

Greenscape Environmental Ltd

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**ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL
& HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT**

**MILTON FARM
PEMBRIDGE
LEOMINSTER
HR6 9LB**

FEBRUARY 2017

1764 001R

Report by Logan Maggs BSc (hons)

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The report should be read in its entirety.

Questions arising from the survey report should be directed to the author of this report who will be pleased to clarify any technical issues raised.

Whilst the surveyors make every reasonable effort, Greenscape Environmental Ltd cannot guarantee that all protected species have been identified and survey results are definitive. Many species are cryptic and transitional in habit.

Reports are considered valid for 2 years for planning purposes after which time further survey information may be required.

Greenscape Environmental Ltd can provide advice and support for recommendations and planning conditions.

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1 Summary

1.1 Purpose of the Report

Greenscape Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Mr A. Morris to conduct a survey to determine the presence of protected species and potential for the damage or destruction of habitats of ecological value as part of the planning application for the construction of three additional poultry units at Milton Farm. The project involves the construction of three poultry units with a control room and office/store inside each building.

This document outlines the potential impacts as ascertained from the preliminary ecological assessment, and recommends measures to avoid, reduce or manage negative effects.

1.2 Methodology

The appraisal of the site included a desktop survey of the area, reviews of other surveys conducted in the area by Greenscape Environmental and a phase 1 environmental appraisal. Designated sites within 10km were considered as part of the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

The phase 1 ecological appraisal was undertaken at the site, OS grid reference SO3929 6044 on 24th February 2017 by L Maggs.

1.3 Key Issues

No designated sites were found within the vicinity of the site. No negative impact is expected on the designated areas considered.

A Habitat Regulations Assessment was conducted and found that any impact on nationally or internationally designated sites is highly unlikely.

Records of protected species within 2km include typical bat species, water vole, otter and badger.

The area for the proposed development is an arable monoculture adjacent to an existing poultry farming unit. There are no hedgerows being impacted by the proposed development and the land being lost is of low ecological value.

1.4 Recommendations

It is recommended that the biodiversity is enhanced post construction with the inclusion of bat boxes. It is also recommended that the landscaping be improved with the inclusion of native species hedgerows and trees, and the continuation of the tussocky grassland proposed for the prior application.

1.5 Conclusions

It is considered the development can proceed without the loss of habitat of significant value and without the loss of favourable conservation status of any protected species. As there is no evidence of protected species within and around the development site, there is no requirement to address the three tests under Regulation 53 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010). There are no ecological constraints to the development as planned.

2 Introduction

This report has been compiled by Logan Maggs BSc (hons) who has 7 years' experience conducting ecological appraisals. It has been reviewed in line with Greenscape's Quality Management System

Greenscape Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Mr A. Morris of Milton Farm, Pembridge, Leominster, HR6 9LB to conduct a survey to determine the presence of protected species and potential for the damage or destruction of habitats of ecological value, as part of the planning application for the development of land at Milton Farm.

2.1 Project Background

The project involves the construction of an additional three poultry units that will be sited to the west of the existing poultry site. The poultry buildings will measure 6m to the ridge, as per the existing buildings with the floor areas measuring:

- 2 poultry buildings: 109.70m x 24.30m (360ft x 80ft)
- 1 poultry buildings: 103.60m x 24.30m (340ft x 80ft)

Each poultry house will have a control room and office/store inside the front of the buildings.

The units will be of standard construction and consist of steel-framed, fully insulated buildings. The buildings will be clad externally with profiled sheeting coloured to match the existing buildings to help assimilation with the surrounding landscape.

The access to the proposed additional poultry buildings will utilise the existing access off the private industrial road that connects to the C1032 (between Milton Cross and Pembridge) via the main Kingspan entrance.

All the chicken litter from the existing and proposed units will be used in the on-site AD plant. Litter will be stored in the covered buildings before being transferred to the plant. The resultant digestate will be spread as a fertiliser on the farm holding in accordance with appropriate guidelines and regulations.

2.2 Purpose of the Report

The aim of this type of survey is to locate and describe, as far as reasonably practicable, evidence of wildlife, including all protected and BAP species, which may be disturbed or lost in the event of development.

The purpose of the report is to:

1. Identify the key ecological constraints to the proposed development
2. Inform planning to allow significant ecological effects to be minimised or avoided wherever possible
3. Allow any necessary mitigation or compensation measures to be developed

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) have requested further information regarding an Environmental Impact Assessment.

2.3 Planning Policy and Legislation

The relevant planning policy and legislation to the current development is:

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended) – as listed in:

- Schedule 1. Birds protected by special penalties at all times
- Schedule 5. Protected animals

Schedule 8. Protected plants

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2010 – as listed in:
Schedule 2. European protected species of animals
Schedule 5. European protected species of plants

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC 2006)

National Planning Policy Framework (2012). Policy 11, Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment.

Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

2.4 Site Context and Location

The site is located outside of Pembridge in Herefordshire. It is set in a rural environment surrounded Shobdon Airfield to the north, open countryside to the east, and factory units to the south and west. There is good connectivity to the surrounding countryside via the farm boundaries, although there is a significant amount of open land. Entrance to the site is currently gained from the private industrial road that connects to the C1032 via the main Kingspan entrance.

