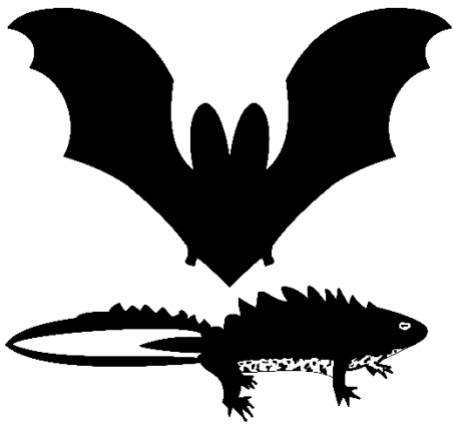




AEWC Ltd

Animal Ecology & Wildlife Consultants

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Wiltshire's Farm

**Pickhurst Lane
Codmore Hill
Pulborough
RH20 1DA**

Monika Cuskova

**25-105
July 2026**

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Summary

- AEWC Ltd were commissioned by Batcheller Monkhouse on behalf of their client to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at Wiltshire's Farm, Pickhurst Lane, Codmore Hill, Pulborough, RH20 1DA at central grid reference TQ 05321 20722 to help inform the proposed development of the site.
- The estimated baseline and post-development biodiversity value of the habitats on the site has been calculated using the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool.
- The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing agricultural building and construction of a replacement dwelling with an associated driveway and landscaping. This will result in the loss of modified grassland, ruderal/ephemeral, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, and bare ground, with developed land, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface and vegetated garden created as part of the works.
- Biodiversity enhancements include the creation and enhancement of grassland habitats, together with the planting of 27 individual trees and a species-rich native hedgerow.
- **The habitat unit results show an increase of 1.60 habitat units which equates to a 47.88% net gain.**
- **The hedgerow unit results show an increase of 0.07 hedgerow units which equates to a 10.23% net gain.**
- **As such, the minimum target of 10% net gain has been exceeded. Trading rules have also been satisfied.**
- **A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will need to be produced to secure the land management for a period of at least 30 years. A draft HMMP is provided in Section 7 of this report.**

This report has been prepared by AEWC Limited, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with the client. We disclaim any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of the above. This report is confidential to the client, and we accept no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

The information and data which has been prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal' and 'Code of Professional Conduct' issued by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 AEWC Ltd were commissioned by Batcheller Monkhouse on behalf of their client to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at Wiltshire's Farm, Codmore Hill to help inform the proposed development of the site.
- 1.2 In England, BNG is mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). This came into force in February 2024 for major developments and April 2024 for minor developments. Under the legislation, developers must deliver a minimum biodiversity net gain of 10%.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to give an estimate of the BNG units that will be achieved under the current development proposals.

2. Background

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located at Wiltshire's Farm, Pickhurst Lane, Codmore Hill, Pulborough, RH20 1DA at central grid reference TQ 05321 20722. The site is situated in a rural area, approximately 1.5km north of the village of Pulborough. The surrounding landscape predominantly comprises pasture, agricultural land, and blocks of deciduous and ancient woodland. See Figure 1.
- 2.2 The site is approximately 1.23ha and largely comprises grassland and an agricultural building. A hedgerow is located along part of the eastern boundary, with woodland bordering the site to the north and east. See Figure 2.
- 2.3 AEWC Ltd undertook site visits for a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal in January and April 2026, during which the on-site habitats were mapped and condition assessed.

