NOCTUA ECOLOGY

Sports Pitch at Mundy Playing Fields, Thornbury

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

24th November 2025

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*Updates to the report on the 24th November 2025 are shown in blue font for clarity.

Contents

Executive Summary

Thornbury Town Council is seeking planning permission to construct a new tarmac sports pitch at Mundy Playing Fields located in Thornbury, South Gloucestershire centred on a national grid reference ST 63365 89938. The site comprises a section of modified grassland and hardstanding.

Noctua Ecology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site to identify any ecological constraints to the works, provide recommendations to enable compliance with planning policy and wildlife legislation.

The data search identified no statutory designated sites and three records of granted European Protected Species licence application within a 2km radius of the site.

The survey identified two UK Habitat Classifications within the site. No evidence of protected or notable species was identified within the site. The site was considered suitable for badger and a common assemblage of invertebrates. In addition, the scattered trees directly adjacent to the site boundary were considered suitable for roosting, commuting and foraging bats, and nesting birds.

The assessment concluded that the proposed development could proceed with minimal ecological impact if certain mitigation measures are adhered to as follows:

- *The Lighting Strategy: Abacus Lighting Design, Basketball Court, Thornbury* should be adhered to minimise any potential light spill on to the adjacent scattered tree habitat;
- A precautionary method statement should be followed, and it should include measures to protect habitats and badger; and
- Enhancements should be provided for bats and birds by installing suitable habitat boxes within the site.

Further advice from an ecologist should be sought if the scope of the proposed work changes, or if the works are delayed by more than 18 months from the date of the most recent survey.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site location

1.1.1 The site is located on the western edge of the small town of Thornbury, South Gloucestershire BS35 1NA, centred on a national grid reference ST 63365 89938 (Figure 1). The site comprises a section of grassland, carpark and driveway located within Mundy Playing Fields, a site used for community sports and children's play areas.

1.2 Background to the activity

1.2.1 Thornbury Town Council (hereafter referred to as 'the client') are seeking planning permission to construct a new tarmac sports pitch within Munday Playing Fields.

1.2.2 Noctua Ecology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site to identify any ecological constraints to the works, provide recommendations to enable compliance with planning policy and wildlife legislation.

1.2.3 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was based on the following plans:

- *Site location plan* (Drawing number: 2514-VAL-XX-XX-DR-A-1901, Revision: P03) by View Architects;
- *Existing block plan* (Drawing number: 2514-VAL-XX-XX-DR-A-1902, Revision: P01) by View Architects;
- *Proposed block plan* (Drawing number: 2514-VAL-XX-XX-DR-A-1903, Revision: P03) by View Architects;
- *Proposed plan and elevations* (Drawing number: 2514-VAL-XX-XX-DR-A-1904, Revision: P03) by View Architects;
- *Design and access statement* (Drawing number: 2514-VAL-XX-XX-DR-A-0001, Revision: P03) by View Architects;
- *Horizontal Illuminance Levels* (Drawing number: LS4069031-1C, Revision 1E) by Abacus Lighting Ltd; and
- *Abacus Lighting Design, Basketball Court – Thornbury* by Abacus Lighting Ltd.

1.2.4 After the original report was written, the proposal was altered by moving the proposed tarmac sports pitch further south. As such, the report was updated to reflect those changes.

1.3 Survey objectives

1.3.1 The survey objectives were as follows:

- Identify relevant statutory designated areas of conservation importance and features of ecological significance within the site and within a 2km radius of the site;
- Broadly categorise habitat types within the site in accordance with standard UK Habitat Classification habitats;
- Assess the potential for the presence of protected species and species of principal conservation importance within the site;
- Assess the potential ecological impact of the works;
- Provide recommendations and undertake further surveys, if required;

- Inform the design of a mitigation strategy to avoid or minimise potential impacts on protected habitats and species; and
- Advise of any ecological compensation or enhancement requirements.

2.0 Legislation

2.1 Wildlife legislation

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

2.1.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the main legislation enacted to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive). This is supplemented by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006. As such, the following actions are considered an offence:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests (some exceptions) and disturb any bird species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act, or its dependent young while it is nesting;
- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 of the Act;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 of the Act;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb some Schedule 5 animal species while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection;
- Intentionally or recklessly picking, uprooting, damaging or selling plant species listed under Schedule 8 of the act; or
- Cause or allow the spread of any invasive non-native species that is listed on Schedule 9 of the Act.

