology and geology	2km south

The full designations for each site are listed within Appendix 5. The site lies within a Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood (190m southwest).

Priority Habitats

Grassland

Two areas of Priority habitat Good quality semi-improved grassland were returned within 2km of the site, with the closest located approximately 180m southwest of the site within Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood SSSI.

Four areas of Priority Habitat Lowland Meadows were returned within 2km of the site, with the closest located approximately 180m southwest of the site within Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood SSSI.

Wetland

One area of Priority habitat Lowland Fens was returned within 2km of the site, located approximately 700m southwest of the site within Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood SSSI.

Numerous areas of Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland were returned within 2km of the site, with the closest area located approximately 240m southwest of the site within Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood SSSI.

The site lies within a Conservation Target Area for the following Priority Species:

- Curlew (*Numenius Arquata*)
- Lapwing (*Vanellus Vanellus*)

The site also falls within a breeding area for the following Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds:

- Curlew
- Lapwing
- Tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Priority Species

Following a review of records held by WSBRC, several Priority Species that have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the proposed development have been identified. These include birds, bats, badgers, hedgehogs and amphibians. The species records are summarised below, and the detailed records held by WSBRC within 2km of the site are displayed within Appendix 5. Protected species legislation can be found within Appendix 4.

Birds

450 records were returned for bird species within 2km of the site. Species returned include swift (*Apus apus*), sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). All species recorded within 2km are displayed within Appendix 5. The closest record was a 2011 record of swift located 100m north of the site within a residential area. The most recent of which was a 2025 record of marsh tit (*Poecile palustris*) located 2km west of the site within agricultural land.

Bats

WSBRC returned 299 records for bats within the search area. Bat species include common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), Barbastelle's bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*), brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) and Lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*). The closest of which was a 2019 record of whiskered located within the site. The most recent of which was a 2024 record of Barbastelle, serotine, Leisler's bat, noctule, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, long-eared bat and less horseshoe bat located 1.7km south of the site within agricultural land.

Amphibians

Two records for great crested newt were returned within 2km of the site. The closest of which was a 2024 record located 1.7km northeast of the site within a residential area. This was also the most recent record.

A further three amphibians were returned within 2km of the site. Species present include common toad (*Bufo bufo*). The closest of which was a 2016 record of common toad located 1.5km northeast of the site within a residential area. The most recent of which was a 2017 record of common toad located 1.8km east of the site within a cemetery.

Reptiles

Sixty-two records for reptiles were returned within 2km of the site. Species present include slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*). The closest of which was a 2019 record located 350m east of the site within agricultural land. The most recent of which was a 2025 record of slow-worm located 640m east of the site within agricultural land.

Otters

No records for otters were returned within 2km of the site.

Water voles

No records for water voles were returned within 2km of the site.

Badgers

Four records for badgers were returned within 2km of the site. The closest of which was a 2016 record located 140m southeast of the site within agricultural land. The most recent of which was a 2020 record located 450m north of the site within agricultural land.

Other mammals

Seventy-three records for other mammals were returned within 2km of the site. Species include hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*), water shrew (*Neomys fodiens*) and rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). The closest of which was a 2020 record of hedgehog located 10m east of the site in a residential garden adjacent to the site. The most recent of which was a 2024 record of hedgehog located 1.2km east of the site within a residential area.

European Protected Species Licences

There were no EPSL applications within 2km of the site since 2021.

4.2 Habitat Survey

Weather

The weather conditions during the survey were mild (13°C), raining and cloudy (8/8 cloud cover) with a F3 (Beaufort Scale) light breeze, therefore appropriate for this type of survey.

The site lies on the western edge of Purton. To the east lies an area of residential dwellings. To the north, south and west lies expanses of agricultural land with areas of woodland.

