

Ecology and Existing Vegetation Supporting Note

Proposed Agricultural Building – Springfield Farm

The proposed development is located within an existing grassed agricultural field.

An established hedgerow is present along the eastern boundary of the field, with further tree and woodland cover beyond. These existing landscape and ecological features are to be retained as part of the development.

The proposed agricultural building will be positioned approximately **2.0 metres from the existing hedgerow**. No removal of the hedgerow is proposed and no works to the hedge are required to accommodate the development.

The nearest existing tree is approximately **20 metres from the proposed building**. The trees in this area are not large, mature specimens and no tree removal, pruning or other works to trees are proposed as part of the development.

No ponds, watercourses or other aquatic habitat features are present within the development area, and no such features will be removed or altered as part of the proposal.

The development will therefore take place on existing agricultural grassland only. Construction activity will be confined to the proposed development area within the field, and reasonable measures will be taken during construction to avoid unnecessary disturbance or damage to the retained hedgerow and adjacent vegetation.

A separate **Biodiversity Net Gain Small Sites Exemption Statement** accompanies the planning application. That assessment confirms that the application site is approximately **0.08 hectares** and is below the 0.2 ha threshold for the small-sites exemption.

The assessment also confirms that there is **no mapped priority habitat, ancient woodland, veteran tree or other irreplaceable habitat within the red-line application boundary**.

The proposal has therefore been designed so that the existing hedgerow, trees and nearby woodland vegetation are retained, with the development confined to the existing agricultural grassland.