

LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN

LAND SOUTH OF LEWIS COURT, SOUTHWICK,
WILTSHIRE

By

stark ecology^{ltd}

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INTRODUCTION

Stark Ecology Ltd has been commissioned by Ashford Homes (South Western) Limited to produce a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) to inform development of land south of Lewis Court, Southwick, Wiltshire. This LEMP has been prepared to inform an application for planning permission for the construction of 8 new dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping (PL/2025/08329).

Site Location and Description

The site is c.0.5Ha with its centre at OS Grid Reference ST842549 and is to the southeast of Southwick, a village which is to the southwest of Trowbridge. The site is bordered by residential development to the north and south, a busy road (Wynsome Street) to the west and open countryside supporting mixed farmland with excellent connectivity to hedgerow networks to the east. In the wider landscape Southwick is surrounded by mixed farmland with good hedgerow networks.



Figure 1: The site is to the southeast of Southwick and surrounded by mixed farmland.

Development Description

The development will entail the construction of 8 new residential dwellings and associated infrastructure and landscaping (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: Proposed Site Plan (taken from 2417-010V, Proposed Site Plan, TEA Architects)

Planning Context

An application for planning permission (PL/2025/08329) for the erection of 8 residential dwellings and associated works is being considered by Wiltshire Council and a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) is required to demonstrate how suitable habitat buffers can be retained, protected and managed in accordance with the requirements of the Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy (TWBMS) and to support the ongoing use of the site by bats associated with the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC), hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* and other protected species.

Purpose of This Report

This report details a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and sets out management measures to guide the implementation of development proposals in accordance with the requirements of the Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy (TWBMS). The measures described will also support compliance with applicable nature conservation legislation during development of the site.

Responsible Parties

It is the responsibility of Ashford Homes (South Western) Limited to arrange for the work outlined in this document to be undertaken to ensure all prescriptions are fulfilled. Contractors hired to carry out landscaping work and maintenance for biodiversity will be appropriately experienced and qualified.

ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

Survey Work

Stark Ecology Ltd carried out the following surveys at this site during 2025:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
- Breeding bird surveys
- Static monitoring and transect surveys of bat activity
- Nest tube surveys for hazel dormouse
- Reptile surveys

The results of those surveys are set out in the Ecological Impact Assessment Report by Stark Ecology Ltd (May 2026).

Designated Areas for Nature Conservation

There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 2km of the land south of Lewis Court and the site does not lie within the core zones associated with the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC. It is within the Yellow (Medium Risk) Zone of the Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy Area.

There is only one Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 2km of the land south of Lewis Court:

- The Brokerswood and Hazel Wood LWS is c.1.9km to the south and is a fairly large area of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland containing a small holiday park.

In addition, the Southwick Country Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is c.850m to the northwest.

Habitats

The habitats which were recorded within the site during the Ecological Appraisal are shown on Figure 3 below.