2.1.2 Species listed within Schedule 5 include, but are not limited to, bats (all species), great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), reptiles, otter (*Lutra lutra*), and water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*).

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

2.1.3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) transpose the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive) into English law. This makes it illegal to deliberately capture, kill or disturb wild animals listed under Schedule 2 of the Regulations. This includes the damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place of those species. The breeding/resting site is protected even when no animal is present at the time. The Habitats Regulations 2017 will continue to implement the Habitats Directive and certain elements of the Birds Directives in England. The Habitats Regulations are likely to remain in place for some time now that the UK has exited the EU.

Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

2.1.4 The NERC Act 2006 places a duty of regard on authorities for biodiversity and nature conservation during their operations. Section 41 of the Act refers to a requirement for authorities to publish a list of species and habitats which are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

2.1.5 The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 protects badgers (*Meles meles*) and their setts. It is an offence under the act to kill, injure, or take badgers. It is also an offence to destroy, damage or obstruct an active badger sett, or to disturb badgers while they are using their sett.

2.2 Planning policy

2.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DLUHC, 2023) sets out the UK Government's planning policies for England and explains how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF specifies that, when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should refuse applications that would cause significant harm to biodiversity if the project does not provide adequate mitigation or compensation.

2.2.2 The South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) core strategy (adopted in December 2013), and local plan (adopted in November 2017) refers to biodiversity, habitats and species. The policies most pertinent to this development include:

- Policy CS2 – Green infrastructure: *The Council and its partners will ensure that existing and new Green Infrastructure (GI) is planned, delivered and managed as an integral part of creating sustainable communities and enhancing quality of life.;*
- Policy CS9 – Managing the Environment and Heritage: *The natural and historic environment is a finite and irreplaceable resource. New development is expected to conserve and enhance the natural environment*;
- Policy PSP3 – Trees and Woodlands: *Development proposals should minimise the loss of existing vegetation on a site that is of importance in terms of ecological, recreational, historical or landscape value*;
- Policy PSP18 – Statutory Wildlife Sites: *Development proposals likely to have a significant and/or adverse effect on the European features of interest of the Severn Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Ramsar (European Site), either directly, indirectly, on their own or in combination with other plans and projects, will be subject to the tests set out under Article 6(3)/6(4) of the Habitats Directive 1992*; and
- Policy PSP19 – Wider Biodiversity: *Development Proposals resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including unimproved grassland (lowland hay meadows), ancient woodland, and ancient trees will be refused unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.*

2.2.3 The SGC provide further guidance within the following documents:

- *South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026* (SGC, 2016); and
- *Biodiversity and planning: Guidance for new developments* (SGC, 2022).

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Desk study

3.1.1 The desk study comprised a compilation of ecological information relating to the site and the area within a 2km radius of the site. The following information was gathered:

- The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was consulted to identify statutory designated sites of conservation importance and search the European Protected Species Licensing layers for records. Where granted European Protected Species Licences had modifications, only the most recent licence was listed unless previous licences were considerably different;
- The Natural England website was used to obtain citation details of the statutory designated sites; and
- MAGIC was used to identify potential habitats of importance, and the Google Earth website were used to assess the connectivity of the site to the local habitats.

3.2 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

3.2.1 The survey was completed in accordance with the following best practice guidance:

- Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L., and Treweek, J. (2020). *UK Habitat Classification User Manual Version 1.1* at http//www.ukhab.org/;
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (2017). *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd Edition.* Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester; and
- UKHab Ltd (2023). *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0* (at http//www.ukhab.org/).

3.2.2 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) survey was undertaken on the 26th June 2025 by Sunny Jones, Bachelor of Science (BSc) with Honours (Hons), and Level 4 Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC) qualified botanist. The weather conditions were recorded as 17°C, >10% cloud cover, low wind, no rain.

3.2.3 A walk-over survey of the site was undertaken. The vegetation was described, photographed and mapped. The habitats were classified using the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab Ltd, 2023). Dominant, notable, and invasive non-native plant species were recorded. The site was assessed for any features that may be of value to protected and notable animal species, and any evidence of such species was recorded.

