



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

SERVICE FAMILIES ACCOMMODATION MODEL HOMES DEVELOPMENT SLING ROAD, BULFORD

SSSI Assessment





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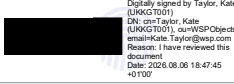
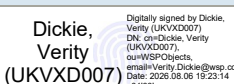
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1 WSP UK Limited (WSP) has been commissioned by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) (hereafter referred to as the 'Client') to produce a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) assessment of the potential impacts on SSSIs within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of a 'Proposed Development' at Sling Road, Bulford near Salisbury, Wiltshire (National Grid Reference/NGR 418895, 144419). The proposals entail the construction of eight houses as well as associated garages, hard landscaping, soft landscaping and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The land is currently 1.13ha of green space, hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.
- 1.1.2 The Site is in a semi-rural location 0.5km north of Bulford Camp and barracks. Salisbury Plain Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) all lie approximately 0.13km to the north and east of the Site. In the wider landscape, the town of Salisbury is located 15km to the south and Andover 17.5km to the east of the Site.
- 1.1.3 Full planning permission will be sought for the Proposed Development from Wiltshire Council.

1.2 DATA SOURCES INFORMING THIS REPORT

- 1.2.1 The assessment has been informed by the following key data sources available to WSP:
- JNCC (<https://jncc.gov.uk/>) and Natural England (<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>) websites;
 - WSP (2026a) Bulford Preliminary Ecological Appraisal;
 - WSP (2026b) Bulford eDNA Report; and,
 - WSP (2026c) Bulford Stone Curlew Report.

1.3 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.3.1 The purpose of this document is to determine the potential impacts from the Proposed Development on any SSSIs within the Zoi and provide the required information for Wiltshire Council to assess the Planning Application. For the purposes of this assessment, a reasonably precautionary Zoi of 2km has been used to identify SSSIs which could be impacted, as well as any for which the Site is located within their Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) as detailed on the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) database¹.
- 1.3.2 SSSIs are legally protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.
- 1.3.3 Wiltshire Council has a duty, under Section 28G of the Act, to ensure that any operations they permit do not adversely affect SSSIs and to seek advice from Natural England (or other relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body) before permitting any activities that may damage a SSSI.

¹ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> (accessed July 2026)

2 SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

2.1 SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE

- 2.1.1 Salisbury Plain SSSI is the only SSSI located within the ZOI (within 2km/IRZ of a SSSI) of the Site and therefore is the only SSSI assessed within this document.
- 2.1.2 While the Proposed Development will not take place within the SSSI itself, it is located within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for the SSSI and within close proximity. The following IRZ factors are relevant to the Proposed Development:
- All Consultations: All planning applications (except householder applications) where the proposed development is outside or extends outside existing settlements/urban areas and will increase lighting levels or affect greenspace, farmland, semi natural habitats, trees/woodland, waterbodies, rural buildings/structures (manmade or natural) or linear landscape features such as hedgerows, streams and rivers through direct loss, fragmentation or change of use.
 - Air Pollution: Any development that could cause AIR POLLUTION (including: industrial/commercial processes, livestock & poultry units, slurry lagoons/manure stores).
- 2.1.3 The following potential impact pathways have been identified and are assessed against the features of Salisbury Plain SSSI in Section 3:
- Land take through functionally linked land (during construction);
 - Disturbance (during construction);
 - Pollution/ contaminants (during construction);
 - Air quality (during construction and operation); and
 - Recreational disturbance (operation).
- 2.1.4 This report provides the relevant information to assess the potential impacts on the Salisbury Plain SSSI and is structured as follows:
- Section 2 provides details of the SSSI included in the assessment;
 - Section 3 presents an assessment of potential effects that could arise from the Proposed Development on relevant features of Salisbury Plain SSSI and mitigation measures; and,
 - Section 4 presents the assessment conclusions.

