



Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment Report

Bob's Farm, Sherborne St John.

Shorewood Homes Ltd

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Ecus Ltd

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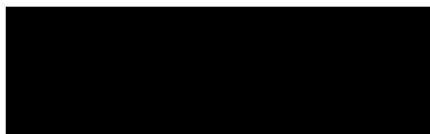
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Executive Summary

Ecus Limited (Ecus) was commissioned by Shorewood Homes to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PBRA) at Bob's Farm, Vyne Road, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9HX, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): SU 62834 55713 and is displayed on Figure 1.

The proposals for the Site are for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of nine residential dwellings with associated landscaping and car parking.

Amphibians including Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) are a potential receptor to the proposed works due to nearby records and the presence of suitable terrestrial habitat within and adjacent to the Site, however, the risk remains low due to the lack of suitable waterbodies. As such, the works may proceed under a Precautionary Method of Working (PMoW). If a GCN is encountered during the works, the works must cease immediately, and an ecologist be contacted for advice.

The Site provides suitable habitat for foraging & commuting badger *Meles meles*. There is a low risk of sett creation within the Site due to a lack of suitable habitat. The works must adhere to Ecological Best Practice Guidelines (BPG) throughout.

Roosting bats are a potential constraint to the proposed works. Building B5 and two trees (T1 & T2) within the Site were assessed as having suitability for roosting bats. Further surveys will therefore be required to identify and characterise any bat roosts present. The suitability of building B5 for roosting bats was assessed as moderate, therefore a minimum of two nocturnal bat surveys will be required between May and August (inclusive). Aerial tree-climbing assessments and endoscopy of the two trees are recommended. If the further surveys identify bat roosts, a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence from Natural England will be required to allow the proposed works to proceed lawfully.

Foraging and commuting bats are a potential constraint to the proposed works due to the presence of suitable habitat in the wider area surrounding the Site. Production of a Sensitive Lighting Plan for Biodiversity is recommended to minimise the disruption to potential bat flight lines.

Nesting birds are a potential constraint to the proposed works due to the presence of suitable buildings, scrub, and scattered tree habitats. A feral pigeon *Columba livia domestica* was observed during the survey, within building B5; this species can nest year-round. If any active nests are identified during the works, an exclusion zone must be implemented by an ecologist or suitably experienced person. The nest(s) will be left undisturbed until the young have been confirmed to fully fledged or the nesting attempt be determined to have concluded. If vegetation clearance is due to take place during the bird nesting season (March – September inclusive), a pre-works nesting bird check will also be required. An ecologist or suitably experienced person will be required to inspect any suitable areas within the Site, for breeding birds and their active nests, no more than 48 hours prior to any vegetation clearance works being undertaken.

Western European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* and brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, may occasionally use the Site. Ecological BPG should be followed throughout the works.

If butterfly bush *Buddleia davidii* is to be cleared, measures should be put in place to limit or prevent its spread.

Baseline habitats have produced a biodiversity value of 4.40 Habitat Units (HU) and 0.72 Hedgerow Units (HrU).

It is recommended that an updated Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment is undertaken of the proposed development to calculate net percentage change in Habitat Units on the Site.

1. Introduction

1.1 Scope of this report

- 1.1.1 Ecus Limited (Ecus) was commissioned by Shorewood Homes to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), 2017) and Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PBRA) (Collins, 2016) at Bobs Farm, Vyne Road, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9HX, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 This report details the findings of a data consultation, habitat survey and protected species assessment carried out on 6th October 2022. The methodologies employed and all survey findings are described along with an evaluation and assessment of the ecological importance of the Site. Any requirement for further survey work and/or mitigation/enhancement is also detailed as required.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of the PEA and PBRA was to carry out a habitat survey using UK Habitat Classification methodology to inform the need for further surveys (if required). The structures and the habitats to be directly impacted by the proposed works within the Site were surveyed for any signs of protected species and assessed for its potential to support protected species.

1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 The Site was an approximate 0.8 ha area, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): SU 62834 55713. The Site extent and habitats can be viewed in Figure 1 and Site photographs can be viewed in Appendix 1. The Site is located to the north of Basingstoke, and approximately 400 m to the north east of the village of Sherborne St John.
- 1.2.2 The wider area surrounding the Site was largely rural in nature, comprising arable fields with associated farm buildings, hedgerow and tree lines, and woodland compartments. Large areas of woodland are located to the north, east, and north west of the Site.

1.3 Project Scope

- 1.3.1 The proposals for the Site are for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of nine residential dwellings with associated landscaping and car parking.
- 1.3.2 The proposals include the retention of mature trees and boundary hedgerows, with new, native trees to be planted in addition.
- 1.3.3 Vegetation clearance of scrub and scattered trees will be required to facilitate the proposed works.
- 1.3.4 The timings of the proposed works have not yet been confirmed at the time of writing this report.

1.4 Previous Ecological Surveys

- 1.4.1 An 'Ecological Assessment' was undertaken on 21st October 2015 by PV Ecology (PV Ecology, 2016). The survey comprised a Phase 1 habitat survey covering the survey area, a systematic search for badgers, dormice and nesting birds, a bat inspection of trees and buildings on site and a habitat assessment for reptiles.
- 1.4.2 A PEA was undertaken by Ecus in 2018 (Ecus Ltd, 2018), as required within Conditions 22 and 23 of planning application 16/00949/FUL, granted in August 2016 by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.
- 1.4.3 Due to subsequent finding of potential bat droppings by the Ecus Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) during preliminary site works and site clearance in September 2018, Ecus produced a revised and updated Ecological Appraisal (Ecus Ltd, 2019a).
- 1.4.4 Nocturnal bat surveys were undertaken on the barn building (see Figure 1, Figure 2; B5) by Ecus

between May - June 2019 (Ecus Ltd, 2019b), comprising two dusk emergence surveys and one dawn re-entry survey. No bats were recorded emerging or re-entering the building. Low levels of bat commuting, and foraging activity were observed.

1.5 Quality assurance

- 1.5.1 A PEA and PBRA assessment was completed by Senior Ecologist Sinead McCarthy BSc (Hons) ACIEEM and the associated PEA and PBRA report was completed by Assistant Ecologist Isabel Soane BSc (Hons) MSc, Graduate Ecologist Penelope Taganyi-Airs BSc (Hons) MSc, and Graduate Ecologist Molly Kindell BSc (Hons) MSc.
- 1.5.2 Senior Consultant Sinead McCarthy BSc (Hons) ACIEEM has reviewed this report in accordance with Ecus' Quality Assurance policy.
- 1.5.3 The report was approved by Regional Manager Hannah Broughton BSc (Hons) MCIEEM.

2. Legislation

2.1.1 The primary purpose of the PEA was to identify any ecological constraints to the proposed works, including designated sites, habitats and species protected by legislation, namely, but not limited to:

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (“the WCA 1981”);

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (“the Habitats Regulations”);

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992;

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (“the NERC Act”); and

The Environment Act 2021.

2.1.2 Further details for species protected by the above legislation are provided in Appendix 2.

3. Methodology

3.1 Data Consultation

- 3.1.1 Obtaining existing biological records is an important part of the PEA process, as it provides additional information that may not be apparent during a Site visit, and provides a helpful baseline from which to inform recommendations and mitigation.
- 3.1.2 The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) was approached for data consultation in October 2022, to provide recent (within the past 10 years) biological records within 2 km of the Site. A 2 km Search Area was considered appropriate due to the small spatial nature of any effects arising from the proposed works.
- 3.1.3 The data obtained from HBIC includes records of protected and notable species, invasive non-native species (INNS) and non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation.
- 3.1.4 The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://magic.defra.gov.uk>) was consulted for information on statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest and the presence of European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licences for protected species within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.1.5 Information obtained from HBIC and MAGIC is included within the report where appropriate.

3.2 Site survey

- 3.2.1 A habitat survey and protected species assessment was completed in accordance with industry guidelines (CIEEM, 2017 & Butcher et al., 2020) on 6th October 2022.
- 3.2.2 Weather conditions and visibility were considered to be suitable for the purpose of the survey (temperature = 12°C, wind = Beaufort 2, cloud = 30% cover, precipitation = none).
- 3.2.3 The Site was assessed as shown by the red line boundary on Figure 1.
- 3.2.4 Botanical species were recorded by level of abundance using the DAFOR method and a preliminary species list was compiled. This method is intended to provide an indication of the relative abundances of plant species within each habitat. The standardised terms in descending order of abundance level are as follows:
 - D – Dominant
 - A – Abundant
 - F – Frequent
 - O – Occasional
 - R – Rare
- 3.2.5 This survey method aims to characterise habitats and communities present and is not intended to provide a complete list of all plants occurring across the Site.
- 3.2.6 Evidence of protected species, species of nature conservation importance, and notable, rare, or scarce species was recorded if field signs were present at the time of survey. Any evidence recorded is included within the report as appropriate and represented as Target Notes (TN) in Figure 1. Photographs were taken of each habitat type and any features with potential to support protected or notable species.
- 3.2.7 Any habitats present which are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act or the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Hampshire were noted (Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2000).
- 3.2.8 The importance of ecological features present within the Site was determined based on the guidance given in CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) and Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (CIEEM, 2018).

