

Tedworth Equestrian Centre Perimeter Wall

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and BNG Applicability Assessment

Version 2 dated 10th August 2026

Report for:

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Contents

1.	Summary	4
2.	Introduction	5
2.1	Background	5
2.2	Site Description and Context	5
2.3	Proposed Work.....	6
2.4	Pre-existing information on the site	7
2.5	Personnel	7
2.6	Purpose	7
2.7	Documentation	7
3.	Methodology	8
3.1	General.....	8
3.2	Desk Study	8
3.3	Field Survey	8
3.4	Evaluation.....	9
3.5	Limitations.....	10
4.	Baseline Ecological Conditions	11
4.1	Desk Study	11
4.2	Protected and Priority Species	11
4.3	Water Body Search.....	13
4.4	Field Survey Results- Area Habitats	13
4.5	Field Survey Results - Linear Habitat	16
4.6	Field Survey Results - Faunal Species	16
4.7	Invasive Species	18
5.	Evaluation and Ecological Constraints	19
5.1	General.....	19
5.2	Designated Areas	19
5.3	Habitats.....	19
5.4	Trees.....	19
5.5	Legally Protected and Priority Species	20
6.	Further Surveys, Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement.....	22
6.1	Required Further Work	22
6.2	Required Mitigation	22
6.3	Ecological Enhancements	23
7.	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	24
7.1	Biodiversity Net Gain Overview	24
7.2	Exemption	24
8.	Conclusion.....	25
9.	References.....	26
10.	Appendix	27
10.1	UK Habitat Classification Baseline Plan.....	28
10.2	Legislation and Policy Overview	29

1. Summary

- 1.1.1 J Taylor Ecology Consulting were commissioned by Aspire Defence Services Limited to prepare a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in relation to the proposed work to rebuild and repair the perimeter wall around the Tedworth Equestrian Centre in Tidworth, as part of a Full Planning and Listed Building Consent application to Wiltshire Council.
- 1.1.2 The proposed work to the perimeter wall comprises the repair and reinstatement of the remaining walls either side of an historic listed gateway, and the rebuilding of the collapsed section of wall. It is also proposed to take down and rebuild some of the poor-quality walls to the eastern side of Stables Road and along Jagdalik Road, which are in deteriorating condition.
- 1.1.3 The ecological work conducted followed the PEA process. The aim being to assess the potential ecological constraints to the proposed work, requirements for further surveys and to provide any relevant recommendations to ensure that legal and biodiversity policy commitments are met. In addition, a BNG Applicability Assessment was also undertaken as set out in the Environment Act 2021 through Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).
- 1.1.4 The following key conclusions were identified in relation to protected sites and habitats.
- The site is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory wildlife designation. No likely adverse effects on statutory or non-statutory designated wildlife sites have been identified.
 - The habitats subject to direct impact consisted of areas of modified grassland around the interior of the perimeter wall, that will require clearance to facilitate access, with a temporary surfaced working area being installed. Other habitats impacted include small areas of ruderal/ephemeral vegetation and tall forbs, along with some narrow areas of bare ground forming the roadside verge outside of the perimeter wall. None of the habitats present within the site were considered to be a Habitat of Principal Biological Importance on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 or a Priority Habitat.
 - None of the flora species recorded are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as Species of Principal Importance.
 - No work to trees is proposed. However three mature sycamore trees were present, adjacent to the wall in the south eastern corner of the site. Work will take place in proximity of the trees and therefore consideration should be given to the production of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan (to BS:5837 2012), to ensure that the trees are protected during the work.
- 1.1.5 The following key conclusions were identified in relation to protected and priority species.
- The assessment of the potential impacts of the proposals could be determined in relation to badgers, dormice, reptiles, great crested newt, nesting birds, hedgehog, water vole, otter, white-clawed crayfish and common invertebrate species.

A short section of wall supported plain-tile pitched coping along the upper surface and was assessed as having a low likelihood of bat use, with only a small number of shallow, exposed potential roost features (PRFs) present. As the required works to this section were limited to minor repairs to the vertical wall faces, expected to take one day, no direct impact on the identified PRFs was anticipated. To avoid any potential disturbance during the works, a precautionary method statement must be prepared and implemented under ecological supervision.
 - As a result of the assessment, mitigation is required in relation to reptiles, nesting birds and hedgehogs, as detailed in Section 6.2. This mitigation must be followed to ensure that there is no adverse impact on these species.
- 1.1.6 The proposed development fell below the 0.2 hectares threshold for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), with the site measuring 0.153 hectares and containing no priority habitat that would be adversely affected. Because the planning application is due to be submitted on or after 6 August 2026, the scheme qualifies for the BNG exemption, meaning that neither a statutory biodiversity metric nor a Biodiversity Gain Plan is required.
- 1.1.7 In addition, to ensure that the development achieves a broad gain for biodiversity, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2024), biodiversity enhancements are also required, as detailed within Section 6.3.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 J Taylor Ecology Consulting was commissioned by Aspire Defence Services Limited, to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal in relation to proposed work to the perimeter wall at Tedworth Equestrian Centre, Humber Lane, Tidworth, SP9 7AW (grid reference SU 2317 4773, w3w ///widely.without.tacky).
- 2.1.2 The proposed works to the perimeter wall will comprise the repair and reinstatement of the wall sections flanking the Grade II listed Gateway to the Kitchen Garden south of Tidworth House, including the rebuilding of the collapsed 17m length immediately adjacent to the gateway. Most of the remaining wall fabric along this southern boundary will require intervention due to evident dilapidation and structural failure. Additional works will involve taking down and rebuilding deteriorated, poor-quality wall sections at the eastern end of Stables Road and along Jagdalik Road.
- 2.1.3 A section of the perimeter wall faces the Grade II listed South Tidworth House to the south-east and the Grade II listed Stable Block of South Tidworth House to the south-west, forming part of the wider historic setting of these designated assets. Given the proximity of the listed structures, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal is required in conjunction with the Full Planning and Listed Building Consent application to Wiltshire Council. In addition, through Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021), Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is now mandatory with developers required to achieve a BNG of 10%. The legislation includes a number of exemptions, and hence the applicability of the BNG requirements in relation to the current proposals is assessed.

2.2 Site Description and Context

- 2.2.1 The site was located to the south of the garrison town and civil parish of Tidworth, approximately 500m southwest of the town centre, and 21 km north northeast of Salisbury. The site lies within the ceremonial county of Wiltshire.
- 2.2.2 The site is bounded by an existing perimeter wall with an adjacent road on all sides: Club Lane to the north and east, Jagdalik Road to the west, and Stables Road to the south. The site is in a semi-rural area, with Tidworth park and the River Bourne to the east, running in a southerly direction. Notable areas of woodland were present to the south and north east.



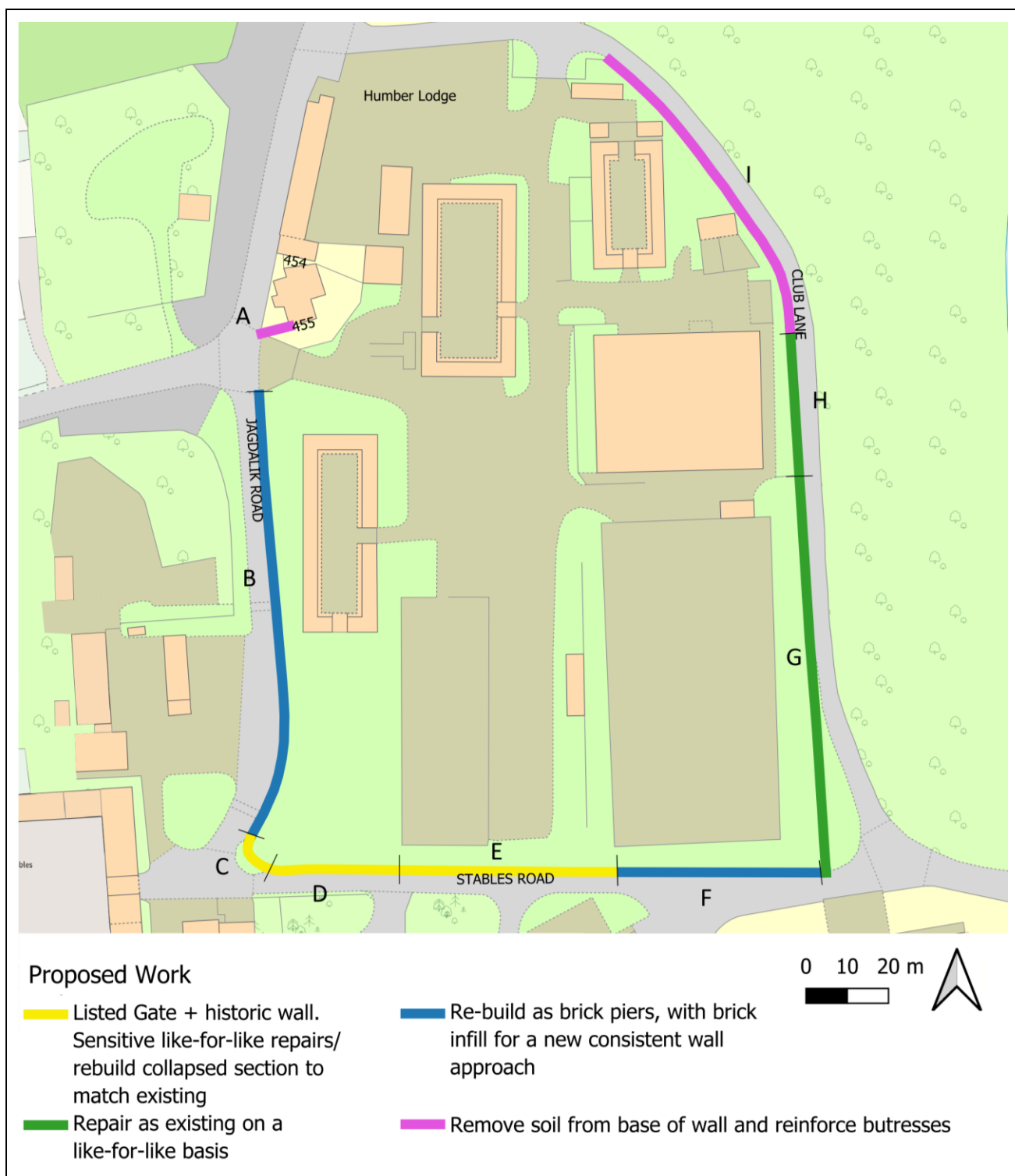
Figure 1. Location of the site (red line boundary), in relation to the surrounding area.