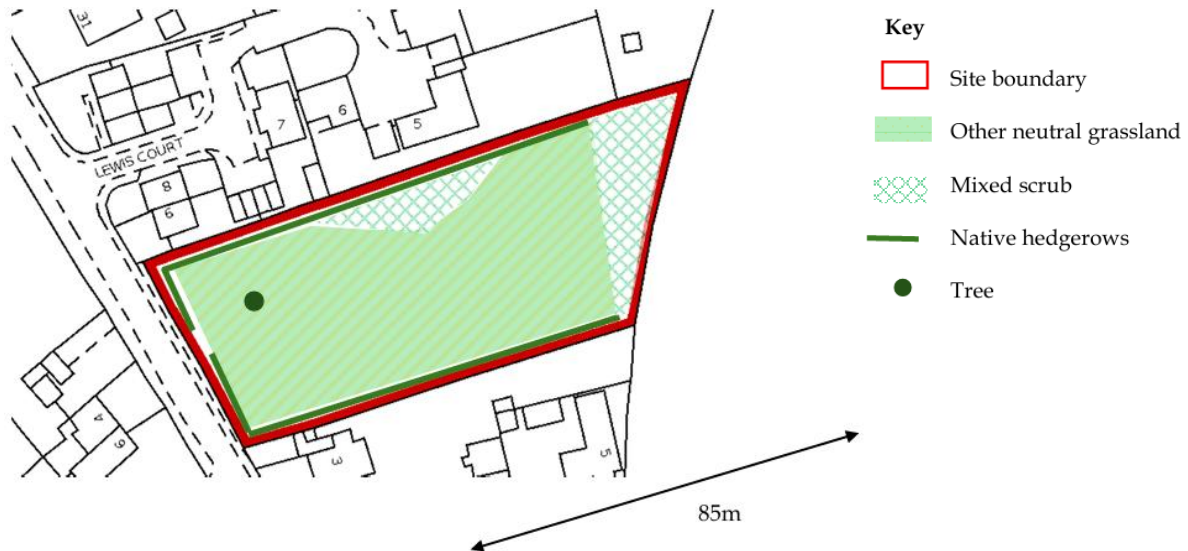


Figure 3: Baseline Habitat Map.

The site was found to support a narrow range of habitats including the following:

- Other neutral grassland (Poor condition).
- Mixed scrub (Moderate condition).
- Native species hedgerows (in Moderate or Poor condition).
- Tree (Moderate condition).

Protected/ Notable Species

Bats - roosting

The apple *Malus* tree supports a number of cracks and fissures which could be suitable for roosting bats. A full inspection of these features found that they were unsuitable to support roosting bats.

Bats - foraging

The site falls within the Yellow (Medium Risk) zone associated with the Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy area.

Static monitoring carried out at this site from April to October 2025 (inclusive) recorded greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* bats at both monitoring

locations during each period of monitoring from April to October 2025 (inclusive). Lesser horseshoe *R. hipposideros* were less regularly recorded at the northeastern monitoring location but were detected at the southwestern location during every period of monitoring.

The following species were also frequently recorded over the site throughout the period of monitoring:

- Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- Soprano pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*
- Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*
- Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*
- Brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*
- Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii*
- Whiskered/Brandt's *M. mystacinus/brandtii*
- Natterer's *M. nattereri*

Less frequently but still regularly recorded species were:

- Leisler's *N. leislerii*
- Nathusius pipistrelle *P. nathusii* (a migrant recorded passing over the site in September 2025).

Also of note are recordings of barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* during August and September 2025.

Birds

A total of 30 bird species were recorded across the surveys in 2025, including many registrations of birds flying overhead, and foraging on/over neighbouring land. The site is largely too small to support ground-nesting birds characteristic of open fields, such as skylark *Alauda arvensis*, and all nesting birds are confined to the hedgerows, scrub and adjacent gardens.

The site therefore favours species utilising either hedgerows and mature trees (such as woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* etc) or residential areas and gardens (house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*,

blackbird *Turdus merula*), and such species are more able to adapt to human disturbance and gardens.

Hazel Dormouse

Dormouse nests were identified in the scrub at the eastern end of the site in September 2025. The confirmation of presence of hazel dormouse in the scrub at the eastern end of the site means that this species is assumed to be present throughout the hedgerows and scrub across this site.

Reptiles

Reptile surveys carried out during 2025 identified a breeding population of slow worm *Anguis fragilis* within the site.

Hedgehog

The site supports suitable habitat for hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus* to use when commuting and foraging through the wider landscape at night, and areas of dense scrub provide potential refuge sites for hedgehog.

Brown hare

The grassland and scrub within the extension area are suitable for brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, particularly as they are well connected to further suitable grassland habitats in the wider landscape.

Roe Deer

Roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* have been recorded resting up within the site regularly throughout the course of surveys carried out during 2025.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

This section summarises nature conservation legislation which is of relevance to this LEMP.

Relevant Legislation

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the primary piece of legislation by which biodiversity in the UK is protected. The most relevant areas of the Act to development related activities are:

- The identification and subsequent protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), which prohibits damaging activities
- The protection of certain species listed in Schedule 5, which prohibits killing, injury, disturbance, damage and/or destruction of breeding sites and/or resting places and sale (it should be noted that all parts of this protection do not apply to all Scheduled species)
- The protection of wild birds and their nests, which prohibits damage or destruction of nests whilst in use.
- Measures to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (known as the 'Habitats Regulations'), pass two EC Directives into UK law. The Regulations protect sites and species deemed to be of conservation importance across Europe. The most relevant parts of the Regulations to development related activities are:

- The protection of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- The protection of species listed within Schedule 2 of the Regulations, which prohibits killing, injury, disturbance, damage and/or destruction of breeding sites and/or resting places and sale, this confers some level of habitat protection. In order for activities that would be likely to result in a breach of species protection under the regulations to legally take place, a European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licence must first be obtained from Natural England.