3.2.9 Ecological features (habitats and species that could be affected by the proposed works) were assigned levels of importance for nature conservation. The hierarchy of importance used in this report scales from international, national, regional, county, local and lastly Site level (CIEEM, 2018).

3.3 Protected species

3.3.1 Any evidence of, or potential for protected or otherwise notable species encountered during the survey was recorded. This included observations of field signs and an assessment of the suitability of the habitats present to support protected species.

Amphibians including GCN

3.3.2 A desk-based assessment was undertaken using a 1:25,000 scale OS map to identify all waterbodies within 250 m of the Site that are not separated by a significant barrier to amphibian dispersal (such as a major road or watercourse).

3.3.3 As garden ponds within residential properties are often absent from OS map sources, aerial photography was also used to search for additional ponds.

3.3.4 MAGIC was used to search for information relating to GCN Class Survey Licence Returns within 500 m of the Site.

3.3.5 Habitats present within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support amphibians including great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*. The connectivity of any suitable habitat within the Site to other habitat within the surrounding area was assessed during the Site visit and through visual analysis of aerial imagery.

Badger

3.3.6 Field signs of badger *Meles meles* within the Site were recorded in accordance with the standard methodology outlined by Harris et al. (1989), which includes surveying for setts and for field signs such as latrines, hairs, foraging signs and pathways.

Bats

3.3.7 In accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust's best practice guidelines (Collins, 2016), the suitability of habitat features within the Site to support roosting bats was categorised as negligible, low, moderate or high. This was based on the number and type of roosting features and surrounding landscape character.

3.3.8 All buildings and structures within the Site were subject to an external, ground-based assessment and, where possible and safe to do so, internal assessment for their suitability to support roosting bats during the extended habitat survey.

3.3.9 Habitats within the Site were also assessed for their suitability to support foraging and commuting bats.

Birds

3.3.10 Species of birds noted incidentally during the survey were recorded where possible, and details of suitable habitats for nesting birds were noted, including those species with enhanced statutory protection.

3.3.11 The barn buildings were inspected for evidence of barn owl activity and roosting opportunities.

Fish

3.3.12 Any watercourses present within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support protected and notable fish species such as Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, brown trout *S. trutta* and European eel *Anguilla anguilla*.

Hazel dormouse

- 3.3.13 Habitats within the Site were assessed for their potential to support hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, including recording of plant species that could provide foraging and nesting habitat. The connectivity of any suitable habitat within the Site to other habitat within the surrounding area was assessed during the survey and through studying aerial imagery.

Invertebrates including white-clawed crayfish

- 3.3.14 Habitats were assessed for their potential to support notable or protected terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates.
- 3.3.15 Any watercourses within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*.

Reptiles

- 3.3.16 The habitats present within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support basking, foraging and hibernating reptiles. The connectivity of any suitable habitat within the Site to other habitat within the surrounding area was assessed during the survey and through studying aerial imagery. Any incidental reptile encounters made during the survey were recorded.

Otter

- 3.3.17 Watercourses and waterbodies within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support otter *Lutra lutra*. This involved recording incidental sightings of field signs such as: droppings (spraints), footprints, feeding remains, lying-up areas, holts, areas of habitat considered suitable for otters and actual observations (Chanin, 2003).
- 3.3.18 Terrestrial habitats present within the Site were also assessed for their suitability to support otter and for their connectivity to watercourses and other suitable habitat within the surrounding area.

Water vole

- 3.3.19 Watercourses and waterbodies within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support water vole *Arvicola amphibius*. Any incidental evidence of water vole was recorded, such as: burrows, latrines, footprints, runs in the vegetation, grazed 'lawns', feeding remains and actual sightings (Dean et al, 2016).
- 3.3.20 Terrestrial habitats present within the Site were also assessed for their suitability to support water voles and for their connectivity to watercourses and other suitable habitat within the surrounding area.

Other protected and notable species

- 3.3.21 Habitats were additionally assessed for their potential to support other protected species, nationally or locally scarce species, or notable species.

Invasive non-native species (INNS)

- 3.3.22 Any evidence of invasive non-native plant species listed under Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 was recorded during the survey including, but not limited to: Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, hybrid knotweed *R. x bohemica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* and Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*.
- 3.3.23 Evidence of invasive non-native animal species was noted incidentally and any relevant recommendations have been made in Section 5.

3.4 Limitations

- 3.4.1 Every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the Site, but the following specific limitations apply to this appraisal.

- 3.4.2 The survey undertaken was intended to provide a rapid assessment of the habitats present within the Site and was not intended to replace detailed vegetation or protected species surveys. Where a greater level of information is necessary to inform an assessment, recommendations have been made to undertake further detailed survey.
- 3.4.3 Surveys of this type provide a snapshot of the Site at the time of the survey.
- 3.4.4 The survey was completed in October, which is outside the optimal survey period (May to September inclusive), but considered acceptable for this project due to the limited nature and extent of impacts and the common habitat types recorded. Many plant species would not be present at this time of year. However, it is considered that an adequate assessment of the habitats and protected/notable species potential of the Site has been made.
- 3.4.5 A full ground-level visual assessment of two trees, which were previously assessed as having potential to support roosting bats (Ecus 2018), was not possible due to thick foliage at the time of the survey. Recommendations have been made in Section 5 in accordance with the previous findings.

4. Findings and Evaluation

4.1 Statutory designated sites

4.1.1 There was one statutory designated site for nature conservation within 2 km of the Site as detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Statutory Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Designated Site	Distance and Direction from the Site at closest point	Reasons for designation
Popely Ponds Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	1.45 km south east	Ponds which formed in an old chalk quarry with healthy population of Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus Cristatus</i> (GCN) Notable plant species present include <i>Trifolium fragiferum</i> , <i>Thalictrum flavum</i> and <i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i> .

4.1.2 Due to the small scale and localised nature of the works, and the distance to the statutory designated site, Popely Ponds LNR is not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

4.2 Non-statutory designated sites

4.2.1 There were 37 non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation within 2 km of the Site. These are detailed in Appendix 3.

4.2.2 The non-statutory designated sites are considered to be of importance to nature conservation at the local level only.

4.2.3 There is a lack of connecting habitat between the Site and the non-statutory designated Sites.

4.2.4 Due to the small scale and localised nature of the works, and the lack of connectivity to the non-statutory designated sites, there are no direct or indirect impact pathways. Non-statutory designated Sites are, therefore, not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

4.3 Other important habitats

Ancient woodland

4.3.1 The MAGIC results confirmed the presence of sites within 2 km of the Site listed within the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI). These sites are a mix of Replanted Ancient Woodland and Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland. The closest AWI related to an Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland site located 600 m north west of the Site.

4.3.2 The AWI sites are considered to have limited connectivity to the Site and, therefore, are not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Habitats of Principal Importance

4.3.3 Several Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) were included within the Natural England Priority Habitats Inventory (Natural England, 2020) database within 2 km of the Site. These comprised:

Three areas of Coastal and Floodplain grazing marsh, the closest of which is located 300 m north;

Twenty areas of deciduous woodland, the closest of which is located 300 m to the south;

Five areas of Traditional orchards, the closest of which is located 330 m to the south west;
and

Two areas of Wood pasture and Parkland, the closest of which is located 600 m to the north east.

- 4.3.4 The HPI sites have limited connectivity to the Site and, therefore, are not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Aquatic habitats

- 4.3.5 There were no waterbodies identified within 250 m of the Site and no watercourses identified within 30 m of the Site.

4.4 Site Description

- 4.4.1 The central area of the Site comprised five derelict buildings, mostly surrounded by hardstanding. This was interspersed with dense scrub and neutral grassland adjacent to the buildings, with some ruderal / ephemeral plants present at the edges of buildings and hardstanding. Dense scrub was also present adjacent to the north and eastern boundaries, with neutral grassland occurring in various compartments adjacent to the entire Site boundary. Scattered scrub was present on an area of grassland south of B5. Scattered trees were also present. The Site is bordered by hedgerow along the northern and southern boundaries.

4.5 Habitat assessment – Baseline Habitats

- 4.5.1 The habitats within the Site are detailed below. The descriptions should be read with reference to the habitat map (**Figure 1**) and the habitat photographs in Appendix 1. Species lists by habitat type are provided as Appendix 4.

Other developed land - u1b6

- 4.5.2 The Site was dominated by hardstanding. This habitat was devoid of plant species and had negligible ecological value. This habitat was not subject to a condition assessment.
- 4.5.3 Hardstanding is not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Buildings - u1b5

- 4.5.4 The Site included five Buildings which were derelict at the time of survey. This habitat was devoid of plant species and had negligible ecological value.
- 4.5.5 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. This habitat was devoid of floral species. This habitat was not subject to a condition assessment.
- 4.5.6 An assessment of the ecological value of the buildings with respect to faunal species is provided in Section 4.6.16.