2.2.3 Photographs of the site are included in the text, taken during the site survey on 3rd February 2026.

2.2.4 For the purpose of this report, the “site” is defined as the area identified on the UK Habitats Classification plan in Appendix 10.1 and is the area subject to this report. The study area (Zone of Influence) is defined as a 2km radius from the site boundary.

2.3 Proposed Work

2.3.1 A summary of the proposed work to each section of perimeter wall is shown below. The walls across the site require a mix of interventions, ranging from no works on Walls A and J, to full rebuilds for Walls B and F. Several walls (C, H, G) need sensitive like-for-like repairs, including the replacement of cement mortar with lime. Sections D, E and I require structural reinforcement with enlarged rear buttresses, with Wall E also needs reconstruction of a collapsed section. Wall K requires only minor repairs and repointing. A working area along the inside of the wall has been included within the red line boundary.



2.4 Pre-existing information on the site

2.4.1 Based on our current knowledge no previous ecological survey work has been conducted on the site.

2.5 Personnel

2.5.1 The initial field survey of the site on 3rd February 2026 was undertaken by Principal Ecologist Jonathan Taylor BEng (Hons) PgDip MSc MCIEEM.

2.5.2 Jonathan is a fully qualified, practising ecological consultant with over 25 years' experience and has an expert knowledge of ecological appraisals and impact assessments on an extensive range of habitats and species. As a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) for over 15 years, Jonathan adheres to the Institute's Code of Professional Conduct and professional ethics and maintains a standard of knowledge and experience in accordance with the CIEEM Continuing Professional Development Policy. He meets or exceeds the mandatory survey competency requirements for most common protected species contained within the Technical Guidance Series published by CIEEM in 2013 and holds Natural England Class Licences for bats (2019-39970) and great crested newts (2015-18281).

2.6 Purpose

2.6.1 The purpose of this Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and BNG Applicability Assessment was as follows:

- To conduct a desk study using resources appropriate and proportional to the potential scale and magnitude of ecological impact together with a field survey of the site, to identify the baseline habitats on and around the site, their potential to support legally protected or priority species, and hence determine the presence of any Important Ecological Features¹.
- To identify the presence of any invasive species listed under Schedule 9, Part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- Where possible, to identify any possible impacts of the proposals on the ecological features present and associated ecological constraints, clearly identifying any potential impacts on designated sites, or protected and priority species.
- Where that is not possible, to identify the need for any additional surveys that may be required.
- Where appropriate, to make recommendations for changes to the design or construction methodology to reduce or avoid any possible ecological impacts.
- To identify possible measures to mitigate or compensate for any potential ecological impacts.
- To identify opportunities for biodiversity and ecological enhancement, providing measures to ensure that the biodiversity value of the site would be maintained, and a net gain achieved in accordance with Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2024).
- To assess whether the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements established under Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as inserted by Schedule 14 to the Environment Act 2021, apply to the current proposals. This includes consideration of the statutory requirement to deliver a minimum 10% BNG and any relevant exemptions.

2.7 Documentation

2.7.1 The following documentation has been provided by the client and has been used in this report.

Date	Document Title
July 2026	F1883_151 F Proposed Site Plan.
July 2026	F1883_LOC D Location Plan
July 2026	F1883_Planning, Heritage, Design and Access Statement Rev C LR

¹Important Ecological Features are habitats, species, ecosystems and their functions and processes that are of conservation importance and could potentially be affected by the proposed development.

3. Methodology

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The methodology used was based upon that contained within The Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (2nd edition) (CIEEM 2017a). CIEEM's Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (CIEEM 2017b), which sets out the appropriate structure and content for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Reports, have been followed where appropriate. The desk study was conducted in accordance with Guidelines for Accessing and Using Biodiversity Data in the UK (CIEEM 2020). The approach taken was consistent with the requirements of British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- 3.1.2 A desk study and field survey were undertaken of the site to assess the potential for legally protected or priority species being present (those listed on Schedule 1 and 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), or species and habitats listed under Section 41 (in England) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) as Habitats and Species of Principal Importance.
- 3.1.3 The scope, structure and content of the report is proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposals, in accordance with the CIEEM guidance referenced above.

3.2 Desk Study

- 3.2.1 A desk study was undertaken to identify the presence of any statutory or non-statutory designated wildlife sites and records of protected and priority species within the 2km study area.
- Basic initial information about the site and surrounding area and contextual information about the setting of the site within the landscape was obtained using QGIS 3.40-Bratislava, which is a desktop geographic information system (GIS).
 - Up to date Natural England GIS Digital Boundary Datasets of UK and European designated wildlife sites were imported as shape files under an Open Government Licence (OGL) and viewed on QGIS to identify their location and extent in relation to the site (<https://data.gov.uk/>).
 - The appropriate local council planning portal was used to access information on ecology work conducted in the wider area. Information on previously granted mitigation licences was also obtained where available.
 - Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) was consulted for information on previously recorded protected and priority species within 2km of the site, under request reference 20260114_2_JTEC (dated 23/01/2026).
- 3.2.2 Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs were examined to identify all water bodies located within a 500m radius of the proposed development site. This was undertaken as great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) can use suitable terrestrial habitat up to 500m from a breeding pond (English Nature 2001, English Nature Report ENRR Number 576, 2004).

3.3 Field Survey

- 3.3.1 The field survey of the site and surrounding area was conducted on 3rd February 2026. The field survey comprised a non-invasive visual inspection of the site extents and a suitable buffer area around the site. The survey focused on the areas directly affected by the proposed work as well as habitats immediately adjacent. In addition, areas of the site not affected by the development but still considered to be suitable for protected species were also noted. The presence of any Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority Habitats) was identified.

Habitats

- 3.3.2 A detailed walkover survey of the site and surrounding area was undertaken, to identify the habitat types located within the site in line with the guidelines stated in the UK Habitat Classification v2.0 (UK Hab Ltd, 2023). UK Hab was used to allow consistent habitat references between the PEA and biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessments. All broad habitat types present were described, with the dominant plant species recorded and habitats classified. These were presented in the standard UK HAB survey format with habitat descriptions and a habitat map produced.
- 3.3.3 Plant species were recorded as encountered, together with estimates of cover and abundance where appropriate (on the DAFOR scale) and follows the nomenclature of Stace (2019) for vascular plant species. Bryophytes, lichen and fungi were not surveyed.
- 3.3.4 The site was examined for the presence of vascular plants listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and those listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as Species of Principal Importance. The site was also surveyed for the presence of non-native or invasive species listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) or giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

Faunal Species

3.3.5 An assessment was then made of the potential for the site to support protected species listed on Schedule 1 and 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or those listed Section 41 (in England) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) as Species of Principal Importance.

3.3.6 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3.3.8 **Bats:** As part of the field survey, where required, a Daytime Bat Walkover survey (DBW) and an initial Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) was undertaken on the wall and any trees in the vicinity of the work, where access permitted, consisting of a non-invasive visual inspection of the trees on site or directly adjacent. The assessment for bats is based on the guidance included in the Bat Conservation Trust Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition (Collins J. [ed.] 2023) and Bat Workers Manual (Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeish, A.P. [Eds.] (2004)).

3.3.9 In addition, an assessment of the quality of the surrounding environment for bats was also undertaken. This was based on the likely levels of artificial lighting around potential roost entrances, the expected levels of disturbance to any potential roosts from nearby activities, and the quality of habitat for roosting bats in the immediate area, focussing on the potential bat foraging habitats and/or commuting routes.

3.3.10 **Dormouse:** The suitability of the habitats on site to support dormouse was assessed, considering species present, structural diversity and connectivity, based on Bright PW, Morris PA and Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2006).

3.3.11 **Otter:** Where the site extents include suitable watercourses and/or waterbodies, the habitat was surveyed for evidence of use by otter, or its potential to support otter, following Strachan *et al.* (1990) and Chanin, P. (2003) guidance.

3.3.12 **Water vole:** Where the site extents include suitable watercourses and/or waterbodies, the habitat was surveyed for evidence of use by water vole, or its potential to support water vole, following The Mammal Society (2016) guidance and Dean, M. Strachan, R. Gow, D. Andrews, R. (2016).

3.3.13 **Birds:** The potential of the habitats present within the site extents to support breeding, wintering or migrating birds, either individually notable species or assemblages of both common and rarer species, was assessed.

3.3.14 **Great crested newt:** Both terrestrial and aquatic habitats within the site extents were assessed for their potential to support great crested newt, following English Nature (2001) and Froglife (2001) guidance.

3.3.15 **Reptiles:** The site extents were assessed for their potential to support reptiles (typically adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm) following Froglife (1999) and JNCC (2003) guidance.

3.3.16 **Invertebrates:** The habitats within the site extents were assessed for their potential to support protected or priority species of invertebrates, usually based on information provided in the desk study, within both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Less common invertebrate groups were not surveyed for.