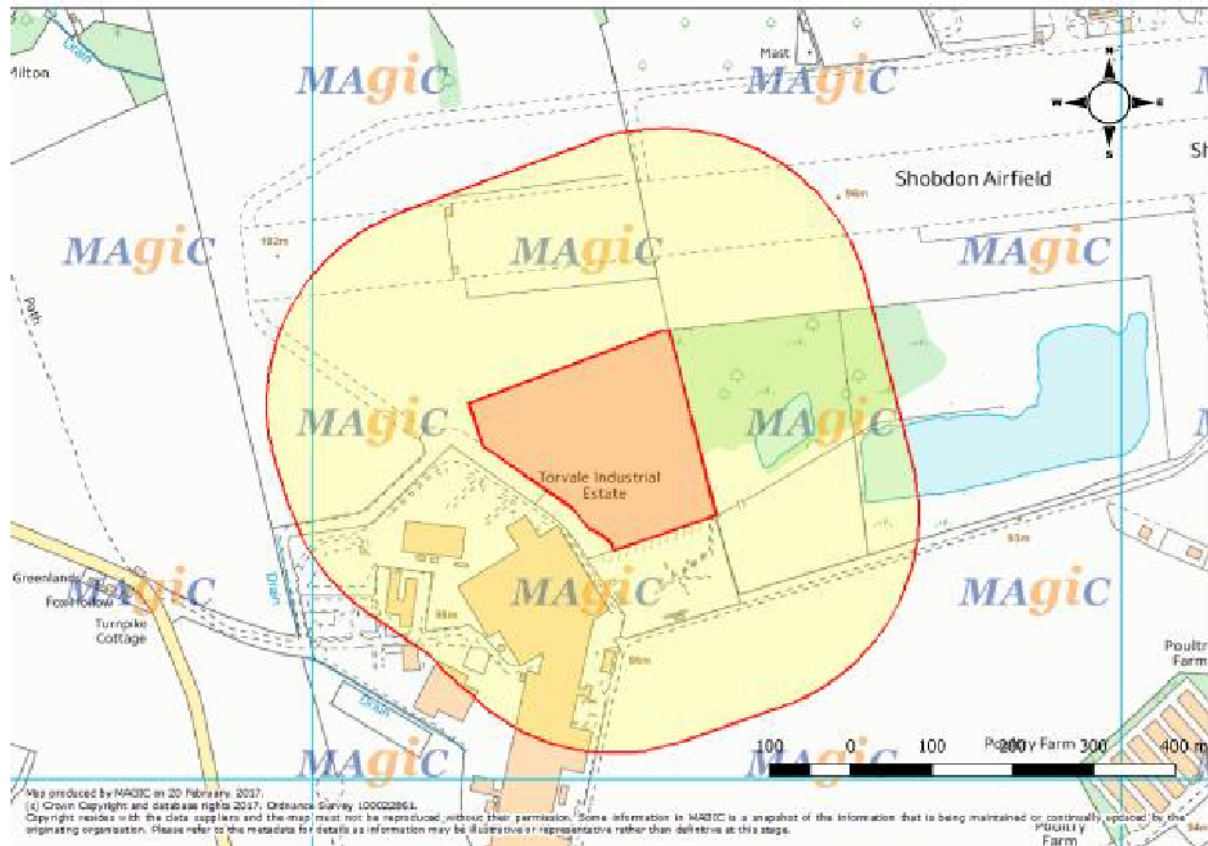


Figure 1. An OS map showing the site (centre, highlighted) and ponds within 250m. Map courtesy of Magic Maps

3 Methodology

3.1 Desktop Survey

The appraisal of the site included a desktop survey which took place in February 2017. Data was collected from the Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) to ascertain the protected species that have formerly been recorded in the area.

A search on Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (Magic Maps) determined nearby designated areas. The map is presented in Appendix A.

Previous surveys in the area were taken into consideration.

3.2 Field Survey- Methodology

3.2.1 Details of Surveyors

Name	Membership of associations/ experience	Licenses
Peta Marshall BSc(hons)MA	MCIEEM PIEMA 10+ years' experience surveying for protected species. Peta has a degree in Applied Biology and has been working in commercial environmental assessment for over 10 years. As a member of the CIEEM she is bound by professional conduct	Holder of survey licences for bats and newts in England and Wales Registered Consultant for Low Impact Class Licence for Bats
Logan Maggs BSc(hons)	Lead Consultant Logan has a degree in Conservation and Land Management. He has 7 years' experience assisting with bat and newt surveys in England and Wales, as well as attending courses on different survey techniques.	Holder of a survey licence for bats in England and Wales
Ben Jones BSc(hons) MSc	Consultant 2 years' experience Ben has a degree in Marine and Freshwater biology and a Master's degree in "Managing the Environment". He has been assisting with bat and newt surveys in England and Wales throughout the survey season of 2015 and 2016 and is working toward a survey licence. He has undertaken training sessions in line with the CIEMA recommendations	Holder of a survey licence for Newts in England and Wales

3.2.2 Location, Date of Survey and conditions

The phase 1 ecological appraisal was undertaken at the site, OS grid reference SO3929 6044 on 24th February 2017 by L Maggs BSc (hons).

Date	Time	Temp °C Start- Finish	Sunset / Sunrise	Condition
24.02.17	1000	6	-	Clear skies, gusty winds, dry

3.3 Habitats

An assessment of habitats was conducted following the "Extended Phase 1 methodology (Institute of Environmental Assessment 1995) and broadly the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Surveys 2010. Target notes were used to identify potential for protected or notable species or habitats, and to give more detailed site descriptions.

3.4 Species

3.4.1 Bats

Trees, hedgerows and buildings were assessed for potential for bat roosts, foraging and commuting.

Daytime surveys were conducted with the aid of a strong torch. Bat species may leave little evidence of their presence.

Evidence for the presence of bats includes:

- Holes, cracks and rot holes used as roosts, marked by streaks of urine and faeces.
- Smoothed, darkened edges where bats have rubbed and left natural body oils when entering and exiting a space.
- Faeces under a roof access point, a well-used feeding point or a resting spot.
- Feeding signs such as discarded insect wings under a feeding point.
- Lack of cobwebs around eaves, roof spaces, beams or ceilings where routes are kept clear by bats.
- Presence of roosting or dead bats in or behind any object.

Methodology used is in accordance with recommendations by BCT, Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd edition, Collins (2016).

3.4.2 Badgers

Surveys were conducted using guidance from Scottish Natural Heritage commissioned Report No 096 (2003).

Daytime surveys for badgers involved looking for

- Scrapings where badgers have dug for food or used as latrines.
- Signs of a sett, including signs of use such as presence of badger hair
- Tracks and prints.

3.4.3 Birds

Evidence of nesting birds, including barn owls using a building, hedge or tree involved looking for:

- Presence of nests
- Collections of droppings and/or feathers
- Highly distinctive droppings or splats under roosting points.
- Presence of owl pellets/feathers

3.4.4 Amphibians and Reptiles

A refugia search was conducted for amphibians and reptiles by looking under any large stones and other debris.

The terrestrial habitats at the application site were surveyed and assessed for their suitability and potential value for the support of GCN. The general topography, ground conditions and presence or absence of vegetation were recorded.

3.5 Constraints of the Survey

All areas were accessible for this survey. It was not conducted at an optimal time of the year for the assessment of flora and fauna, but this is not thought to be a constraint for this site due to its nature as an arable monoculture. Standard techniques were followed. No specific constraints have been identified.

4 Site Description

4.1 Desktop Survey

4.1.1 Designated Sites

The map from Natural England presented in Appendix A indicates that the site is not within 1km of a designated area.