Other neutral grassland - g3c

- 4.5.7 Neutral grassland was present to the south and west of the Site, covering an approximate 0.25 ha area in total. Abundant species present included false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, whilst creeping bent *Argostis stolonifera* and timothy grass *Phleum pratense* were frequent, common ivy *Hedera helix* occasional, and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, common vetch *Vicia sativa*, wood dock *Rumex sanguineus*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, and spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare* rare.
- 4.5.8 This habitat has been classified as such due to abundant false oat-grass and cock's-foot, and the presence of creeping buttercup.

4.5.9 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. Neutral grassland is common and widespread and therefore has ecological value at the Site level only.

4.5.10 Neutral grassland is not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

4.5.11 The condition score for this parcel was **Moderate**.

Dense bramble scrub - h3d

4.5.12 Dense bramble scrub occurred in patches adjacent to the buildings within the central area of the Site, and towards the north and east of the Site.

4.5.13 This habitat has been classified as such due to Abundant bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. Elder *Sambucus nigra* was also dominant.

4.5.14 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. Dense bramble scrub is common and widespread and therefore has ecological value at the Site level only.

4.5.15 Dense bramble scrub is not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

4.5.16 The condition score for this parcel was **Moderate**.

Other (non-priority) hedgerow - h2b

4.5.17 Other (non-priority) hedgerow was present along the northern and southern Site boundaries. The northern boundary hedgerow (see Figure 1; H1) was intact and species-poor, and included hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and elder. The southern boundary hedgerow (see Figure 1; H2) was also an intact species-poor hedgerow, dominated by blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* with frequent yew *Taxus baccata* and Occasional ash.

4.5.18 This habitat has been classified as such due to being a boundary line of shrub with less than 80% cover of woody UK native species, where a hedgerow with greater than 80% cover would be priority habitat.

4.5.19 Non-priority hedgerow is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. The hedgerows were small in size with low species diversity, and therefore have ecological value at the Site level only.

4.5.20 The hedgerows do not meet the criteria for important hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

4.5.21 The existing hedgerows are due to be retained and lightly trimmed only, as part of the proposed works.

4.5.22 Other (non-priority) hedgerow is not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

4.5.23 The condition score for this parcel was **Moderate**.

Scattered trees - 11

4.5.24 Scattered trees occurred as a secondary habitat within the neutral grassland and dense bramble scrub. The species recorded were elder, ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, dog rose, pedunculate oak, yew, and goat willow *Salix caprea*.

4.5.25 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. None of the trees within the Survey Area were identified as being protected or veteran. The scattered trees therefore have ecological value at the Site level only.

4.5.26 Within the biodiversity metric scattered trees on Site are classed as Urban Trees and provide significant total habitat units. The trees recorded on Site have been classed as Moderate condition.

4.5.27 Mature trees within the Site are due to be retained as part of the proposed works.0

4.5.28 Scattered trees are not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Scattered scrub - 10

4.5.29 Scattered scrub occurred as a secondary habitat within the neutral grassland. The species recorded included bramble, common hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, butterfly bush *Buddleja davidii*, elder, and saplings of goat willow and hawthorn.

4.5.30 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. The species recorded were also common and widespread. The scattered scrub therefore has ecological value at the Site level only. As a secondary habitat, scattered scrub is not subject to a condition assessment within the biodiversity metric.

4.5.31 Scattered scrub is not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

4.6 Species

Amphibians including GCN

4.6.1 HBIC returned 130 records of amphibians within 2 km of Site. These pertained to GCN, common toad *Bufo bufo*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis* and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*. The closest of these records related to common toad, located 550 m south west of the Site. The closest GCN record was located 880 m south east of the Site.

4.6.2 A search on MAGIC returned 12 records of granted European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licences related to GCN within 2 km of the Site, the details of which are provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Granted GCN EPS mitigation licences returned within 2 km of the Site.

EPS licence number	Distance and direction from Site	Licence impact	Dates
2016-26989-EPS-AD2-2	1.1 km south east.	Destruction of a resting place.	15/10/2019 – 30/06/2030
EPSM2009-857	1.3 km south east.	Destruction of a resting place.	11/10/2012 – 01/06/2014
2014-2561-EPS-MIT	1 km south east.	Destruction of a resting place.	04/08/2014 – 30/06/2030
2014-2561-EPS-MIT-1	1 km south east	Destruction of a resting place.	02/09/2014 – 30/06/2030
2014-2561-EPS-MIT-2	1 km south east	Destruction of a resting place.	18/12/2014 – 30/06/2030
2014-2561-EPS-MIT-3	1 km south east	Destruction of a resting place.	07/07/2015 – 30/06/2030

2014-2561-EPS-MIT-4	1 km south east	Destruction of a resting place.	21/09/2015 – 30/06/2030
2014-2561-EPS-MIT-5	1 km south east	Destruction of a resting place.	14/06/2016 – 30/06/2030
EPSM2009-935	1.3 km south east	Destruction of a resting place.	03/08/2010 – 31/10/2010
EPSM2009-936	1.3 km south east	Destruction of a breeding and resting place.	09/10/2009 – 31/12/2009
2016-26989-EPS-AD2-1	1.1 km south east	Destruction of a breeding and resting place.	20/10/2017 – 30/06/2030
2016-26989-EPS-AD2	1.1 km south east	Destruction of a resting place.	02/03/2017 – 30/06/2030

- 4.6.3 There were no waterbodies identified within 250 m of the Site.
- 4.6.4 There were no GCN Class Survey Licence Returns within 500 m of the Site.
- 4.6.5 The hedgerow, scrub, and grassland habitats within the Site provided suitable foraging habitat for amphibians including GCN.
- 4.6.6 No suitable refugia for resting and hibernating amphibians were identified during the survey.
- 4.6.7 Amphibians including GCN are a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Badger

- 4.6.8 HBIC returned four records of badger within 2 km of the Site, the closest record was located 620 m south east of the Site.
- 4.6.9 No evidence of badger activity was recorded during the survey.
- 4.6.10 The Site provided sub-optimal habitat for sett creation and for foraging and commuting badgers. Woodland and arable field habitats in the wider area surrounding the Site provide better suitable habitat. As such, there is limited potential for badger to utilise the Site.
- 4.6.11 It is unlikely badgers would utilise the site as a significant resource due to the wide availability of better suited habitat in the form of arable fields and woodlands in the wider landscape. However, given the mobile nature of this species, badger are a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Bat

- 4.6.12 HBIC returned 43 records for bats within 2 km of the Site. The records related to western barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*, natter's bat *Myotis nattereri*, noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*, common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, unidentified myotis species, unidentified pipistrelle species, unidentified long-eared bat

species and unknown bat species.

4.6.13 HBIC returned no records for roosts within 2 km of the Site.

4.6.14 A search on MAGIC returned seven records of granted EPS mitigation licences relating to bats within 2 km of the Site, the details of which are provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Granted EPS licences for bats within 2 km of the Site.

Licence number	Species	Approximate distance and direction from the Site	Licence impacts	Date
EPSM2009-1278	Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, serotine and brown long-eared bat.	518 m south west	Destruction of a resting place.	11/01/2010 – 10/01/2012
2019-43504-EPS-MIT	Brown long-eared bat	490 m south west	Destruction of a resting place.	25/11/2019 – 30/06/2020
2016-26858-EPS-MIT-1	Brown long-eared bat, common pipistrelle	2 km west.	Damage of a resting place.	03/04/2017 – 31/05/2017
2019-44297-EPS-MIT	Brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle	1.2 km north east	Destruction of a resting place.	06/02/2020 – 31/12/2020
2017-29078-EPS-MIT	Brown long-eared bat	485 m south west	Destruction of a resting place.	27/04/2017 – 30/07/2018
2016-26858-EPS-MIT	Brown long-eared bat, common pipistrelle	2 km west.	Damage of a resting place.	01/01/2017 – 01/01/2017
EPSM2011-3692	Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown	1.7 km south west	Destruction of a resting place.	26/10/2011 – 30/06/2012

	long-eared bats			
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4.6.15 For each of the five buildings within the Site, the Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) present and assessed suitability for roosting bats is provided in Table 4 and Figure 2.

Table 4: Buildings on Site and their suitability to support roosting bats.

Building Reference	PRFs present	Map Reference (see Figure 2)	Suitability for roosting bats
B1	None	N/A	Negligible
B2	None	N/A	Negligible
B3	None	N/A	Negligible
B4	None	N/A	Negligible
B5	Missing Section of Ceiling	1	Moderate
	Gaps underneath fascia on south east face of building	2	
	Gap in gable roof and underneath soffit box	3	
	Broken windows	4	
	Gaps in cladding	5	
	Broken windows with thick ivy	6	
	Open door	7	
	Ivy	8	
	Gaps near roof apex	9	
	Gaps in corrugated roof	10	
Extension with open door, windows and vent, part of the roof missing	11		

4.6.16 The barn building on Site supported a range of different Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) for bats. The quality, variety, number and aspect of these PRFs all contribute to the final assessment

of the building's suitability to support roosting bats. The barn building on Site had 'Moderate' suitability for roosting bats (Collins, 2016). Examples of PRFs present on the barn building and their suitability for roosting bats is outlined below in Table 5 and Figure 2.