Species-specific Legislation

Birds

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 protects bird species in the UK and makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take a wild bird;
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Other offences under this legislation relate to taking and possessing specimens or the eggs of wild birds.

Furthermore, there are additional penalties for intentionally or recklessly disturbing a species listed on Schedule 1 of the same Act, including while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young or intentionally or recklessly disturbing the dependent young of such a species. No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development. Licences are available in certain circumstances to damage or destroy nests, but these only apply to the list of licensable activities in the Act and do not cover development. General licences are available in respect of 'pest species' but only for certain very specific purposes e.g., public health, public safety, air safety.

Bats

Bats are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure or handle a bat;
- Possess a bat (whether alive or dead);
- Disturb a roosting bat; or
- Sell (or offer for sale) a bat (without an appropriate licence).

In addition, it is an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost, whether it is currently in use or not.

Where bats are present within a feature or structure on a development site in England, a licence may be granted by Natural England for works to alter or remove the roost. Licence applications can only be made once full planning permission has been granted and a suitable mitigation strategy (set out in a detailed Method Statement) forms an essential part of this application process. Works are likely to be seasonally restricted and must be carried out in accordance with the Method Statement agreed with Natural England.

Hazel Dormouse

Dormice are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Capture, kill, disturb or injure a dormouse;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a dormouse;
- Obstruct access to breeding or resting places; or
- Possess, sell, control or transport a dormouse, whether alive or dead.

Where dormice are present within a feature or structure on a development site in England, a licence may be granted by Natural England for works to alter or remove this habitat. Licence applications can only be made once full planning permission has been granted and a suitable mitigation strategy (set out in a detailed Method Statement) forms an essential part of this application process. Works are likely to be seasonally restricted and must be carried out in accordance with the Method Statement agreed with Natural England.

Badger

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 deals solely with the protection of badgers *Meles meles* in the UK. It prohibits killing, injuring or taking badgers, damaging, destroying or otherwise interfering with a badger sett, disturbing an occupied badger sett and sale of badgers.

Common Amphibians

Common toads are listed as Species of Principal Importance in England under section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).

Reptiles

All native reptile species are protected against intentional or reckless killing or injury by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

The habitat of the four common species of reptile (common lizard, slow worm, adder *Vipera berus* and grass snake) does not receive additional protection.

Hedgehog

Hedgehogs are a Species of Principal Importance (SoPI) under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) and should, as such, be conserved through the planning process. Hedgehogs also fall under the provisions of the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996, which prevents certain cruel acts against wild mammals.

Brown Hare

Brown hare are a SoPI under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) and should, as such, be conserved through the planning process. Brown hare also fall under the provisions of the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996, which prevents certain cruel acts against wild mammals.

Rabbit and Roe Deer

Rabbits and roe deer are protected from cruelty by the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996.

LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Aims and Objectives

The below details proposed ecological avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures for the site and associated provisions for their establishment and management.

The LEMP aims to support the proposed works to:

- Safeguard protected species for which the site offers opportunities including commuting and foraging bats, hazel dormouse, reptiles and nesting birds; and
- Maintain and enhance available habitat for these protected and notable species and other wildlife at the site post-construction.

To achieve this, the following measures are proposed:

- A specification for the creation and management in perpetuity of a landscape buffer at the eastern boundary of the site;
- A specification for the enhancement and management in perpetuity of the north and south hedgerow boundaries; and
- A specification for the creation and management of integrated features for the benefit of bats and nesting birds.

Also included are:

- A summary of proposed actions in the form of an annual Works Schedule which is suitable to guide implementation of ecological measures and their management for at least the first five years following construction;
- Arrangements for monitoring of ecological mitigation and enhancement measures and the introduction of remedial measures, as necessary, to support the above-detailed aims; and
- A summary of responsibilities in relation to the LEMP, including the mechanisms through which appropriate monitoring, management and any necessary remedial actions will be secured.