2.2 SALISBURY PLAIN SSSI

- 2.2.1 Salisbury Plain supports the largest known expanse of unimproved chalk downland in north-west Europe. It supports 13 species of nationally rare and scarce plants, a diverse bryophyte flora with seven nationally scarce species, 67 species of rare and scarce invertebrates and is a site of international importance for birds. Furthermore, it is noted for scrub and woodland habitats, temporary and permanent pools and the Nine Mile River winterbourne. Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) occur in dew ponds across the Plain and in pools along the Nine Mile River along with widespread amphibian and reptile species.
- 2.2.2 Natural England lists 23 active features for which the SSSI is designated:
- Aggregations of breeding birds - Hobby *Falco Subbuteo*
 - Aggregations of breeding birds - Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

- Aggregations of breeding birds - Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*
- Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
- Assemblages of breeding birds – Mixed
- Bryophyte assemblage
- GCN
- Invertebrate assemblage – F111 bare sand and chalk
- Invertebrate assemblage – F112 open short sward
- Lowland calcareous grassland (CG2)
- Lowland calcareous grassland (CG3-5)
- Lowland calcareous grassland (CG6)
- Lowland calcareous grassland (CG7)
- Lowland dry heath
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Population of nationally scarce butterfly species - *Eurodryas aurinia*, Marsh Fritillary
- Populations of nationally scarce butterfly species - *Hamearis lucina*, Duke of Burgundy
- Populations of nationally scarce butterfly species - *Polyommatus bellargus*, Adonis Blue
- Populations of nationally scarce butterfly species - *Thecla betulae*, Brown Hairstreak
- Population of RDB plant - *Cirsium tuberosum*, Tuberous Thistle
- Population of Schedule 5 crustacean - *Chirocephalus diaphanus*, a freshwater fairy shrimp
- Rivers and streams
- Vascular plant assemblage

2.2.3 The majority of these features (73.91% of the habitat by area) are considered to be in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition, with the remainder not recorded.

2.2.4 Natural England lists the following pressures on Salisbury Plains SSSI as active:

- Invasive non-native species- terrestrial plants (high risk)
- Land management- overgrazing wild animals (medium risk)
- Land management- scrub encroachment (medium risk)
- The following pressures are listed as potential for the Salisbury Plains SSSI:
- Disease- plant disease (high risk)
- Land management- under grazing (high risk)
- Woodland and trees impacts- woodland management (medium risk)
- Land management- cutting/ mowing/ cultivation regime (medium risk)
- Disturbance and recreational impacts- vehicles (medium risk); and,
- Planning and development impacts- development (medium risk).

3 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON SALISBURY PLAIN SSSI FEATURES

3.1.1

Table 3-1 below details the assessment of effects on the relevant features of Salisbury Plain SSSI arising from the Proposed Development. The impacts discussed are those which are likely to arise from the Proposed Development and for which the qualifying features are sensitive and exposed.

Table 3-1 – Assessment of effects on relevant features of the Salisbury Plain SSSI

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
Aggregations of breeding birds: ■ Hobby <i>Falco Subbuteo</i> ■ Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> ■ Stone curlew <i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	Land take	Designated features of Salisbury Plains SSSI include breeding quail, hobby, stone curlew and non-breeding hen harrier. As such, functionally linked supporting habitat in the context of Salisbury Plains SSSI is considered to be; heathland (hobby, hen harrier and stone curlew), wetland (hobby and hen harrier), broadleaved woodland including trees of a diameter of more than 60cm near the edges of woodland (hobby only), grassland (stone curlew and other species to a lesser extent); and arable farmland (stone curlew and quail).
Aggregations of non-breeding birds: ■ Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>		The Site is primarily composed of other neutral grassland with individual trees, some scrub and hardstanding with woodland immediately adjacent to the south, northwest and west. The wider area consists of some hardstanding and gardens (dwellings, gardens and pavement). Beyond the Site are fields and calcareous grasslands surrounding the Nine Mile River. Grassland is present in the wider area elsewhere but is heavily managed/mowed. Individual trees and woodland on the boundary of the Site may support hobby and grassland may support stone curlew.

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
		A bird survey targeting stone curlew² was conducted over six visits between April and July 2026³ (WSP, 2026c). The results of the survey recorded 'no use of the habitat on Site by this species (or any of the other aforementioned qualifying species). When considered alongside the habitat characteristics of the Site and its location within a predominantly developed landscape, the survey findings indicate that the Site is not relied upon by the bird species for which the SSSI is designated for and does not comprise functionally linked supporting habitat to Salisbury Plain SSSI. As the Site does not comprise supporting habitat for the aforementioned qualifying species, and the Proposed Development is confined to the boundary of the Site (therefore not encroaching on the SSSI), there will be no land take as a result of the Proposed Development.

² While habitat within the Site itself has been assessed as unsuitable for Stone curlew, they were targeted due to the Site lying within the ecological impact risk zone for the Salisbury Plain SSSI. Up to 20 pairs of stone-curlew representing 12% of the British population breed on the Plain.