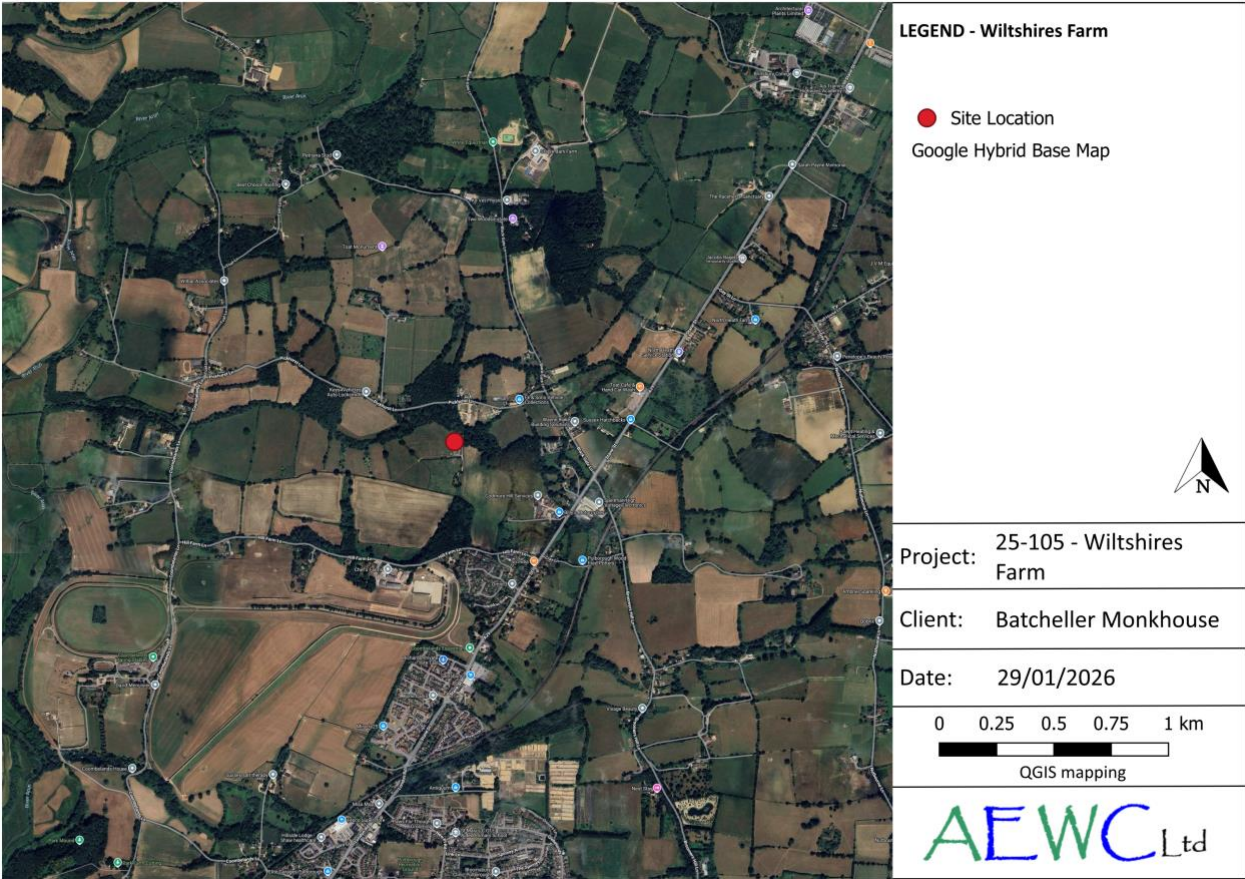


FIGURE 1: SHOWING THE SITE LOCATION



FIGURE 2: AERIAL VIEW OF THE SITE SHOWING THE BOUNDARY



- 3.1 The estimated baseline and post-development biodiversity value of the habitats on the site has been calculated using the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (Version 1.0.4 released July 2025). Habitat condition was assessed using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1 Condition Assessment Sheets (Version 1.0.2 released July 2025).
- 3.2 The following assumptions have been made and therefore associated constraints should be considered when looking at BNG unit values obtained:
 - The potential for protected and notable species is not covered within the scope of this report.

- Baseline habitats on-site are taken from those identified within the surveys undertaken in January and April 2026.
- Post-development habitats have been inferred from those given with the Proposed Site Layout as shown in Figure 3 and as discussed with the client.
- All areas and lengths are approximate and have been obtained from QGIS mapping software.
- Areas in hectares and lengths in km are both given to four decimal places, therefore small rounding errors are unavoidable.
- Habitat condition has been estimated for post-development habitats using the proposed development plans and professional judgement.
- Tree areas are calculated using the tree helper tool within the metric.
- The area of new trees outside of private garden has been estimated using small trees in the tree helper tool.
- In line with the User Guide, proposed habitats that will fall inside private garden have been included as 'vegetated garden' only.

3.3 Given the above constraints, the BNG results obtained should be considered to be an **estimate** only.

3.4 Calculations may need to be adjusted in future should the proposed site layout plan changes or the BNG metric or requirements be revised.