Table 4.3: Habitats present on site including habitat alphanumeric code references from JNCC (2010)

Habitat description and JNCC codes	Site description
Improved grassland (B6)	The site is comprised entirely of a large, improved grassland field (see drawing P.1464.21.E21, Appendix 1). The sward height is varied across the habitat, ranging from 10cm up to 60cm. This habitat currently appears unmanaged and has been allowed to grow. Species present include perennial ryegrass, cock's foot, beaked hawksbeard and white clover. This habitat is displayed in photographs 1 to 6 within Appendix 3.
Dense scrub (A2.1)	An area of dense scrub is located in the small offshoot from the eastern site boundary that lies between two residential dwellings (see drawing P.1464.21.E21, Appendix 1). Species present include plum, hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel. This habitat is displayed in photographs 7 to 9 within Appendix 3.
Species-rich hedge with trees (J2.3.1)	Several species-rich hedgerows with trees line the boundaries, primarily along the northern, eastern, southern and partial western (see drawing P.1464.21.E21, Appendix 1). Species present include elm, ash, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, and hazel. This habitat is displayed in photographs 10 to 14 within Appendix 3.
Species-rich hedge with trees (J2.3.2)	Three species-poor hedgerows with trees were recorded along site boundaries. One along a section of the western boundary and the other two along a section of the eastern boundary (see drawing P.1464.21.E21, Appendix 1). Species present include cypress, hawthorn, ash and field maple. This habitat is displayed in photographs 15 to 16 within Appendix 3.

4.3 Protected and Notable Species

Table 4.4: Habitat suitability for protected and notable species

Birds

Habitat suitability

The improved grassland and hedgerows within the site provide suitable foraging and nesting opportunities for bird species.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

During the survey, wood pigeon, blackbird and robin were identified within the site.

Further survey required

For any vegetation removal or building works, a nesting bird survey will be required (Section 5.2).

Bats

Habitat suitability

No buildings are present within the site. The hedgerows and improved grassland within the site provide some suitability for commuting and foraging bats, with good connectivity to the surrounding land use.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

Evidence of bats was not identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

Yes, Bat activity surveys and the deployment of static bat detectors will be undertaken by Ascerta in 2026.

Badgers

Habitat suitability

The improved grassland and hedgerow habitats within the site provide limited foraging and shelter habitat for badger. A woodland also lies adjacent to the western boundary of the site, providing further suitable habitat for badger with good connectivity to the site.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of badger was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

Yes, RAMS should also be implemented (see Section 5.2). A survey for badger was undertaken within the site, surrounding land use and the adjacent woodland in May 2026 (Ascerta report P.1464.21, Badger Survey).

Water voles

Habitat suitability

Within the wider landscape from the site there are multiple ditch networks for water vole as mapped on MAGIC Maps that provide suitable habitats for water vole. The closest off-site ditch lies approximately 80m from the western boundary with connectivity to the site. However, the site provides no suitable terrestrial or aquatic habitat for water vole and is subject to a high level of human disturbance from the public footpath that runs through the site.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of water vole was identified during the site visit.

Further survey required

Water vole will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, water vole do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Otters

Habitat suitability

Within the wider landscape from the site, there are multiple ditch networks, as mapped on MAGIC Maps, that provide suitable habitats and connectivity for otter. The closest off-site ditch lies approximately 80m from the western boundary, with an area of woodland immediately to the north (adjacent to western site boundary). The site and immediate surrounding areas provide very limited terrestrial habitat for otters, limiting connectivity as it is bound by residential dwellings to the east and subject to human disturbance from the public footpath within the site that connects to the surrounding areas and within the off-site woodland.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of otters was identified during the site visit.

Further survey required

Otters will not be impacted by the proposals within the site therefore, otter do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Amphibians

Habitat suitability

No waterbodies are present within the site. No ponds were identified within 250m of the site via MAGIC Maps. The improved grassland and hedgerows provide limited terrestrial habitats for amphibians.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of amphibians was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

Amphibians will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, amphibians do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Reptiles

Habitat suitability

The hedgerows and improved grassland along the eastern edge of the site provide some commuting habitat for reptiles. The site also lies approximately 350m west of a significant reptile site, however connectivity is limited and the site is subject to human disturbance from the local public footpath network, along with agricultural use of the site. Additionally, only a small section of the existing hedgerow will be lost to accommodate the proposals.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of reptiles was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

Yes, RAMS should be implemented (see Section 5.2).