³ Using recognised good practice guidance, following an adapted methodology from the RSPB Stone-curlew Monitoring and Protection Handbook at Tim Cowan (2017) RSPB stone-curlew monitoring and protection handbook – monitoring protocol. RSPB.

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
	Impacts on air quality	During construction, there is potential for a temporary increase in vehicle emissions and dust generation associated with plant, machinery, construction traffic and groundworks. Airborne pollutants and dust deposition could, in principle, affect habitats used by bird species which are a feature of the SSSI, through temporary changes in vegetation condition or disturbance to habitat function. However, any such effects would be dependent on the scale, duration and proximity of construction activities to habitats supporting the qualifying species. In accordance with DMRB LA 105, construction activities of less than two years' duration are unlikely to constitute a significant air quality effect due to their temporary nature. The Proposed Development will be constructed over a period of less than two years and comprises a small-scale development of eight dwellings within the existing camp. Consequently, construction traffic and associated emissions will be limited in scale and duration. Therefore, likely significant effects arising from vehicle emissions on the bird features of Salisbury Plain SSSI can be ruled out. Dust deposition has the potential to temporarily affect supporting habitat for bird species where it occurs in sufficient quantities and over a sustained period. Given the proximity of the Site to the SSSI boundary, dust generation during construction has been considered as a potential impact pathway. However, the Site has been assessed as not comprising supporting habitat for the SSSI bird species, none of which were recorded during bird surveys undertaken between April and July 2026. Furthermore, the scale of construction activities is limited, and any dust generation would be temporary and restricted to the construction phase.

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
		Notwithstanding the above, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be implemented to manage dust and air quality throughout the construction period.
	Accidental pollution events	There is potential for accidental spills of fuels, oils, concrete washout or other contaminants during construction activities, for example during the refuelling of plant and machinery. In the absence of appropriate controls, such pollutants could enter surrounding land or drainage pathways and adversely affect habitats associated with the special interest features of Salisbury Plain SSSI. This could result in localised degradation of habitats that contribute to the ecological value of the designated site. No watercourses or aquatic habitats are present within the Site that would provide a direct hydrological pathway to Salisbury Plain SSSI. The Site lies approximately 100m from the SSSI boundary and is separated from the designated site by existing intervening land. Furthermore, ecological surveys have identified no evidence that the Site supports habitats forming part of the notified interest features of the SSSI. Nevertheless, prior to the implementation of mitigation measures, accidental pollution events during construction represent a theoretical impact pathway that requires consideration.

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
		With the implementation of the CEMP, the risk of accidental pollution affecting the notified features of special interest of Salisbury Plain SSSI would be negligible.
	Construction derived disturbance	The Proposed Development has the potential to generate temporary increases in noise, vibration, visual disturbance and human activity associated with site clearance, groundworks, construction traffic and the operation of plant and machinery. No birds selected as a special feature of the SSSI were recorded using the Site during bird surveys in 2026. Furthermore, the habitats present within the Site were assessed as not comprising supporting habitat for SSSI bird species. The Site is largely surrounded by existing development and is separated from much of the adjacent SSSI habitat by established woodland and other vegetation which provide a degree of visual and acoustic screening. Construction activities will be temporary, localised and restricted to normal working hours. The Proposed Development comprises a small-scale scheme of eight dwellings within an existing developed military camp and consequently does not represent a substantial source of disturbance beyond the existing baseline conditions. Given the absence of birds which

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
		are a special feature of the SSSI from the Site, the lack of functionally linked supporting habitat, the limited scale and duration of the works, and the screening provided by intervening woodland and existing development, significant disturbance is not anticipated. Furthermore, construction activities will be undertaken in accordance with a CEMP which will include measures to minimise disturbance.
	Recreational disturbance	Increased recreational use can result in direct disturbance to birds, particularly from walkers, dog walkers and unauthorised off-road vehicle use. Disturbance may cause birds to alter their behaviour, expend additional energy avoiding disturbance, abandon suitable nesting or foraging areas, and in severe cases reduce breeding productivity. Stone curlew and quail, as ground-nesting species, are particularly sensitive to disturbance and human presence during the breeding season. The Proposed Development is small in scale, comprising only eight dwellings within an existing residential area associated with Bulford Camp, and would represent only a minor increase in the local residential population. The development would not create new public access routes into the SSSI or alter existing patterns of access. The bird survey conducted in 2026 extended to include land within 1.5km of the Site in recognition of species' sensitivity to disturbance and wider use of the surrounding landscape. No stone curlew territories were identified within the survey area