3.3 Bats

3.3.1 The bat surveys were completed in accordance with the following best practice guidance available at the time:

- Bat Tree Habitat Key (BTHK) (2020). *Bat Roosts in Trees – A Guide to Identification and Assessment for Tree-Care and Ecology Professionals.* BTHK, Bridgwater;
- Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd Edition).* The Bat Conservation Trust, London;
- Mitchell-Jones A. and McLeish A. (2004). *Bat Workers Manual (3rd Edition).* Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough; and

- Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2023). *UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats.* Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield.

Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)

3.3.2 A Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) survey was undertaken on the 26th June 2025 by Sunny Jones, BSc (Hons), and holder of a Natural England Level 1 Bat Licence (CL17). The weather conditions were recorded as 17°C, >10% cloud cover, low wind, and no rain.

3.3.3 The survey involved systematically inspecting the trees within the site from ground level for any evidence of bat activity in the form of live or dead bats, droppings, feeding remains, perch abrasions, and staining or marks from grease secretions attributable to bats. The trees were systematically surveyed using a pair of binoculars and a hand torch. Any potential roost features (PRFs) within the trees which could be of value to bats were recorded. The PRFs were either categorised as being suitable for individual bats (PRF-I) or multiple bats (PRF-M).

3.4 Constraints

3.4.1 The site surveys were not intended to identify all species present within the site. The survey objective was to broadly identify habitats and indicate the potential for the site to support protected and notable species.

3.4.2 The redline boundary was drawn by Noctua Ecology; therefore, it may not be accurate.

3.4.3 A data search was not conducted given that the potential impact of the proposals were considered to be low, and the scale of the site was small.

4.0 Results

4.1 Site context

4.1.1 The site is situated in a rural location on the western edge of the small town of Thornbury (Figure 1). The site includes a section of grassland, carpark and driveway located within the wider recreational site known as Mundy Playing Fields.

4.1.2 The immediate landscape which surrounds the site is dominated with grassland managed for recreation, and hedgerow with scattered trees. In addition, there are allotments and an area of rough grassland with scrub located to the north and southeast of the wider site. The wider landscape to the north, south, and west is rural and generally dominated with agricultural land bound by hedgerow and a large golf course. Thornbury town is located directly east of the wider Mundy Playing Fields site. Blocks of fragmented woodland and scattered trees are occasional throughout the landscape. There is one stream located approximately 15m east of the site boundary. Otherwise, waterbodies including streams, ponds and ditches are common within the local and wider landscape.

4.1.3 A search of the MAGIC database identified the following Priority Habitats within 2km of the site:

- Deciduous woodland (including ancient);
- Traditional orchards; and
- Wood-pasture and parkland.

4.2 Statutory designated sites

4.2.1 The data search identified no statutory designated sites located within a 2km radius of the site.

4.2.2 The site is located within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone, however the planning proposal does not fall into one of the categories which requires consultation between the Local Planning Authority and Natural England. As such, this was not considered further in this report.

4.3 Species records

4.3.1 The data search identified three records of granted European Protected Species licence application within 2km radius of the site (Table 1).

Table 1. Records of granted European Protected Species Licence applications within 2km of the site (table continues).

Case reference	Species	Licence start – end year	Approx. Distance / direction from site	Licenced activity
2017-30069-EPS-MIT	Common pipistrelle	2017-2024	0.3km / northeast	Destruction of a resting place

Case reference	Species	Licence start – end year	Approx. Distance / direction from site	Licenced activity
2017-28901-EPS-MIT	Common pipistrelle	2017-2027	1.7km / northeast	Damage and destruction of resting place.
2017-28901-EPS-MIT-1	Great crested newt	2018-2027	1.7km / northeast	Damage and destruction of resting place.

4.4 Habitat descriptions

4.4.1 The survey identified two UK Habitat (UKHab) classifications within the site (Figure 2). The habitats are described below.

Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)

4.4.2 There was developed land; sealed surface located throughout the site (Figure 2). The areas were a mixture of tarmac and loose stone and formed the carpark and driveway for Mundy Playing Fields site.