3.3.17 **Other Priority species:** The presence of other species was assessed based on information provided in the desk study, and the habitats present within the site extents.

3.4 Evaluation

3.4.1 Following the field survey and desktop study, an assessment was undertaken of the likely importance of the habitats present, determining (as far as possible within the constraints of the site visit(s)) whether there are any protected or priority habitats present which could be affected by the project. In addition, an assessment of the likely presence, and confirmation where possible, of protected and priority species which could be affected by the project was undertaken, as far as possible, within the constraints of the site visit. This was based on the combined findings from the desk study and field survey, with the likelihood of species occurrence ranked as follows (partially adapted from Collins J. [Ed.] 2023 in relation to bats).

- 3.4.2 **None** – no habitat features on site likely to be used by a particular species or species group at any time.
- 3.4.3 **Negligible** – while presence cannot be absolutely discounted, no obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by a particular species or species group. The surrounding habitat is considered unlikely to support wider populations of a species/species group. The site may also be outside or peripheral to known national range for a species. A small element of uncertainty remains to account for non-standard behaviour, particularly regarding bats.
- 3.4.4 **Low** – on-site habitat of poor quality and isolated but could be used by a small number of a given species or species group. In relation to bats, the structure has one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger number of bats.
- 3.4.5 **Moderate** – on-site habitat is continuous and connected to the wider landscape that could be used by a given species or species group. Factors limiting the likelihood of occurrence may include small habitat area, habitat severance, and disturbance. In relation to bats, the structure has one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but are unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.
- 3.4.6 **High** – on-site habitat is continuous, high quality and connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by a given species or species group. The site is within/peripheral to a national or regional stronghold. In relation to bats, the structure has one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. They have the potential to support high conservation status roosts.
- 3.4.7 **Confirmed** – in addition to one of the above grading assessments, presence is confirmed from the survey or recent records. For bats, the building, or defined section of the building, was found to contain conclusive evidence of occupation by bats.
- 3.4.8 The suitability of trees for supporting roosting bats was ranked as follows:
- **None** – Either no PRFs (Potential Roost Feature) in the tree or highly unlikely to be any.
 - **FAR** – Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree.
 - **PRF** – A tree with at least one PRF present.
- 3.4.9 Following review of all the data collected, conclusions were drawn and further surveys, mitigation and licence applications were recommended as appropriate. The assessment of potential impacts on protected sites, priority habitats, and protected and priority species identified ecological constraints. This allowed significant effects to be avoided wherever possible through careful scheme design, and ensured that the requirements for mitigation and licensing were understood based on the level of information available at the time of the assessment. Where further ecological surveys were identified as necessary to inform an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), these are detailed with their scope, methodology and timing.

3.5 Limitations

- 3.5.1 Ecological appraisals are inherently limited by factors affecting the detectability and presence of plants and animals, including time of year, weather conditions, migration patterns and behaviour. The appraisal is therefore unlikely to produce a complete inventory of all species present, and the absence of evidence of any particular species should not be taken as conclusive proof that the species is absent, or that it will not be present in the future. The results of the survey reflect the status of the site on the date of the visit, and it should be noted that ecological features can change, be created or deteriorate over time.
- 3.5.2 The UK Habitat Classification field survey was undertaken on 3rd February 2026. This timing falls outside the optimal botanical survey season (typically April to September inclusive for lowland southern England), when the majority of vascular plants are in active growth and flower. The February survey will limit confident identification of many herbaceous plants, as numerous species will be dormant or non-diagnostic, meaning habitat classifications will remain reliable at the broad and secondary UKHab level but species lists may not be fully comprehensive. The likelihood of Schedule 8 or Section 41 flora being present will be very low given the very low quality nutrient rich habitats on site and its intensive use, yet negative findings for early-flowering or inconspicuous species will carry reduced confidence.
- 3.5.3 Conducting Schedule 9 invasive species surveys in winter, when vegetation has died back, can make it easier to map and locate persistent dead stems and canes of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzian*). However, it is well known that some herbaceous species can die back completely during winter, leaving little or no visible trace above ground. It should also be noted that the some parts of the site are regularly managed by a professional grounds maintenance team, and the presence of any Schedule 9 invasive species would be expected to be known.
- 3.5.4 It should be acknowledged that bats in particular are highly mobile and may move between different roost sites throughout the year. In addition, new features such as cracks, crevices or openings may appear at any time. Hence the results of the survey are considered to be valid only at the time the survey was conducted.
- 3.5.5 The full site extents were accessible for the duration of the site visit, with the exception of the section of collapsed wall along the southern perimeter, which was contained within Heras fencing for safety reasons.

4. Baseline Ecological Conditions

4.1 Desk Study

Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites

- 4.1.1 Statutory sites are those protected under primary legislation and include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar Sites and National and Local Nature Reserves (NNR and LNR). In addition to their legal protection, local planning authorities are also required to have policies in their development plans which protect statutory sites.

Site	Designation	Location	Brief Description
Salisbury Plain	SSSI, SAC and SPA.	476m WSW	Salisbury Plain supports the largest known expanse of unimproved chalk downland in north west Europe, and represents 41% of Britain's remaining area of this rich wildlife habitat. Salisbury Plain was acquired by the Ministry of Defence for military training, and this large expanse of lowland grassland has not been subject to intensive farming methods

Non-Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites

- 4.1.2 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are selected by a Local Sites Panel comprising representatives from Natural England, Swindon and Wiltshire County Council and other local councils. Local Wildlife Sites can support both locally, regionally and nationally threatened wildlife and habitats. They are of substantive value for the conservation of biodiversity in Wiltshire and form an essential ecological network and act as wildlife corridors allowing species to migrate and disperse between sites.
- 4.1.3 The following non-statutory designated wildlife sites have been identified within 2km of the site.

Non-statutory designated wildlife sites identified within 2km of the site

Site	Designation	Location	Central Grid Reference	Brief Description
Warren Hill Chalk	LWS	1,630m ENE	SU253481	Very varied site. Hawthorn scrub and downland, well grazed by rabbits. Anthills.
Kimpton Chalk	LWS	1,889m E	SU255474	Calcareous grassland and scrub on the fringes of Salisbury Plain
South Tidworth Chalk	LWS	1,519m SE	SU250470	Hay field.
Old Rectory Chalk	LWS	650m SE	SU236468	A steep west-facing chalk slope with flatter land below, supporting substantial areas of unimproved CG and an area of plantation woodland.
Ashdown Chalk	LWS	618m E	SU238474	A west-facing chalk down with areas of unimproved grassland, well developed scrub and plantation woodland.
Furze Hill Chalk	LWS	1,500m NE	SU243484	A west-facing chalk down with areas of unimproved calcareous grassland and mesotrophic grassland with scattered scrub and trees as well as patches of dense scrub and plantation woodland.
Tidworth Garrison Golf Course	LWS	1,615m W	SU213484	A large golf course supporting areas of unimproved calcareous grassland.

4.2 Protected and Priority Species

- 4.2.1 The following legally protected and priority species records were identified within 2km of the site. These are defined as species listed on Schedule 1 and 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (as Species of Principal Importance).
- 4.2.2 Results were limited to those that were 20 years old or less and some species omitted where they were assessed as not relevant to the assessment. The resolution of the records has been limited/ edited as needed to prevent sensitive or confidential records being made public. Distances and direction to each species record are calculated from the centre-point of a search area.

Protected and Priority Species Identified within 2km

Species	Record details
Terrestrial Mammals (bats)	Noctule bat (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>) 41 records 57m W Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) 68 records closest 40m ENE (within wall) . Soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>) 57 records closest 87m S Tedworth House Brown long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>) 11 records closest 87m S Tedworth House Long eared bat (<i>Plecotus</i>) 15 records 87m S Tedworth House Barbastelle (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>) 16 records closest 87m S Tedworth House Serotine (<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>) 36 records closest 57m W Myotis (<i>Myotis Bat species</i>) 25 records 87m S Tedworth House Whiskered Bat (<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>) single record 279m SE Natterer's bat (<i>Myotis nattereri</i>) two records closest 218m SE Nyctalus bat (<i>Nyctalus</i>) 11 records closest 87m S Tedworth House Leisler's Bat (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>) 4 records closest 87m S Tedworth House
Terrestrial Mammals (non-bats)	
West European Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	Ten records - closest 496m E
Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>)	
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	2 records- closest 857m E
Reptiles and Amphibians	
Grass snake (<i>Natrix helvetica</i>)	Five records closest 820m SW
Slow worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>)	Seven records – closest 424m E
Common Lizard (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>)	8 records closest 449m E
Common Frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>)	Four records closest 821m SW
Common Toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>)	Three records closest 87m S Tedworth House
Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	Single record 1969m NW
Invertebrates	
	Species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as Species of Principal Importance were identified within the study area. The records included: Forester (<i>Adscita statices</i>) Latticed Heath (<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>) Small Heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>) Small Blue (<i>Cupido minimus</i>) Dingy Skipper (<i>Erynnis tages</i>) Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) insect – butterfly (<i>Euphydryas aurinia form aurinia</i>) Duke of Burgundy (<i>Hamearis lucina</i>) Grayling (<i>Hipparchia semele</i>) Wall (<i>Lasiommata megera</i>) Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>) White-letter Hairstreak (<i>Satyrus w-album</i>) Shaded Broad-bar (<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>) Brown Hairstreak (<i>Thecla betulae</i>) Feathered Gothic (<i>Tholera decimalis</i>) Cinnabar (<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>)

Table continued:

Birds	
The desk study identified a small number of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 1 Part 1 Birds (which provides additional protection against disturbance whilst nesting). The most recent records included: Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>) Redwing (<i>Turdus iliacus</i>) Stone-curlew (<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>) Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) Black Redstart (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>)	In addition, a number of birds listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as Species of Principal Importance were also identified within the study area, including: House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>) Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>) Yellowhammer (<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>) Stone-curlew (<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>) Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) Cuckoo (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>) Tree Pipit (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>) Reed Bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>) Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>)

4.3 Water Body Search

- 4.3.1 To assess the potential for great crested newts to be present, Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs were examined for any potentially suitable water bodies within 500m of the site. Three waterbodies were identified, with the closest being an ornamental pond 143m south-west of the site within the grounds of Tedworth House/ Clive Plantation. The next closest were two balancing ponds located to the south of a new residential development to the east of the A338, located 334m and 354m respectively. It is understood these were recently constructed as part of the drainage system for the new development.
- 4.3.2 In addition, running in a north to south direction was the River Bourne, 60m to the east at its closest point. The River Bourne is a winterbourne stream that is dry during the summer months.