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
		and no use of the Site by stone curlew or any other birds which are a special feature of Salisbury Plain SSSI were recorded. Furthermore, the Site has been assessed as not comprising functionally linked supporting habitat for these species. Whilst it is reasonable to assume that some future residents may make use of the surrounding countryside for recreation, the scale of the Proposed Development is very limited and any associated increase in recreational activity would be negligible in the context of the existing level of public access and recreational use across Salisbury Plain SSSI.
Habitats: ■ Lowland calcareous grassland ■ Lowland dry heath ■ Lowland mixed deciduous woodland ■ Bryophyte assemblage ■ Vascular plant assemblage ■ Rivers and streams	Land take	The Proposed Development will be entirely confined to the Site, which is located on the outskirts of Bulford Camp, specifically west of Sling Road, approximately 100m from the boundary of the SSSI. There will be no land take of any of the habitats for which the SSSI is designated.

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
	Impacts on air quality	During construction works there is potential for a temporary increase in vehicle emissions and dust generation. Elevated pollutant levels have the potential to alter soil chemistry, accelerate nutrient enrichment, modify vegetation structure and composition, and reduce the abundance of characteristic chalk grassland species. Such changes could also adversely affect the habitat quality of the SSSI is designated. Although the extent and duration of the construction activities are not expected to result in significant airborne pollution, the proximity of the Site to the SSSI means that a precautionary assessment of dust impacts is appropriate. While this guidance is primarily associated with roads it is considered good practice to include for Projects involving roads and the creation of construction dust/air quality from the temporary increase in local vehicles (heavy plant and Site personnel etc) projected as part of the Proposed Development. Therefore, mitigation will be required to reduce or remove any such impacts and a CEMP should be developed with best practice working methods detailed that will be followed during the Proposed Works to minimise the risk of negative impacts on air quality. Additionally, due to the relatively small size of the Proposed Development (eight homes), which are being added to an existing camp comprising residential buildings, the increase in dust due to the works will only be limited to construction of a relatively small area and will not persist beyond the construction period. Due to this, and following the above-described mitigation measures, the Proposed Development will not result in adverse effects on the SSSI as a result of impacts on air quality.

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
	Accidental pollution events	There is the potential for accidental spillage of chemicals to occur during construction, for example during refuelling and maintenance of plant and machinery. Should contaminants be released and migrate beyond the Site boundary, there is potential for pollution to affect habitats for which Salisbury Plain is designated. No watercourses or aquatic habitats are present within the Site that would provide a direct hydrological pathway to Salisbury Plain SSSI. The Site lies approximately 100m from the SSSI boundary and is separated from the designated site by existing intervening land. Furthermore, ecological surveys have identified no evidence that the Site supports habitats forming part of the notified interest features of the SSSI. Nevertheless, prior to the implementation of mitigation measures, accidental pollution events during construction represent a theoretical impact pathway that requires consideration. With the implementation of the CEMP, the risk of accidental pollution affecting the notified habitat features of special interest of Salisbury Plain SSSI would be negligible.

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
	Recreational disturbance	There is an extensive network of public rights of way on Salisbury Plain that, given the proximity of the Site, it can be anticipated that new residents would make use of. The Proposed Development comprises only eight additional dwellings within an established residential area of Bulford Camp. The development does not provide direct access to the SSSI, result in the loss of notified habitat, or alter the management of land within the SSSI. Whilst a small increase in visits to the surrounding countryside cannot be entirely discounted, the number of additional residents generated by the scheme would represent a negligible contribution to overall recreational use of Salisbury Plain SSSI. Any increase in recreational activity is therefore unlikely to result in measurable effects on the extent, distribution, structure, function or supporting processes of the habitats and species comprising the notified features of Salisbury Plain SSSI.
GCN	Land take	GCN are known to be present in pools along the Nine Mile River within the Salisbury Plain SSSI (Salisbury Plain SSSI Citation). One pond was identified within 500m of the Site (Sheep Bridge Pond) and was found to have 'excellent' suitability to support GCN during a HSI assessment (WSP, 2026b). However, results from the eDNA survey were negative, indicating a likely absence of GCN within this waterbody at the time of survey. Notwithstanding this, as the HSI assessment for this pond was excellent and it is surrounded by suitable terrestrial habitat, it could support GCN populations in future years. As the absence of GCN from the Site cannot be conclusively demonstrated, owing to the mobility of the species and the presence of a pond with an excellent HSI score in close proximity to the Site, a precautionary approach has been