Type of Designation	Name of Site	Site Ref	Reason for Designation	Features	Distance & Direction
Statutory - SSSI	Napton Hill Quarry	15WFK	Geological	Upper Pliensbachian rocks with ammonite fossils	3.8km North

The nearest SSSI is approximately 2.4km southwest of the site. This is the Moseley Common, Pembridge and is an area of marshland that has been unaffected by modern agricultural improvements and drainage.

Local Wildlife Sites (SWS/SINC) recorded within 2km of the site are:

- SO35/04 Disused railway, Kington to Leominster SWS
 - The register states: "A disused railway line, overgrown with scrub and thus forming a good habitat for nesting birds." Date 1993
- SO35/25 River Arrow Leominster, Eardisland and Huntingdon
 - The register states: "A fast flowing river with a rocky substrate in its upper reaches.
 - There is a good margin of mostly alder, willow, holly and more notably black poplar. Aquatic and marginal plants include yellow water-lily, marsh speedwell and purple loosestrife. Various bryophytes grow on the rocks.
 - The site is good for birds, heron, sand martin and kingfisher being amongst those recorded. Otter is known to frequent the river." Date 1993
- SO36/20 Shobdon Pools SWS
 - The register states: "A group of six pools which forms a vitally important ornithological habitat. Old decoy Rough, an area of carr, is also of botanical interest." Date 1993
- SO46/02 Marsh Covert SWS
 - The register states: "An ancient semi-natural woodland of various species, including oak, ash and alder" Date 1993
- SO46/16 Pinsley Brook SWS
 - The register states: "A gravel-bedded, slow-moving stream. The stream supports a rich wetland flora, including yellow iris, greater tussock-sedge, and water avens. The sites forms a good habitat for birds and mammals: dipper and otter have been observed." Date 1993

4.1.2 Open Water

Scrutiny of the OS map (Appendix A) and a walk around the locality showed there are two ponds within 250m of the site. Given the nature of the site and the findings of the previous EIA for the site, no further survey with respect to great crested newts is considered necessary.

4.1.3 Records

Bat species:

- pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus spp.*)
- common pipistrelle (*P. pipistrellus*)
- soprano pipistrelle (*P. pygmaeus*)
- long-eared bats (*Plecotus sp.*)
- myotis (*Myotis spp.*)
- natterers bat (*M. nattereri*)
- noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)

Bat records are mostly found in the villages of Shobdon and Pembridge to the north and south. This may indicate that the area is under-recorded for bats.

Other mammals:

Other mammals include:

- otter (*Lutra lutra*)
- badger (*Meles meles*)

Signs of otter were found in the gravel pits to the east. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Birds:

Significant bird species recorded in the locality include:

- barn owl (*Tyto alba*)

Barn owl records are scattered around the 2km search radius but there are no records in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Amphibians and Reptiles

No records of Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) or other newt species have been found. This may be due to the lack of recording. Common toad and common frog have been recorded to the south.

Plants

Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) have been recorded in 1990, 2km to the east and 1.4km to the south. These records are only to tetrad level.

4.2 Phase 1 Description and Observations

The site comprises of an arable field with the existing poultry unit to the east, a track separating it from the industrial unit to the west and open farmland to the north.

The habitats on and around the site can be summarised as follows:

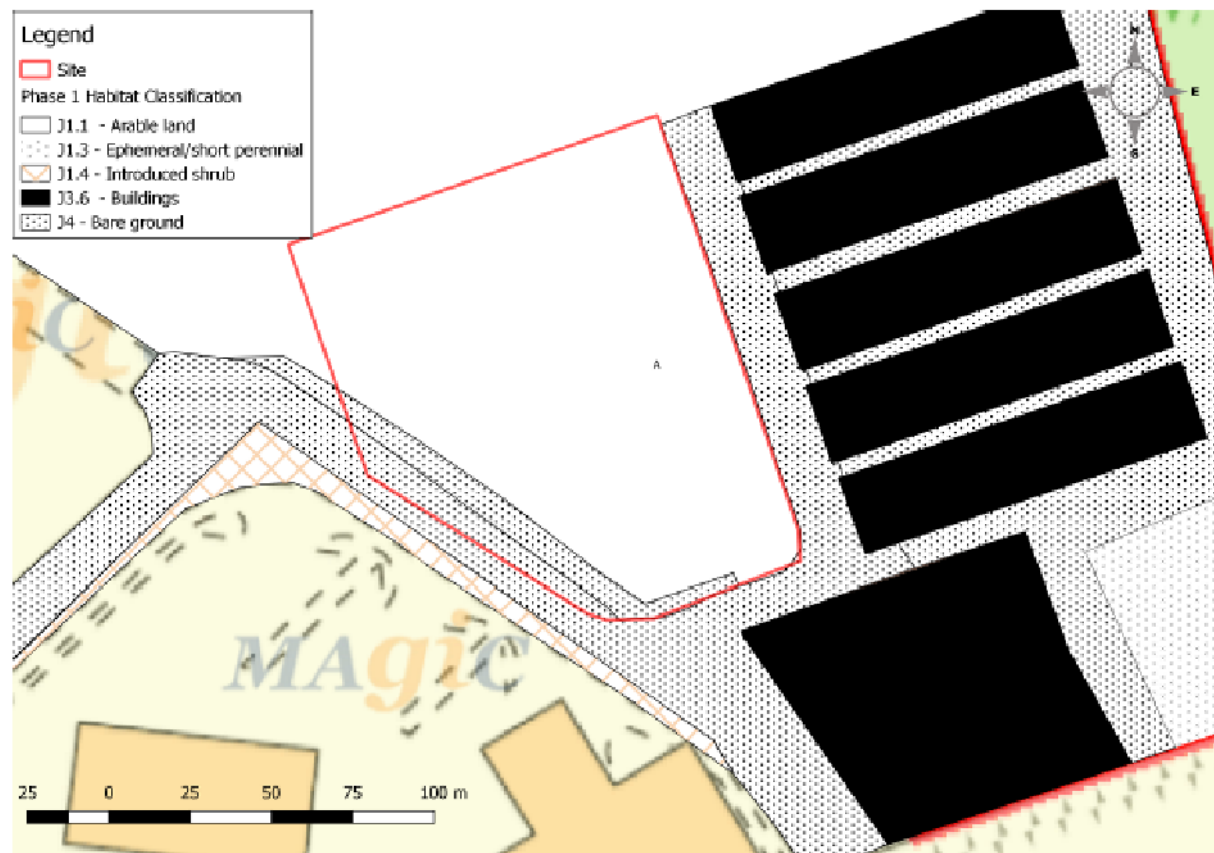


Figure 2. A map showing the JNCC phase 1 habitat classification codes for the site

4.2.1 Field

The field is a small corner of a larger arable field that is intensively managed. Along the western boundary of the field with the track is a strip of gravel shoulder with some larger stone blocks as a deterrent for driving. The underside of the larger stone blocks were examined for signs of amphibians or reptiles that might use them as a refugia, none were found.



