FUTURESECOLOGY

Yorkshire Choice Homes

115 Westfield Lane, Wyke

CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP)

Report Reference Number: FE257/CEMP01

March 2023

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Yorkshire Choice Properties, to discharge Condition 38 for the proposed development (Application Number: 2020/60/90436/E, 2nd October 2022, Kirklees Council) at 115 Westfield Lane, Wyke (central grid reference: SE16018 26234).

PLANNING

1.2 Condition 38 states:

No development shall take place (including demolition, ground works, vegetation clearance) until a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP: Biodiversity) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP (Biodiversity) shall include the following:

a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities.

b) Identification of "biodiversity protection zones".

c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements).

d) The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.

e) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works.

f) Responsible persons and lines of communication.

g) The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person.

h) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.

The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To prevent significant ecological harm and to accord with Policy LP30 of the Kirklees Local Plan and Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework. This is a pre commencement condition to ensure the proposed development does not have an adverse impact on biodiversity.

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

1.3 The site is located off Westfield Lane, Wyke in West Yorkshire (central grid reference SE16018 26234) and is approximately 0.69ha in extent. The site comprised mainly buildings, poor semi-improved grassland, broadleaved trees and areas of recently cleared vegetation.

1.4 The landscape beyond the site is predominantly residential to the north, east and south-east with open countryside to the west and south-west.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

1.5 Development proposals include the demolition of the existing property on site and vegetation clearance of some tree and shrubs within the garden. The clearance works will facilitate the construction of 15 residential properties with associated gardens (as per drawing no. 2023-018-001 Rev C by DK Designs).

1.6 Trees that are subject to Tree Preservation Orders along the northern and eastern boundary are to be retained and incorporated into new residential gardens. The remaining vegetation will be cleared to facilitate the development.

2.0 IMPORTANT ECOLOGICAL FEATURES & RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 Table 1 below considers the important ecological features within the Site that are sensitive to construction activities and identifies the potential risks to them as a result of construction works.

Table 1: Assessment of Risk to Important Ecological Features (IEFs)

Important Ecological Feature	Risk Assessment
Retained trees	Potential damage during construction of retained habitat areas and / or damage during the removal of adjacent habitats.
Invasive plant species	Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* sp.) and montbretia *Crocosmia* sp. is present in the west of the Site. There is a risk of spreading to previously uncolonized areas through dispersal by people and vehicles/machinery. Causing the spread of montbretia and cotoneaster could result in a breach of legislation (in relation to Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)).
Bat (foraging / commuting habitat)	Suitable bat habitat is present on site, including broadleaved trees, and scrub. Potential disturbance to commuting / foraging routes from noise and lighting during construction.
Nesting birds	Risk of disturbance, killing or injury of nesting birds or damage to nests during construction, including site clearance operations and building works, which is a breach of legislation. The works should be undertaken immediately after a nesting bird check by suitably qualified ecologist. Alternatively, these works are to take place outside of the bird nesting season.
Suitable hedgehog habitat	Disruption via dismantling/moving of suitable habitat/hibernacula, that could lead to the injuring or killing of a hedgehog. Temporary risk of killing or injury of individuals during site clearance / if they become trapped within site excavations.

3.0 MITIGATION / PROTECTIVE MEASURES

PROTECTION OF RETAINED TREES

Protective fencing / buffer zones

3.2 The potential for impacts on retained trees outside of the immediate working areas during construction activities will be minimised through the erection of protective fencing and creation of biodiversity protection zones (see Figure 1 and Appendix A). The biodiversity protection zones must also follow the Root Protection Areas (RPA) for trees. These areas must be obtained from an arborist and be in accordance with current best practice and guidelines (BS5837 Trees in Relation to Construction) as per the Arboriculture Method Statement (James Royston Arboricultural Consultant, 27th February 2023).

3.3 The fencing will be located so that it prevents any inadvertent damage to these habitats throughout the construction, particularly in locations where vegetation is to be removed or during works close to retained or off-site habitats.

3.4 No temporary storage of materials, construction of haul routes, or site machinery would be sited within retained habitats, the biodiversity protection zones or outside of the site boundary and unnecessary or informal access to these areas by construction site personnel would be prevented.