Modified Grassland (g4)

4.4.3 The site supported an area of modified grassland used for recreation (Photos 1-2, Figure 2). The grassland was cut to a short turf at a uniform height of approximately 3cm. The turf was dead in areas and patches of bare ground were common. The sward was dominated by perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*). Meadow grass species (*Poa* sp.) were recorded occasionally. The herbaceous layer was dominated by species indicative of amenity grasslands and higher soil fertility. The most dominant species recorded included white clover (*Trifolium repens*), dandelion species (*Taraxacum* sp.), creeping cinquefoil *(Potentilla reptans*) and common daisy (*Bellis perennis*). Species which were recorded rarely included ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and greater plantain (*Plantago major*).

4.4.4 Overall, the grassland within the site was considered to be species-poor. Species indicative of a higher distinctiveness habitat type were recorded rarely within the habitat, and there were never more than seven species recorded within each sample point. As such, the habitat was categorised as modified grassland.

Photo 1. A view of the modified grassland looking north.

Photo 2. A close-up view of the modified grassland.

4.5 Protected and notable species

Amphibians

4.5.1 No waterbodies were identified in the site; however, a review of the maps available on the MAGIC website identified three streams within a 250m radius of the site. Stream 1 was located at the bottom of a slope 15m to the east of the site (Photo 3, Figure 2 – Target note A). The northern section of the stream was covered with thick scrub, so only the southern part of the stream was visible. The stream was approximately 0.5m in width and held between 1-5cm of clear water. The stream supported a stoney substrate with no specialist aquatic vegetation. Stream 2 was located approximately 20m southwest of the site. Stream 3 was located approximately 160m southeast of the site. One additional pond can be seen on satellite imagery; however, the site survey identified that this pond had been recently converted into a play area for children. No other waterbodies were identified within 250m of the site.

4.5.2 No direct evidence of amphibians (including great crested newt) was identified within the site. The areas of stream 1 which were visible were shallow with no aquatic vegetation; therefore, were considered sub-optimal for amphibians (including great crested newt). Streams 2 and 3 could not be assessed; therefore, their suitability for amphibian species is unknown. As such, it is considered possible that the amphibians (including great crested newt) could use the northern portion of the stream, and streams 2 and 3, if conditions were suitable.

4.5.3 The modified grassland located within the site was species-poor and cut short; therefore, was considered to be sub-optimal habitat for amphibians (including great crested newt). It was considered unlikely amphibians would use the site even if a population was present within the streams considering there was other suitable tussocky grassland and mixed scrub located directly adjacent to the stream and within the wider Mundy Playing Fields site. As such, the site was considered to have negligible potential for amphibians (including great crested newt) during the terrestrial and aquatic phase of their lifecycle and amphibians were not considered further within this report.

Photo 3. Stream 1 located adjacent to the east of the site.

Badger

4.5.4 No direct evidence of badger was located within the site. In addition, the habitat present within the site was not considered suitable for badger sett creation. However, the modified grassland provided suitable foraging habitat for badger, and the surrounding landscape was considered to provide high-quality habitat for badger. As such, the site was considered to have moderate potential for badger foraging and commuting, and low potential for badger sett creation.

Bats

Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)

4.5.5 The trees which surround the site boundary were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats. No evidence of roosting bat was identified; however, nine trees were considered to have potential roosting features (PRFs) (Photos 4-11, Figure 2, Appendix A).

4.5.6 Seven trees were considered to have PRF-I features (low potential for roosting bats). Most PRF-I features included ivy cover on trees which could hide the presence of other PRFs. Three trees were considered to have PRF-M features (moderate to high potential for roosting bats). Most PRF-M features were located within the mature willow tree species (*Salix* sp.) and alder tree species (*Alnus* sp.) located southeast of the site boundary. Features included wounds, woodpecker holes, flakes and crevices in bark, and limb tear outs.

4.5.7 Most of the trees were large with high canopies; therefore, many trees could not be assessed thoroughly from ground level and PRFs may have been missed. As such, a precautionary approach was adopted when classifying the tree bat roost suitability (Appendix A). All other trees within the site were considered to have negligible roosting potential due to a lack of features suitable for roosting bats.

4.5.8 The habitats within the site were considered to offer limited opportunities for foraging and commuting bats. The modified grassland was species-poor and cut short; therefore, likely

provided low suitability for foraging opportunities. However, the scattered trees located adjacent to the site boundary formed linear habitats which could be used by commuting and foraging bats with good connectivity to the wider landscape.