Invertebrates

Habitat suitability

The improved grassland provides some limited habitat for invertebrates; however the area is prone to human disturbance.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of invertebrates was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

No further survey for invertebrates will be required. Invertebrates do not require consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further.

Small mammals

Habitat suitability

The improved grassland and hedgerow habitats within the site provide foraging and commuting habitat for small mammal species such as hedgehog.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of small mammals was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

No further survey effort of other small mammals will be required; however, RAMS should be implemented (see Section 5.2).

Invasive species

Non-native invasive species wall cotoneaster (TN1) was identified to the eastern boundary of the site. The locations of the non-native invasive species identified within the site are displayed on plan P.1464.21.E21 within Appendix 1.

5. Evaluation and Recommendations

5.1 Designated Sites and Habitats

The site lies approximately 190m away from Restrop Garm and Brockhurst Wood (SSSI). A **consultation with Natural England is required** as the site lies within an Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for this statutory site. Due to the likelihood the construction phase may impact this statutory site, it is **recommended that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) be produced and implemented** to outline potential impacts to this statutory site and mitigate/minimise them. There will likely be an increase in footfall to this statutory site post-construction. Therefore, it is **recommended that a homeowner's leaflet be produced and distributed** to new homeowners informing them of this statutory site and how they can reduce their impact upon it.

The closest non-statutory site (South Pavenhill Farm Meadow LWS) lies approximately 550m of the site. This site is likely to be impacted during the construction phase and should be included within the CEMP recommendations. The previously recommended homeowner's leaflet should also cover this non statutory site as it is likely this site will see an increase in footfall post-construction.

Mitigation

The habitats on site comprise species-rich hedgerows with trees, species-poor hedgerows with trees and improved grassland. These habitats are considered to have an ecological value of **within the zone of influence** of the site or lower. The site contains no designated or priority habitats. Overall, the proposals are unlikely to adversely affect the ecological value of the area (subject to requirements presented within P.1464.21 *Biological Impact Assessment, [South Pavenhill Farm]*).

5.2 Protected and Notable Species Recommendations

Birds

The semi-natural broadleaved woodland, semi-improved grassland, scattered trees and scrub provide suitable habitat for nesting and foraging bird species. It is recommended that vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (**1 March to 31 August inclusive**) to avoid any impact on breeding birds. If vegetation clearance cannot be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season, a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing. If an active birds' nest is identified, a suitable buffer zone should be implemented where no works are to occur within until the young have fledged the nest.

Bats

The hedgerows on site provide **moderate** suitability for commuting and foraging bats. No buildings are present within the site.

Badgers

The site provides habitat for badgers within the improved grassland, hedgerows and off-site woodland.

As badgers are a mobile species, it is recommended that an **updated badger check of suitable habitats** (improved grassland, hedgerows and off-site woodland) is undertaken prior to works commencing within the site to avoid harm to badgers that may have moved into the habitats within the site. It is recommended that a **Badger RAMS Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species.

Invasive species

Wall cotoneaster (TN1) has been identified within the site. To avoid the spread (complying with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, see Appendix 4) of these species within the site during site clearance, it is recommended that an **invasive species management plan** is produced and adhered to during the works. It is recommended that the management plan details suitable management of these species, biosecurity measures and avoidance measures where possible.

Small mammals

The site provides habitat for small mammals within the hedgerows and improved grassland.

These habitats are likely to be impacted by the proposals, and therefore it is recommended that a **Hedgehog RAMS Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species.

To enable hedgehogs to continue the use of the site, it is advised that gaps of at least 13cm by 13cm are left under any new garden fences to enable hedgehogs to roam freely within the area following development.