Pollution prevention

3.5 The following pollution prevention measures will be in place to prevent damage to retained trees.

3.6 All fuel must be stored in a double skinned tank or a tank in a suitable bunded area, designed to hold 110% of the tank's capacity, in compliance with the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001. All connections shall be situated within the bund.

3.7 Re-fuelling activities will only be undertaken in designated areas, by suitably qualified persons. Toolbox talks will be communicated to site staff and contractors so that they are fully informed of refuelling procedures.

3.8 Pumps and generators used on the site will have integral drip trays where possible. All items of plant without an integral drip tray shall be stored over a portable drip tray. Drip trays shall be inspected and kept free of accumulated rainwater as necessary. Any oily water shall be disposed of at an appropriate licensed facility. Any cleaning/arisings from drip trays etc. is to be disposed of as hazardous waste in accordance with Environment Agency guidance and current legislation.

3.9 All hazardous liquids e.g., oils, lubricants, chemicals and tins of paint are to be stored in a segregated area in a suitable locked COSHH container and in accordance with the products Safety Data Sheet. COSHH assessments will be available nearby for information in the event of a spillage.

3.10 A spill response kit will be available onsite and accessible to all to control pollution incidents. These spill kits will contain absorbent pads, absorbent granules and methods of disposal of materials and used kit. These kits will be located at appropriate points

around the site which are considered to be at a higher risk of pollution (e.g., refuelling area and next to fuel tanks). Further spill kits and supplies will be located in the stores within the site, where replacements for used kits will be found. Spill kits will need to be regularly inspected and immediately replaced if used. Although withdrawn by the Environment Agency their advice document 'Pollution preventative Guidelines' (PPG6) still provides suitable guidance for such development schemes.

Dust deposition

3.11 Disruption to habitats / populations within receiving range of dust could arise from construction traffic movement, handling of materials or other construction processes.

3.12 Dust will be minimised by the following means:

- During dry spells the site is to be damped as necessary using a water bowser and surfaces kept in good order;
- Regular inspection of local highways and site boundaries to check for dust/dirt deposits shall be carried out.
- A road sweeper shall be employed to ensure site road and local highways are kept free of deposits. The frequency of visits shall be varied depending on the condition noted during the inspections. All road sweeper collections will be disposed of in accordance with current waste management legislation;
- All vehicles entering and exiting the site must remain on the designated areas to avoid the movement and transfer of site debris/mud;
- Vehicles carrying loose aggregate and workings should be sheeted at all times;
- Construction traffic shall be routed to avoid sensitive roads (i.e., residential areas, etc.);
- Speed limit around site of 10 mph;
- Stockpiles of soils and materials will be located as far as possible from sensitive properties, taking account of prevailing wind directions and seasonal variations in the prevailing wind; and
- Stockpiles have been designed to minimise surface area (subject to health and safety and visual constraints regarding slope gradients and visual intrusion) to reduce area of surfaces exposed to wind pick-up.

Lighting spill and noise

3.13 Light spill during construction could disrupt the normal crepuscular or nocturnal patterns of protected species such as bats and other wildlife.

3.14 During construction, any light used on site will be directed into the Site and focussed onto the working area. This will avoid any light spill to retained trees on-site or within surrounding areas.

3.15 Night working during construction should be avoided where possible to reduce lighting required and noise during sensitive times of day.

3.16 Additional measures to minimise light spill during construction should be considered which are based on best practice guidance[1] include a combination of the following steps:

- Avoiding unnecessary lighting;
- The use of low-intensity lighting (sodium lamps or similar), where possible;
- The use of low level and / or hooded lamps to minimise light spill; and
- Minimising light spill with the use of directed lighting.

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES (*COTONEASTER* AND MONTBRETIA)

3.17 Montbretia *Crocosmia × crocosmiifloraare* and certain species of *Cotoneaster* and listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Montbretia *Crocosmia × crocosmiifloraare* and cotoneaster are present within the areas of introduced shrub in the west of the Site, which will be removed.