Photo 4. The treeline adjacent to the nothern boundary.

Photo 5. The tree line adajcent to the southeastern boundary.

Photo 6. A view of PRF-M tree 16 (PRF ID A).

Photo 7. A view of PRF-M tree 17.

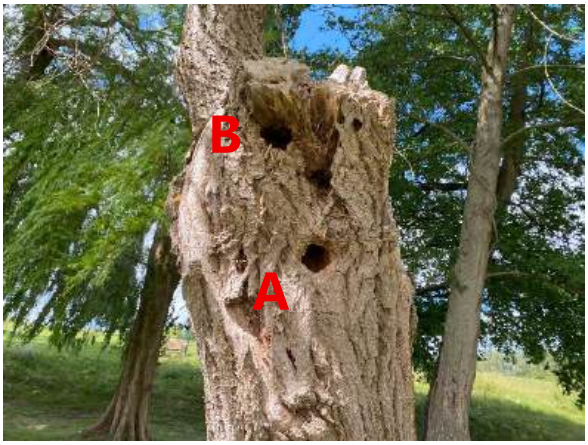

Photo 8. A view of PRF-M tree 17 (PRF ID A and PRF ID B).

Photo 9. A view of PRF-M tree 17 (PRF ID C).

Photo 10. A view of PRF-M tree 18 (PRF ID A).

Photo 11. A view of PRF-I 20 and 21 demonstrating the large height which restricted assessment from the ground level.

Birds

4.5.9 Any incidental observations of birds were recorded but it was not the main focus of the survey. Species observed included carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*), and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*).

4.5.10 No evidence of nesting birds was identified within the site. In addition, the site supported short grassland and hard surfacing only which was not considered suitable for nesting birds. As such, the site was considered to have negligible potential for nesting birds.

4.5.11 It should be acknowledged that birds' nests were identified within the canopy of the adjacent off-site scattered trees (Figure 2 – Target notes B and C), and the scrub habitat located within the surrounding the site were considered suitable for nesting birds.

Hazel dormouse

4.5.12 The habitats on site were considered unsuitable for hazel dormouse. In addition, woodland was generally sparse and fragmented within the local and wider landscape; therefore, it was considered unlikely that hazel dormouse would be present within the scattered trees located adjacent to the site boundary. As such, it was considered unlikely that hazel dormouse was present within the site, and hazel dormouse was not considered further within this report.

Invertebrates

4.5.13 The habitats recorded within the site were considered likely to support a common assemblage of invertebrate species in context with the local area.

Reptiles

4.5.14 No evidence of reptiles was identified within the site. The modified grassland was species-poor and cut short; therefore, provided sub-optimal habitat for reptile species. As such, the site was considered to have negligible potential for reptiles. Therefore, reptiles were not considered further within this report.

Other species

4.5.15 The habitats supported within the site were not considered to be suitable for any other protected or notable species, nor were any other invasive non-native species recorded on the day of the survey

5.0 Discussion

5.1 Habitats

5.1.1 The proposed development will result in permanent loss of modified grassland only. This habitat is considered to be of low distinctiveness. The loss of this habitat is considered to have a negligible impact at a site level only and is unlikely to significantly impact the functionality or quality of other habitat within the site and wider landscape.

5.2 Protected and notable species

Badger

5.2.1 The habitats on site provide opportunities for badger foraging and commuting and there is a potential for badger to enter the site overnight during the proposed works. As such, provided precautionary measures are followed during the works, the risk of direct impacts to badger is considered to be low. The proposed works are considered to have a neutral long-term impact to badger.

Bats

5.2.2 There are 13 trees located within close proximity to the site which have features potentially suitable for roosting bats. In addition, it is considered likely that bats will use the scattered trees which surround the site as a foraging and commuting resource. It is understood that new external lighting is proposed around the new sports pitch. As such, a Lighting Impact Assessment was undertaken by Abacus Lighting in August 2025 with a focus on ensuring that light spill on the adjacent trees is kept below 0.5lux so that impacts to commuting and foraging bats can be minimised. The Lighting Impact Assessment identified there to be a small amount of localised light spill on trees adjacent to the northeastern boundary of the site. The light spill within this area varied between 0.5-1.0lux. Otherwise, the assessment identified that any proposed light spill will be less than 0.5lux on all PRFs, and all remaining scattered tree habitat. After the alteration of the proposal to move the new sports pitch further south, the results of the original Lighting Impact Assessment were overlaid onto the proposed plan by View Architects. This shows that there will be a small amount of localised light spill on trees adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the site instead. But otherwise, the impact remains very similar to that of the original proposal.