Reptiles

The site provides some suitable habitat for reptiles within the hedgerows and improved grassland to the east of the site. It is **recommended that a reptile RAMS be produced and implemented** to reduce the impact upon this species.

5.3 Enhancements

In order to meet requirements for biodiversity protection and enhancement outlined within the NPPF, it is recommended that ecological enhancements are included. These could include:

- Provision of 20 bird boxes (25mm, 28mm or 32mm entrance hole box, house sparrow terrace, swift box), attached to or integrated within new buildings on site
- Provision of 20 bat features (e.g. Vivara Pro WoodStone Bat box or similar) attached to a retained or new tree on site or provision of a bat box (e.g. Vivara bat bricks or '*bird brick houses*' bat boxes) integrated within new buildings
- Suitable landscaping incorporating species that provide a food or shelter resource to wildlife to include hawthorn, hazel, holly, blackthorn, field maple, dog rose and honeysuckle as hedgerow species and oak, alder, field maple, silver birch, crab apple, rowan and bird cherry as tree species together with implementing a relaxed mowing regime and establishing wildflowers in these areas

6. Conclusions

The site was subject to an extended phase one habitat survey. During the survey and following a review of historical species records, it is considered that an impact on birds, bats, badgers, reptiles and hedgehogs are likely to occur in relation to the proposals for the site. The following recommendations have been made to avoid an impact on these species:

- If works have not begun by May 2028, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site
- Production and implementation of a badger Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production and implementation of a reptile RAMS to avoid any harm to these species during the proposed works
- Production of an invasive species method statement to avoid the spread of invasive species into the wider landscape during the proposed works
- Precautionary check for badger prior to works commencing to assess if badgers are using the habitats within the site for shelter
- Precautionary check for invasives prior to works commencing
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting that includes native, species-rich hedgerows, trees and areas of wildflowers plus provision of integrated bat and bird features within newly constructed buildings
- Production of a management plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around a new development site
- Vegetation clearance or pruning should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1 March to 31 August inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds, or a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing

It is considered that there would be very limited impacts on the local ecology as a result of the proposals, provided the recommendations detailed within Section 5.0 above are followed.

7. References

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Appendix 2: Species Lists and Target Notes

Table 1: Flora species

English name	Scientific name	DAFOR scale
Vetch	<i>Vicia sp.</i>	
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	
Cocks foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	
Beaked hawks beard	<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	
Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	
Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	
Cypress	<i>Cupressus sp.</i>	
Wall Cotoneaster *	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	

* **invasive species**

Table 2: Fauna species

English name	Scientific name
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Coal tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>

Table 3: Target notes

Target Note number	Description
TN1	Wall cotoneaster

Appendix 3: Photographs

Table 4: Photographs of the site



Photograph 1: Improved grassland on site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 2: Improved grassland on site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 3: Improved grassland on site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 4: Improved grassland on site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 5: Improved grassland on site, taken by Rebecca Donnan.



Photograph 6: Improved grassland on site, taken by Rebecca Donnan.



Photograph 7: Dense scrub on site, taken by Rebecca Donnan.



Photograph 8: Dense scrub on site, taken by Rebecca Donnan.



Photograph 9: Dense scrub on site, taken by Rebecca Donnan.



Photograph 10: Species-rich hedgerow with trees on the north of the site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 11: Species-rich hedgerow with trees on the north of the site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 12: Species-rich hedgerow with trees on the northeast of the site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 13: Species-rich hedgerow with trees on the southeast of the site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 14: Species-poor hedgerow with trees on the east of the site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 15: Species-poor hedgerow with trees on the northeast of the site, taken by Jack Kay.



Photograph 16: Species-poor hedgerow with trees on the east of the site, taken by Jack Kay.

Appendix 4: Relevant Legislation

European Legislation

The following Directives have been adopted by the European Union and provide protection for fauna and flora species of European importance and the habitats which support them:

- Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive)
- Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive)

UK Legislation

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into national legislation through the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (The Habitats Regulations). This provides for the designation and protection of 'European Sites' (SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites, including proposed or potential European Sites) and the protection of 'European Protected Species'.