Update Survey

Natural systems are dynamic and habitats/species populations can be expected to change/move over time. As such, the findings of ecological survey work are

generally considered to be valid for a period of two years following their completion (CIEEM, 2018).

If works on site have not commenced within 2 years of surveys being conducted, an update walkover survey will be completed before works begin to assess the potential for change in ecological conditions at the site. This survey can be completed at any time of year, although a visit within the active plant growing season (from April to September, inclusive) is likely to best facilitate an assessment of site conditions.

Should the walkover survey identify material changes in habitats/conditions that could affect the site's suitability to support protected/notable species, further update species-specific survey effort may be required. The required approach to and timing of these surveys would be dependent on the species involved. Any additional survey effort would be determined and carried out under the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist.

This LEMP will be reviewed in light of the results of any update survey work at the site, to allow for any necessary changes to the measures detailed.

Avoidance/Mitigation/Compensation Measures

Designated Areas

The site lies within the Yellow (Medium Risk) Zones associated with the Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy. As such, appropriate buffers are required where core bat habitat has been identified within the site (the north and south boundary hedgerows and the scrub at the eastern end of the site are all considered to be core habitat).

As set out below, a 15m wide landscape buffer will be retained and enhanced at the eastern end of the site (details of appropriate measures for establishment and ongoing management are set out below) and the north and south boundary hedgerows will be planted up to fill any gaps, improve species diversity and structure and with a buffer retained which will allow 2-3 years growth with access for regular management (further details set out below).

The Horizontal Illuminance (lux) plot drawing (see Ecological Mitigation Plan, Stark Ecology Ltd, May 2026 and EDS Lighting Strategy ref. 1055/201 Rev A, dated 12/05/2026) confirms that light spill (from external sources only) will result in <0.5lux along all boundary vegetation, retaining dark, mature boundary vegetation along which bats can commute and forage to the north, south and east.

Habitats

The proposed works will require the removal of the grassland and some of the western boundary hedgerow in order to make way for construction. The proposed loss of small areas of common and widespread habitats at the site is not of intrinsic ecological significance. Nevertheless, areas of retained vegetation at the site margins will be protected and replacement planting provided as part of landscaping proposals, in order to create, enhance and maintain available habitats for use by protected and notable species post-construction.

Boundary Hedgerows

Along the western site boundary, part of the existing hedgerow will be removed to allow the new site access to be created.

The north and south boundary hedgerows will be retained and enhanced, including proposed native structure planting and new trees.

Table 1: Native structure trees to be planted within the existing hedgerows along the north and south boundaries.

Species	Height	Type
Field maple <i>Acer campestre</i> (5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> (7.5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> (12.5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (12.5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Spindle <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> (5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> (7%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> (5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Wild cherry <i>Prunus avium</i> (10%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> (10%)	80-100cm	Bare root
English oak <i>Quercus robur</i> (7.5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Field rose <i>Rosa arvensis</i> (5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (0.5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Elder <i>Sambuca nigra</i> (5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Gelder rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i> (7.5%)	80-100cm	Bare root

The southern boundary hedgerow is currently quite gappy and this will be improved through planting up with native species, as summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Proposed native hedgerow planting to enhance the southern boundary

Species	Height	Type
Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>	80-100cm	Bare root
Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	80-100cm	Bare root
Spindle <i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	80-100cm	Bare root
Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> (10%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Elder <i>Sambuca nigra</i> (12.5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Guelder rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i> (12.5%)	80-100cm	Bare root

Establishment

New hedgerow planting will be completed by a suitably qualified contractor in accordance with best practice methods. Planting will be completed within the first planting season following completion of development and will be timed to occur within the autumn/spring periods when conditions are most likely to be favourable. The harsh winter/mid-summer periods will be avoided, wherever possible. Planting will be in ground that has been previously cultivated and that is clear of grass and weeds.

At the time of planting, and during the first season following planting, all hedgerow planting will be watered in accordance with supplier recommendations. For the first five years following planting, hedgerows will be inspected annually and any failed or missing specimens will be replaced on a like-for-like basis. Damaged, diseased or dead wood will be pruned immediately after leaf break.