Figure 3: Looking north over the field



Figure 4: Gravel siding along the track



Figure 5: Examination under the larger stones

4.2.2 Surrounds

East of the proposed development are the existing poultry units, these are five large metal buildings that are well insulated and sealed. An external examination was conducted looking for evidence of use by bats or nesting birds, none were found.



Figure 6: Looking east over to the existing units

To the south is the anaerobic digestion (AD) unit and site office, as well as an area of hard standing for parking. To the east of the AD unit is a large soakaway designed to deal with run-off from the poultry units, this was found to be dry on the day of survey with terrestrial grasses growing on the base of it.



Figure 7: Soakaway

To the west there is an industrial complex separated from the site by a chain link fence, on the far side of the fence is an earth bund with screening planting along the top. A rabbit hole was found at the base of the fence.



Figure 8: Western boundary showing fence and shrubs

To the north, the arable field continues with no boundary. The surrounds were examined for signs of badger but none were found, no evidence of nesting birds was found in the surroundings.



Figure 9: Looking north from the proposed development

4.3 Habitat Regulations Assessment

4.3.1 Woodland Assessment

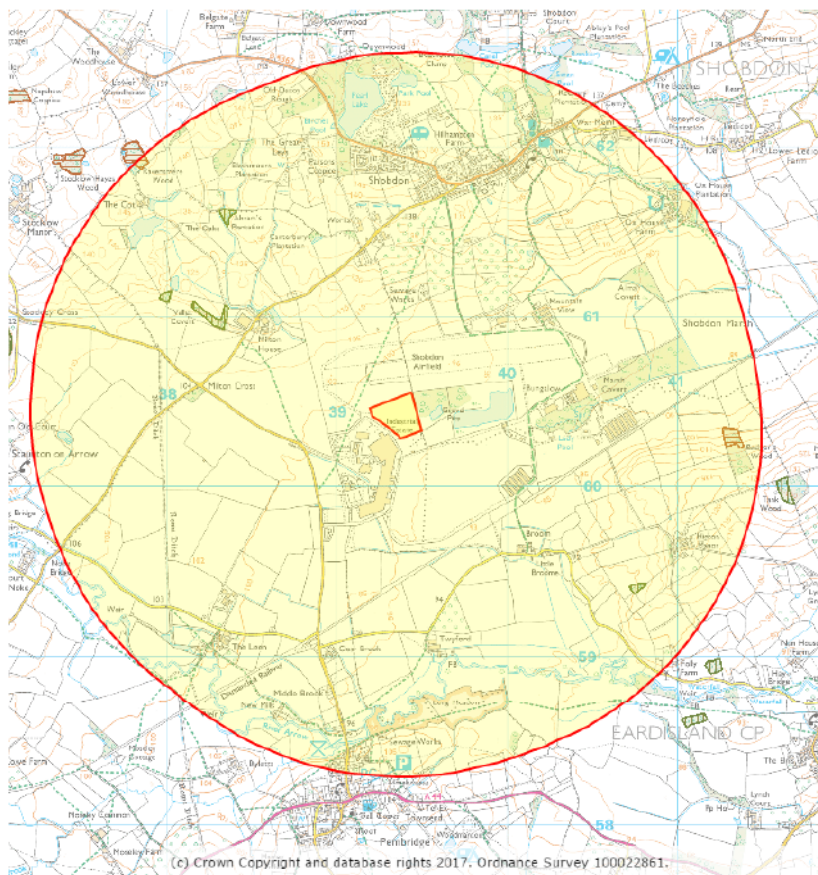


Figure 10: Ancient woodland in 2km

There are no areas of ancient woodland within 500m of the site, no impact on these would be expected. An ammonia screening assessment was conducted by the Environment Agency which looked at woodlands within 2km (shown above), and found that the

predicted ammonia levels were under the critical threshold as defined by the Environment Agency advice. This took into account the cumulative effect of the new units in addition to the three existing. It was not considered necessary to conduct a detailed modelling assessment as the figures were far below the threshold. No impact on any ancient woodlands is expected from the additional poultry units on site.