The key UK legislation relating to nature conservation is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (W&C Act). This Act is supplemented, *inter alia*, by provision in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act). Additional species and habitat-specific UK legislation includes the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

The Environment Act sets out how the UK will maintain environmental standards following leaving of the EU. The Bill builds on the vision of the 25 Year Environment Plan, with the ambition from the government to leave the environment in a better state than it was when inherited.

The DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been implemented to work alongside the Environment Act. This tool calculates potential biodiversity impacts as a result of development and identifies mitigation and compensation requirements to ensure no net loss of biodiversity. In addition, it identifies measures that can be implemented in order to meet biodiversity gain as a result of development.

The NPPF 2024 has been published to provide further planning guidance. Wildlife, biodiversity and ecological networks are referred to in Section 15 *Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*. The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity value, recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services and minimising impacts on and provide net gains for biodiversity. Further guidance is provided within Government Circular 06/05: *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System*.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act and are a material consideration in planning decisions. Planners require relevant, up-to-date information from ecological surveys in order to assess the effects of a proposed development on biodiversity as Councils have a statutory obligation under Section 40 of the NERC Act to consider biodiversity conservation in the determination of planning applications.

Background information about the lists of priority habitats and species (Species and Habitats of Principal Importance) can be found within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Although this has been succeeded by the *UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework*, many UK BAP tools are still relevant. BAPs identify habitats and species of nature conservation priority on a UK (UK BAP) and Local (LBAP) scale. Most BAP priority habitats and species have Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs) and there are also 'grouped action plans' for groups of related species with similar conservation requirements. The LBAP relating to this site is the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

Badgers

The legislation protecting badgers in England and Wales is the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, it is an offence *inter alia* to:

- Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger, or to attempt to do so
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger
- Intentionally or recklessly interfere with a badger sett by (a) damaging a sett or any part of one; (b) destroying a sett; (c) obstructing access to or any entrance of a sett; (d) causing a dog to enter a sett; or (e) disturbing a badger when it is occupying a sett

The Badger Act 1992 defines a badger's sett as '*any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger.*'

Natural England can issue licences to enable works to continue that may affect a protected species. In relation to disturbance of badgers, Natural England (2009) gives guidelines on disturbance which will require a licence. These include: '*using very heavy machinery (generally tracked vehicles) within 30 metres of any entrance to an active sett; using lighter machinery (generally wheeled vehicles), particularly for any digging operation, within 20 metres; light work such as hand-digging or scrub clearance within 10 metres. There are some activities which may cause disturbance at greater distances (such as using explosives or pile driving) and these should be given individual consideration.*'

Bats

In England, all bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the W&C Act 1981 (as amended). Several species of bat are also highlighted as Priority Species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and within the Local BAP.

Under the current legislation, as summarised on pages 9 and 10 of the *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition* (2024), it is a criminal offence to:

'Kill, capture, injure or take a wild bat:

- *To damage or destroy a place used by a bat for breeding or resting. All offences of this nature are identified within the Habitats Regulations. This offence is unique in that it can be committed accidentally. No element of intentional, reckless or deliberate action needs to be evidenced.*
- *To disturb bats anywhere (roosts, flight lines or foraging areas) if levels of disturbance can be shown to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, to rear or nurture their young, to hibernate or migrate or to affect significantly local distribution or abundance*
- *To intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat, whilst it is occupying a place of shelter or protection*
- *To intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place used by a bat for shelter or protection*
- *To be in possession or control of a bat alive or dead (or any part of a bat or anything derived from a bat, although bat droppings are generally considered to be acceptable), or to transport a bat, to sell or exchange a bat or to offer to sell or exchange a bat taken from the wild.'*

Breeding birds

Breeding birds are protected under the W&C Act 1981, which makes it an offence to:

- *Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built*
- *Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird*
- *Have in one's possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive, or any part of a wild bird (including eggs), which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954*
- *Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird*

Invasive species

It is an offence under Section 14(2) of the W&C Act 1981 to '*plant or otherwise cause to grow*' in the wild any plant in Schedule 9 Part II.