3.18 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to cause any species listed on Schedule 9 of the Act, to be released or allows to escape into the wild.[2]

Competence and assurance

3.19 Staff working with INNS should have appropriate qualifications and training and should have experience of identification and control/management of the species concerned. Staff working with INNS should be members of a recognised trade association and should be competent in identifying any INNS species that may be present.

3.20 Appropriate records of INNS control and management should be kept. For INNS control or management operations, the data to be collected should be as follows:

- Names, qualifications, memberships and the subcontractor organisation of the operatives carrying out the control;
- Date(s) that work was carried out;
- Description of the activities carried out, including details on any herbicides applied, excavations, materials moved, and materials stockpiled or disposed of;
- Transfer notes for any movement of INNS material (as necessary);
- Mapping showing location(s) of materials deposited;
- Photographs where appropriate; and
- An update report or completion report (as appropriate) for each activity.

Biosecurity

3.21 Biosecurity measures will be required throughout construction to avoid spreading the INNS.

[1] Bat Conservation Trust and the Institute of Lighting Professionals in 2018, 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK' https://cdn.bats.org.uk/pdf/Resources/ilp-guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting-compressed.pdf?mtime=20181113114229

[2] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/section/14

3.22 The Great Britain (GB) Invasive Non-native Species Strategy (Defra 2015)[3] and EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species (entered into force on 1 January 2015) direct landowners and managers to adopt a proactive biosecurity driven approach to INNS management. The Environment Agency, Natural England and the Forestry Commission advocate this proactive approach. In order of priority, emphasis is placed on:

- Prevention (including reducing the probability of accidental spread and identifying spread pathways);
- Early protection and rapid response; and
- Control of established populations (contain/control/eradicate the species).

3.23 Disruptive works (those that will break ground or involve heavy machinery) shall not take place in areas with relevant INNS without Biosecurity Measures.

3.24 Biosecurity measures that must be implemented if required:

- The location of INNS must be clearly demarcated on site with a buffer zone of the recommended width 3m.
- Signs must be erected indicating what species are present, with protection/avoidance requirements clearly stated, see Appendix A for example signage.
- Toolbox talks shall be given to site operatives about biosecurity measures for INNS. (Not required for specialist INNS contractors). Contractors' method statements should be checked to ensure that they conform to this Management Plan.
- Any works on site must be planned to avoid working in the buffer zones to minimise the risk of picking up and spreading INNS.
- Any works required within the buffer zones must be carried out under the supervision of a specialist contractor or suitably qualified and experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW). These must be carried out in a manner that minimises the chance of spread. For example, construction plant should be kept outside the INNS buffer zone if it can work from that location and any excavated material to be removed should be placed straight into wagons used for controlled waste disposal (which must be covered) and taken for disposal at a permitted waste disposal facility or on-site INNS treatment area, subject to prior agreement from the Environmental Agency.
- Any excavation of the INNS for the management and removal works must be conducted by a specialist contractor.
- INNS contaminated soil shall not be stockpiled within 10m of a watercourse; within 4m of a construction area (area involving excavation and / or moving of soil materials); or within a flood zone.
- Precautions must be taken to minimise the transfer of INNS plant species material. Equipment, clothing and footwear should be checked for soil, seeds and live organisms prior to leaving INNS buffer zones, focussing particularly on areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

[3] DEFRA (2015) The GB Invasive Non-native Species Strategy HMSO Crown Copyright

- All equipment, footwear and clothing should be cleaned thoroughly. Cleaning should take place in the location (or immediate vicinity) where the soil or living material originated before equipment and personnel leave the buffer zone.
- Potentially contaminated water should not be transferred elsewhere onsite or offsite. This is particularly important when water bodies are present on site. If a vehicle must enter the buffer zone they must be:
  - cleaned prior to entering buffer zone, with surplus soil and plant debris removed, including from tyres and tracks.
  - cleaned regularly, do not let mud and organic debris accumulate on tracks, tyres or under wheel arches; and
  - cleaned thoroughly before leaving the INNS buffer zones, ensure all soil, and plant debris is removed and contained within the INNS before zone adequately such that it cannot be spread by wind.
- A log of the activities undertaken within the infested/ exclusion zone or within close proximity to the area will be made and included within a Site Inspection Report. A site inspection report of the area will be undertaken every 1 month or following works within the exclusion zone.