4.3.2 National Designated Sites Within 5km

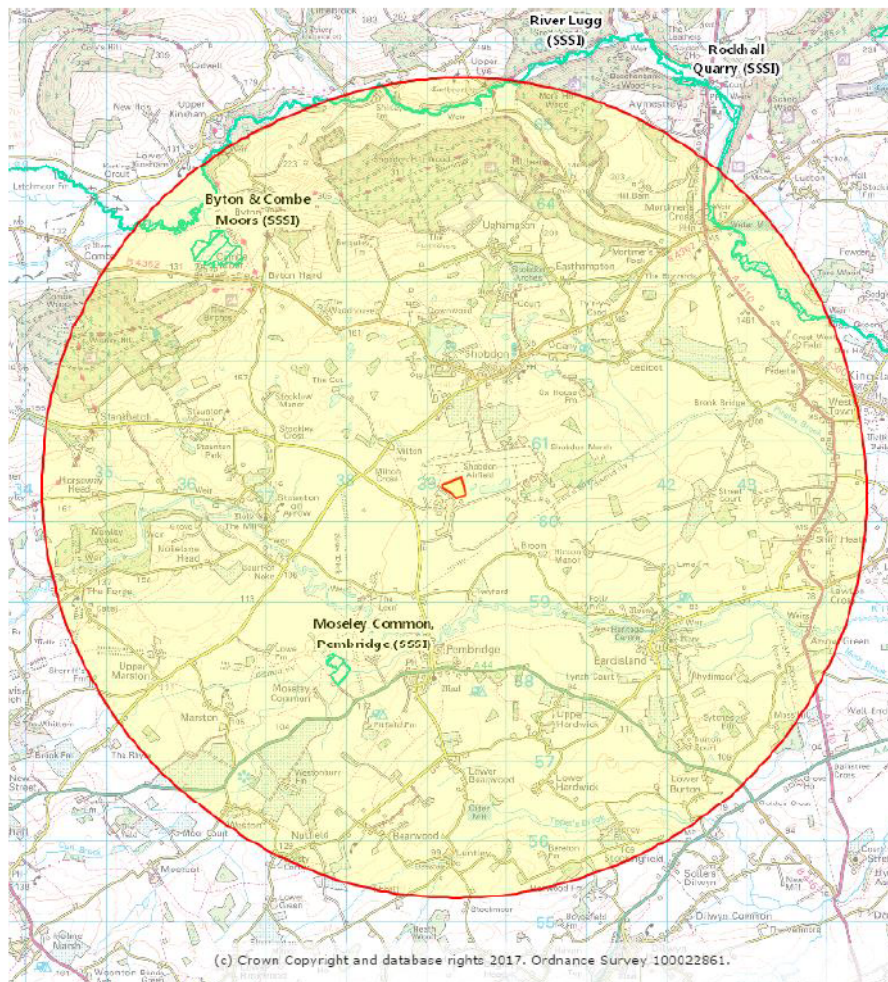


Figure 11: National designated sites within 5km

Site	Reason for Designation	Distance and direction from Site	Connection
Moseley Common, Pembridge SSSI	Marshland unaffected by modern agricultural improvements and drainage	2.4km Southwest	The SSSI is separated from the site by the River Arrow which flows west-east, away from the SSSI with respect to the proposed site. There is no direct connectivity between sites
Byton & Combe Moors SSSI	One of the few large areas of marsh grassland with associated woodland carr habitat remaining in Herefordshire	3.8km Northwest	There is no direct connectivity and the SSSI is uphill from the site
River Lugg SSSI	The River Lugg is considered to be one of the best British mainland examples of both a clay river and a river displaying a transition from nutrient-poor to naturally nutrient-rich water chemistry	4.5km North	There is no direct connectivity to the SSSI and hills are located between the site and the river minimising the risks of run-off

The main concern with a new poultry unit is contamination from the excreta of several thousand birds enriching various sites and altering the flora. The nearest major connective feature that could transport contamination is the River Arrow to the south. There is, however, at least 1.3km of land between the site and the river. Attention must, therefore, be paid to smaller connective possibilities. There are two bodies of water to the east of the proposed site, labelled on the OS map as gravel pits. If contamination were to be washed into these ponds, contamination may enter the ground water, and potentially rise through a spring, such as that 350m east of the large gravel pool. This spring, for example, feeds into Pinsley Brook, which later joins the River Lugg, at a point 8km east as the crow flies. It must be understood that the chances of contamination travelling such a distance and having a noticeable impact are slim, but must be considered nonetheless.

All the chicken litter from the existing and proposed units will be used in the on-site AD plant. Litter will be stored in the covered buildings before being transferred to the plant. The resultant digestate will be spread as a fertiliser on the farm holding in accordance with appropriate guidelines and regulations.

Sufficient spill kits or equivalent measures will be on site to deal with any unlikely event that may contaminate the ground water.

It is considered highly unlikely that any SSSI will be impacted in any way from this development. The connectivity is very poor and the terrain will provide some level of protection to SSSIs that are uphill, such as the Byton and Combe Moors SSSI.

4.3.3 International Designated Sites Within 10km

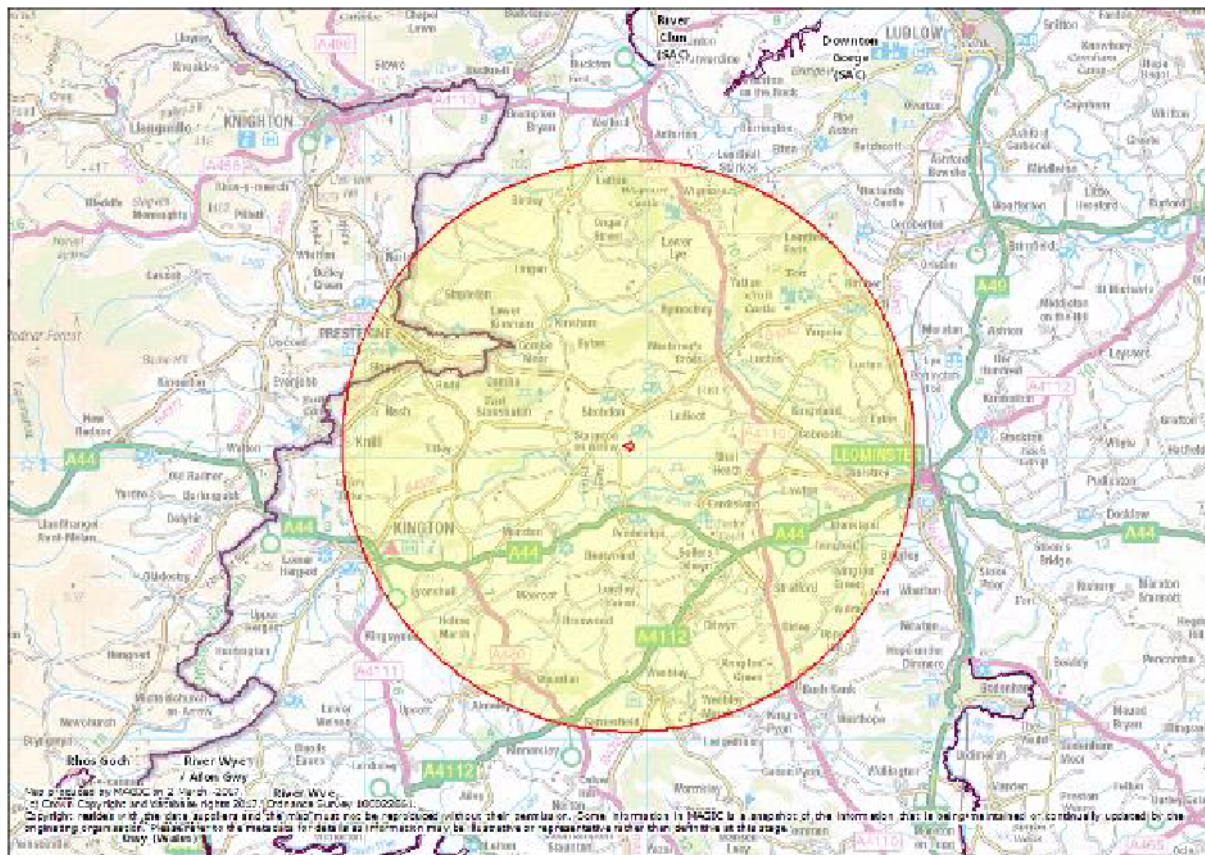


Figure 12: International designated Sites within 10km

There are no SAC/SPA sites within 10km of the site, no impact would be expected from this development.

