

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ADDENDUM – ALDERHOLT MEADOWS, ALDERHOLT, DORSET**  
29 May 2024**INFORMATIVE/PREFACE**

An outline planning application for the development of land at Alderholt was submitted to Dorset Council (DC) accompanied, amongst other documents, by an Environmental Statement (ES), prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The Regulations).

On 7th July 2022, following consultation with both statutory bodies and the Council, the Council refused the application.

An appeal was submitted against the refusal of the application. Various further work (further information) was undertaken to address the relevant reasons for refusal, focussing on the loss of tranquillity within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and this was reported in a Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES) of November 2023.

To aid the appeal and for ease of reading for the Inspector, a Consolidated Environmental Statement (CES) was produced and submitted as part of the appeal documentation in November 2023. The CES represented the combining of the original ES, February 2022 and the SES of November 2023. A Consolidated Non-Technical Summary (CNTS) was similarly produced. Within the CES and CNTS those changes arising from the SES are shown in red text, and updated figures and Technical Appendices had the suffix 'a' and 'sup' respectively.

At the beginning of May 2024 and Environmental Statement Addendum (ES Addendum) was produced and submitted as part of the appeal documentation. This was necessary to provide the latest updated position relative to further work in respect of transportation and its implications for air quality and the Habitats Regulation Assessment Information (RHAInfo).

**To ensure that the ecological baseline information is kept as up-to-date as possible, further survey work has been carried out. This Environmental Statement Addendum (ES Addendum) of 29 May 2024 sets out this latest position.** There are no other changes or updates to any of the other chapters (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15, 16) of the CES and subsequent ES Addendum of early May 2024.

This ES Addendum, 29 May 2024 should therefore be read in conjunction with the following documents –

- Technical Appendix 9.1Ad Ecological Baseline
- Technical Appendix 9.5Ad BNG Report and Calculation

The conclusions are that there are no resulting changes to the impact conclusions of the CES chapter 9 Ecology.

## 1 ECOLOGY

### INTRODUCTION

1.1 To ensure that the ecological baseline information remains up-to-date the following update surveys have been completed during 2024 –

- Baseline Habitat Survey
- Ground Level Tree Assessment for supporting roosting bats
- Building Inspection Assessment for supporting roosting bats
- Bat Emergence Surveys of Buildings 10 and 11
- Barn Owl Roost Verification Survey, and
- Badger Survey.

1.2 Technical Appendix 9.1Ad: Addendum Ecology Baseline sets these out in more detail.

### HABITATS

1.3 Unsurprisingly, since the previous surveys in 2022 there have been changes to the Habitat Classification mapping of the Site. The main implication of this is the effect on the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculation.

1.4 Technical Appendix 9.5 paragraph 6.1 identified the following anticipated biodiversity units as a result of the Proposed Development –

- Increase in Habitat units of +13.16% above baseline
- Increase in Hedgerow units of +10.74% above baseline
- Increase in Ditch units of +69.80% above baseline.

1.5 The above, as set out in Technical Appendix 9.5Ad, are now calculated to be –

- Increase in Habitat units of +11.95% above baseline
- Increase in Hedgerow units of +26.37% above baseline
- Increase in Ditch units of +69.80% above baseline.

1.6 As a result of the above, this is still an exceedance of the 10% net gain requirement to be achieved. Consequently, there is no change to the conclusions of the CES in this regard and they remain valid.

### BATS

1.7 Trees on the Site were not previously surveyed in relation to their ability to support roosting bats. A total of 45 trees were identified as having potential to support individual or very small numbers of roosting bats. Table 2.2 in Technical Appendix 9.1Ad identifies what further survey work would be required to inform an approach to tree removal where necessary.

1.8 The only change to the roosting potential of the buildings on the Site since 2022 are in relation to buildings 10 and 11 where there is increased potential, albeit low – refer to Table 2.3 of Technical Appendix 9.1Ad.

1.9 As a result of the findings in relation to buildings 10 and 11, a bat emergence survey was carried out. This found no evidence of bats emerging from either building. Notwithstanding this, further surveys are proposed.

### **Implications for CES**

1.10 The mitigation, recommendations for further survey work and conclusions of the CES in respect of roosting Bats stated '*Trees and buildings which will be directly impacted by the proposals will be subject to an update assessment for bat roost suitability, followed, as required, by a suite of update presence/absence surveys conducted in accordance with good practice guidance or, if practicable, an exhaustive endoscopic inspection of potential roosting features. If a bat roost is identified during update surveys, it will be retained in situ if possible, or otherwise lawfully removed pursuant to a European Protected Species mitigation licence, which will prescribe suitable mitigation and compensation measures to the satisfaction of the licensing body.*'

1.11 This remains valid and there are therefore no changes to the impacts or conclusions of the CES.

### **BADGERS**

1.12 A walkover survey was conducted in March 2024. Table 2.5 of **Technical Appendix 9.1Ad** identifies a minor change in classification to three of the setts since the 2021/22 surveys.

### **Implications for CES**

1.13 The mitigation, recommendations for further survey work and conclusions of the CES in respect of Badgers stated that '*in order to ensure Badger setts are safeguarded, an update Badger survey will be carried out within six months of any site clearance or earthworks commencing to confirm the presence, distribution and status of Badger setts. Should any new setts be discovered within 30m of the construction zone, it may be necessary to obtain a mitigation licence from Natural England to enable works close to the sett or in some circumstances to close the sett(s), in which case Natural England would seek appropriate mitigation or compensation through the mitigation licencing process...Standard working procedures to ensure the protection of Badgers and their setts during construction (which would be secured as conditions of any licence granted by Natural England) include implementing buffer zones around retained setts, ensuring that key commuting and foraging corridors are not blocked, and covering excavations at night. Whilst negative impacts on Badgers in the absence of mitigation would not be of more than zone of influence significance, there is the potential for accidental legal offences. Implementation of these measures would reduce the impacts to not significant and prevent accidental legal offences in relation to the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.*'

1.14 This remains valid and there are therefore no changes to the impacts or conclusions of the CES.

### **BARN OWL**

1.15 The 2021 survey identified that only building 4 was an active roost. The 2024 survey confirmed this position, with additional roost sites now also in buildings 1 and 3.

### **Implications for the CES**

1.16 The mitigation, recommendations and conclusions of the CES in respect of Barn Owl stated that '*the loss of the barn and therefore the roost will be compensated by providing Barn owl nest boxes on suitable buildings or trees within the SNAG in the western half of the Site.*'

1.17 This remains valid and there area therefore no changes to the impacts or conclusions of the CES.

## **2 CES NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

2.1 The updated survey position set out above does not alter the presentation of information or conclusions set out in the CES Non-Technical Summary (CENTS). There are therefore no changes or updates necessary to that document.