Otters

Otters and their resting places protected under Schedule 5 of the W&C Act 1981 (as amended), and under EC Directive (92/43/EEC), listed under Annexes II and IVa.

Under European Legislation implemented in Britain under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2019 (as amended), it is an offence to '*damage or destroy an otter's place of shelter, whether intentionally or accidentally.*' Under this legislation, it is also an offence to deliberately disturb an otter.

Under the W&C Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to:

- '*Intentionally*' kill, injure or take an otter without a licence
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to a place used by an otter for shelter

Invertebrates

The site's suitability for supporting invertebrates was assessed during the site visit. This included making a note of key plant species that could be used by notable invertebrates, together with incidental invertebrates recorded on the day.

It is a criminal offence to intentionally, wilfully kill, injure or take any of the aforementioned protected species or to destroy or disturb its habitat.

Local policy

The site lies within Purton and is covered by the Wiltshire Core Strategy (adopted January 2015). The policy of relevance is Core Policy 50 regarding Biodiversity and Geodiversity and has been considered throughout this report.



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Hedges and trees - native species rich
- Hedges and trees - species poor
- Dense scrub
- Improved grassland
- Target Notes

TN1 - Wall cotoneaster



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CLIENT:
Lovell

PROJECT:
South Pavenhill Farm, Purton,
Swindon, SN5 4FH

DRAWING TITLE:
Phase One Habitat Survey

SCALE:	DRAWN BY:	DRAWING NO:
A3	JK	P.1464.21.E21
DATE:	CHKD BY	REV:
20/05/2026	LK	-

Data search results within 2000 metres of South Pavenhill Farm: SU0776187326

WSBRC Ref: 20260428_2_Ascerta

Report date: 08/05/2026

Data held by WSBRC is validated as fully as possible to ensure such factors as geographical and temporal accuracy of each record. In addition, WSBRC staff and County Recorders undertake verification of records ensuring that notable species or new records for an area are correctly identified. However, errors cannot be totally eliminated.

Conditions of data use

The information provided in the following report is confidential and must always be treated in accordance with the WSBRC Terms and Conditions of Data Use:

1. The data are still protected by copyright, and this is held by the WSBRC unless otherwise stated.
2. The raw data may not be copied to third parties, published in any form, placed on the World Wide Web or supplied to the recipient's client or consultees without written permission from the WSBRC except as in the circumstances given below.
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 - Any special arrangements made in respect of confidential data are adhered to (see below)
 - Full acknowledgement is given in the report to WSBRC and where appropriate, the original recorders
 - Any specific copyright conditions attached to the data including Crown Copyright must be strictly adhered to
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4. The data must not be entered onto any permanent database or Geographical Information System without written permission from the WSBRC.
5. Data from the WSBRC will only be used for the purpose stated and will not be stored beyond the life of the project for which it was acquired or for longer than 12 months.
6. Whilst the WSBRC takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the information supplied is verified and validated, it cannot be held liable for the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the data due to the varied sources and time periods that may apply to some of the raw data and to the dynamic nature of biological recording. It therefore cannot accept liability for any consequential, incidental or indirect loss, damage or adverse effect arising from the use of the data.

Please see our [Data Access Policy](#) for full details and for species restrictions.

Legally protected and notable species records within 2000 metres of South Pavenhill Farm: SU0776187326

The species data was shared in CSV format.

Where the term 'Lewis Raptor Group' appears in a record comment, further information can be sought from [WSBRC](https://www.wsbrc.org).