- 4.6.17 Building B5 was a large derelict barn building constructed of single skin corrugated metal sheeting open to the apex with a pitched roof covered with asbestos concrete sheeting on all sides. No roof void was present and the roof sheets were not underlined or boarded. There was a small milking parlour on the western side of the building which was constructed of breeze blocks with PVC wooden cladding on the ceiling. The building supported a number of PRFs and was assessed as having Moderate potential to support roosting bats.
- 4.6.18 Two trees on Site were previously assessed as having suitability to support roosting bats (Ecus, 2018). The trees could not be fully assessed from ground-level in the current survey, due to thick foliage at the time of survey. However, due to the permanent nature of the PRFs recorded previously, detailed in Table 5, recommendations can be made based on the previous findings.

Table 5: Trees on Site known to have suitability to support roosting bats (Ecus, 2018).

Tree Reference	Description	PRFs present	Suitability for roosting bats
T1	Mature pedunculate oak <i>Quercus robur</i> located adjacent to the western Site boundary	Transverse snap on a branch at 2.5 m height, on the south east aspect	Moderate
T2	Mature pedunculate oak <i>Quercus robur</i> located in the north west corner of the Site	Transverse snap at 3 m height on the north west aspect	High
		Dead limb with bark plates and desiccation fissures at 3 m on the west aspect	
		Hazard beam at 3 m height on the south east aspect	
		Transverse snap at 2.5 m on the south aspect.	

- 4.6.19 Arable fields, hedgerow, and waterbodies in the wider area surrounding the Site provide suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats. The habitats within the Site are suboptimal, however the hedgerows along the Site boundary provide a linear feature suitable for foraging and commuting.
- 4.6.20 Roosting, foraging and commuting bats are a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Birds

- 4.6.21 HBIC returned a total of 615 records comprising of 61 bird species within 2 km of the Site. These included 21 species that are protected under Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981, 16 species listed as Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under Section 41 of the NERC Act, and 42 species listed as Red or Amber in the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) (Stanbury et al., 2021), as detailed in Appendix 5.

- 4.6.22 A feral pigeon *Columba livia domestica* was seen within the building. This species can nest year round.
- 4.6.23 No signs of barn owl, including pellets, or suitable perches or platforms were identified during the survey. All of the barns were open to the apex with no suitable features for nesting barn owls.
- 4.6.24 The buildings, scrub and scattered tree habitats had the potential to support a common assemblage of nesting birds.
- 4.6.25 Nesting birds are a potential constraint to the proposed works,

Hazel Dormouse

- 4.6.26 HBIC returned no records for hazel dormouse within 2 km of the Site.
- 4.6.27 A search on MAGIC returned no granted EPS mitigation licences relating to hazel dormouse within 2 km of the Site.
- 4.6.28 There were no suitable habitats for hazel dormouse within the Site. The scrub and hedgerow were very small in size, fragmented, and lacked suitable structure and species diversity required to support a population of dormice throughout the year.
- 4.6.29 Hazel dormouse are not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Invertebrates including white-clawed crayfish

- 4.6.30 HBIC returned a total of 273 records comprising of 139 species on invertebrate within 2 km of the Site. The closest records related cramp-ball fungus weevil *Platyrrhinus resinosus*, purple emperor *Apatura iris*, silver-washed fritillary *Argynnis paphia*, white admiral *Limenitis Camilla*, drab looper *Minoa murinata* and grey pine ermel *Ocnerosstoma friesei* located approximately 290 m in various directions from the Site.
- 4.6.31 The Site provided suitable habitat for a common assemblage of invertebrates only.
- 4.6.32 HBIC returned no records for white-clawed crayfish within 2 km of the Site.
- 4.6.33 No suitable habitats for white-clawed crayfish were recorded within the Site.
- 4.6.34 Invertebrates including white-clawed crayfish are not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Fish

- 4.6.35 HBIC returned no records for riparian species within 2 km of the Site.
- 4.6.36 No suitable habitats for fish were recorded within the Site.
- 4.6.37 Fish are not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Reptiles

- 4.6.38 HBIC returned five records for reptiles within 2 km of the Site. These include slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*. The closest of these records related to slow-worm, located approximately 730 m south of the Site.
- 4.6.39 The scrub habitats within the Site provided suitable foraging and sheltering opportunities for reptiles. The bare ground habitats also provide suitable basking opportunities where connected or within close proximity to suitable vegetated areas.
- 4.6.40 Reptiles are a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Riparian Species

- 4.6.41 HBIC returned no records for riparian species within 2 km of the Site.
- 4.6.42 A search on MAGIC returned no granted EPS mitigation licences relating to otter *Lutra lutra* within 2 km of the Site.

4.6.43 No suitable habitats for otter, water vole *Arvicola amphibius* or white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* were recorded within the Site.

4.6.44 Riparian species are not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Other Notable Species

4.6.45 HBIC returned 12 records of other protected and notable species including three records for western European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, three records for brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, one record for pole cat *Mustela putorius*, one record for Eurasian water shrew *Meomys fodiens* and four records for harvest mouse *Micromys minutus* within 2 km of the Site. The closest record relates to a harvest mouse approximately 546 m south west of the Site.

4.6.46 The habitats on site were considered suitable for occasional use by Western European hedgehog and brown hare, and these are a potential constraint to the proposed works.

Invasive Non-Native Species

4.6.47 HBIC returned five records for INNS listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) within 2 km of Site. The records related to a *Cotoneaster* sp., Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, and rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*. The closest record related to rhododendron located 330 m north east of the Site.

4.6.48 No INNS listed under Schedule 9 were recorded during the survey.

4.6.49 Butterfly bush was recorded within other neutral grassland with scattered scrub habitat. Butterfly bush is considered to be an invasive species but is not listed under Schedule 9.

4.6.50 INNS are not a potential constraint to the proposed works.

5. Ecological Constraints, Opportunities & Enhancements

5.1 Proposals

- 5.1.1 The proposals for the Site are for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of nine residential dwellings with associated landscaping and car parking.
- 5.1.2 The proposed works includes, but is not limited to:
 - Demolition of the existing buildings;
 - Vegetation clearance of scrub and scattered trees;
 - Construction of nine residential dwellings and associated hardstanding;
 - Fencing installation;
 - Retention of mature trees;
 - Retention and enhancement of boundary hedgerows;
 - Planting of native hedgerows;
 - Planting of trees, native;
- 5.1.3 The timings of the proposed works have not yet been confirmed at the time of writing this report.

5.2 Conclusions and Recommendations

Amphibians including GCN

- 5.2.1 There is a low risk of amphibians including GCN being impacted by the proposed works.
- 5.2.2 The works may proceed under a Precautionary Method of Working (PMoW).
- 5.2.3 If a GCN is encountered during the works, the works must cease immediately, and an ecologist be contacted for advice.
- 5.2.4 If common amphibians are encountered during the works, they can be allowed to move away from the site of their own accord.
- 5.2.5 If a hibernating common amphibian is found during the works, they should be picked up carefully using gloved hands and placed in a safe, cool, and sheltered place away from the works.

Badger

- 5.2.6 Foraging and commuting badger may move onto the Site at any time. There is a low risk of a sett creation within the Site.
- 5.2.7 The works may proceed following Ecological Best Practice Guidelines (BPG) throughout (See Appendix 7). If a suspected badger sett is identified during the works, then the works must cease and an ecologist be contacted for advice.

Bats

- 5.2.8 Roosting, foraging and commuting bats may utilise the Site and therefore be impacted by the proposed works.

Roosting Bats

- 5.2.9 No evidence of roosting bats was recorded during the external and internal building inspections, however, a full internal inspection of building B5 could not be undertaken.
- 5.2.10 Building B5 was assessed as having Moderate potential to support roosting bats, due to the

number and nature of PRFs present.

- 5.2.11 In accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust's best practice guidelines (Collins 2016), two dusk emergence surveys of the existing B5 building will be required. The surveys must be undertaken between May-September (inclusive) and spaced at least two weeks apart. In order adequately cover the building and the features identified, it is recommended that two surveyors would be required to cover different aspects and features. Where roosting bats are recorded, an additional dusk emergence or dawn re-entry survey would be required in order to determine the species of bat, roosting locations and type of roost present.
- 5.2.12 If building B5 is confirmed as a bat roost following the completion of the surveys recommended above, an EPS Mitigation Licence from Natural England will need to be obtained prior to the commencement of works, in line with the current legislation on bats. Where no roosts are recorded, no additional surveys will be required and there will be no need to apply for an EPSM Licence.
- 5.2.13 Two trees within the Site (see Figure 2; T1, T2) were previously confirmed as having suitability for roosting bats (Ecus 2018). It is recommended the trees be subjected to an aerial tree climbing survey, whereby a licenced ecologist uses an endoscope to assess any potential roosting features for bat activity.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

- 5.2.14 To minimise the disruption to potential bat flight lines, it is recommended that a Sensitive Lighting Plan for Biodiversity is produced for the proposed development. The Lighting Plan should be developed in accordance with current guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK – Bats and the built environment series' (Guidance note 08/18) (BCT & ILP, 2018), and in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist.