4.3.4 Summary

The ammonia screening report from the Environment Agency looked at ancient woodlands within 2km, and determined that no negative impact is expected and a further detailed modelling assessment is not required. Therefore, airborne contaminants are not thought to be an issue.

There are only three nationally designated sites within 5km of the site. These were assessed in terms of the connectivity between the SSSI and the proposed development site.

As previously mentioned, the main connective feature is the River Arrow, 1.3km to the south. This is flowing from west to east, and does not join with any SSSIs within the 5km search radius. Smaller connective features were considered, such as ground water contamination rising through natural springs. It is noted, however, that these are thought unlikely to be able to transport any spillage or contamination any great distance. A simple working practise of keeping adequate spill kits or equivalent on site will minimise the risk via these small connective features. It is also worth noting that modern poultry units adhere to strict rules and laws which render contamination highly unlikely.

Elevation was also considered; the site sits at about 100m elevation while Byton and Combe Moors sits at about 130m, suggesting that any ground water contamination would be unlikely to reach a level which may affect the SSSI.

Greenscape Environmental does not anticipate any negative influence on any designated sites within the vicinity of this development.

5 Evaluation of Results

5.1 Potential Impacts on Designated Sites and Recorded Species

5.1.1 Designated Areas

There are three areas within 5km that have been designated as SSSI's.

Given the distance between the site and these SSSI's little to no impact is expected from this development.

5.1.2 Data Search for Protected Species

Protected species previously recorded within 1km include typical bat species, badger, otter and barn owl.

All these species were considered. The site offers no suitable roosting opportunities for bats, and limited foraging habitat. The same goes for barn owls.

There is no evidence of badger in the immediate vicinity of the site, with no signs of latrines, pathways or setts.

There is one record for otters on the gravel pits to the east, the proposed development site offers no suitable habitat for otter.

5.2 Habitats on Site

Determination of Ecological Value is based on the general criteria provided by IEEM (IEEM 2006).

Ecological Value	Description and Examples
High	Habitats or features that have high importance for nature conservation, such as statutory designated nature conservation sites of international or national importance or sites maintaining viable populations of species of international or national importance (e.g. Red Data Book species; European protected species).
Medium	Sites designated at a county or district level, e.g. Local Wildlife Site (LWS), ancient woodland site, ecologically 'important' hedgerows or ecological features that are notable within the context of a region, county or district (e.g. a viable area of a Priority Habitat on the county BAP or a site that supports a viable population of a county BAP species).
Low	Sites of nature conservation value within the context of a parish or neighbourhood, low-grade common habitats, such as arable fields and improved grasslands and sites supporting common, widespread species.

Habitat type	Is the habitat capable of supporting protected species	Impact without consideration
Arable field	Monoculture of low ecological value	No negative impact
Gravel siding	Of low ecological value	No negative impact
Track	Of low ecological value	No negative impact
Buildings	Of low ecological value, offering no roosting or nesting potential	No negative impact

The field, gravel siding and access track are all of low ecological value, offering no suitable habitat for protected species. The buildings construction offer no potential roost features for bats.

5.3 Ecologically Important Species

Species	Observations	Impact without consideration
Mammals		
Bats	No suitable habitat on site	No negative impact
Badgers	No evidence found around site	No negative impact
Water vole	No suitable habitat around site	No negative impact
Hazel Dormouse	No suitable habitat on site	No negative impact
Otter	No suitable habitat on site	No negative impact
Birds		
Barn Owl	No evidence in trees on site	No negative impact
Nesting birds	Some suitable habitat around site, no evidence seen	Low negative impact
Herpetofauna		
Reptiles	No suitable habitat around site	No negative impact
Great Crested Newts	No suitable habitat around site	No negative impact
Amphibian	No suitable habitat around site	No negative impact

5.3.1 Bats

All bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012 which implements the EC Directive 92/43/EEC in the United Kingdom. It is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

- deliberately capture or kill any wild animal of a EPS;
- deliberately disturb any such animal;
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such a wild animal;
- keep (possess), transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange, any live or dead wild animal or plant of a EPS, or any part of, or anything derived from such a wild animal or plant.

A person found guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to an unlimited fine or to both.

To allow a development that might result an offence, a derogation licence can be sought via the implementation of a European Protected Species Licence. This is provided by Natural England.

Work can be conducted under derogation licence from Natural England providing suitable compensation and mitigation is provided and the "three tests" can be met. These are:

1. Regulation 53(2)(e) states: a licence can be granted for the purposes of "preserving public health or public safety" or other imperative reason of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.
2. Regulation 53(9)(a) States: the appropriate authority (Natural England) shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that there is no satisfactory alternative"
3. Regulation 53(9)(b) states that the appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that the action licensed will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at favourable conservation status in its natural range."

In this case, there is no evidence of bats around the site, and no land of value for bats is being lost, an offence is not considered likely.

5.3.2 Badgers

Badgers and their setts are specifically protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The act was primarily brought into force to prevent the deliberate injury to or death of badgers. Some aspects of the act affect developers. It is important that developers are aware of any badger setts located on the land they intend to develop.

All personnel working on sites where there are badgers should be aware of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under this legislation, it is an offence to:

- Damage a badger sett or any part of it.
- Destroy a badger sett.
- Obstruct access to, or any entrance of a badger sett.
- Causing a dog to enter a badger sett.
- Disturbing a badger when it is occupying a badger sett.

A badger sett is defined by the Act as "any structure or place, which displays signs indicating current (within the last 12 months) use by a badger".

There is no evidence of badgers in the immediate vicinity of the site, an offence is not considered likely.

5.3.3 Otter

The European Otter is a European protected species and is fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended 2010). This makes it illegal to:

- Capture, kill, disturb or injure otters (on purpose or by not taking enough care)
- Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place (deliberately or by not taking enough care)
- Obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places (deliberately or by not taking enough care)
- Possess, sell, control or transport live or dead otters, or parts of otters

Whilst there is a record of otter close to the east, it is not considered likely that this development will have an impact on the species, an offence is not considered likely.

5.3.4 Birds

Birds, their nests and young are all protected from damage during the breeding season in particular, by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The Act allows for fines or prison sentences for every bird, egg or nest destroyed.

No areas of value for birds are being lost as part of the development, an offence is not considered likely.

5.3.5 Barn Owls

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Barn owls are listed on Schedule 1 which gives them special protection.