4.4 Field Survey Results- Area Habitats

- 4.4.1 The following habitats were recorded in line with the standard UK Habitat Classification (UK HAB) (UKHAB Ltd. 2023) during the field survey conducted on 3rd February 2026. The following should be read in conjunction with the UK HAB Plan in Appendix 10.1.
- 4.4.1 Modified grassland (g4, parcels 1, 3, 5, 10 and 13): Modified grassland was present in various locations around the site. Parcel 1 was located immediately to the south of the main entrance off Jagdalik Road and ran adjacent to the wing section of the wall (photograph 1) and will form the proposed access route to the inside of the western section of the wall. Dominant was perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), along with frequent dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), and occasional nettle (*Urtica dioica*), broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), narrow leaved plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and rare small-flowered cranesbill (*Geranium pusillum*), purple dead nettle (*Lamium purpureum*) and cats ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*).
- 4.4.2 **Parcel 3** was part of a larger area of amenity grassland in the southwestern corner of the site, encompassing a linear working area along the internal side of the wall (photograph 2). The grassland habitat was similar to parcel 1, being dominated by perennial ryegrass and cock's foot, cleavers, frequent doves foot geranium (*Geranium molle*), buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), occasional dandelion, sycamore seedlings (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) rare purple dead nettle and narrow leaved plantain. There were notable areas of moss immediately inside to the wall on the southern side, due to shade and damp conditions.



Photograph 1: View of the parcel 1 closest to the site entrance.



Photograph 2: Parcel 3 along the wall, looking northwards.

- 4.4.3 **Parcel 5** consisted of a further area of modified grassland on a raised bund along the inside of the southern section of the wall (photograph 3). The bund had arisen because of the construction of the adjacent horse manège. As a result, the area was most likely initially seeded, with dominant perennial ryegrass, crested dogs tail, and meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*) present, along with occasional broadleaved dock and buttercup. There were also some limited areas of bare ground.



Photograph 3: View of parcel 5 to the left of the image.



Photograph 4: Parcel 10.

- 4.4.4 **Parcel 10** consisted of a further area of modified grassland on a raised bund resulting from the construction of the larger manège on the south eastern corner of the site (photograph 4). Similar grass species were dominant, comprising of perennial ryegrass, crested dogs tail, and meadow-grass, along with frequent broadleaved dock, cleavers and occasional teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), with an area of occasional nettle along the base of the wall.
- 4.4.5 **Parcel 13** was located adjacent to the western entrance into the stables (photograph 5). It consisted of a small area of roadside verge on the outside of the wall, along with a corresponding section on the inside of the wall. The grassland was typical of a managed roadside verge, with dominant perennial ryegrass, meadow grass, cock's-foot and abundant fescue (*Festuca rubra commutata*). There was also, frequent daisy (*Bellis perennis*), dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*) and narrow leaved plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), along with occasional common storks bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), broadleaved dock, cleavers, doves foot geranium (*Geranium molle*) and rare lords and ladies (*Arum maculatum*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and ivy.



Photograph 5: View of parcel 13 modified grassland verge.



Photograph 6: Parcel 4 in the shade adjacent to the wall.

- 4.4.6 **Grassland; tall forbs (g4; 16, parcels 4 and 8):** Located along the inside of the southern section of the wall was **parcel 4** (photograph 6). The area was in the shade of the wall and at the base of the adjoining bund (parcel 5) and hence was damp with low levels of light. As a result, the species present was limited, being dominated by nettle, with occasional perennial ryegrass and cleavers. **Parcel 8** was along the inside of the north east section of the wall (photograph 7). This section was close to stables and manure storage areas, and hence high levels of nutrient run off were noted.
- 4.4.7 Species present were consistent with high nutrient levels, with dominant nettle, abundant bramble, and frequent broadleaved dock perennial ryegrass annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*). It was noted that bramble scrub was encroaching from the adjacent area, with some evidence that the strip closest to the wall within the site extents was subject to occasional management.



Photograph 7: Parcel 8 along the inside of the eastern wall.



Photograph 8: Parcel 2, recently cut bramble scrub.

- 4.4.8 **Heathland and shrub; bramble scrub (h3d; 517, parcel 2 and 7):** A small area of recently cut bramble scrub was present on the inside of the wall to the south of the main access into the stables. Much of the bramble had been cut to ground level and was beginning to regrow (photograph 8). Bramble dominated, along with occasional, spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), cleavers, broadleaved dock, square stalked willowherb (*Epilobium tetragonum*), wild turnip (*Brassica rapa*), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and rare lords and ladies, lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), herb robert (*Geranium robertianum*), and wood avens (*Geum urbanum*). Notable in this area was some ivy growth up the lower sections of the wall, with sporadic individual heart's tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) also present.
- 4.4.9 A further area of bramble scrub (**parcel 7**) was present between the manège and wall along the eastern side of the site (photograph 9). Again, bramble dominated, along with nitrophilous plants including abundant stinging nettle and occasional cleavers, creeping thistle, and lords and ladies.



Photograph 9: Parcel 7, bramble scrub.



Photograph 10: Parcel 12, surfaced access path.

- 4.4.10 **Urban; developed land; sealed surface (u1b, parcel 12):** Located inside the pedestrian listed gateway along the southern boundary was a small area of surfaced path (photograph 10).
- 4.4.11 **Urban; built linear features (u1e, parcel 9):** This parcel comprised the surfaced road ways through the boundary wall along the western elevation (photograph 5).
- 4.4.12 **Urban; ruderal/ephemeral (u1f, 81, parcel 11):** Located along the inside of southern section of the eastern wall was an area of ruderal/ephemeral habitat, that has arisen on the down slope of a bund created from the construction of the adjacent large manège (photograph 11). The habitat in this location was shaded and subject to some runoff from the nearby stables and manure storage areas, and hence was nutrient rich and disturbed. Dominant was nettle, bramble and broadleaved dock, along with abundant bristly oxtongue, spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and frequent ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), teasel, cleavers and greater bittercress (*Cardamine amara*). There was also occasional hedge garlic (*Alliaria petiolata*), water figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*), ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), perennial ryegrass and greater bittercress nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*). The habitat continued past a short internal section of wall that joined the main wall at right angles (photograph 12).
- 4.4.13 Growing adjacent to the wall were three large sycamore trees, with the central tree dual stemmed, with all three trees supporting significant ivy (*Hedera helix*) cover (photographs 15 and 16).



Photograph 11: Ephemeral/ruderal vegetation in parcel 11.



Photograph 12: Northern section of parcel 11.

4.5 Field Survey Results - Linear Habitat

- 4.5.1 No linear habitats (hedgerows or Rivers) were present within the site extents.

4.6 Field Survey Results - Faunal Species

- 4.6.1 An overview of the legislation and planning policy relating to the protected faunal species in this section is provided in Appendix 10.2.

- 4.6.2 [REDACTED]

- 4.6.3 [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- 4.6.5 **Reptiles:** The desk study identified five records of grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*), seven slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and eight common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) within the study area. The closest record was for slow worm located 424m to the east of the site, with the closest common lizard record 449m to the east, and the closest grass snake record 820m south west. A notable population of reptiles are known to be present beyond the eastern area of Tidworth, around Ashdown Copse and Furze Hill.

- 4.6.6 The interior of the site offered little suitability for reptiles, given the dominance of the buildings and adjacent hardstanding and surfaced areas, with almost all the interior made ground. Whilst some suitable habitat was present within the site boundary alongside the interior of the wall, with areas of longer grass and scrub particularly along the higher eastern side of the site which had a suitable aspect, the habitats are regularly cut by the ground maintenance team and subject to significant disturbance. Notably, the perimeter wall provides a significant barrier to the movement of reptiles, which is compounded by the roadway which runs around the outside of the site on all sides.

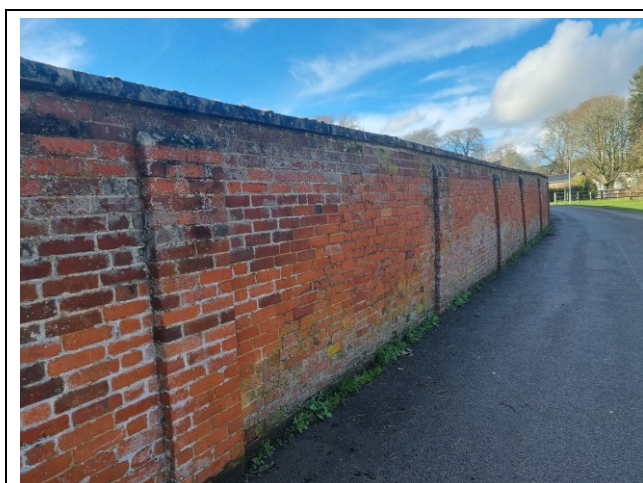
- 4.6.7 However, suitable areas of habitat are present within the working areas adjacent to the wall, and therefore the potential for individual reptiles to be encountered cannot be ruled out. Overall, the site was considered suboptimal for reptiles with the potential for them to be encountered **low**, according to the criteria in Section 3.4.