Birds

- 5.2.15 The buildings, scrub, and scattered tree habitats were suitable for a common assemblage of nesting birds, including pigeons, which may nest year-round.
- 5.2.16 If any active nests are identified during the works, an exclusion zone must be implemented by an ecologist or suitably experienced person. The nest(s) will be left undisturbed until the young have been confirmed to fully fledged or the nesting attempt be determined to have concluded.
- 5.2.17 If vegetation clearance is due to take place during the bird nesting season (March – September inclusive, weather dependent), a pre-works nesting bird check will be required. An ecologist or suitably experienced person will be required to inspect any suitable areas within the Site, for breeding birds and their active nests, no more than 48 hours prior to any vegetation clearance works being undertaken. If any active nests are identified during the nesting bird check, an exclusion zone will be implemented. The nest(s) will be left undisturbed until the young have been confirmed to fully fledged or the nesting attempt be determined to have concluded.

Reptiles

- 5.2.18 Vegetation clearance of scrub habitats should proceed under a PMoW. Ideally, the scrub clearance works should be undertaken between May – October, and only when temperatures are above 10°C, to ensure reptiles are active and able to move away of their own volition.

Other Notable Species

- 5.2.19 Western European hedgehog and brown hare are a potential constraint to the proposed works.
- 5.2.20 Ecological BPG (see Appendix 7) must be followed throughout the works to avoid harm to the above species.
- 5.2.21 If any of the above species are encountered during the works, they can be allowed to move away from the site of their own accord.

5.2.22 Hedgehog can also be carefully moved using gloved hands to an area away from the works, preferably in well-sheltered and densely vegetated areas.

5.2.23 If a hibernating hedgehog is encountered and cannot be left undisturbed, it should be kept at a stable temperature while a suitable hibernaculum is created outside of the works area. The hibernacula should be constructed from brash, leaf litter and other dead but dry vegetation with a defined exit point. Care must be taken not to trap the hedgehog within the new hibernacula when it emerges from hibernation. If further guidance is needed, an ecologist should be contacted for advice. If it is not possible to provide a suitable hibernaculum it may be necessary to take the hedgehog to a local wildlife rescue centre.

Invasive Non-Native Species

5.2.24 Butterfly bush is not listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), however, it is still recommended to control its spread.

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment








5.2.25 A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment should be undertaken at the Site to avoid loss of habitat.

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Figure 1. Baseline Habitat Map

Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  g3c - Other neutral grassland
-  h2b - Other (non-priority) hedgerow
-  h3d - Bramble scrub
-  u1b5 - Buildings
-  u1b6 - Other developed land
-  Urban trees

- Secondary codes
 10 - Scattered scrub
 11 - Scattered trees

Shorewood Homes

19972 Bob's Farm, Sherborne St John, Hampshire
 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Figure 1
 UKHab Habitat Map

• Technology House • 151 Silbury Boulevard • Milton Keynes • MK9 1LH •
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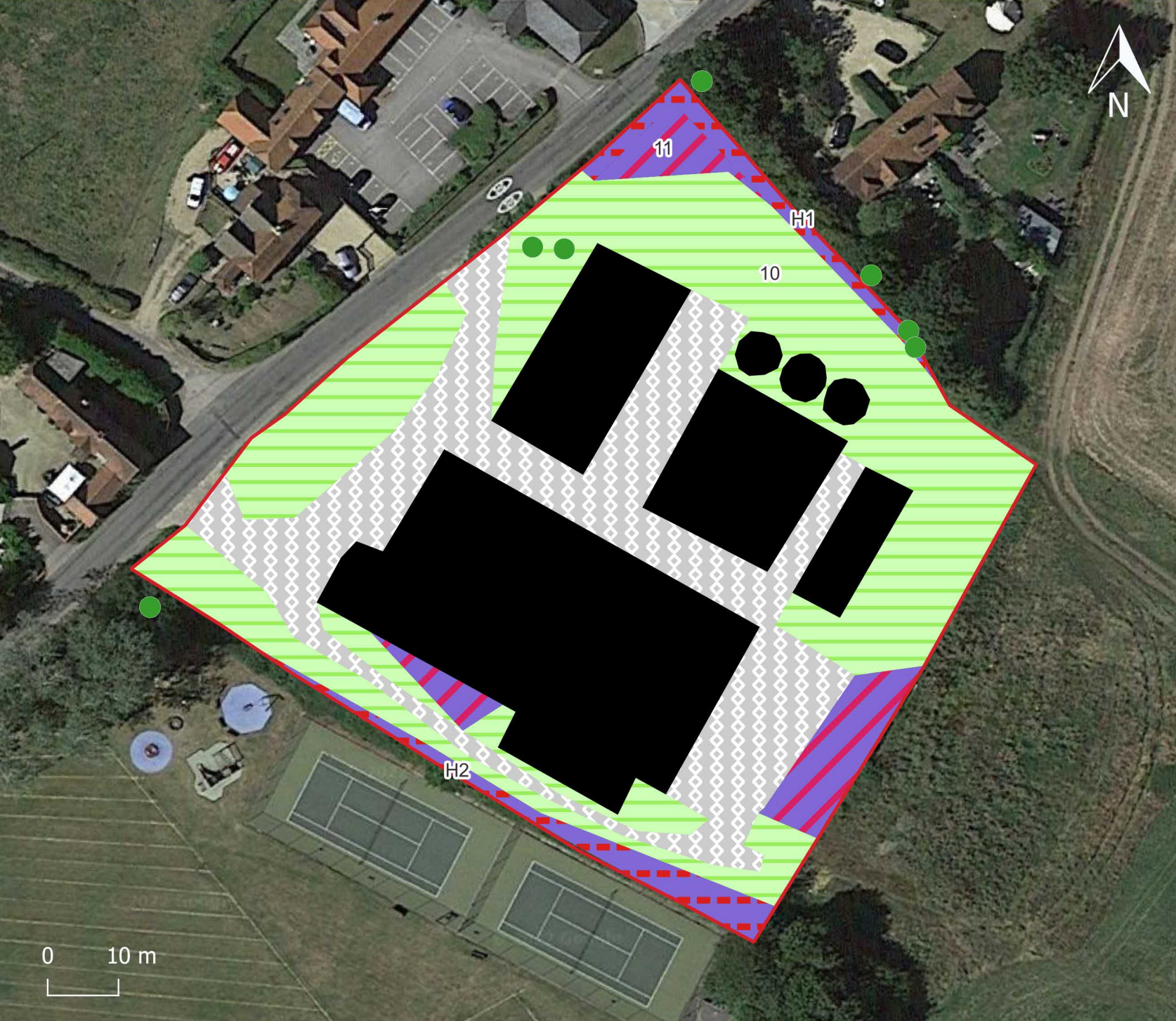
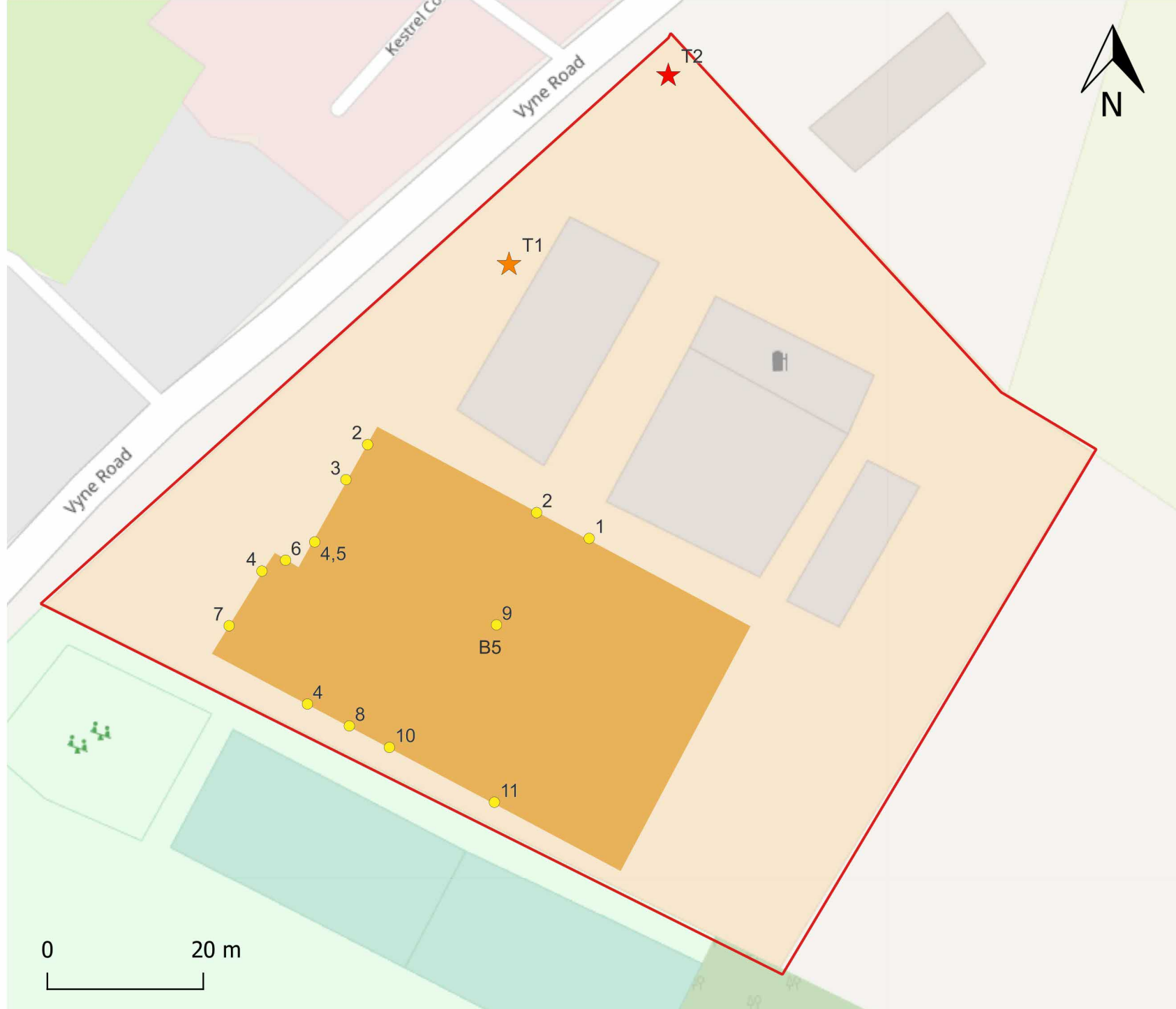