4. Habitat Data

4.1 At baseline, the site comprises predominantly modified grassland, which was assessed as being partially in good condition and partially in poor condition. The eastern portion of the site comprises good condition modified grassland, while the western portion and a narrow strip along the southern boundary comprise poor condition modified grassland. Areas of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, developed land; sealed surface, moderate condition ruderal/ephemeral, and poor condition bare ground are also present. A species-rich native hedgerow associated with a dry ditch forms part of the eastern boundary. The hedgerow was assessed as being in good condition, is of high distinctiveness, and qualifies as both Priority Habitat and an 'important hedgerow' under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. See Photographs 1 - 6 below.



Photograph 1 – Poor-quality modified grassland within the western portion of the site.



Photograph 2 – Good-quality modified grassland within the eastern portion of the site.



Photograph 3 – Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface to the east of the agricultural building.



Photograph 4 – Ruderal vegetation to the west of the agricultural building.



Photograph 5 – Bare ground in the southern portion of the site.



Photograph 6 – Species-rich native hedgerow with a ditch along the eastern boundary.

- 4.2 Post-development, areas of modified grassland, ruderal/ephemeral, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, bare ground, and developed land; sealed surface will be lost. The species-rich native hedgerow and an area of good condition modified grassland will be retained.
- 4.3 Areas of developed land; sealed surface, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface and vegetated garden will be created to accommodate the proposed residential dwelling, the associated access drive, pavements, patios and landscaping.
- 4.4 Substantial areas will be retained outside the residential curtilage and managed separately. These areas will comprise the creation of modified grassland managed to achieve good condition, the enhancement of existing modified grassland to other neutral grassland managed to achieve moderate condition, and the enhancement of areas of poor condition modified grassland to good condition modified grassland. The proposals also include the planting of 27 individual trees and the creation of a length of species-rich native hedgerow. The proposed other neutral grassland and individual trees are of medium strategic distinctiveness.
- 4.5 The baseline and post-development habitats used for this BNG assessment are illustrated in Figures 4 and 5 respectively.



FIGURE 4: BASELINE ON-SITE HABITATS



FIGURE 5: POST-DEVELOPMENT ON-SITE HABITATS

5. Results

5.1 The headline results of the BNG assessment using the habitats detailed in Section 4 are shown below (refer to the Metric for full details).

Table 1: Headline Results

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	1.60
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.07
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	47.88%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.23%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

6. Conclusions & Recommendations

- 6.1 The proposed development works will involve the loss of areas of modified grassland, ruderal/ephemeral, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, bare ground, and developed land; sealed surface. The species-rich native hedgerow and an area of good condition modified grassland will be retained. Areas of developed land; sealed surface, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface and vegetated garden will be created to accommodate the proposed residential dwelling, the associated access drive, pavements, patios and landscaping.
- 6.2 Biodiversity enhancements incorporated into the proposed site layout include the creation of modified grassland, the enhancement of existing modified grassland to other neutral grassland, and the enhancement of areas of poor condition modified grassland to good condition modified grassland. The proposals also include the planting of 27 individual trees and the creation of a length of species-rich native hedgerow.
- 6.3 **The habitat unit results show an increase of 1.60 habitat units which equates to a 47.88% net gain.**
- 6.4 **The hedgerow unit results show an increase of 0.07 hedgerow units which equates to a 10.23% net gain.**
- 6.5 There are no watercourses on the site at baseline or post-development, therefore watercourse units are not included.

- 6.6 **As such, the minimum target of 10% net gain has been exceeded. Trading rules have also been satisfied.**
- 6.7 The proposals for the site include creation of notable areas of medium distinctiveness habitats, therefore the proposal is considered to deliver 'significant gain'.
- 6.8 **A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will need to be produced for the proposed habitat creation and enhancement where significant gains are proposed. This will set out exactly how the proposed habitats will be created through planting and ongoing management. Regular monitoring will be required to ensure the habitats are maintained at the quality that has been proposed. The HMMP will need to secure the land management for a period of at least 30 years.**

7. Draft Habitat Creation, Management, and Monitoring Plan

- 7.1 A draft plan for the creation, management, and monitoring of the habitats to be created or enhanced on-site is provided below. These habitats include modified grassland in good condition, other neutral grassland in moderate condition, individual trees in moderate condition, and species-rich native hedgerows in moderate condition.
- 7.2 Other habitats created include, vegetated garden, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, and developed land; sealed surface. These habitats do not require specific management to achieve their target condition and therefore are not included in the draft HMMP.
- 7.3 This plan should be seen as an outline in draft only and should be formalised following reserved matters planning consent.