- 4.6.8 **Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*):** The desk study identified a single record of great crested newt on the edge of the study area, 1969m from the site boundary to the north west. The record originated from 2016 from a pond within the Salisbury Plain military training area. Three waterbodies were identified within 500m of the site boundary, with the closest being an ornamental pond 143m south-west of the site within the grounds of Tedworth House. The next closest were two balancing ponds located to the south of a new residential development to the east of the A338, located 334m and 354m respectively. Running in a north to south direction was the River Bourne, 60m to the east at its closest point.

- 4.6.9 The waterbody within the grounds of Tedworth House is not known to support great crested newts, comprising of a concrete oval ornamental pond at the end of a grass walkway to the edge of Clive Plantation. The two newly constructed balancing ponds are over 250m from the site extents, separated by the A338 Salisbury Road.

- 4.6.10 Although great crested newts can use suitable terrestrial habitat up to 500m from a breeding pond (English Nature 2001), they generally stay within 250m of their breeding pond. The River Bourne contained flowing water and hence was not considered suitable. Water bodies with a notable flow are not considered suitable for use by great crested newts, given the lack of still water and high level of predation (Kent ARG 2003).
- 4.6.11 Given the absence of records, the lack of suitable network of water bodies, the limited connectivity given the presence of the perimeter wall and encompassing roadways, and the limited vegetated habitats, the likelihood of great crested newts being encountered was considered to be **negligible**.
- 4.6.12 **Birds:** The site contained some limited potential for bird nesting to occur, particularly within the three sycamore trees adjacent to the wall on the south eastern corner of the site (parcel 11). No evidence of active or redundant nests was recorded during the site survey. The recent work to remove some of the bramble scrub in parcel 2 had reduced that available area of scrub habitat for nesting birds. However, the interior of the site was subject to significant levels of disturbance from the use of the stables and associated manège areas, which is likely to reduce the potential for nesting birds, and making the small areas of vegetated habitat unsuitable for ground nesting birds.
- 4.6.13 The desk study identified a number of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 1 Part 1 Birds (which provides additional protection against disturbance whilst nesting) within the study area, in addition to a number listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as a Species of Principal Importance. These included raptor species (Accipitriformes), which utilise large areas of habitat on a wider scale, including red kite (*Milvus milvus*) and Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Other Schedule 1 Part 1 Birds identified during the desk study included redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), which are species that utilises open country, nesting in scrubby, damp woodlands, stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedipnemus*) nesting dry, open, and sparsely vegetated environments, and black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) nesting in open, rocky, or industrial habitats with sparse vegetation.
- 4.6.14 However, a variety of common bird species are likely to exist within the vicinity of the site that could use the trees for nesting. All nesting birds, their nests, eggs and young receive legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Therefore, it is concluded that breeding bird presence within the site is considered **moderate**.
- 4.6.15 **Common Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*):** No records of dormice were identified during the desk study within the study area. No habitats within the site extents were considered suitable for use by dormice. In addition, the site is isolated from any known dormice populations. Therefore, it is concluded that dormice presence within the site is considered **negligible**.
- 4.6.16 **Invertebrates:** The desk study identified 15 species of *Lepidoptera* listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as Species of Principal Importance within the study area.
- 4.6.17 The site supported bramble, which is a primary food source for one of these, the small heath butterfly (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) adults. However other key food sources for the species recorded were lacking, such as yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and a diversity of grasses, and much of the bramble had also been cut back, reducing its available area. Therefore, it is considered that there is a negligible likelihood of small heath butterfly occurring on site.
- 4.6.18 Some grass species were present that could provide a larval food source for Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*) and /or Wall (*Lasiommata megera*), although they were limited in extent and subject to regular management by the grounds maintenance team. A small number of ragwort plants were identified within parcel 11par, although not in sufficient quantity to provide a key resource for cinnabar (*Tyria jacobaeae*).
- 4.6.19 All the remaining species identified during the desk study listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 are highly unlikely to be present or rely on the habitats within the site, given the absence of their larval food source (subject to Section 3.5 regarding limitations for a February field survey). Therefore, it is considered that there is a **negligible** likelihood of any protected invertebrates occurring on site.
- 4.6.20 **Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*):** The desk study identified ten records of hedgehog within the study area. Hedgehogs are a Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. No signs of hedgehog were noted during the site survey, and the habitat provides limited foraging opportunities for hedgehog given enclosed nature of the site. It was considered there was a **low** likelihood of hedgehogs being present, although there remains the potential for individuals to be encountered.
- 4.6.21 **Bats (*Chiroptera*):** The desk study identified records of at least 9 species of bat within the study area, comprising of noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), long eared bat (*Plecotus spp.*), barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), myotis (*Myotis spp.*) whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), nyctalus bat (*Nyctalus spp.*) and Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*).
- 4.6.22 The closest record was for common pipistrelle within the main building at Tedworth Equestrian Centre, within the perimeter wall. Further records of common pipistrelle were also identified within The Stables, 57m to the west, along with records of serotine and noctule bats. The majority of the remaining records (177) originated from Tedworth House, 87m to the south of the site, where common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, barbastelle, noctule, and Leisler's bat have been recorded. The remaining records of Natterer's bat and whiskered bat were recorded 218m and 279m to the south east respectively.

- 4.6.23 A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was conducted on all sections of the wall, internally and externally. Whilst crevice dwelling species of bat, such as pipistrelles, Brandt's bat and whiskered bat frequently use walls in buildings, bats can also use free standing walls where suitable potential roost features (PRFs) exist.
- 4.6.24 Sections of wall A-G and I (photograph 13), J and K were considered to have a negligible likelihood of use by bats. Sections B and F were of concrete block construction, which was covered in render externally, with no PRFs identified, sections C and D were of brick construction with a brick coping along the top of the wall, with Section E collapsed. Section G along the eastern side of the site was again of brick construction with flat stone coping stones along the top of the wall. Sections D, E and I are to be subject to reinforcement of the buttresses. No features were identified that could be used by roosting bats.
- 4.6.25 Section H, midway along the eastern side of the site, had a plain tile pitched coping along the top of the wall (photograph 14). The tiles were around 80cm across over the top of the wall and were closely examined. It was notable that the tiles were covered in moss, with the bedding mortar either side of the ridge tiles appearing intact under the moss covering. The lower tiles sat on bricks that protruded from the wall, with the tiles laid on top resulting in multiple layers of end tiles and associated narrow gaps. The wall was solid across the top of the wall, and hence there was no potential for bats to enter any wall cavity. Whilst no evidence of use was identified and the PRFs were shallow and exposed, the wall had a southerly aspect which crevice dwelling bats prefer and faced Tidworth Park and the River Bourne, which would provide ideal foraging and commuting habitat. There were no suitable PRFs associated with the vertical section of the wall, and there was no potential for hibernation.
- 4.6.26 Given the records indicate a population of crevice dwelling bats are present in the area, it was concluded that the pitched coping along the top of Section H of the wall had a low likelihood of use by bats, given the limited suitability of the PRFs, and presence could not be discounted.



Photograph 13: Section I of the outer side of the wall.



Photograph 14: Wall Section H with pitched wall coping.

- 4.6.27 **Other Protected Species:** No other protected or priority species were identified during the survey. The proposed working area does not support habitat considered suitable for water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*), otter (*Lutra lutra*) or white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*).

4.7 Invasive Species

- 4.7.1 Certain species of plants and animals that do not naturally occur have become established in the wild and represent a threat to the natural fauna and flora. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the more recent Variation of Schedule 9 (England and Wales) Order 2010, makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause such species listed on Schedule 9 to grow in the wild.
- 4.7.2 No invasive species which are listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were identified as being present on the site during the site survey.

5. Evaluation and Ecological Constraints

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 The following section consists of an evaluation of the information provided by the desk study and the field survey in Section 4, to identify the potential impact of the proposals and subsequent ecological constraints. Where further ecological work is required in order to complete the impact assessment, these have been identified and detailed in Section 6.1.

5.2 Designated Areas

- 5.2.1 The site is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory wildlife designations.
- 5.2.2 Salisbury Plain SSSI, SAC and SPA was the closest statutory protected wildlife site, located 476m to the west southwest at its closest point. This places it in the outer SSSI Impact Risk Zones, which are set by Natural England for Local Planning Authorities to determine likely impacts on terrestrial SSSIs and when to consult Natural England. However, given the low impact nature of the proposals, the work to replace/repair the perimeter wall is below the threshold for this SSSI Impact Zone, and given the proposals will not result in any potential water quality/nutrient impacts to European Sites or result in recreational pressure impacts, no consultation with Natural England is required, and no impacts are foreseen.
- 5.2.3 Seven non-statutory designated sites, all Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), were identified within the study area. The closest was Ashdown Chalk Local Wildlife Site, located 618m to the east of the site on the opposite side of the Bourne valley. The LWS comprises of a large west-facing chalk down with areas of unimproved grassland, well developed scrub and plantation woodland. The sites were considered to be of sufficient distance from the working area not to be adversely impacted by the proposed works, particularly given the relatively small scale of the proposed work.