5.2.3 To reduce light spill below 0.5lux around the scattered trees in the southeastern corner of the site, shields will be installed on all lighting features. The purpose of these shields is to restrict backward and upward light output, focusing illumination only where it is required. In practice, this will further reduce any potential light spill onto the adjacent trees (Abacus Lighting Ltd, 2025). The impacts of the lighting shields could not be quantified within the Lighting Impact Assessment because the lighting team do not have the data files for these features. However, any proposed light spill will impact the edge of a small area of scattered trees only. Furthermore, the scattered trees at this location are connected to other alternative areas of habitat considered suitable for foraging and commuting bats. As such, the proposed light spill is considered unlikely to result in significant degradation to habitat function for foraging or commuting bats. Provided the sensitive lighting design produced by Abacus Lighting Ltd is adhered to, the works are considered to result in a negligible impact to commuting, foraging and roosting bats at the site level.

Birds

5.2.4 The scattered trees which surround the site boundary are suitable for nesting birds. New external lighting is proposed which could disturb nesting activity if there is light spill on to the adjacent tree habitat. Provided the sensitive lighting design is adhered to which minimises light spill to below 0.5lux on to adjacent scattered tree habitat, then the proposed works are considered to have a short and long-term neutral impact on nesting birds.

Invertebrates

5.2.5 The assemblage of invertebrates supported by the site is not expected to change as a result of the proposed development. A neutral long-term impact to invertebrates is predicted.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Habitats

6.1.1 The scattered trees which surround the site should be protected during the proposed works. No machinery should be tracked, and no materials should be stored, immediately adjacent to this habitat. Pollution prevention measures should be adopted to ensure no toxic substances are spilt onto the retained habitats.

6.2 Protected and notable species

Badger

6.2.1 As a precautionary measure during the proposed works, at night any excavations should be fitted with ramps to ensure badgers or other animals do not become trapped. In addition, works should be undertaken during daylight hours only.

Bats

6.2.2 The sensitive lighting design produced by Abacus Lighting Ltd should be adhered to so that any potential light spill onto adjacent scattered tree habitat is minimised.

6.2.3 To provide enhancement for roosting bats one 1FF Schwegler bat box (or similar) should be installed within an existing tree located in the scattered tree habitat adjacent to the site boundary (Figure 3, Appendix B). Ideally the bat box should be placed a minimum of 4m high with a clear flight path to the entrance.

Birds

6.2.4 The sensitive lighting design produced by Abacus Lighting Ltd should be adhered to so that any potential light spill onto adjacent scattered tree habitat is minimised

6.2.5 As an enhancement for nesting bird species, one WoodStone Seville 32mm Nest Box (or similar) should be installed within an existing tree located in the scattered tree habitat adjacent to the site boundary (Figure 3, Appendix B). The nest box should be installed on a north facing elevation at a minimum of 3m high.

6.3 Survey updates

6.3.1 This report is valid for 18 months from the date of the survey. Further advice from an ecologist should be sought if the scope of the proposed works changes, or if the works are delayed by more than 18 months.

7.0 References

7.1 Publications

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7.1.5 British Standards Institution (2013). *BS42020: Biodiversity Code of Practice for Planning and Development.* British Standards Institution, London.
7.1.6 Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L., and Treweek, J. (2020). *The UK Habitat Classification User Manual Version 1.1* at http//www.ukhab.org/.
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7.1.10 English Nature (2001). *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.
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7.2 Websites

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8.0 Figures

REFERENCE

Figure 1

TITLE

Site location plan

LEGEND

Site location

DRAWING INFORMATION

Project: Mundy Playing Fields, Sports Pitch, Thornbury
Project reference: P137
Date drawn: 31/07/2025
Drawn by: Sunny Jones
Version: 1.0
Scale: 1:25,000 @ A4
Notes: Locations, distances and scale are approximate only. Base map provided by Google Maps.

