

## Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

### ECOLOGY

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| <b>Officer name:</b>       | Abi Gazzard                                           |
| <b>Date:</b>               | 16/07/2026                                            |
| <b>Application number:</b> | PL/2026/03390                                         |
| <b>Proposal:</b>           | Erection of new livestock shed                        |
| <b>Site address:</b>       | Gore Cross Farm, Gore Cross, West Lavington, SN10 4NA |
| <b>Case officer:</b>       | Jane Sanger                                           |

### Recommendations:

|                                     |                                                |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | No Comment                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Support                                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No objection                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Condition (no objection subject to conditions) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Objection - further information required       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Objection in principle                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HRA completed                                  |

Thank you for consulting Ecology. I have reviewed the application and supporting documents against OS Maps, aerial photography of the site and surrounding area, together with GIS layers of statutory and non-statutory designated sites and existing records of protected species.

### Information considered:

- Planning and Design & Access Statement, Tim Collins, May 2026
- Proposed Site Plan, GXF-NS02, May 2026
- Small Sites Metric, Tim Collins, May 2026
- Site photographs

The site comprises a farmyard where it is proposed to construct a new livestock shed. It is understood that this is to deliver animal welfare and operational efficiency benefits. The site is surrounded by agricultural buildings to the north, east and south, with fields to the west.

### COMMENTS:

#### Salisbury Plain Special Protection Area (SPA) 6.4km buffer

This application lies within the 6.4km zone of influence of the Salisbury Plain SPA and potential impact of recreational pressure on stone curlew, in combination with other plans and projects, must be considered.

A test of likely significance has been carried out by the relevant Competent Authority (Wiltshire Council) as required by Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This concluded that given the scale and nature of the development (there will be no additional overnight accommodation created), there is no mechanism for adverse effect, and any temporary construction impacts and operational impacts would be de-minimus. The HRA has concluded that the application is not likely to have significant impacts on Salisbury Plain SPA and subsequently the application is screened out of Appropriate Assessment.

#### River Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Hampshire Catchment

This development falls within the catchment of the River Avon SAC and has potential to cause adverse effects alone or in combination with other developments through discharge of phosphorus in wastewater.

A test of likely significance has been carried out by the relevant Competent Authority (Wiltshire Council) as required by Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This concluded that given the scale and nature of the development (there will be no additional overnight accommodation created and no agricultural intensification), there would be no overall mechanism for adverse effect. The HRA has concluded that the application is not likely to have significant impacts on the SAC and subsequently the application is screened out of Appropriate Assessment.

### **Biodiversity Net Gain and enhancements**

From 12 February 2024 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).

The applicant has provided site photographs as well as a small sites metric demonstrating that the proposal will impact an area of existing hardstanding only.

Based on the information available the biodiversity gain planning condition is not considered to apply to this application as the development meets the following criteria and is therefore below the de minimis threshold, meaning the development:

- o does not impact an onsite priority habitat (a habitat specified in a list published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006); and
- o impacts less than 25 square metres of onsite habitat that has biodiversity value greater than zero and less than 5 metres in length of onsite linear habitat (as defined in the statutory metric).

*Note to case officer: you should be satisfied that the proposals meet the above criteria and act accordingly. Further information will be required from the applicant prior to determination in the event the application is considered to be subject to mandatory biodiversity net gain.*

Biodiversity enhancement/s (such as a bird box) would be welcomed and would be in line with the NPPF and CP50, but given the scale of habitats to be impacted, it is not considered proportionate to require this via a planning condition.

In summary, I have no ecology-related objections.

**Sign off by WC Ecologist will only be given once ALL outstanding information has been submitted and agreed sufficient.**

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| <b>Ecologist</b><br>Abi Gazzard | <b>Date</b><br>16/07/2026 |
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