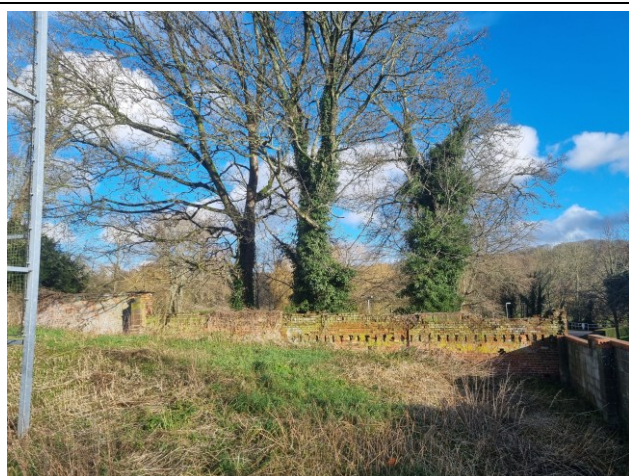
Therefore, no impact on protected sites is foreseen as a result of the proposals and no mitigation or further survey work is required.

5.3 Habitats

- 5.3.1 The habitats subject to direct impact as a result of the proposals within the site extents comprised primarily of areas of modified grassland, along with some ruderal/ephemeral vegetation along the inside of the perimeter wall, with some ruderal/ephemeral vegetation and bare ground around the outside. A small area of bramble scrub was present, although this had been cut back, significantly reducing its ecological value. The areas of habitat impacted by the proposals have been minimised to provide a safe working area alongside the wall.
- 5.3.2 None of the habitats present within the site were considered to be a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority Habitat). Therefore, it is considered none of the habitats present on the site would be considered an important ecological feature. However, the uncompensated removal of the vegetation would result in a net loss of biodiversity.

5.4 Trees

- 5.4.1 Whilst no trees were present within the site extents, three trees (T1, T2 and T3) were present directly adjacent to the wall close to parcel 11 at the south eastern corner of the site (photograph 15 and 16 below). The trees were large sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), and contained notable levels of ivy cover.



Photograph 15: Trees viewed from the inside of the site.



Photograph 16: Roadside view looking west.

- 5.4.2 Whilst no direct impact on these trees is proposed or considered necessary to conduct the work, they provide both amenity and ecological value. It is likely that it will be necessary for work to take place in proximity of the trees and overhanging branches. It will therefore be necessary to protect the trees and their root-protection areas. Consideration should be given to the production of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan (to BS5837:2012), to ensure that the trees are protected from accidental or inadvertent damage during the work. Tree protection measures are likely to be required where work will take place close to trees.

5.5 Legally Protected and Priority Species

Floral Species

- 5.5.1 No species of flora listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as Species of Principal Importance or a Priority Species were observed during the field survey of the site. The majority of the species identified are considered to be common locally. Therefore, none of the floral habitats present on the site would be considered an important ecological feature.

Faunal Species

- 5.5.2 The anticipated ecological impact on faunal species (based on the ecological appraisal detailed above) as a result of the proposed work is detailed below. The following only contains species where the presence is considered to be greater than negligible.

Species	Anticipated Ecological Impact
Reptiles	It was concluded that there was a low likelihood of reptile presence within the site extents. The interior of the stables was largely unsuitable for reptiles due to the dominance of buildings, hardstanding, and made ground. Additionally, the perimeter wall and surrounding roadway act as significant barriers to reptile movement. However, some suitable areas of scrub and grassland habitats were present within the working areas adjacent to the wall, and therefore the potential for individual reptiles to be encountered cannot be ruled out. As such, there is a risk of impact during the work. A method of precautionary progressive vegetation clearance is required.
Bats	A Preliminary Roost Assessment was conducted on both sides of the wall throughout the site extents. Sections of wall A-G and I, J and K were considered to have a negligible likelihood of use by bats Wall Section H, midway along the eastern side of the site, incorporates plain tile pitched coping along the wall top. A small number of shallow, exposed potential roost features (PRFs) were identified in the gaps between successive tile ends where they rest on projecting bricks. No evidence of use by bats (droppings, staining, scratch marks or individuals) was recorded during the inspection. Section H was assessed as having a low likelihood of use by bats, reflecting the limited suitability of the identified PRFs. The features are shallow and exposed to the elements, providing insufficient space, shelter or stable conditions to support anything other than opportunistic, short-term day or night roosting by individual crevice-dwelling bats. They are not considered suitable for hibernation (owing to their exposed aspect and lack of thermal stability) or for maternity roosting (owing to their limited capacity and lack of the protected, thermally stable conditions required by breeding colonies). Notwithstanding this assessment, the presence of crevice-dwelling bats could not be entirely discounted, and the precautionary principle has therefore been applied. Under the 2023 BCT guidelines, further activity surveys (dusk emergence and/or dawn re-entry surveys) are normally recommended for structures assessed as having low roost suitability where the proposed works could directly affect, remove or alter the identified PRFs. In the case of Section H, the proposed works are restricted to minor hand repointing of the vertical brick faces of the wall, using lime mortar to replace deteriorated cementitious patch repairs. The works will not involve any disturbance to, removal of, or intervention in the tile coping or the associated PRFs. All mortar mixing and preparation will take place away from the section. No power tools or vibration-causing equipment will be used, and only temporary access equipment (ladders or lightweight towers) will be employed. The duration of the works in this section is anticipated to be no more than one day. Because the PRFs will not be impacted, there is no pathway by which the works could injure bats, damage or destroy a roost, or result in significant disturbance that would constitute an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Hence using the recommended mitigation approach: the PRFs are to be avoided entirely, and the residual risk (disturbance from proximity alone) is addressed through timing and supervision. Reliance on avoidance, a precautionary method statement and ecological supervision represent an appropriate and proportionate response consistent with the mitigation hierarchy and with the 2023 BCT guidance.

Table continued:

Bats (continued)	Notably, the method statement requires that works to Section H are carried out during the winter period (November to February inclusive). This timing is required on the following basis: – The identified PRFs are shallow, exposed and thermally unstable, and are unsuitable for hibernation. Bats selecting hibernation sites require deep, protected crevices offering stable, cool conditions with high humidity; the tile-end gaps on Section H do not provide these conditions. – During the winter months, crevice-dwelling bats in the UK are typically either hibernating in more suitable, thermally stable roosts or are torpid and not actively using ephemeral day or night roosts of the type represented by these PRFs. – The southerly aspect of the wall, while increasing the potential for occasional use as a day or transitional roost during the active season (particularly in spring and autumn), does not render the features suitable for winter occupation. Undertaking the works in winter therefore represents the period of lowest probability of bat presence, providing an additional layer of precaution beyond the avoidance of the PRFs themselves. However, it is noted that, if the requirements above and within the method statement cannot be implemented as specified, dusk emergence surveys may be required during the May–August survey window before planning permission can be granted and work can commence.
Nesting Birds	The potential for nesting birds was considered moderate, given the presence of various trees around the site, including three mature sycamore trees with significant ivy cover, which would provide suitable nesting opportunities for a range of species. Whilst no direct impact on any of the trees is anticipated, work may take place in close proximity, which could impact on nesting birds. All nesting birds, their nests, eggs and young receive legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), with Schedule 1 birds receiving additional protection.
Hedgehogs	The records indicate that hedgehogs are present in the wider area, and the habitat is considered suitable, although the potential for hedgehogs to be encountered was considered low. Although not legally protected, hedgehogs are a Priority Species under the NERC Act.

6. Further Surveys, Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement

6.1 Required Further Work

- 6.1.1 **Bats:** Midway along the eastern side of the site was wall Section H, which contained a section with plain tile pitched coping along the top of the wall. Given work in the section of wall is limited to minor repairs to the vertical sections, there will not be any direct impact on the identified PRFs. However, to avoid the potential for any disturbance to occur, even though the work is only likely to take one day in this section, a precautionary method statement must be prepared that can be implemented.
- 6.1.2 The precautionary method statement for Section H must include the following explicit commitments:
- **No works shall be undertaken to the tile coping, ridge tiles, or the gaps between tile ends and projecting bricks where the PRFs are located.** The works are confined to the vertical brick faces of the wall only.
 - Works to Section H shall be undertaken between November and February inclusive, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the appointed ecologist.
 - Works shall be carried out by hand only; no power tools, percussion tools or vibration-causing equipment shall be used on Section H.
 - An ecologist shall brief the contractor on the PRFs and their avoidance prior to works commencing, and shall either be present on site during the works or available to attend at short notice.
 - Should any bat be encountered during the works, all activity in the vicinity must cease immediately and the ecologist contacted for further advice. Works must not resume until the ecologist has confirmed it is appropriate to do so.
 - If, prior to or during the works, any change in the condition of the PRFs is identified (e.g., new cracking, tile displacement, or evidence of bat use not previously recorded), works must stop and the ecologist consulted to determine whether further survey or licensing is required.
- 6.1.3 On this basis, it is concluded that the potential for any offence under the relevant legislation is avoided through design and timing, that further activity surveys are not justified in the circumstances, and that the precautionary method statement, implemented under ecological supervision, provides an appropriate safeguard consistent with current best practice guidance.
- 6.1.4 **Trees:** Three mature sycamore trees were present adjacent to the wall on the southeastern corner of the site. Whilst no direct impact on these trees is proposed or considered necessary to conduct the work, they provide both amenity and ecological value. It is likely that it will be necessary for work to take place in proximity of the trees and overhanging branches and therefore consideration should be given to the production of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan (to BS5837:2012), to ensure that the trees are protected from accidental or inadvertent damage during the work.

6.2 Required Mitigation

- 6.2.1 The following mitigation methodology contains measures to avoid or minimise potential ecological impacts on habitats and protected and priority species, based upon the current level of information known about the proposed work.