It is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or handle any wild barn owl.
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy any wild barn owl nest whilst in use or being 'built'
- Intentionally take or destroy a wild barn owl egg
- Have in one's possession or control a wild barn owl (dead or alive) or egg (unless one can show it was obtained legally)
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild barn owl whilst 'building' a nest or whilst in, on, or near a nest containing young
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any dependent young of wild barn owls.

It is not an offence to:

- Take a disabled wild barn owl solely for the purpose of tending it until fully recovered and then returning it to the wild
- Kill, injure, take or disturb barn owls if these were incidental results of a lawful operation and could not reasonably have been avoided

There is no evidence of barn owls around the site and no habitat of value is being lost as part of the development, an offence is not considered likely.

5.3.6 Reptiles

Native species of reptiles such as slow worm are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Part of section 9(1) and all of Section 9(5) apply. This means they are protected against intentional killing and injuring, and against sale and transporting for sale.

There are no suitable hibernacula or refugia on site, and the site is of low ecological value, an offence in respect to reptiles and amphibians is not considered likely.

6 Recommendations

To reduce or minimise negative impact on biodiversity, the following recommendations have been made.

6.1 Landscaping

1. It is recommended that the landscaping around the new buildings will include some hedging and tree planting to enhance the area for biodiversity.
2. Plants to use for landscaping will include locally sourced native species.

Plant	Latin Name
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Field Rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Wild Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>
Wild Service Tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>

3. Trees to be used should be from the list below. Oak should particularly be encouraged as it is the dominant species in the vicinity and it supports a large diversity of invertebrates.

Common Name	Latin Name
English Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>

4. The tussocky grassland proposed across the north of the existing buildings for the previous application should be extended along the north of the new buildings.

6.2 Bats

6.2.1 Enhancements for Bats

1. It is recommended that provision will be made for roosting opportunities for bats with the erection of at least one Schwegler 3FF bat box in the nearby trees or on the new buildings. These will be erected at a height of 3-4m and in a southerly, westerly or easterly facing direction, they will not be directly illuminated.



Figure 13. Schwegler 3FF bat box

6.3 Reptiles and Amphibians

6.3.1 Reasonable Avoidance Measures

1. If a reptile is found, the ecologist will be informed, after which it will be carefully moved by hand and placed at the base of the bank to the east of the site
2. All cabins and equipment will be located on firm compacted ground
3. Stored subsoil must be kept in skips or used on day of delivery to prevent the accidental creation of refuges
4. Stored material will be raised on pallets to reduce the potential they might act as a temporary resting place. This reduces the potential for damage or destruction of individual newts
5. All waste will be placed straight into skips to reduce the potential of creating refugia
6. A copy of this document will be kept on site at all times during the construction work.

7 Concluding Remarks

This development can proceed as planned without damage to, or loss of habitat for protected species. The method statements provided in this report will be followed, and works will be done at a suitable time of year. This will result in there being no ecological constraints to the development.

Appendices

A Ordnance Survey Map Abstract

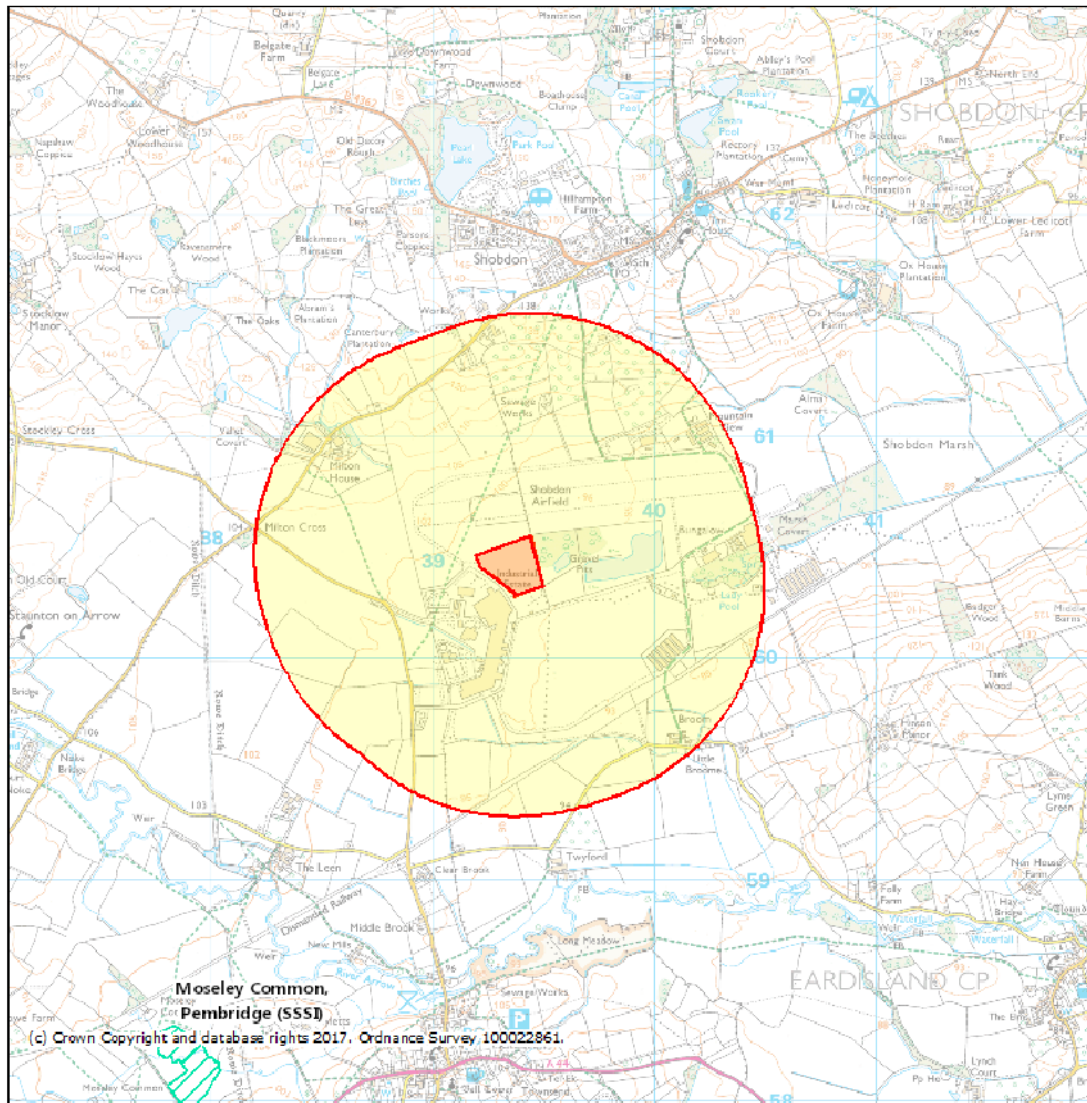
Sheet(s): 1

B Site Plan

Sheet(s): 1

C Bibliography

Sheet(s): 1

A Environmental Map**MAGiC Milton Farm, Herefordshire****Legend**

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)