Management

The hedgerow planting will be managed to ensure establishment and retention. Planting will be watered as necessary following its establishment, particularly during the peak summer period, throughout the construction period and for at least the first five years following construction work.

The newly planted sections of hedgerow will not be cut or managed during years 1-5. Following that period, they will be cut on a 3-year rotational basis from year 6 onwards. Up to a third of the hedgerow will be cut in any one year, to allow

different heights to establish with both hedgerows ultimately to achieve a minimum height of 3m and minimum width of 3m.

The north and south boundary hedgerows will remain outside private ownership and separated from private gardens by a buffer strip which will be between 1m and 4m wide and will allow access for ongoing maintenance of the hedgerows.

Trees

At the eastern end of the development tree planting will provide ecological enhancement as well as infrastructure and soft landscaping. Fruit tree species will include:

- Wild cherry *Prunus avium*
- Bird cherry *Prunus padus*
- Apple *Malus* sp.
- Pear *Pyrus* sp.
- Walnut *Juglans regia*

New tree planting will be with bare root stock with all specimens to be a minimum of 2m high at the time of planting.

Establishment

New tree planting will be completed by a suitably qualified contractor in accordance with best practice methods. Planting will be completed within the first planting season following completion of development and will be timed to occur within the autumn/spring periods when conditions are most likely to be favourable. The harsh winter/mid-summer periods will be avoided, wherever possible. Planting will be in ground that has been previously cultivated and that is clear of grass and weeds.

At the time of planting, and during the first season following planting, all tree planting will be watered in accordance with supplier recommendations. For the first five years following planting, trees will be inspected annually and any failed or missing specimens will be replaced on a like-for-like basis. Damaged, diseased or dead wood will be pruned immediately after leaf break.

Management

Tree planting will be managed to ensure establishment and retention. Planting will be watered as necessary following establishment, particularly during the peak

summer period, throughout the construction period and for at least the first five years following construction work.

Grassland

Existing grassland will be retained at the eastern site boundary and will be enhanced through management and overseeding with a native wildflower mix.

Establishment

The existing grassland at the eastern boundary of the site will be enhanced for biodiversity through the following steps:

- Control pernicious weeds such as thistle, dock, nettles and ragwort by spot spraying with herbicide or hand pulling.
- Cut sward to 50mm and remove arisings.
- Sward to be scarified to create 50% bare ground (spread evenly throughout the sward).
- Overseed with Emorsgate EM2F – General Purpose Wildflower Mix.

During the first year of establishment the sward will be kept mown to a height less than 15cm to prevent annual weeds establishing. This work will be carried out once the crop exceeds 15cm using hand-held machinery or small mowing machines.

The sown grassland will be inspected by the landscape contractor in the March or August following sowing. In the event that newly seeded grassland fails to establish, these areas will be lightly scarified and re-seeded with the same species mix. To support establishment, the mowing regime set out above for year 1 may also be required in the second year following planting.

Management

During subsequent years, the grassland will be subject to a single annual cut following flowering and the setting of seed in late summer (August/September). Cuts will be completed by mowing/strimming, as appropriate, to a height of not less than 100mm. Following each cut, arisings will be removed from the site. This management regime will encourage maximum diversity in the ground cover planting, by suppressing competitive species.

Mixed Scrub

The scrub at the eastern end of the site will be retained and enhanced. Enhancement will be achieved through some supplementary planting with species that are of

value to hazel dormouse which have been recorded nesting in this area, as set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Species to be planted to enhance the scrub at the eastern end of the site.

Species	Height	Type
Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> (50%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Field rose <i>Rosa arvensis</i> (10%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Elder <i>Sambuca nigra</i> (5%)	80-100cm	Bare root
Guelder rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i> (35%)	80-100cm	Bare root

Establishment

New scrub planting will be completed by a suitably qualified contractor in accordance with best practice methods. Planting will be completed within the first planting season following completion of development and will be timed to occur within the autumn/spring periods when conditions are most likely to be favourable. The harsh winter/mid-summer periods will be avoided, wherever possible. Planting will be in ground that has been previously cultivated and that is clear of grass and weeds.