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
		adopted. The terrestrial habitats within the Site are considered to provide potentially suitable sheltering, foraging and dispersal habitat for GCN and may be utilised by individuals associated with local breeding populations. The Proposed Development will result in the loss of a small area of terrestrial habitat suitable for GCN. Consequently, there is potential for a temporary adverse effect resulting from the reduction of available terrestrial habitat and the possible disturbance of dispersing individuals during site clearance and construction activities. However, the affected habitat represents a small proportion of the suitable habitat available within the wider landscape and is not considered likely to materially affect the conservation status of any local GCN population. Good practice construction methods are recommended to minimise the effects of construction on this species. No GCN breeding ponds or land within the SSSI will be taken.
	Accidental pollution events	There is potential for accidental spills of fuels, oils, concrete washout or other contaminants during construction activities, for example during the refuelling of plant and machinery. In the absence of appropriate controls, such substances could adversely affect habitats used by GCN during both the aquatic and terrestrial phases of its life cycle. Potential effects could include deterioration of water quality within breeding ponds, contamination of terrestrial refuge habitats and a reduction in the abundance of invertebrate prey species. No watercourses or aquatic habitats are present within the Site that would provide a direct pathway for pollutants to reach habitats known or assumed to support GCN. Furthermore, the implementation of standard pollution prevention measures

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
		through a CEMP would minimise the risk of accidental spillages. As such, accidental pollution represents a highly unlikely impact pathway and no significant adverse effects on GCN are anticipated.
	Construction derived disturbance	Although GCN are considered likely absent from the Site, construction activities associated with the Proposed Development, including vegetation clearance, groundworks, increased noise and vibration, the presence of plant and machinery, and increased human activity, have the potential to cause temporary disturbance to any GCN using the Site for sheltering, foraging or dispersal. Given the small scale of the Proposed Development, the temporary nature of the construction phase and the availability of comparable terrestrial habitat within the surrounding landscape, any disturbance effects would be short-term and localised. Whilst there is potential for temporary displacement of individuals from suitable habitat within the Site, this is unlikely to materially affect the conservation status of local GCN populations or the interest features of Salisbury Plain SSSI.

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
	Recreational disturbance	The Proposed Development will introduce a small number of new residents and, consequently, has the potential to result in a minor increase in recreational use of the surrounding landscape. In theory, increased recreational activity could result in disturbance or degradation of terrestrial habitats suitable for GCN through trampling of vegetation and disturbance of refugia. However, the Proposed Development comprises only eight dwellings and would therefore generate a very limited increase in recreational activity. Furthermore, the Site is located within an established residential area and the surrounding landscape already experiences routine recreational use. Any increase in recreational pressure attributable to the Proposed Development is therefore expected to be negligible and unlikely to result in measurable effects on habitats used by GCN or on the conservation status of local populations, including any populations potentially associated with Salisbury Plain SSSI.
Invertebrates: ■ Marsh fritillary ■ Duke of Burgundy ■ Adonis blue ■ Brown hairstreak ■ Invertebrate assemblage – F111 bare sand and chalk ■ Invertebrate assemblage – F112 open short sward	Land take	An updated UKHab survey was undertaken on 18 May 2026 within the optimal season (WSP, 2026a), confirming the presence of other neutral grassland (g3c) on Site. Thus, ruling out the grassland habitat preferences of the invertebrate species for which the SSSI is designated which favour chalk grassland. Furthermore, the larval foodplants on which the butterfly species rely (devil's-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i> for marsh fritillary, cowslip <i>Primula veris</i> and primrose <i>Primula vulgaris</i> for Duke of Burgundy, horseshoe vetch <i>Hippocrepis comosa</i> for adonis blue and blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> for brown hairstreak) were not recorded on Site.

Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
		Given there is no supporting habitat on Site for the specialist invertebrates for which the SSSI is noted, and the Proposed Development is confined to the boundary of the Site (therefore not encroaching on the SSSI), there will be no land take as a result of the Proposed Development.
	Accidental pollution events	There is potential for accidental spills of fuels, oils, concrete washout or other contaminants during construction activities. In the absence of appropriate controls, such pollutants could enter surrounding habitats and adversely affect the habitats supporting the nationally important invertebrate assemblages for which Salisbury Plain SSSI is notified. Potential effects could include localised degradation of vegetation communities, reduction in the abundance and diversity of invertebrate food resources, contamination of bare ground and larval habitats, and deterioration in habitat quality used by invertebrates for breeding, foraging and sheltering. With the implementation of the CEMP, the risk of accidental pollution affecting the notified features of special interest of Salisbury Plain SSSI would be negligible.