Figure 2. Bat Potential Roosting Features Map

Legend

- Site boundary
- Potential Roosting Features
- ★ Tree with moderate suitability for roosting bats
- ★ Tree with high suitability for roosting bats










Shorewood Homes
 Bob's Farm
 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Figure 1
 Bat Roost Potential Map Page 1

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Appendix 1. Site Habitat Photographs

Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  g3c - Other neutral grassland
-  h2b - Other (non-priority) hedgerow
-  h3d - Bramble scrub
-  u1b5 - Buildings
-  u1b6 - Other developed land
-  Urban trees

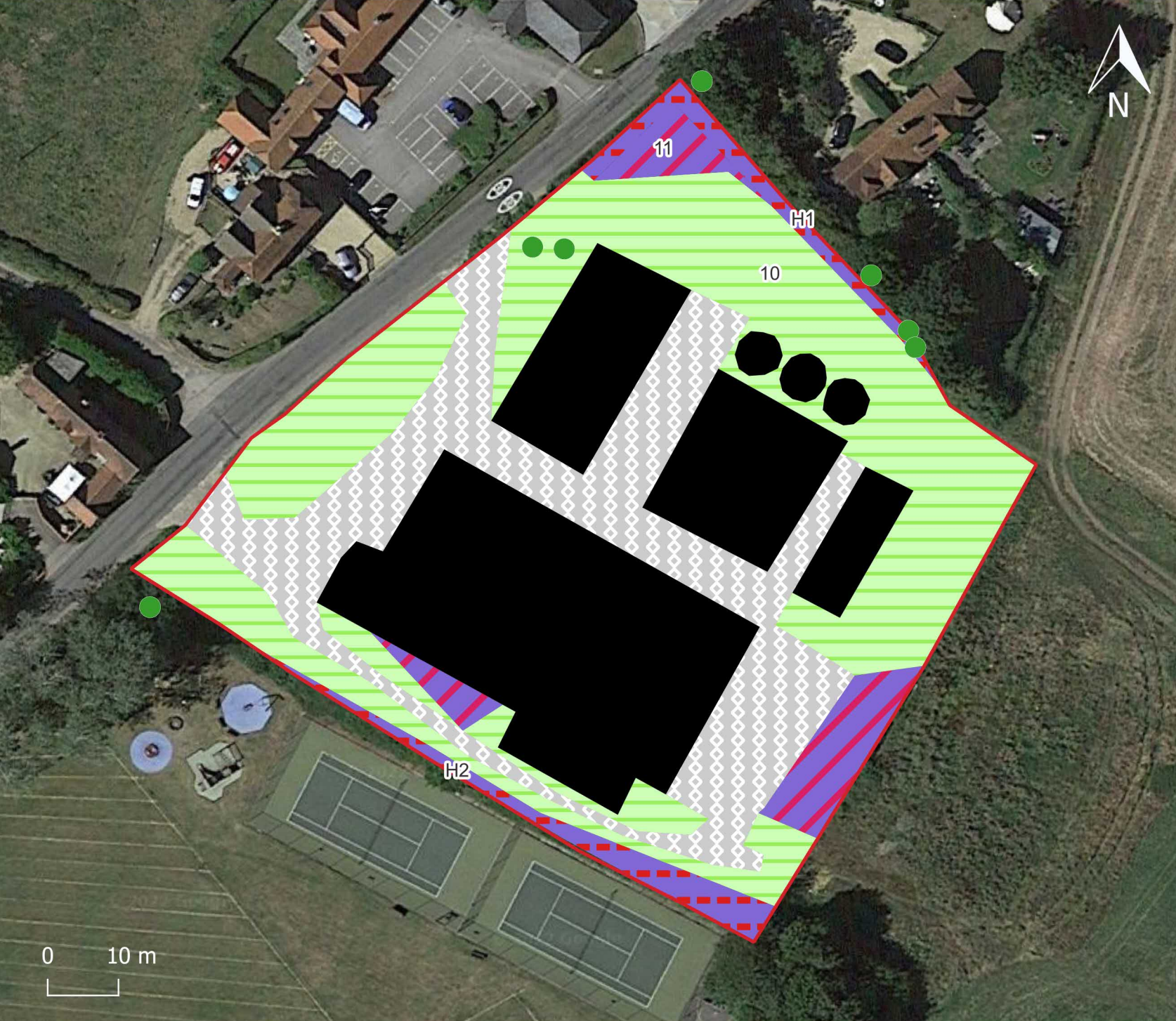
Secondary codes
 10 - Scattered scrub
 11 - Scattered trees

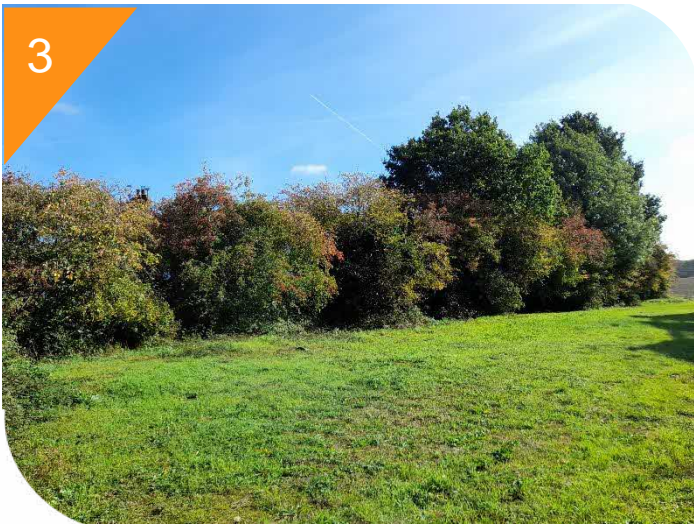
Shorewood Homes

19972 Bob's Farm, Sherborne St
 John, Hampshire
 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Figure 1
 UKHab Habitat Map

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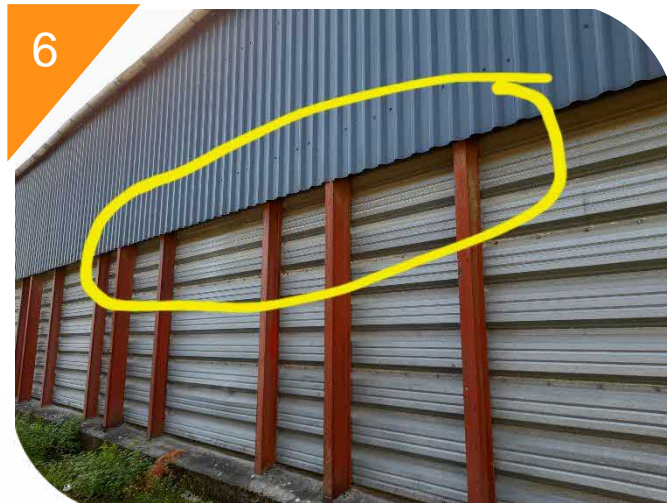


- Plate 1 Derelict buildings.
- Plate 2 Dense scrub and other neutral grassland adjacent to buildings.
- Plate 3 Other neutral grassland adjacent to the Site boundary, which is bordered by non-priority hedgerow.
- Plate 4 Scattered tree adjacent to building.

Shorewood Homes
1992
Bob's Farm, Sherborne St John,
Hampshire

Appendix 1: Site Habitat
Photographs

Unit 1 Woodlands Business Village, Coronation Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4JX



- Plate 5 Building B5
- Plate 6 Gaps under single skinned corrugated metal sheet.
- Plate 7 Gaps underneath fascia.
- Plate 8 Gaps under soffit.