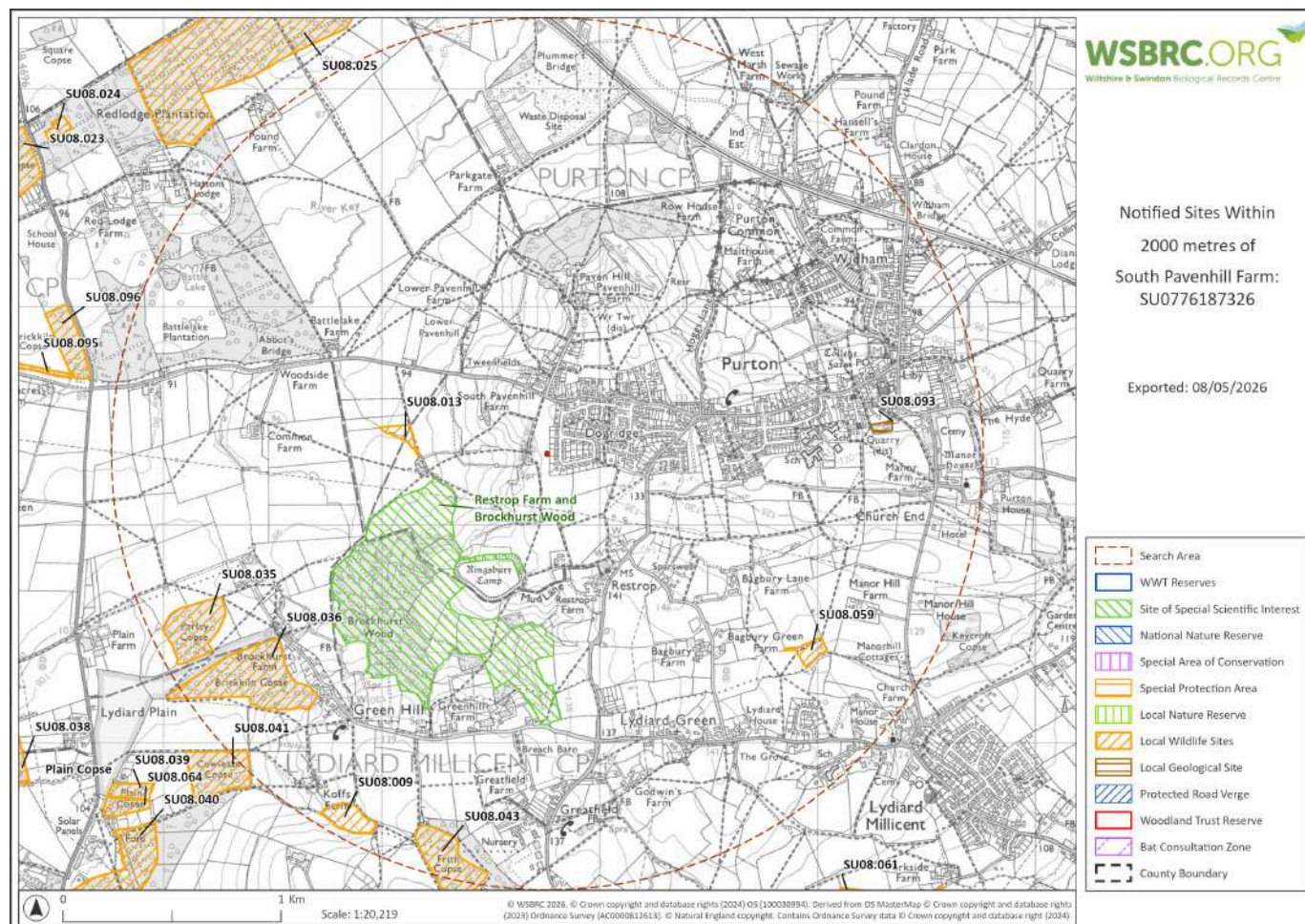
Confidential species

None found in search area or species search was not requested.

For further information on confidential bird species records, please contact Wiltshire Ornithological Society via the County Recorder [Paul Castle](https://www.wsbrc.org).

Notified sites within 2000 metres of South Pavenhill Farm: SU0776187326

Notified Sites Map



The map was also supplied in JPEG format.