	General Mitigation
1.	The site team should be briefed on the requirements of the mitigation methodology and the reasoning behind it prior to the commencement of work on site. All members of the site team will be asked to sign a record to confirm they have understood the contents and will adhere to the requirements. The record will be held by the site supervisor.
	Designated Areas and Habitats
2.	No mitigation in relation to designated areas or habitats is considered necessary.
	Floral Species
3.	No mitigation in relation to floral species is considered necessary.
	Protected and Priority Species
4.	Where possible, the work should take place outside of the bird nesting season (between 1 st February to 31 st August). If that is not possible, it will be necessary for a nesting bird check to be conducted by an ecologist prior to work commencing, and then at regular intervals thereafter. During the peak of the bird nesting season (1 st March to 31 st July) this should be undertaken daily. Should nesting activity be detected, all work must stop in that area, a suitable buffer zone must be established, although work outside of that area can continue. The work within the buffer zone will then need to be rearranged until all young birds have fledged or nesting activity ceases.

5.	Some areas of suitable reptile habitat were present within the working areas adjacent to the wall, and therefore the potential for individual reptiles to be encountered cannot be ruled out. The following precautionary measures are required: – The vegetation must be cut in a two-stage process during the reptile active season (April to mid-October inclusive). The clearance must be done in a progressive manner, working away from the wall so that any reptiles are displaced gradually away from the working area. – On the first day the initial cut must be to a height of no less than 150mm. The following day a second cut to approximately 50mm can be made. Where the vegetation is already low, a single cut to 100mm is sufficient. – All cut material, including woody brash, should be gathered and removed from the site to avoid creating shelter opportunities. No bonfires can be lit on site. Any trenches or openings should not be left exposed overnight, should be adequately covered and checked before they are filled in. – Should reptiles be encountered during any stage of the work, all activity must cease immediately, and the reptile should be allowed to make its escape unharmed. If the reptile does not move away, it should be re-covered with dry leaves or whatever was covering it and the area avoided until further advice from the ecologist is sought. – To avoid creating suitable habitat that could be used by reptiles during the works, should it be necessary to store materials on site, they should be stored on hardstanding away from vegetated habitats.
6.	Prior to clearance work commencing, all site operatives should be briefed on the potential presence of hedgehog and be instructed to stop work and report any sightings. The following precautionary measures are required: – The working area should be checked for the presence of hedgehogs prior to work commencing. Should a hedgehog be found, it should be allowed to move away from the working area unhindered. – Hedgehogs have poor eyesight and are inquisitive, and hence there is the potential for them to fall into holes and get stuck, particularly open drains and gullies. Hence any such openings should not be left exposed overnight, should be adequately covered and checked before they are filled in. – Care should be taken not to create habitat that could become suitable for use by hedgehogs, particularly for hibernation, by not storing wood or other material in piles for significant periods. – Bonfires are not permitted on site, as hedgehogs commonly use the cover provided for shelter. Any hedgehogs encountered during winter may be in hibernation and particularly vulnerable. Therefore, if a hedgehog is discovered in winter and appears not to move, specific care may be needed. In which case the further advice from a qualified ecologist should be sought, or the local hedgehog society contacted.

6.3 Ecological Enhancements

- 6.3.1 Under Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024, development proposals must include measures to conserve protected species and biodiversity. Policy 50: Biodiversity and Geodiversity of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (Adopted January 2015) requires developments to achieve a net gain in biodiversity with suitable ecological enhancements.
- 6.3.2 **Invertebrate Habitats:** At strategic locations around the inside of the wall, deadwood log piles will be provided, to offer shelter and hibernating habitat for a range of insects. Designs are readily available and incorporate the placement of piles of cut wooden logs at ground level in appropriate locations. The location should be chosen by an ecologist, located adjacent to south facing boundaries, in locations of minimal disturbance.
- 6.3.3 **Bat Boxes:** To provide additional roosting opportunities, four bat boxes must be provided along the inside of wall G.
- 6.3.4 For longevity and insulation, the bat boxes should be constructed from woodcrete (or similar), with the crevice bat boxes from Greenwoods Ecohabitats most appropriate. These are discrete rectangular bat boxes that are surface mounted onto the external elevation of the building with standard fixings.
- 6.3.5 The bat boxes are to be installed as high as possible (at least 3m high), with an unobstructed approach and no lighting should be directed towards them. Temperature is known to be an important factor influencing the success of artificial roost features (Mitchell-Jones, A.J. 2004). Hence, the boxes will be sited on different aspects of the wall where possible to provide a range of temperature and humidity conditions.
- 6.3.6 It is important that artificial lighting is not allowed to illuminate artificial bat roosts. The guidance contained within Bat Conservation Trust Guidance Note GN08/23 (Bats and artificial lighting in the UK) must be followed.
- 6.3.7 **Bird Boxes:** To provide nesting opportunities, at least four bird boxes suitable for a wide variety of common bird species should be erected at least 2m above ground level, which should be attached to a nearby established tree or an appropriate section of building within the stables. The boxes should be of woodcrete construction, such as the Schwegler 1B, 2M or 1MR Avianex box which are rot-proof and maintenance free (www.schwegler-natur.de).
- 6.3.8 Bird boxes may be installed at any time, but their installation should be scheduled within the works programme, with boxes procured and available when required. Autumn installation can provide valuable winter roosting refuge and increase the likelihood of birds remaining to nest in spring. Boxes installed before the end of February are generally more likely to be used, provided they are suitably located.

7. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Overview

- 7.1.1 Biodiversity net gain is an approach to development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP23), published 31st January 2023, sets out the aspiration to mainstream biodiversity net gain in the planning system and move towards approaches that integrate natural capital benefits.
- 7.1.2 National policy sets out that planning should provide biodiversity net gains where possible. Within the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024), Paragraphs 187(d) and 193(d) refer to this policy requirement. Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England within the scope of Schedule 7A are generally subject to a minimum 10% BNG requirement, unless an exemption or transitional provision applies, as of 12th February 2024 for major developments, and small sites from 2nd April 2024. Biodiversity net gain is to be measured using DEFRA's statutory biodiversity metric and habitats will need to be secured for at least 30 years through obligations or a conservation covenant. Mandatory biodiversity net gain as set out in the Environment Act applies in England through Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).
- 7.1.3 The Biodiversity Metric is designed to provide ecologists, developers, planners and other interested parties with a means of assessing changes in biodiversity value (losses or gains) brought about by development or changes in land management. The Metric is a habitat-based approach to determining a proxy biodiversity value.

7.2 Exemption

- 7.2.1 Certain types of development are exempt from the mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements. From 6 August 2026, development proposals with a total site area of 0.2 hectares or less are exempt from the mandatory requirement to achieve a minimum 10% BNG, provided that the development would not negatively affect any on-site priority habitat. The application site within the red line boundary extends to 0.153 hectares, and hence is less than 0.2 hectares, with the proposals not adversely affecting any priority habitat.
- 7.2.2 Subject to the planning application being submitted on or after 6 August 2026, the development therefore qualifies for the 0.2 hectare exemption, and submission of a statutory biodiversity metric and Biodiversity Gain Plan is not required.
- 7.2.3 This exemption relates only to the statutory BNG requirement. It does not remove the need to comply with relevant wildlife legislation, protected-species requirements, the ecological mitigation hierarchy, or applicable national and local planning policies. Appropriate measures to avoid ecological harm and incorporate proportionate biodiversity enhancements should therefore remain embedded within the proposals.

8. Conclusion

8.1.1 The ecological work conducted followed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) process, utilising information gained during a comprehensive desk study and a subsequent site survey conducted on 3rd February 2026, which included a bat Preliminary Roost Assessment. The aim being to assess the potential ecological constraints to the proposed development, requirements for further surveys and to provide any relevant recommendations in respect of the design and/or layout of the proposed development. A BNG Applicability Assessment was also undertaken to determine whether the mandatory requirements under Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply, including the 10% BNG requirement and any relevant exemptions.

8.1.2 The identified ecological constraints and required mitigation are summarised in the table below.

Ecological Feature	Status	Timeframe
Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites	The site extents are not subject to any statutory or non-statutory wildlife designation. Whilst both statutory and non-statutory sites were present within the study area, given the distance and confined natures of the work, no impacts are anticipated.	N/A
Habitats	None of the habitats present within the site were considered to be a habitat of principal importance on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority Habitat). The habitats on the site are common locally and none were considered to be an important ecological feature.	N/A
Flora	No species of flora listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or those listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as Species of Principal Importance were observed.	N/A
Trees	Work is likely to occur near the trees and overhanging branches; an Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan (to BS5837:2012) should therefore be considered.	Prior to site setup and vegetation clearance
Reptiles	There is the potential, although considered low, for individual reptiles to be present, and hence reptiles may be encountered in the suitable areas of habitat. As such, there is a risk of impact during the construction phase of the work. Precautionary mitigation measures are required, including progressive clearance of the debris across the site and scrub vegetation clearance.	During site setup and vegetation clearance
Bats	Wall Section H, located midway along the eastern side of the site, has plain tile pitched coping along the wall top and was assessed as having a low likelihood of use by bats due to the presence of a small number of shallow, exposed PRFs. Because work to this section is limited to minor repairs to the vertical wall faces, no direct impact on the identified PRFs is expected. However, to avoid potential disturbance, a precautionary method statement must be prepared and implemented. This should include measures such as undertaking work on Section H during winter, when bats are very unlikely to be present in these features, and carrying out the work under ecological supervision.	Prior to the commencement of work. Conditioned as part of the planning permission. Work to Section H to take place during the winter to avoid the potential for disturbance.
Nesting Birds	Where possible, the work should take place outside of the bird nesting season (between 1 st February to 31 st August). Otherwise, it will be necessary for a nesting bird check to be conducted prior to work commencing, and then at regular intervals thereafter.	Between September and February inclusive.
Hedgehog	There is the potential for hedgehogs to be present which may be encountered. Precautionary measures are therefore required.	Throughout the site work.
No other ecological features or constraints were identified. No mitigation is considered necessary in relation to badgers, great crested newts, dormice, water vole, otter, white-clawed crayfish or common invertebrate species.		