Removal

3.25 All cotoneaster and montbretia within the Site boundary will be isolated prior to removal.

3.26 To ensure the roots of the plant are effectively removed, 5m of earth surrounding the plant will be excavated along with the plant itself. Removal should take place in spring or early summer (April-June) when the plants do not have fruiting berries/in seed.

3.27 If in the case of seeds/berries being present on the plant, the stems will be covered (for example with strong paper bags) to prevent the seeds/berries falling to the ground.

3.28 The vegetation will be disposed of via one of the methods outlined in the control of waste section by the specialist contractors.

3.29 There may be a seed bank on the site. Should new stands of *Cotoneaster* or montbretia be noted during works these should be removed following the above.

Control of waste

3.30 All waste will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy (i.e., prevent/reduce, reuse, recycle, other recovery, responsible disposal), taking species biology and habitat requirements into consideration, as well as the future development plans for the site.

3.31 The implementation of biosecurity measures will prevent the spread of INNS and the contamination of soil with INNS material, thus reducing the potential to generate INNS contaminated waste.

3.32 The INNS management approach will seek to prevent or reduce the amount of INNS material that requires disposal through the considered selection of INNS management:

- Treatment in situ to prevent waste generation;

- Treatment of plant material / seedbank soil on site to reduce waste (soil screening, incineration);
- Stockpiling and treatment of INNS contaminated soil on-site with potential for re-use;
- Burial of INNS contaminated soil on site to prevent disposal to landfill;
- Off-site disposal options such as incineration or anaerobic digestion with potential for heat generation; and
- Off-site disposal to landfill (as a last resort).

3.33 A duty of care will be maintained at all times to ensure that waste is handled in accordance with relevant legislation governing storage, transfer, treatment and disposal; to ensure that necessary permits or exemptions are in place for waste management and disposal both on and off site; and that off-site waste facilities are permitted to accept WCA Schedule 9 INNS waste materials.

3.34 Control of waste arising from use of herbicides and disposal of materials used during treatment to be carried out in accordance with the Duty of Care and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002.

3.35 Works must conform to Environment Agency Regulatory Position Statement (RPS), Treatment and disposal of invasive non-native plants: 178[4]. This regulatory position statement (RPS) applies if you want to dispose of invasive non-native plant material, and the substrate in which it is rooted, without a permit.

3.36 If you follow the conditions in the RPS, you do not need to apply for an environmental permit to treat or bury invasive non-native plant material.

3.37 If you cannot comply with the conditions of the RPS and disposal of invasive non-native plant material is required, a permit must be applied for from the Environment Agency[5].

3.38 Any waste containing certain INNS, as well as any contaminated soil, is classed as controlled waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. If required, removal, transportation and disposal of waste must be carried out by a registered waste carrier.

3.39 In addition, any waste containing certain INNS, as well as any contaminated soil, is classed as controlled waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. If required, removal, transportation and disposal of waste must be carried out by a registered waste carrier.

Monitoring

3.40 Monitoring of the site will be implemented to ensure no *Cotoneaster or* monbretia is present post-treatment. If these species are identified as growing on-site during the 12-month monitoring period then physical removal shall resume and continue until a continuous 12-month period with these species do not occur on-site.

PROTECTED SPECIES

[4]https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178#:~:text=This%20regulatory%20position%20statement%20(%20RPS,invasive%20non%2Dnative%20plant%20material.

[5] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-environmental-permits

Nesting Birds

3.41 Building demolition and any vegetation clearance suitable for nesting birds such as scrub, shrubs, trees, or hedgerows should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (bird nesting season is March – September, inclusive).

3.42 Should the works be required during the bird nesting season vegetation / buildings must be checked by an experienced ecologist for the presence of active nests. The check and advice provided will usually be valid for a maximum of 48 hours during which period the works will be required to have been undertaken.

3.43 If nesting birds are identified at any time, then a minimum of a 5m buffer/exclusion zone will be applied around the nest site. It will be necessary to undertake follow-up site visits to check the status of the nests, (usually within two to three weeks of the initial visit). Dependant on findings and circumstances of vegetation removal it may be necessary to undertake multiple follow-up visits. This exclusion zone will be maintained until the nests have fledged. If nesting birds are found, then detailed advice would be provided to the Site Manager by the ecologist.