Modified Grassland

Condition Targets

- 7.4 Modified grassland outside of private residential curtilage in the southeast of the site are proposed as good condition. These will be partially created new and partially enhanced from the existing poor condition modified grassland. The following criteria will be targeted:
- A – There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m² present, including at least 2 forbs.
 - C – Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area.
 - D – Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area.
 - E – Cover of bare ground is between 1 and 10%, including localised areas.
 - F – Cover of bracken is less than 20%.
 - G – There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species.

Creation / Enhancement

7.5 Instructions for the modified grassland creation / enhancement and initial aftercare are as follows:

- Initial works to create the grassland should be undertaken in spring/early summer (March – June) or autumn (September – November).
- Where applicable, the existing grassland is to first be heavily cut back with cuttings removed after mowing. 50-70% bare soil patches are to be created prior to overseeding using harrowing, raking, or light tilling.
- A good quality grass seed mix will need to be selected to suit the soil type, drainage, and regional conditions. This will include a range of fine grasses and modest proportion of native wildflowers.
- The seed mix should be sown at a density of 4-5 g/m². The seeds can be mixed with damp sand or similar for even distribution. They can then be hand sown or sown with a seed spreader. Following distribution of the seeds, the ground must be firmed with a roller or by treading to ensure good soil contact. Any specific guidance given by the seed mix provider should be followed.
- In the first year of establishment, the grassland should be mown regularly to a height of 5-10cm to prevent grasses from overshadowing emerging wildflowers. Cuttings must be removed to prevent nutrient enrichment. Dominant and/or invasive species should be regularly checked for, and spot-treated or removed as required. Any invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act must be immediately removed. Any areas of poor establishment are to be re-seeded.

Management

- 7.6 After the first year of establishment, the modified grassland may be mown as required to achieve the desired appearance. Grass cuttings should always be removed to avoid nutrient accumulation.
- 7.7 No fertiliser is to be applied to the grassland. Herbicide should be used for spot treatments only.
- 7.8 The grassland should be continually checked for invasive species and encroaching bracken or scrub, and removals undertaken as required.
- 7.9 Where bare ground exceeds 10% of the total grassland area, bare patches are to be re-seeded. Encouraging residents to use formalised paths will minimise trampling across the entire grassland area.

Monitoring

- 7.10 Monitoring will be undertaken annually for the first five years and once every five years thereafter, during the optimal growing season. The modified grassland will be assessed against the six targeted condition criteria. Where any criteria are not met, remedial actions or adjustments to the management regime will be implemented.

Other Neutral Grassland

Condition Targets

- 7.11 Other neutral grassland in moderate condition will be created in the west of the site and outside of private residential curtilage. The other neutral grassland will be enhanced from the existing poor condition modified grassland in the west of the site and outside of residential curtilage. The following criteria will be targeted:
- A – The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type.
 - C – Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas.
 - D – Cover of bracken is less than 20% and cover of scrub is less than 5%.
 - E – Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition and physical damage accounts for less than 5% of the total area. No invasive non-native plant species are present.

Enhancement

- 7.12 Instructions for the other neutral grassland enhancement and initial aftercare are as follows:
- Initial works to create the grassland should be undertaken in spring/early summer (March – June) or autumn (September – November).
 - Where applicable, the existing grassland is to first be heavily cut back with cuttings removed after mowing. 50-70% bare soil patches are to be created prior to overseeding using harrowing, raking, or light tilling.
 - A UK native wildflower and grass seed mix will need to be selected to suit the soil type, drainage, and regional conditions. For example, Emorsgate EM1 General Purpose Meadow Mixture or similar. Within the swale basin, a wetland seed mix may be more appropriate.
 - The seed mix should be sown at a density of 4-5 g/m². The seeds can be mixed with damp sand or similar for even distribution. They can then be hand sown or sown with a seed spreader. Following distribution of the seeds, the ground must be firmed with a roller or by treading to ensure good soil contact. Any specific guidance given by the seed mix provider should be followed.
 - In the first year of establishment, the grassland should be mown regularly to a height of 5-10cm to prevent grasses from overshadowing emerging wildflowers. Cuttings

must be removed to prevent nutrient enrichment. Dominant and/or invasive species should be regularly checked for, and spot-treated or removed as required. These include, but are not limited to, bracken, dock, thistles, common nettle, creeping buttercup, greater plantain, and cow parsley. Any invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act must be immediately removed.