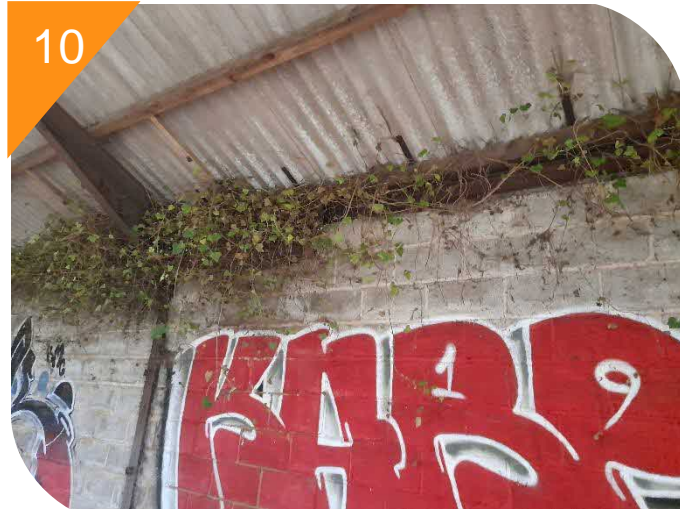
Shorewood Homes
19972
Bob's Farm, Sherborne St John,
Hampshire

Appendix 1: Site Habitat
Photographs

Unit 1 Woodlands Business Village, Coronation Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4JX



9



10



11



12

Plate 9 Gaps in corrugated roof in B5.

Plate 10 Ivy growing from gap between corrugated metal roof.

Plate 11 Gaps in window.

Plate 12 Gaps in door.



Plate 13 Multiple gaps on gable end cladding. Including broken windows.

Plate 14 Dense ivy.

Plate 15 Ivy growing on building.

Plate 16 Open doors located on south western aspect of B5.

Shorewood Homes
19972
Bob's Farm, Sherborne St John,
Hampshire

Appendix 1: Site Habitat
Photographs

Unit 1 Woodlands Business Village, Coronation Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4JX

Appendix 2. Legislation

This Appendix is intended as a brief guide to some of the relevant offences associated with protected species which are common constraints associated with development projects.

For full details of legislation relating to all habitats and species discussed within this report visit <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>.

Amphibians including great crested newt

Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) is protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) ("the WCA 1981") and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ("the Habitats Regulations"), and is therefore a European Protected Species (EPS).

It is illegal to kill, injure, capture, handle or disturb GCN, and the places they use for breeding, resting, shelter and protection are protected from being damaged or destroyed.

Natterjack toad *Epidalea calamita* is also a EPS and is afforded the same protection.

GCN, natterjack toad and common toad *Bufo bufo* are Priority Species under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 ("the NERC Act").

The four widespread species of amphibian: the smooth and palmate newts, the common frog and common toad, are protected by Section 9 (5) of the WCA 1981 which prohibits sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale and advertising to sell or to buy.

Badger

Badgers *Meles meles* and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 ("the PBA 1992"). It is an offence to kill, injure or take a badger from the wild. It is also an offence to destroy, damage or obstruct an active badger sett, or to disturb badgers within the sett.

Bats

All species of bat occurring within the UK are included in Schedule 2 of the Habitats Regulations. Under Regulation 43, bats are protected from deliberate capture, injury or killing, from deliberate disturbance and from damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place (roost).

All UK bats are also included on Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb bats while they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection, or to obstruct access to any such place.

Bats are also listed as Priority Species under Section 41 of the NERC Act and certain species are Priority Species under the NERC Act.

Birds

All wild birds are protected under the WCA 1981 against destruction of the active nest.

It is illegal to kill, injure or 'take' any wild bird, take or damage the nest of any wild bird whilst in use or being built. The eggs of all wild birds are also protected.

The birds listed in Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 are protected against disturbance whilst actively nesting.

Competent authorities must have regard for all bird species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act which have potential to be impacted by proposed works.

In 2021, a re-assessment of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) was published by Stanbury *et al.* (2021), which defined rare and threatened bird species on two lists (Red and Amber) describing the level of threat to each species of concern.

'Red' is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action due to either a historical decline in breeding population, severe (>50%) decline in breeding or non-breeding population, or severe decline in breeding range over 50 years or more.

'Amber' is the next most critical group, with species qualifying for this status as a result of either recovery from red list criterion, being classed as rare breeders in the UK, moderate (>25%) decline in breeding or non-breeding population or moderate decline in breeding range over 25 years or more.

These categories are followed by 'Green', indicating that the species is not experiencing population declines. A species can be green-listed but can also be listed under Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 due to risk of persecution.

Freshwater and migratory fish

Various freshwater and migratory fish species and their habitats are afforded legal protection under the WCA 1981, Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

The following fish receive various levels of protection under the WCA 1981: allis shad *Alosa alosa*, twaite shad *Alosa fallax*, vendace *Coregonus albula*, whitefish *Coregonus lavaretus* and Atlantic sturgeon *Acipenser sturio*. Atlantic sturgeon are also EPS.

Special areas of conservation (SACs), sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) or Ramsar sites have features of special interest for freshwater or migratory fish, such as: Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, bullhead *Cottus gobio*, lamprey (brook, river and sea) (*Petromyzontiformes*), spined loach *Cobitis taenia*, European eel *Anguilla anguilla*.

Atlantic salmon, brown/sea trout *Salmo trutta*, river lamprey and European eel are listed as priority species under Section 41 of the NERC Act.

Eels are also protected by the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

Hazel dormouse

Hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* is protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981, and under Schedule 2 of the Habitats Regulations, giving this species the same protection as GCN and bats.

Hazel dormouse is also listed as a Priority Species under the Section 41 of the NERC Act.

Otter

Otter *Lutra lutra* is protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981, and under Schedule 2 of the Habitats Regulations, giving this species the same protection as GCN and bats.

Otter are listed as Priority Species under the Section 41 of the NERC Act.

Reptiles

All UK reptile species are protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981 against intentional killing or injuring.

Sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* and smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* are further protected under Schedule 2 of the Habitats Regulations.

Slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, sand lizard, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, grass snake *Natrix helvetica* and adder *Vipera berus* are also listed as Priority Species under the Section 41 of the NERC Act.

Water vole

Water vole *Arvicola amphibius* is fully protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981 making it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take a water vole, intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy a place of shelter or protection, intentionally or recklessly disturb a water vole when it is occupying such a place, or intentionally or recklessly obstruct such a place.

Water vole are listed as Priority Species under the Section 41 of the NERC Act.

White-clawed crayfish

White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* are partially protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA

1981, which makes it illegal to intentionally take them.

White-clawed crayfish are listed as Priority Species under the Section 41 of the NERC Act.

Invasive non-native species

Certain species of plants and animals that do not naturally occur in the UK have become established in the wild and represent a threat to the natural fauna and flora.

The WCA 1981 is the principal piece of legislation in the UK regarding invasive non-native species. It is an offence under Section 14 (2) to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any species listed on Schedule 9, Part II of the Act. Schedule 9, Part II includes knotweed species *Fallopia* spp., Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, cotoneaster species *Cotoneaster* spp., montbretia *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora* and Rhododendron species *Rhododendron* spp. Section 14 also controls the spread of various animal species.

In accordance with Section 33 and 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, if taken from their place of origin, any plant listed on Schedule 9, Part II of the WCA 1981 and their associated material (e.g. soil and ash) are classed as controlled waste.

Appendix 3. Non-statutory Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Site name	Designation	Distance and Direction from the Site at closest point	Reasons for designation
Wey Brook and Watercress Beds	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	260 m west	Open freshwater, Fens, flushes, seepages, springs and inundation grasslands of floodplains that support a flora and fauna of less-improved wet conditions.
Basing Forest Spier's Copse	SINC	280 m east	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Sherborne St John Meadows	SINC	450 m south west	Fens, flushes, seepages, springs and inundation grasslands of floodplains that support a flora and fauna of less-improved wet conditions.
Basing Forest 14, Kiln Farm Spreads	SINC	450 m south east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Edgerton's Wood	SINC	580 m north west	Ancient semi-natural woodland
Morgaston Wood	SINC	780 m north	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving, supports locally notable species comprising silver-washed fritillary <i>Argynnis paphia</i> butterfly, drab looper <i>Minoa murinata</i> moth, and welsh poppy <i>Meconopsis cambric</i> .
Marnel Park Grasslands	SINC	900 m north east	Presence of Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> (GCN).
Basing Forest 2: Barn Copse	SINC	980 east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Wey Brook, The Vyne	SINC	990 m south east	Presence of fine-lined pea mussel <i>Pisidium tenuilineatum</i> .
Basing Forest 17: Marls Copse	SINC	1.1 km east	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.