8.1.3 The proposed development is below the 0.2 hectare threshold for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), with the application site extending to 0.153 hectares and no priority habitat adversely affected. Subject to submission of the planning application on or after 6 August 2026, the scheme therefore qualifies for the BNG exemption, and neither a statutory biodiversity metric nor a Biodiversity Gain Plan is required.

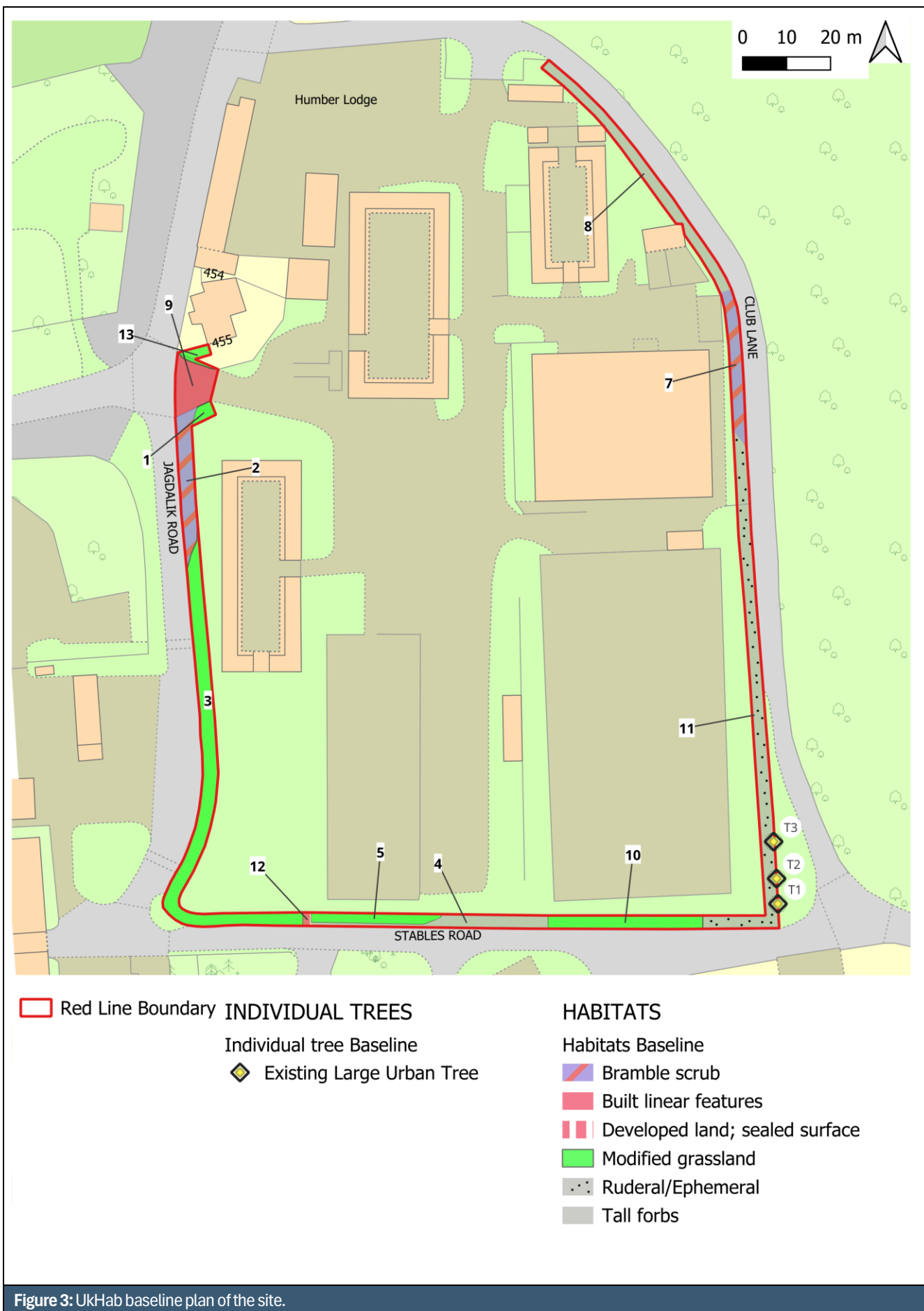
8.1.4 In addition, to ensure that the development achieves a broad gain for biodiversity in accordance with the NPPF (2024), biodiversity enhancements are also required. (Section 6.3).

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10. Appendix

10.1 UK Habitat Classification Baseline Plan



10.2 Legislation and Policy Overview

- 10.2.1 The legislative provisions in Great Britain are primarily contained within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Sections 9 to 12, with the wild animals which are protected, listed in Schedules 5 to 7. In England and Wales, enforcement provisions were extended and some amendments for protection were made by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. In addition, the protection of European Protected Species in Great Britain is covered by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 10.2.2 In relation to protected sites, Sections 28 to 33 of Part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), detail the law regarding Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 provide for the designation and protection of European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas), and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

- 10.2.3 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, consolidates and amends the existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive). Animals listed under Schedule 5, including all species of bats and reptiles, receive full or partial protection under Section 9.
- 10.2.4 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) also provides for the notification and confirmation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – these sites are identified for their flora, fauna, geological and/or physiographical features by the country conservation bodies in England (Natural England) and Wales (Natural Resources Wales). The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 also contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

- 10.2.5 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive) into English law, making it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb wild animals listed under Schedule 2 of the Regulations.
- 10.2.6 All bat species together with otters, hazel dormouse and great crested newts are listed under Schedule 2 and hence are protected by Regulation 43. The Regulations also place a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for either habitats or species to the European Commission. These sites are then designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive). All terrestrial SACs and SPAs are also SSSIs, but not all SSSIs are SACs. The aim of these designations is to safeguard nationally and internationally important habitats and to protect fauna and flora, many of which will also be legally protected.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC).

- 10.2.7 In addition to species protected by law, other species and habitats have been identified within Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as requiring conservation action as Species of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. These species and habitats originate from the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (JNCC, 2012) and were subsequently listed in Section 41 (in England) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) as either Priority Species or Priority Habitats.
- 10.2.8 Section 40 of The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a legal obligation on public bodies in England, as amended by the Environment Act 2021, to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, agree policies/objectives and act on them. The generally accepted way to do this, is to apply the 'mitigation hierarchy' which is widely known as a sequential process whereby the first step would be to avoid impact, if this is not possible then you aim to mitigate for the adverse effects. If not possible the next step would be to compensate for any adverse effect and lastly, to enhance the site for biodiversity.

BREXIT

- 10.2.9 The UK is no longer a member of the European Union (EU). EU legislation as it applied to the UK on 31st December 2020 was transferred into UK law as a form of domestic legislation now known as '*assimilated law*'.
- 10.2.10 The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Welsh Ministers have made changes to parts of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (referred to as the 2017 Regulations) so that they operate effectively. Most of these changes involve transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance remains applicable.

Protected Species

- 10.2.11 **Badgers.** Badgers and their setts are legally protected under The Protection of Badgers Act (1992), which is based primarily on the need to protect badgers from baiting and deliberate harm or injury. A badger sett is defined in the legislation as "any structure or place, which displays signs indicating current use by a badger". Under this legislation it is illegal to:
- Wilfully kill, injure, take, or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or attempt to do so;
 - possess any dead badger or any part of, or anything derived from, a dead badger; and,
 - intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett which includes, disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, damaging or destroying a sett, causing a dog to enter a sett, or obstructing access to it.
- 10.2.12 **Bats.** All bat species are afforded full protection under UK and European legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). A bat roost is defined in the legislation as "any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection". Together, this legislation makes it illegal to:
- Intentionally or deliberately take, kill or injure a bat;
 - damage to, destruction of, and obstruction of access to, a bat roost; and,
 - disturbance of a bat occupying a roost.
- 10.2.13 **Breeding Birds.** Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), a wild bird is defined as any bird of a species that is resident in or visiting the United Kingdom. All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) while the nest is in use or being built.
- 10.2.14 Section 1 of the Act, makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird, and to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built. It is also an offence to take or destroy any wild bird eggs. All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to;
- kill, injure or take any wild bird;
 - take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or in use;
 - take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird; and,
 - possess or control any wild bird or egg unless obtained legally.
- 10.2.15 In addition, bird species listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) receive extra protection. The Act states that 'it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed in Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at (or near) a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird'.
- 10.2.16 **Hazel Dormouse.** Hazel dormice are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 5, and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations, 2017) (as amended) Schedule 2; the latter designating them as 'European Protected Species' (EPS). Under those regulations, they are protected against:
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly, injuring, killing and capturing;
 - deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturbing;
 - deliberately, intentionally or recklessly destroying a breeding site or resting place or damaging or obstructing a resting place used for shelter or protection; and,
 - keeping, transporting, selling or exchanging; offering for sale or advertising.
- 10.2.17 Disturbance includes any disturbance likely to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.
- 10.2.18 **Reptiles and Amphibians.** All native reptiles and amphibians receive some legal protection in Great Britain under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which applies to all life stages. All native reptiles and amphibians species are all listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the more threatened species, great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*), pool frog (*Pelophylax lessonae*), sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) and smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*) are also listed on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which designate them as European protected species.
- 10.2.19 The legislation creates two hierarchical levels of protection. The European protected species receive strict protection, making it an offence to capture, possess, disturb, kill, injure, or trade in individuals of these species. In addition, it is an offence to damage or destroy the places they use for breeding or nesting.
- 10.2.20 The remaining reptile species, common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) are protected against killing, injuring and unlicensed trade only. Whilst the remaining amphibian species, smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*), common frog (*Rana temporaria*) and common toad (*Bufo bufo*) are protected only against sale.

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