Management

7.13 After the first year of establishment, an annual routine can be adopted for long-term management of the grassland. Cuts will include:

- A spring cut – undertaken in March or April, the grassland is cut to 5-10cm height to remove dead grass and prepare for new growth, cuttings to be immediately removed.
- A summer hay cut – undertaken between late July and end of August, after wildflowers have set seed, the grassland is cut to 5-10cm height, cuttings to be left to dry for a few days to allow seeds to drop before removing.
- Autumn cutting (optional)– undertaken between September and November, cuttings to be immediately removed.

7.14 No fertiliser is to be applied to the grassland. Herbicide should be used for spot treatments only. The grassland should be continually checked for dominant or invasive species, and removals undertaken as required.

7.15 The grassland should be continually checked for invasive or dominant species and encroaching bracken or scrub, and removals undertaken as required.

7.16 Where bare ground exceeds 5% of the total grassland area, bare patches are to be re-seeded. Encouraging residents to use formalised paths will minimise trampling across the entire grassland area.

7.17 Yellow rattle can be introduced to further help diversify the species present within the grassland. This is a semi-parasitic plant which feeds off the nutrients in the roots of nearby grasses, reducing the vigorous growth of the grass and allowing more delicate grassland herb species to develop.

Monitoring

7.18 Monitoring will be undertaken annually for the first five years and once every five years thereafter, during the optimal growing season. The modified grassland will be assessed against the four targeted condition criteria. Where any criteria are not met, remedial actions or adjustments to the management regime will be implemented.

Individual Trees

Condition Targets

7.19 New trees in moderate condition will be planted in the east of the site and outside of private residential curtilage. The following criteria will be targeted:

- A – The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).
- B – The tree canopy is predominantly continuous (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).
- D – There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age and height.
- F – More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.

Creation

7.20 A range of native tree species are to be selected, appropriate for the local area and habitat type.

7.21 Trees are to be planted on vegetated areas, not within hardstanding.

7.22 Instructions for the tree planting and initial aftercare are as follows:

- The planting of bare rooted trees should be carried out between November and March, avoiding periods of frost, snow, or waterlogged soil. Container trees can be planted throughout the year, but if planted in the summer they will need a lot more watering.
- Prior to planting, vegetation must be cleared in a one-metre circle where the tree will be planted. Competition for water and nutrients can severely affect trees, particularly when young. This circle around the tree should therefore be kept clear of grass and weeds for at least three years after planting, through weed-suppressant matting, application of a thick mulch or regular weeding.
- If using bare-root trees, soak the roots in water for 1-2 hours before planting to prevent drying out.
- Where the soil structure is good, maidens can be notch-planted. For larger trees, and where soil structure needs to be improved, a hole at least twice as wide as the tree's root ball and slightly deeper than the roots must be dug.
- Place the tree in the hole with the root collar (where the trunk meets the roots) at soil level. Do not bury the trunk. Fill in the hole, firming the soil gently.
- The trees should be staked with a short stake of no more than 30 cm above ground level. This will allow the tree to flex and strengthen the trunk and roots.

- Apply a 5-10cm layer of mulch (such as wood chips or well-rotted compost) around the base of the tree, leaving a gap around the trunk to prevent rot, to suppress weeds and retain moisture.
- Use tree guards or fencing to protect young trees from grazing animals. Guards should be checked regularly and adjusted if they are causing the tree any damage.
- Water regularly during the first 2-3 growing seasons, especially during dry periods.

Management

- 7.23 Stakes should be removed after 2-3 years, once the tree is stable.
- 7.24 Tree guards should be removed once the tree is well-established (typically after 3-5 years) or if the tree begins to outgrow the guard.
- 7.25 Once the trees are established, no ongoing maintenance should be required. Any trees that fail to establish, die, or fall should be replaced in the next appropriate planting season.
- 7.26 Trees should not be subject to regular pruning, allowing the tree canopy to achieve at least 75% of its expected size. Light pruning may be undertaken where identified as necessary for tree health or where trees present a health and safety risk or obstruction.
- 7.27 No herbicides are to be used on the trees other than for targeted, short-term treatments if required. Should vandalism of trees become an issue, action must be taken to prevent this.