Feature(s)	Impact(s)	Assessment
	Air Quality	As discussed within the air quality assessment on habitats above, with the implementation of the CEMP, the risk of accidental pollution affecting the notified invertebrate features of special interest of Salisbury Plain SSSI would be negligible.
	Recreational Disturbance	As discussed within the recreational disturbance assessment on habitats above, increased recreational pressure on the invertebrate features of the SSSI would be negligible.

3.2 MITIGATION MEASURES

3.2.1 A CEMP should be developed with best practice working methods detailed that will be followed during the Proposed Development to minimise the risk of negative impacts on air quality. Specific measures set out within the CEMP to minimise the risk of dust pollution should include, inter alia:

- Haul roads to be damped down where necessary and kept clean of dirt and soils.
- Wheel washing to be implemented to prevent mud tracking onto roads.
- Speed limits to be used on haul roads.
- Dust suppression to be used on any cutting, grinding and drilling activities (measures to include wetting or vacuum extraction).
- All plant to be properly maintained, and recorded within the site plant log, and throttled down or switched off when not in use.
- Drop heights during loading and unloading will be minimised to reduce dust generation.
- Stockpile management to be used as appropriate, including enclosing or using sheets on fine aggregate stockpiles if present.
- Dust and air quality to be monitored regularly at boundary locations, particularly along the closest boundaries with the designated sites.
- Rapid-response procedure to be implemented in the event of elevated dust levels, to include enhanced damping or temporary pauses in work.
- Use of modern machinery and/or machinery with diesel particulate filters to limit pollutants released into surrounding environment.
- A 'no idling' policy for all machinery and vehicles on site to be enforced.
- Switching off plant and machinery when not in use; and,
- Briefing site personnel on the sensitivity of nearby designated sites.

3.2.2 The Proposed Development will also incorporate industry standard pollution prevention measures (Environment Agency et al., 2026⁴; CIRIA, 2015⁵) within the CEMP that will be followed throughout the construction phase. These will include, inter alia:

- Adoption of the waste hierarchy (prevent, minimise, re-use, recycle or recover before disposal),
- All stored materials will be covered to prevent dust and litter dispersion, and to prevent ingress of rainwater.
- Any storage of liquids and chemicals will be away from open drains, watercourses, wells, springs or boreholes.
- Fuel tanks and chemical stores to be located on impermeable ground and surrounded by bunds.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses> (access July 2026)

⁵ Charles, P. and Edwards, P. (Eds.) (2015) Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide (fourth Edition). CIRIA

- Drip trays will be used under any static plant machinery and will be regularly inspected for oil accumulation.
- Refuelling zones will be implemented away from watercourses, ditches and unsealed ground.
- Spill kits will be provided on site for the duration of the works and construction staff will be trained in their correct application. Any used spill kits are to be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- A spill emergency protocol will be outlined detailing immediate containment steps, staff training requirements and emergency contacts.
- Containment and appropriate disposal of any contaminated run-off such as vehicle cleaning run-off, water pumped from excavations and concrete and cement washout.
- Waste Acceptance Criteria & classification of excavated material will be undertaken prior to the main works. The aim will be to re-use all the excavated material on site but, where removal of excess is required, this will be stored in stockpiles and will be barricaded by sandbags wrapped in polythene to prevent any spillage. The waste will subsequently be disposed of appropriately at non-hazardous landfill.
- Any hazardous soils, if present, shall be removed by a licenced waste carrier and accompanied by a hazardous waste consignment note. Hazardous waste will not be mixed with non-hazardous waste.
- Where evidence of contamination is encountered onsite (i.e. discoloured soils, unexpected odours, fibrous texture to the soils, presence of underground tanks, evidence of waste pits), works shall halt and the Principal Contractor's Environment Manager contacted.

3.2.3 The following general good practices should also be included within the CEMP and implemented:

- Restricting construction activities to agreed working hours;
- Ensuring plant and machinery are appropriately maintained to minimise noise emissions; and,
- Directing temporary lighting away from adjacent habitats and limiting unnecessary nighttime lighting.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The SSSI Assessment has concluded that there will be no impacts of sufficient magnitude to affect the relevant features of the Salisbury Plain SSSI relating to the Proposed Development. The mitigation measures outlined within Section 3.2 should be implemented alongside good practice construction guidelines.



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