Projection = OSGB36

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ymin = 258300

xmax = 344000

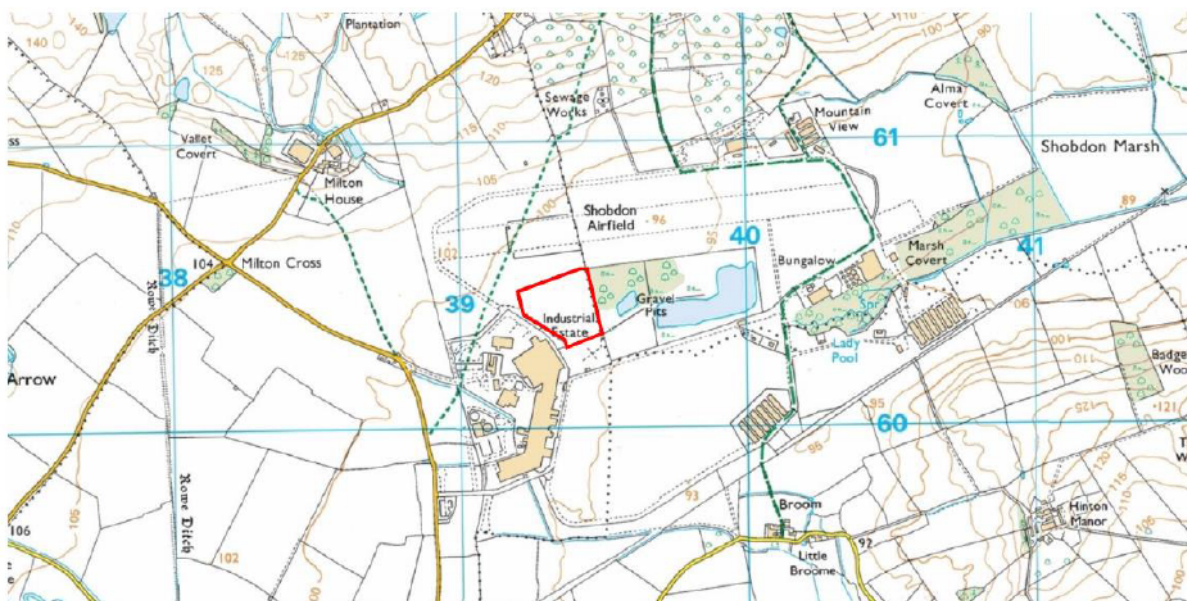
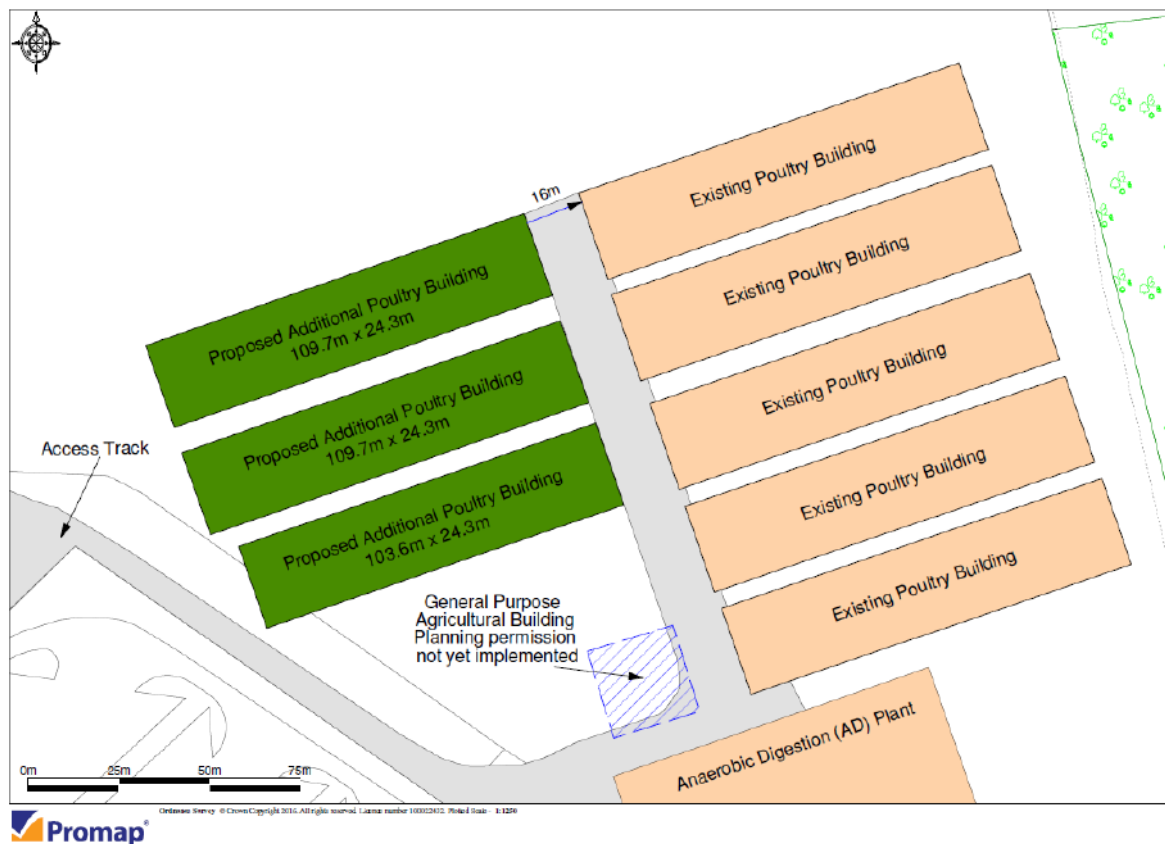
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Map produced by MAGIC on 20 February, 2017.

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An Environmental map for Milton Farm taken from - Nature on the Map- Magic Maps

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B Site PlansMilton Farm Poultry Site
Block Plan

Hereford HA24704
September 2016

BERRYS
1880

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