Monitoring

- 7.28 Monitoring will be undertaken annually for the first five years and once every five years thereafter, during the optimal growing season. The trees will be assessed against the three-four targeted condition criteria. Where any criteria are not met, remedial actions or adjustments to the management regime will be implemented.

Species-Rich Native Hedgerow

Condition Targets

- 7.29 A length of species-rich native hedgerow will be planted to connect to the existing species-rich native hedgerow associated with a ditch at the eastern boundary, in moderate condition. The following condition criteria will be targeted:
- A1 – height of >1.5m average along length.
 - A2 – width of >1.5m average along length.
 - B1 – gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5m for >90% of length
 - B2 – gaps make up <10% of total length and no canopy gaps >5m.

- D1 - >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species and recently introduced species.

Creation

7.30 Instructions for the native hedgerow planting and initial aftercare are as follows:

- Hedgerow planting should be carried out between November and March, avoiding periods of frost, snow, or waterlogged soil.
- The ground must be cleared of grass or other vegetation and soil loosened prior to planting.
- UK native woody species must be selected, with at least five species used per 30m length to create a species-rich hedge. These could include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), and/or wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*). Native climbing plants such as honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and dog rose (*Rosa canina*) can also be incorporated.
- Shrubs should be planted as a staggered double row to provide a dense hedgerow. Each plant should be spaced 30-50cm apart in each row, with 40-50cm between the two rows.
- Dig holes or a trench deep enough to accommodate the root systems of the plants.
- If using bare-root plants, soak the roots in water for 1-2 hours before planting to prevent drying out.
- Place each plant so the base of the stem is at soil level and spread the roots out gently. Fill the holes with soil, firming it down gently.
- Apply a layer of mulch (such as wood chips or well-rotted compost) around the base of the plants to suppress weeds and retain moisture.
- Use spiral guards or fencing to protect young plants from grazing animals.
- Water regularly during the first 2 years, especially in dry spells, to help the plants establish.
- Lightly trim the top of the hedgerow in the first 2 years to encourage bushy growth.

Management

7.31 Once established, the hedgerow should be cut every 2-3 years, avoiding nesting bird season and preferably being undertaken in late winter (January or February) after winter berries have finished fruiting. A minimum height and width of 1.5m is to be maintained, but a height of at least 3m is preferable providing the hedgerow does not become leggy. Should any invasive species be identified, these must be immediately removed.

Monitoring

- 7.32 Monitoring will be undertaken annually for the first five years and once every five years thereafter, during the optimal growing season. The hedgerow will be assessed against the five targeted condition criteria. Where any criteria are not met, remedial actions or adjustments to the management regime will be implemented.

8. Wildlife Enhancements

Bats and Nesting Birds

- 8.1 To enhance the site for bats and birds known to be present within the local area it is recommended that at least one bat boxes and one bird boxes be installed. Boxes could be installed on existing retained trees within the off-site woodland or integrated into the new building.
- 8.2 Ideally bat boxes would be woodcrete or similar hard-wearing material (rather than the less durable wooden boxes) and should be installed at least 3m above the ground (where safe installation is possible), sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day (usually south or south-west facing).
- 8.3 Example tree-mounted bat boxes are shown below: Schwegler 1FF bat box (below left, suitable for pipistrelle bats *Pipistrellus sp.*), and a Schwegler 2F bat box (below right, suitable for long-eared bats *Plecotus sp.*), or similar bat boxes.



- 8.4 Example integrated bat boxes are shown below: Integrate Eco Bat Box (below left), Habibat Bat box - Plain for rendering (below centre) and a Schwegler 1WI Summer and Winter bat box (below right) or similar bat boxes.



- 8.5 Tree-hung bird boxes should comprise a mix of traditional '32mm round-holed' (below left: which are suitable for tits, sparrows, redstarts and nuthatches) and open-fronted boxes (below right: these are suitable for pied wagtails, robins and wrens), and also ideally be woodcrete or similar hard-wearing material (rather than the less durable traditional wooden boxes). Boxes should be installed with an aluminium nail or screw to prevent tree damage between 2m and 4m above ground for round-holed and low down, below 2m, well hidden in vegetation for open-fronted boxes, and (unless shaded by buildings or trees) be facing north or east.