Local Wildlife Sites

	File_Code	Grid_Ref	Site_Name	Area_Ha	Site_Description	Selection_Criteria	Source	Main_habitat	Latest_Recorded_Habitats
0	SU08.009	SU068847	Flaxlands Manor	27.81	A series of neutral pastures and hay meadows with differing geology and hydrology.	HG2.2 (15.52ha)	WTNC 1984-85 (G); NCC 1987 (G); EN 1992 (G); WSP(4) 2017	Neutral grassland	[National Vegetation Classification - 02/09/1992] CG4 Brachypodium pinnatum grassland : [Phase 1 Habitat Classification - 02/09/1992] E Mire : [National Vegetation Classification - 02/09/1992] MG10b Juncus inflexus sub-community; MG5b Galium verum sub-co
1	SU08.013	SU071874	South Pavenhill Farm Meadow, Purton	0.82	A fragment of species-rich, unimproved neutral grassland in the corner of an otherwise semi-improved field.	HG2.2 (0.82ha)	EN 1992 (G); WSP(1) 2017	Neutral grassland	[National Vegetation Classification - 02/09/1992] MG5c Danthonia decumbens sub-community
2	SU08.035	SU061865	Parley Copse	5.5	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland on an ancient site.	HW1.1 (5.39ha); HW4.1 (5.5ha)	NCC 1982 (W); WTNC 1984-85 (W); NCC AWI 1987; WSP(1) 2015	Broadleaved woodland	[BAP Key (Priority) Habitats - 21/04/2015] Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
3	SU08.036	SU064863	Brickkiln Copse	11.22	An area of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland very rich in plant species for its small size.	HW1.1 (11.22ha)	NCC 1978-91; WTNC 1984-85 (W); NCC AWI 1987; WSP(1) 2009	Broadleaved woodland	[National Vegetation Classification - 23/04/2009] W8 Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre-Mercurialis perennis wood
4	SU08.041	SU063859	Cowleaze Copse	5.17	A small stand of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland.	HW1.1 (5.1ha)	WTNC 1984-85 (W); NCC AWI 1987; WSP(1) 2011	Broadleaved woodland	Broadleaved woodland
5	SU08.043	SU073854	Frith Copse	5.5	A small stand of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland of Oak over Hazel and Bluebell.	HW1.1 (5.37ha)	WTNC 1984-85 (W); NCC AWI 1987; WSP(1) 2016	Broadleaved woodland	[National Vegetation Classification - 02/11/2000] W10 Quercus robur-Pteridium aquilinum-Rubus fruticosus woodland
6	SU08.059	SU089864	Bagbury Green Farm Meadow	1.06	A small damp meadow surrounded by high hedges and a woodland strip.	X3 (1.06ha)	WWT (10km); WWT (BFP); WSP(0)	Neutral grassland	[National Vegetation Classification - 17/05/1993] CG3 Bromus erectus grassland : [Phase 1 Habitat Classification - 17/05/1993] G12 Open water: standing, mesotrophic; G13 Open water: standing, oligotrophic : [National Vegetation Classification - 17/05/199

Local Geological Sites

	File_Code	Grid_Ref	Site_Name	Area_Ha	Site_Description	Source
0	SU08.093	SU093875	Manor Farm Quarry, Purton	0.393	Old quarry for building stone. The best remaining example of the Wheatley Limestone, a shell fragmented limestone accumulated peripherally to the coral reefs and formerly much used locally e.g Purton Church. Quarry 80m by 20m, 4m deep.	RIGS 2002

Protected Road Verges

None found in search area.

WWT Reserves

None found in search area.

Bat Consultation Zones

None found in search area.

Please find the Wiltshire Council Planning Guidance [here](#).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

	Site_Type	Grid_Ref	Site_Name	Area_Ha	Designation_Status
0	SSSI	SU072866	Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood	52.861761	Notified

Special Areas of Conservation

None found in search area.

Special Protection Areas

None found in search area.

National Nature Reserves

None found in search area.

Local Nature Reserves

None found in search area.

Ascerta

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