Other species (hedgehog)

3.44 Suitable habitat is present within the development area for hedgehogs.

3.45 To minimise the risk of killing or injuring hedgehogs, as well as other species, during site clearance and construction relevant safeguards will be implemented:

- A toolbox talk to be given to contractors in relation to hedgehogs prior to any vegetation clearance.
- Ensure that any excavations for foundations or service connections are covered overnight to prevent any animals becoming trapped. Alternatively, ramps (e.g., planks) can be provided in excavations to allow wildlife to escape;
- Any pipes over 200mm in diameter will be capped off at night to prevent animals such as hedgehogs entering;
- Materials such as netting and cutting tools will not be left in the works area where they might entangle or injure animals, such as hedgehogs;
- No stockpiles of vegetation will be left overnight and if they are left then they will be dismantled by hand prior to removal; and
- During works, root protection zones will be established around retained hedgerows / trees so that storage and movement of materials and vehicles are not carried out within these zones.

3.46 Any suitable habitat such as log, brash, stone or wood piles and hedgerows that require moving, should be done so carefully and outside of the hibernating season Oct – Mar (inclusive).

3.47 If hedgehogs are encountered during site clearance works, they should be carefully collected by gloved hand and relocated away from the area of works within shelter.

4.0 ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

4.2 A variety of bird and bat boxes, as well as hedgehog gaps, are to be provided as part of the development. The number of features, specifications and indicative locations are outlined on Figure 2.

5.0 TIMETABLE OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

5.2 The table below outlines the timetable of construction activities.

Table 2: Timetable of Construction Activities

Relevant Habitats/ Species	Measure	Timing
Retained trees	Installation of protection fencing and signage for retained and protected habitats as as per the Arboricultural Method Statement (James Royston Arboricultural Consultant, 27th February 2023). This also includes any pollution prevention measures for dust, oil etc.	Anytime, prior to the commencement of any works on site.
Invasive species (*Cotoneaster* and montbretia)	*Cotoneaster* and montbretia locations are to be marked out on-site with signage and suitable fencing or tape. Removal of *Cotoneaster* and montbretia as per the measures above.	Any time prior to the commencement of any works on-site though ideally to be marked out during the growing season May – September. Any time prior to the commencement of any works on-site, though ideally prior to plants setting seed/producing berries (April-June).
Nesting birds	Toolbox Talks to all contractors on mitigation measures for protected species. Nesting bird checks by a suitably qualified ecologist, of any suitable nesting habitat to be affected i.e., vegetation or buildings.	Anytime, prior to the commencement of any works on site. Clearance to be taken place outside the bird nesting season Oct – Feb (inclusive). If works on-site must be undertaken during the bird nesting season an appropriate ecologist checks to be undertaken prior to vegetation clearance or building demolition.
Nocturnal species including bats	No lighting of retained trees.	Throughout construction.
Bats/nesting birds	Installation of bat and bird boxes.	Any time during construction, in the presence of the suitably qualified ecologist, based on the indicative locations displayed on Figure 2.

Relevant Habitats/ Species	Measure	Timing
Other species (hedgehog)	Toolbox Talks to all contractors on mitigation measures for protected species.	Anytime, prior to the commencement of any works on site.
	To follow good working practices as outlined above.	Throughout construction.
	The removal or relocation of suitable habitat such as log, brash, stone or wood piles and scrubs.	Outside of the hibernating season Oct – Mar (inclusive).
	Installation of hedgehog gaps in boundary treatments.	Any time throughout construction.

6.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 All works at all stages will be overseen and are the responsibility of Palmer Landscapes Ltd. who will appoint a Site Manager.

6.2 The Site Manager will be responsible for compliance with regulations, planning conditions, environmental procedures, contractual agreements and obtaining legal consents.