- 8.6 Integrated bird boxes should include swift bricks (below left), these should be installed at a minimum of 4m above the ground, north or east facing and with open flight access, or sparrow terraces (below centre), which should be installed in line with vegetation such as trees or hedge lines to allow the birds the use of jumping off points, and be installed a minimum of 3m above the ground on a north or east elevation. Where suitable overhanging eaves are present, house martin cups (below right) may also be suitable.



Barn Owls

- 8.7 To enhance the site for barn owls, which are known to be present within the local area following the sighting of a foraging barn owl over the site during one of the bat surveys, it is recommended that at least one barn owl nest box be installed. Box could be installed on existing retained mature trees within the off-site woodland. It is recommended that the exact siting of the boxes is guided by a suitably qualified ecologist who can identify the most suitable trees.
- 8.8 The boxes are to be installed at a height of 3-6m above ground, sheltered from prevailing winds and rain, facing approximately northeast, east, or southeast, and away from areas of high disturbance, including construction works.



Reptiles and Amphibians

- 8.9 **To enhance the site for reptiles and amphibians, a hibernaculum and/or log pile could be created on-site.** These would use untreated timber, logs, brash, rubble and/or soil, arranged to provide a range of crevices and voids. On well-draining soils, hibernacula can be partially buried, with a stable base of rubble or hardcore overlain by logs and soil to ensure frost-free refuges suitable for overwintering. Hibernacula should be constructed in moderately shaded, well-drained areas whilst log piles should be constructed in sunny, south-facing locations. Both should be located away from areas of regular disturbance and at the margins of suitable habitat such as rough grassland, scrub edges, or pond margins.

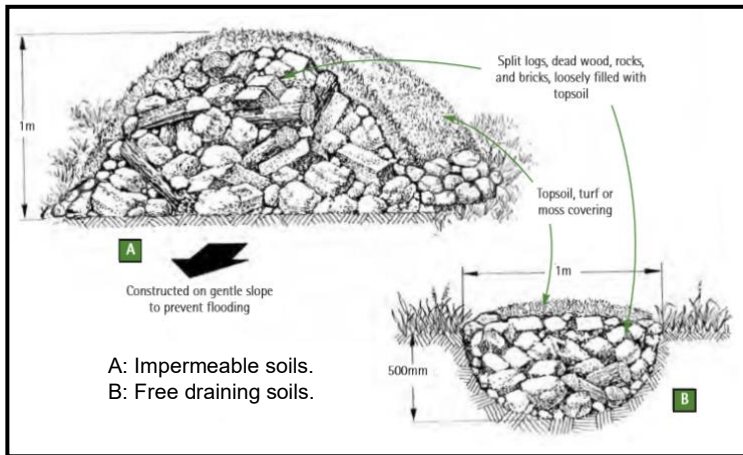


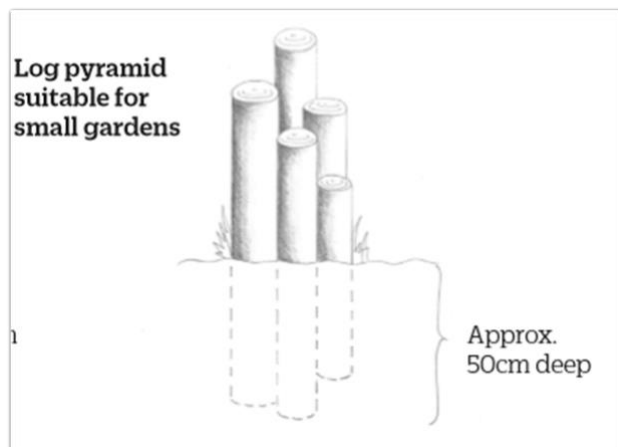
Diagram from Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook



Stag Beetles

8.10 A log stack could be created in a shaded area of the site to provide dead wood habitat features for stag beetles and other saproxylic species.

8.11 A suitable log pile comprises a variety of lengths of untreated hard wood at least 5cm in diameter, this should be sighted in partial shade and the wood partially buried to prevent it drying out. See below diagram and picture below from the PTES 'how to build a loggery' factsheet - (<https://ptes.org/get-involved/wildlife-action/help-stag-beetles/>).



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