At the time of planting, and during the first season following planting, all scrub planting will be watered in accordance with supplier recommendations. For the first five years following planting, scrub will be inspected annually and any failed or missing specimens will be replaced on a like-for-like basis. Damaged, diseased or dead wood will be pruned immediately after leaf break.

Management

Scrub planting will be managed to ensure establishment and retention. Planting will be watered as necessary following its establishment, particularly during the peak summer period, throughout the construction period and for at least the first five years following construction work.

The newly planted specimens in the scrub will not be cut or managed during years 1-5. Following that period, scrub will be cut on a 3-year rotational basis from year 6 onwards. Up to a third of the scrub will be cut in any one year, to allow different heights and a scalloped edge to establish.

Protected Species

Foraging and commuting bats:

The site supports suitable habitat for bats as they commute and forage through the wider landscape. The retention and enhancement of the eastern buffer, as well as the enhanced boundary hedgerows to the north and south will encourage a diverse invertebrate assemblage on which bats may feed and will strengthen flight lines along the site boundaries. Across the development site itself, trees and grassland enhancement will provide additional foraging opportunities for bats.

Hazel Dormouse

The retention of boundary hedgerows and the scrub at the eastern end of the site mean that little suitable habitat for dormice will be removed. The western boundary hedgerow which must be removed to create the new access to the site is gappy and provides little shelter for dormice and their nests so its loss is unlikely to result in significant impacts on this species.

The retained hedgerows to the north and south and the scrub to the east will be enhanced through the planting up of gaps, including with specimens which will add structure in these areas. Furthermore, infill planting will include species that are known to benefit dormice (eg. honeysuckle) to provide enhanced foraging opportunities for this species.

Nesting Birds

The removal of small areas of scrub and the western boundary hedgerow is unlikely to lead to significant impacts on any local bird populations which may use these features for nesting, due to the presence of alternative habitat nearby. Proposed enhancement of the boundary hedgerows to the north and south and the scrub at the eastern end of the site will replace any nesting/foraging resources which may be lost, as described below. Vegetation removal could, however, lead to the destruction of nests and risks the killing/injury of any birds present, in contravention of applicable legislation (WCA 1981, as amended). Sensitive working methods are therefore proposed to safeguard nesting birds during construction works.

Habitat Replacement

The retention and enhancement of the north and south boundary hedgerows as well as the scrub at the eastern end of the site will improve nesting opportunities for bird species at this site.

Precautionary Working Methods

The removal of the western boundary hedgerow and small areas of scrub will be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (which is between March and August, inclusive). Where this is not possible, vegetation which is to be removed will be removed under an Ecological Watching Brief, administered by a suitably qualified ecologist. This comprises a site visit by a suitably qualified ecologist no longer than 48 hours prior to the commencement of vegetation removal. Where active nests are recorded during the check, a suitable buffer zone will be established within which no disturbing works may proceed until a repeat visit by an ecologist confirms that nesting activity has completed/ceased. As such, through sensitive timing/working methods any potential risk to birds and their nests will be minimised.

Enhancement Measures

Habitats:

The proposed planting and enhancement of fruit trees, hedgerows, scrub and grassland across the new development will maintain and enhance habitat connectivity through the site and surrounding landscape for use by a range of species including bats, dormice and birds. Planting of native species and those of known wildlife value will supply a variety of potential flower and fruit foraging resources for species such as insects and birds. In turn, increased insect abundance/diversity will provide enhanced foraging resources for bats and birds.

Roosting Bats

Integrated bat tubes ([Integrated Eco Bat Box | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment](#)) will be built into new dwellings at a minimum height of 5m and away from artificial light sources. The tubes will be provided in the following locations:

- Southern aspect of plots 1, 3 and 6.
- Western aspect of plots 4 and 8.

Birds

Nest boxes for the benefit of house sparrow *Passer domesticus* and swift *Apus apus* are to be incorporated in some of the new dwellings that are to be built at the site.

Three integrated swift bricks ([PRO UK Rendered Build-In Swift Box | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment](#)) will be built into each of the eastern facing gables of plots 4, 7 and 8 and on the northern aspect of plot 5, at a minimum height of 5m. The boxes will be spaced so the entrances are at least 40cm apart.