6.3 The Site Manager will:

- Adhere to prescriptions contained within the CEMP;
- Arrange site-wide monitoring as required during the development;
- Ensure environmental and waste requirements are included on requisitions and in subcontracts and orders;
- Ensure oil, including diesel is stored in properly bunded tanks / including use of drip trays for plant and equipment / refuelling;
- Oversee and maintain records of the agreed programme of habitat and species protection as described in this document;
- Monitor the site activities to ensure that all relevant environmental and ecological legal consents, licences and exemptions are in place in advance of relevant works commencing, and that the requirements are adhered to;
- Ensure contractors are given appropriate environmental awareness training through Toolbox Talks and / or general site induction materials. A training record will be kept of those personnel who have received appropriate training;
- Ensure that toolbox information sheets are made available where necessary during all stages of construction;

- Monitor the environmental performance of contractors and provide direction as necessary;
- Contribute to communication on environmental matters with stakeholders and statutory bodies;
- Monitor implementation of any corrective action required;
- Maintain a record of this document, and any other relevant ecological reports and all environmental monitoring during the construction process, which should be made available or inspection by any relevant statutory bodies as required;
- Be responsible for compliance with regulations, planning conditions, environmental procedures, contractual agreements and obtaining legal consents
- Ensure that a suitably qualified ecologist undertakes any further on-site surveys or monitoring as required;
- Ensure that all appropriate site protection measures are implemented in order to ensure no inadvertent effect upon ecological features. This includes the continued maintenance of any protective fencing during all on-site works.
- Report any environmental incidents to the appointed suitably qualified ecologist and to the relevant statutory authorities; and
- Ensure that any required corrective ecological actions are taken in line with the relevant procedures.

APPOINTED PERSONS

Table 3: Appointed Persons

Site Manager	(To be confirmed prior to site setup) ……..
Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)	(To be confirmed prior to site setup) ……..

6.4 The ECoW will be responsible for undertaking the required surveys as requested by the Site Manager, such as nesting birds and or bat surveys.

6.5 The ECoW can be consulted at any point throughout the works for advice; assistance in supervision (for example the dismantling of the stone wall / log piles if animals are required to be relocated); and or provide toolbox talks in relation to ecology.

APPENDIX A: EXAMPLE PROTECTIVE FENCING WARNING SIGNAGE

Biodiversity Protection Zone

for

Trees and Other Important Ecological Features such as Bat Roosts, Nesting Birds etc.

Keep Out!

Any incursion into this area must be approved by the relevant personnel (such as the Arborist or Ecologist) and may require Ecological Supervision.

APPENDIX B: EXAMPLE INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES (INNS) SIGNAGE

Invasive Non-Native Plant Species (INNS)

DO NOT DISTURB

Keep Out!

Any incursion into this area must be approved by the relevant personnel.

BIOSECURITY MEASURES WILL BE REQUIRED.

DO NOT REMOVE SOIL FROM THIS AREA WITHOUT AUTHORISATION.

APPENDIX C: SPECIES TOOLBOX TALKS

Below are the toolbox talks for each species relevant to the site.

- Nesting birds
- Hedgehogs

ECOLOGY TOOLBOX TALK – NESTING BIRDS

Legislation/Policy

Wild birds are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA)1981 (*as amended*). Under the WCA it is an offence to:

- Kill or injure any wild bird;
- Capture or keep (alive or dead) any wild bird;
- Destroy or take the egg of any wild bird;
- Sell or advertise for sale any wild bird or its eggs; or
- Destroy, damage, interfere with, take or obstruct the use of the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

There is also additional protection for rare breeding birds listed under Schedule 1 of the WCA. This makes it an offence to:

- Disturb any specially protected bird while it is building its nest;
- Disturb any specially protected bird while it is in or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
- Disturb the young of any of these birds before they are wholly independent.

Works

- A check for breeding birds must be undertaken by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) if any works have potential to disturb nesting birds.
- Where possible works should be timed to avoid the breeding bird season (March – August).

Should a bird nest be identified the following procedure should be followed:

- Buffer the active nest from any works (at least 5m, to be agreed by the ECoW). This must be retained until the young have fledged.
- If the nest is identified accidently stop activity being undertaken immediately (ensuring any nest is not removed/destroyed).
- Immediately inform the site supervisor and ECoW.
- ECoW to confirm presence of nest and consult regarding appropriate actions.
- The activity should not resume until the ECoW has confirmed via written approval that works can proceed. Checks of the nest maybe required throughout the nesting period to ascertain the status of the nest.