NOCTUA ECOLOGY

REFERENCE

Figure 2

TITLE

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Modified grassland
- Target Note
- Tree - PRF negligible
- Tree - PRF-I
- Tree - PRF-M

DRAWING INFORMATION

Project: Mundy Playing Fields - Sports Pitch, Thornbury
Project reference: P137
Date drawn: 27/08/2025
Drawn by: Sunny Jones
Version: 1.0
Scale: 1:900 @ A4
Notes: Locations, distances and scale are approximate only. Base map provided by Google Maps.

NOCTUA ECOLOGY

REFERENCE

Figure 3

TITLE

Enhancement plan

LEGEND

Site boundary

WoodStone Seville 32mm Nest Box (or similar)

1FF Schwegler bat box (or similar)

DRAWING INFORMATION

Project: Mundy Playing Fields - Sports Pitch, Thornbury
Project reference: P137
Date drawn: 27/08/2025
Drawn by: Sunny Jones
Version: 1.0
Scale: 1:900 @ A4
Notes: Locations, distances and scale are approximate only. Base map provided by Google Maps.

NOCTUA ECOLOGY

Appendix A. Ground Level Tree Assessment Results

Table 2. Results of the GLTA and identified potential roosting features (PRFs).

Tree species	Tree ref. (Fig. 2)	PRF ID	PRF height	Aspect	PRF type	Feature bat roost potential	Tree bat roost suitability	Comments
Field maple	1	A	All	All	Ivy	PRF-I	PRF-I	Ivy cover which could hide other PRFs. Visibility of tree canopy from the ground was obscured by leaves.
Field maple	2	-	-	-	-	Negligible	Negligible	Visibility of tree canopy from the ground was obscured by leaves.
Willow species	3	A	0-3m	All	Ivy	PRF-I	PRF-I	Ivy cover which could hide other PRFs. Visibility of tree canopy from the ground was obscured by leaves.
Field maple	4	-	-	-	-	Negligible	Negligible	None.
Hazel	5	-	-	-	-	Negligible	Negligible	None.
English oak	6-7	-	-	-	-	Negligible	Negligible	Young trees.
Field maple	8	-	-	-	-	Negligible	Negligible	None.
Hazel	9	-	-	-	-	Negligible	Negligible	None.
Field maple	10-12	-	-	-	-	Negligible	Negligible	None.
Alder species	13-15	-	-	-	-	PRF-I	PRF-I	Large mature trees with full canopies. Only one third of the tree could be viewed from the ground. A precautionary approach was adopted when classifying feature bat roost suitability.
Alder species	16	A	3.5m	South	Wound	PRF-M	PRF-M	PRF could not be assessed from ground level. A precautionary approach was adopted when classifying feature bat roost suitability.
Willow species	17	A	2.5m	East	Woodpecker hole	PRF-M	PRF-M	None.

Tree species	Tree ref. (Fig. 2)	PRF ID	PRF height	Aspect	PRF type	Feature bat roost potential	Tree bat roost suitability	Comments
Willow species	17	B	2.75m	East	Woodpecker hole	PRF-I	PRF-M	None.
		C	2.75m	South	Crevice in bark	PRF-I		
		D	1m	Southeast	Flaking bark	PRF-I		
		E	6m	Southeast	Wound	PRF-I		
Alder species	18	A	6.5m	South	Tear out	PRF-M	PRF-M	PRF could not be assessed from ground level. A precautionary approach was adopted when classifying feature bat roost suitability.
Willow species	19-21	-	-	-	-	PRF-I	PRF-I	Large mature trees with full canopies. Only one third of the tree could be viewed from the ground. A precautionary approach was adopted when classifying feature bat roost suitability.
Common ash	22	A	All	All	Ivy	PRF-I	PRF-I	Ivy cover which could hide other PRFs. Visibility of tree canopy from the ground was obscured by leaves.
Leylandii cypress	23-25	-	-	-	-	Negligible	Negligible	None.

Appendix B. Enhancement Specification

Crevice-style bat box example: Schwegler 1FF Bat Box (photo courtesy of https://www.nhbs.com/**):**

Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box (photo courtesy of https://www.nhbs.com/**):**