Enhancement for house sparrow will be provided on the northern aspect of the garages for plots 1, 4 and 7 as well as the north face of the house at plot 1. They will also be built into the eastern face of the garages for plots 7 and 8, adjacent to the retained and enhanced habitat buffer. Integrated nest boxes ([Vivara Pro WoodStone® House Sparrow Nest Box | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment](#)) will be installed in sheltered positions below the eaves of these buildings.

Monitoring/Remedial Actions

Monitoring is proposed in order to support the successful establishment of proposed ecological avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures against the aims of this LEMP. This will comprise an annual inspection of landscaped areas and bat/bird box infrastructure as described below. As part of these works, corrective actions will be taken to maintain ecological features at the site in accordance with the aims of this LEMP.

Annual Inspections

Annual inspections of landscaped areas will include the following:

- A review of landscape planting, to confirm its establishment, assess plant health and identify any required maintenance or replacement; and
- Inspection of bat and bird boxes to confirm they remain intact and accessible to target species.

Landscape planting checks will be timed to fall within the active growing season (from March to September inclusive).

The following corrective actions will be taken, as required:

- Like-for-like replacement of any failed/missing planting;
- Addition to/adjustment of landscape maintenance schedule to support plant health.

Responsible Parties and Funding

Ashford Homes (South Western) Limited will accept responsibility for the implementation of the above-detailed management and monitoring measures during the construction phase of the works.

Once site works have been completed, responsibilities for ongoing management and monitoring of the implementation of the LEMP will sit with Doric Developments (Bath) Ltd – the parent company of Ashford Homes (South Western) Limited and

landowner. Doric will setup a management company, which will oversee the ongoing implementation the LEMP, and plot purchasers will be required to become members of the management company and pay proportionately towards ongoing management and monitoring. This will be legally secured via a covenant in the Transfer that will be signed by each of the plot purchasers and will secure the commitment in perpetuity.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS – ANNUAL WORKS SCHEDULE

The below Work Schedule summarises the required tasks to establish and maintain the ecological avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures which are proposed for the Site and their associated timings. The measures have been organised into a timeline in accordance with the construction and operational phases of work. As such, the schedule may be used to inform required actions at each of these stages by responsible parties.

Ecological Feature	Task	Timing (Month)											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Construction Phase													
North and south boundary hedgerows	Hedgerow enhancement planting.	^	*	*	*	^	^	^	^	*	*	^	^
Scrub enhancement	Plant tree and shrub species to enhance the scrub	^	*	*	*	^	^	^	^	*	*	^	^
Fruit tree planting	Plant fruit trees in the eastern buffer area	^	*	*	*	^	^	^	^	*	*	^	^
Grassland areas	Overseed grassland with Emorsgate EM2F – General Wildflower Mix.	x	x	*	*	*	*	*	^	^	x	x	x
Bats – foraging and commuting	Hedgerow, tree and scrub planting along site boundaries (as above)	^	*	*	*	^	^	^	^	*	*	^	^
Bats - roosting	Installation of bat boxes as shown in this LEMP	N/A											
Nesting Birds	Installation of bird boxes as shown in this LEMP	N/A											

	Removal of western boundary hedgerow and small areas of scrub outside breeding season.	*	*	x	x	x	x	x	x	*	*	*	*
<i>Operational Phase – minimum of five years post-redevelopment.</i>													
Native hedgerow, tree and scrubplanting	Annual inspection for at least the first five years following site redevelopment. Remedial measures to maintain vegetation health as necessary.	x	x	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	x	x	x
	Replace failed/lost planting like-for-like.	^	*	*	*	^	^	^	^	*	*	^	^
Grassland enhancement and management for biodiversity	Annual grass cut and removal of arisings	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	^	^	*	*	*
Bats and Nesting Birds	Annual inspection of bat and bird boxes to ensure ongoing viability and repair or replace where possible.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Confirm access to bat lofts is not obstructed.												

* - optimal timing for works/works required ^ - works may be required/ possible, but conditions may be suboptimal – seek ecological advice x – not required/conditions suboptimal, works not recommended

REFERENCES

Land south of Lewis Court, Southwick. Site Plan – Proposed. 2417-010V. July 2026. TEA Architects.

Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy. July 2025. Wiltshire Council.

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