ECOLOGY TOOLBOX TALK – HEDGEHOG

Hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus*

Legislation/Policy

- protected by British law under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it illegal to kill or capture them.
- Species of principle Importance (SPI) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

Works

- Suitable habitat present on site for hedgehog. This species could be killed / injured during site clearance of habitats suitable for shelter such as brash /log piles, scrub.
- This species could also become trapped within site excavations / trenches during works
- A pre-commencement inspection of the site will be undertaken by the ECoW. This will be followed by a staged approach to vegetation clearance, whereby the vegetation will be strimmed to 15cm (if required) and left overnight to allow any hedgehogs to disperse.
- The vegetation can then be cleared to ground level and must be maintained at this level for the duration of construction to deter hedgehogs from utilising these areas.
- Any log / brash / rubble piles will be dismantled by hand under the supervision of the ECoW. The materials must be either relocated to retained habitat areas, removed from site or stored on pallets to prevent hedgehogs from utilising these areas.
- Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp / sloped end will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.
- Material storage shall discourage hedgehogs taking to the storage by the following means:
    - All storage to be off ground for example the use of elevated stillages - No tipping of rubbish and a clean site policy to be used.
    - All material storage to be checked daily by the site manager or appointed representative for the presence of small mammals.
    - Any netting brought onto site shall be stored off ground and in locked containers to avoid entanglement of animals.
- If any hedgehogs are found in the working area these should be moved by hand (using gloves) to a vegetated area along the site boundaries or in retained habitats.

FUTURESECOLOGY

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Key

- Site Boundary
- Biodiversity protection zones

Phase 1 Habitats

- Buildings
- Hardstanding
- Introduced shrub
- Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial
- SI Poor semi-improved grassland
- Scrub - dense/continuous (mixed scrub)
- Scrub - dense/continuous (bramble scrub)
- Mixed woodland - recently felled
- Coniferous trees
- Wall
- Dry stone wall
- Fence
- Broadleaved tree
- Target note
  TN1 - Tyre tracks creating bare ground within grassland
  TN2 - Approximate location of montbretia

Client:	Yorkshire Choice Properties	Plan Reference:	FE257_01	Author:	MB
Project:	115 Westfield Lane, Wyke	Project Reference:	FE257	Date:	1/3/2023
Title:	Figure 1 - Biodiversity Protection Zone Plan	Report Reference:	CEMP01	Scale:	1:500

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Assorted bird boxes:
Fixed 2-4m up the wall or on a tree facing between north and east. Avoid doorways, windows or walkways.

Quanitity:
1 x open nest boxes
1 x 32mm nest boxes
1 x house sparrow nest boxes
1 x integrated swift boxes

Total: 4

Ibstock Integrated Swift Box

Woodstone House Sparrow Nest Box

Woodstone Open Nest Box

Woodstone 32mm Nest Box

Bat boxes:
Placed at least 4m above the ground, on south, south-eastern or south-western aspects, located away from artificial light sources. These have been located on the edge of the development where possible.

Total: 5

Ibstock Integrated Bat Box

Cluster of 3 bat boxes on tree.

Hedgehog gaps:

Approximately 130mm x 130mm gaps at the foot of boundary treatments, allowing access to gardens. Installation of Hedgehog Highway signs ensure these holes remain open in the long term. Indicative locations provided, placed to avoid direct access to roads.

FUTURESECOLOGY

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Unit 9, The Tangent Business Hub, Weighbridge Road, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Derbyshire, NG20 8RX
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Key

Site Boundary

Ecological enhancements:

- Bird box
- Integrated bird box
- Integrated bat box
- Bat box on tree x 3
- Hedgehog hole

Please note that should the design of the bat box / bird box be unavailable at the time of installation, a suitable similar alternative should be utilised.

Client:	Yorkshire Choice Properties	Plan Reference:	FE257_02	Author:	MB
Project:	115 Westfield Lane, Wyke	Project Reference:	FE257	Date:	1/3/2023
Title:	Figure 2 - Ecological Enhancment Plan	Report Reference:	CEMP01	Scale:	1:500

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