Site name	Designation	Distance and Direction from the Site at closest point	Reasons for designation
A340 West End, Sherborne St John (RV049)	Road Verge of Ecological Importance (RVEI)	1.1 km north west	Comprises both road verges at the sides of West End and on the north of Sherborne St John Village – designated for Lowland Meadow/Marsh Flora habitat with presence of grass vetchling <i>Lathyrus nissolia</i> .
Basing Forest 5: Great German's Copse & Parrott's Copse	SINC	1.2 km east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Monk Sherborne Wood	SINC	1.3 km north west	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Basing Forest 10: Upper Parrott's Copse	SINC	1.3 km east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Cranes Copse North	SINC	1.4 km north west	Ancient semi-natural woodland, wet woodlands such as alder or willow woods and birch bog woods which support a good diversity of woodland and/or marsh/swamp/mire species.
Basing Forest 23, John's Copse	SINC	1.4 km south east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Basing Forest 1: Carpenters Down Wood (South)	SINC	1.4 km east	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Basing Forest 3: Carpenters Down Wood (North-West)	SINC	1.5 km east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Basing Forest 18: Grub Close Plantation	SINC	1.5 km east	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Pepper Wood	SINC	1.5 km north	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Basing Forest 11: Five Acre Plantation	SINC	1.5 km east	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.

Site name	Designation	Distance and Direction from the Site at closest point	Reasons for designation
Popley Pond	SINC	1.5 km south east	Presence of GCN, strawberry clover <i>Trifolium fragiferum</i> , common meadow-rue <i>Thalictrum flavum</i> , and common water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i> .
Basing Forest 6: Upper Plantation	SINC	1.6 km east	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Basing Forest 7: Scours Plantation	SINC	1.6 km south east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Cranes Copse South	SINC	1.6 km north west	Ancient semi-natural woodland, wet woodlands such as alder or willow woods and birch bog woods which support a good diversity of woodland and/or marsh/swamp/mire species.
Basing Forest 24: Collett's Copse	SINC	1.6 km east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Park Prewett School	SINC	1.7 km south west	Supports locally notable species white helleborine <i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> orchid.
Basing Forest 12: Russell's Copse	SINC	1.7 km east	Ancient semi-natural woodland, Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving, presence of hazel dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> .
Basing Forest 19: Martin's Bushes (A)	SINC	1.7 km east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Basing Forest 9: Seven Acre Piece	SINC	1.7 km north east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving, presence of GCN.
Basing Forest 13: Block 360	SINC	1.7 km east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Carpenter's Down Wood (East)	SINC	1.8 km south east	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving, presence of silver-washed fritillary, green-flowered helleborine <i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i> , narrow-leaved bird's-foot-trefoil <i>Lotus tenuis</i> , and hazel dormouse.
Peat Gully Copse	SINC	1.8 km north	Ancient semi-natural woodland, woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving, wet woodlands

Site name	Designation	Distance and Direction from the Site at closest point	Reasons for designation
			such as alder or willow woods and birch bog woods which support a good diversity of woodland and/or marsh/swamp/mire species.
Basing Forest 20: Martin's Bushes (B)	SINC	1.8 km east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Bottom Copse, Sherborne St. John	SINC	1.9 km north	Ancient semi-natural woodland, wet woodlands such as alder or willow woods and birch bog woods which support a good diversity of woodland and/or marsh/swamp/mire species.
Basing Forest 4: Carpenters Down Wood (North-East)	SINC	1.9 km east	Woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.
Copyhold	SINC	1.9 km north west	Ancient semi-natural woodland, wet woodlands such as alder or willow woods and birch bog woods which support a good diversity of woodland and/or marsh/swamp/mire species.

Appendix 4. Botanical Species List

Table A4.1. Species occurring within other neutral grassland habitat within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	A
False oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	A
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	F
Timothy grass	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	F
Common Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	O
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	R
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	R
Wood dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	R
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	R
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	R

Table A4.2. Species occurring within dense bramble scrub habitat within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	A
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	O

Table A4.3. Species occurring within the northern boundary hedgerow (see Figure 1; H1) within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	A
Common Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	A
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	F

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	F
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	O
Pendunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	R

Table A4.4. Species occurring within the southern boundary hedgerow (see Figure 1; H2) within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	A
Common Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	F
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	F
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	F
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	O
Pendunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	R

Table A4.5. Species occurring within other neutral grassland with scattered scrub habitat within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Cocks foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	A
False Oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	A
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	F
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	F
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	F
Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	O
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	O

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	O
Goat willow (saplings)	<i>Salix caprea</i>	R
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	R
Hawthorn (sapling)	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	R
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	R

Table A4.6. Species occurring within dense scrub with scattered trees habitat within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Cocks foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	A
False Oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	A
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	F
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	F
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	F
Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	O
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	O
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	O
Goat willow (saplings)	<i>Salix caprea</i>	R
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	R
Hawthorn (sapling)	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	R
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	R

Appendix 5. Notable Bird Species List

Vernacular name	Scientific name	Protected status
Avocet	Recurvirostra	Schedule 1, Amber
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	Schedule 1
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	Schedule 1, Amber
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	Amber
Back-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	Schedule 1, SPI, Amber
Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla	Schedule 1
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	Schedule 1
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	Amber
Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	Schedule 1
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	Red, SPI
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	Schedule 1, Red
Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla	Schedule 1
Garganey	Spatula quarguedula	Schedule 1, Amber
Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	Green
Goosander	Mergus merganser	Green
Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	Schedule 1
Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	Amber
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	Green
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	Schedule 1, Amber
Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	Schedule 1, Amber
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	Green
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Amber
Hawfinch	Coccothraustes coccothraustes	SPI, Red
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	Red, SPI
Hobby	Hypotriorchis	Schedule 1
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Red, SPI
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	Schedule 1

Vernacular name	Scientific name	Protected status
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red, SPI
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red, SPI
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red, SPI
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Green
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Schedule 1
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Amber
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	Red, SPI
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Schedule 1
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Red
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Schedule 1
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Amber
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber, SPI
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna</i>	Amber
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Amber
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Red
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber, SPI
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Red, SPI
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red, SPI
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthis trivialis</i>	Red, SPI
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Green

Vernacular name	Scientific name	Protected status
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Red
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Amber
Woodcock	<i>Scolopas rusticola</i>	Red
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Red, SPI
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>	Red, SPI

Appendix 7: Ecological Best Practice Guidelines

Works site best practice guidelines

The following best practice guidelines should be undertaken at all works Sites:

Deep excavations should be covered overnight during works;

Shallow excavations should have a scaffold board or equivalent placed in them overnight to allow any badgers to escape, should they fall in;

Where fuels / oils are required for equipment (e.g. strimmer's) fuel spill kits should be available at all times;

Refuelling should be undertaken in designated re-fuelling areas, or on plant 'nappies' to catch and contain spillage; and

All chemicals will be stored securely.

Two-stage vegetation clearance

Vegetation clearance works of dense and mature vegetation should be carried out employing a 'two-stage methodology' as follows:

The first cut should take the vegetation down to approximately 300 mm. This should allow increased visibility of any animals present which can be allowed to leave the area of their own accord or picked up with a gloved hand (excluding EPS such as GCN).

Following a finger-tip search and thorough inspection of the area, the remaining vegetation may be cut to ground level.

Common reptiles and amphibians

Where vegetation is dense and visibility is poor all clearance works should be undertaken following the two-stage clearance methodology (see above);

Refuse, log and brash piles left from previously cut vegetation should be deconstructed carefully by hand. The area beneath should then be inspected for signs of reptiles and amphibians;

If reptiles or common amphibians (excluding GCN) are encountered during works within the active period they can be allowed to move away from the Site of their own accord. They can also be carefully moved using gloved hands to an area away from the works, preferably in dense vegetation or under brash or wood piles;

Reptiles and amphibians should be picked up by carefully placing fingers under the body and lifting, not by grasping any part of them. They can be held still by placing a thumb gently on top of them, if necessary. Handling should be kept to a minimum and latex gloves should be avoided;

It is recommended that works are undertaken outside of the hibernation period (November – March inclusive). If this is not possible, any major vegetation or brash/refuse pile removal should be undertaken under the supervision of an ECoW. If any reptiles or amphibians are found hibernating, they should be moved into a suitable hibernacula. If no suitable hibernacula are available on-site the reptile or amphibians should be placed into a box or bucket and kept warm until a suitable feature is constructed or identified off-site; and

In the highly unlikely event of a rare reptile or GCN being encountered then all works must cease and an ecologist contacted for advice. Consultation with Natural England and a subsequent European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence will likely be required before the works may continue.

Appendix 8. Proposed Draft Method Statement if Roost Present.

If a bat roost is found on Site it is likely to be a crevice dwelling species (Soprano pipistrelle and Common Pipistrelle. In rare instances Whiskered or Brandts bats) due to the potential roosting features.

The below is an example of the likely summary method statement in which would be included as part of the ESPML application.

The mitigation strategy would involve a soft strip of the building under supervision of a licensed bat ecologist and the provision of new roosting opportunities during and post construction works. Which would include the erection of bat bricks or bat boxes within the new development.

It is considered the mitigation strategy will compensate for the loss of a confirmed roost. The timing of the work and soft strip method would ideally be undertaken over winter to minimise risk of harming individual bats as the building is not considered to have hibernation potential.

