

Construction Environmental Management Plan: Biodiversity

Land off Lingards Road, Slaithwaite

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1. Introduction

1.1.1 This Construction Environmental Management Plan: Biodiversity (CEMP: Biodiversity) was commissioned by Steve Mitchell of SB Homes, on 1st November 2023.

1.1.2 The CEMP: Biodiversity is intended to provide information on the protection of important biodiversity within the site and in doing so also address Condition 9 of planning permission (Ref.: 2020/62/93954/W) relating to the erection of 43 dwellings and associated works at land at Lingards Road, Slaithwaite. Condition 9 states:

“Prior to development commencing, (including demolition, ground works, vegetation clearance) a Construction Environmental Management Plan: Biodiversity (CEMP: Biodiversity) shall be 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.
- a.[sic] Identification of “biodiversity protection zones”.
- b. 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).
- c. The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.
- d. The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works.
- e. Responsible persons and lines of communication.
- f. The role and responsibilities on site of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) or similarly competent person.
- g. 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.”

1.1.3 **1.1.2** The CEMP: Biodiversity is informed by ecological survey work undertaken by SLR Consulting and Middleton Bell Ecology. The surveys were reported in an extended Phase 1 habitat survey in 2015 (SLR, 2015), a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal in 2020 (MBE, 2020) and an Ecological Impact Assessment in 2023 (MBE, 2023).

2. Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Activities During Construction

2.1.1 The potentially damaging construction activities have been identified as:

High risk

- Vegetation clearance
- Refueling plant and machinery
- Night working

Medium risk

- Ground works

- Storage of materials, fuel and other chemicals

Low risk

- Above ground construction activities
- Daytime working

2.1.2 The mitigation measures identified in this CEMP are sufficient to reduce all risks to acceptable levels.

3. Identification of Biodiversity Protection Zones

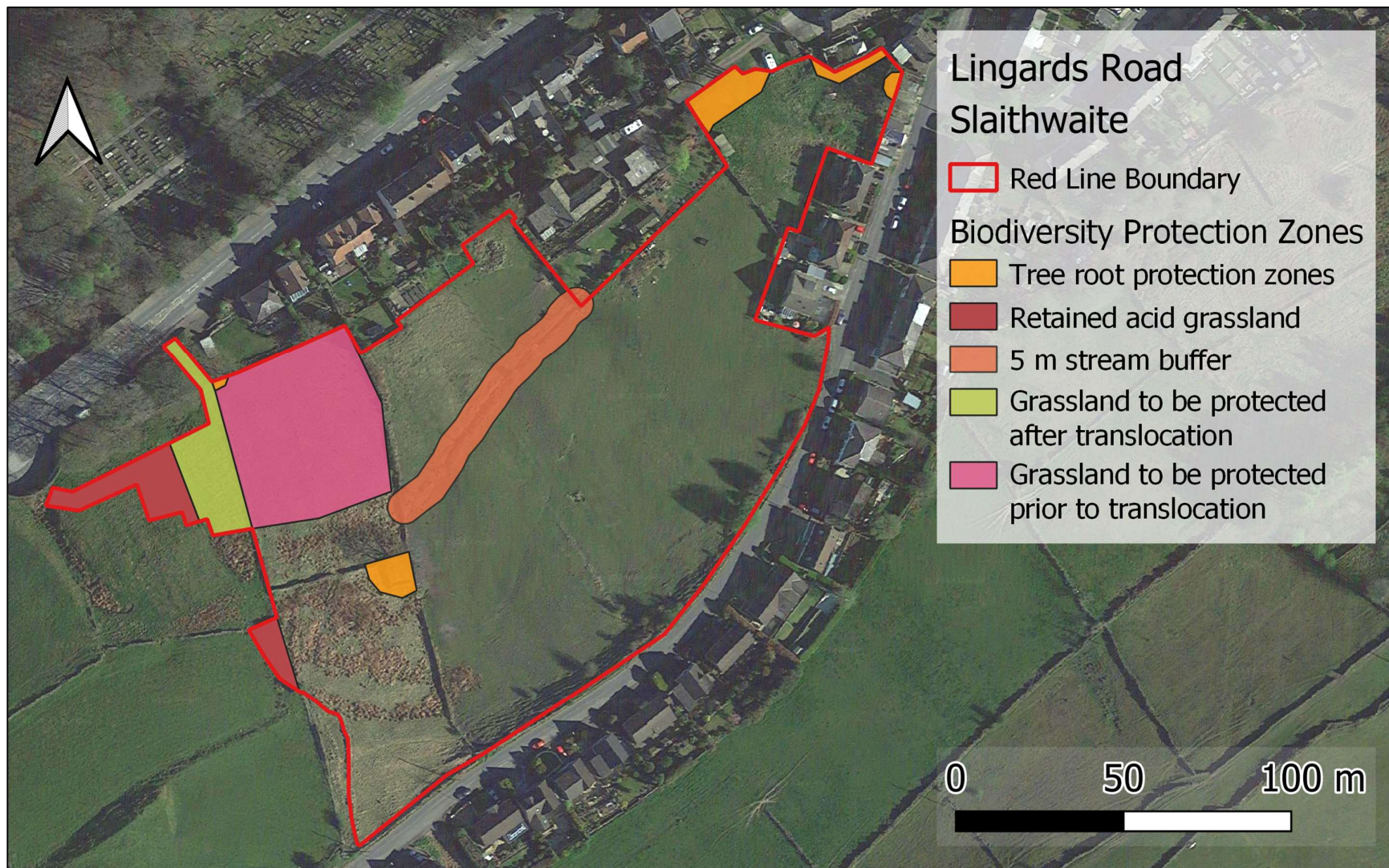
3.1.1 The highest quality of semi-improved acid grassland, including the area of pignut *Conopodium majus*, will be translocated to the western edge of the site. Prior and subsequent to the translocation, this habitat will be protected during construction.

3.1.2 Two additional small areas of semi-improved acid grassland will also be retained and protected during the proposed development. Tree root protection zones for retained trees will also be implemented during the course of construction.

3.1.3 The watercourse, and the adjacent 5 m will be protected during general construction activities. A section of the watercourse will be culverted during the course of the work.

3.1.4 The location of the biodiversity protection zones will be determined on site by the ECoW but is shown indicatively in Figure 1 overleaf.

Figure 1. Biodiversity protection zones



4. Barriers

- 4.1.1 Barriers or hording such as Heras fencing will be used to provide a physical separation between the construction areas and biodiversity protection zones. This hoarding is to remain in place until building and hard infrastructure construction works are completed.
- 4.1.2 Around tree root protection zones fencing must be constructed in accordance with BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design demolition and construction – Recommendations.
- 4.1.3 Barriers should be a minimum of 1.5 m high, suitable to withstand the anticipated wind loading, and easily visible to construction teams. Additional posts and bracing or ballast should be included as required in order to ensure the stability of the barriers during weather or impact events. The fence around the stream should incorporate a silt barrier at the base to prevent silt runoff from the cleared site from entering the watercourse.
- 4.1.4 Fences should be equipped with waterproof signs stating, 'Protected tree zone, no storage or operations within this area' for root protection zone areas, or 'Protected Biodiversity Zone, no storage or operations within this area'.
- 4.1.5 All liquids will be stored in a designated location away from the biodiversity protection zones (minimum distance 10 m) and any refuelling of plant or machinery required will take place here or in a second designated location. Spill kits will be permanently available in the designated storage and refuelling locations and staff will be trained on their effective use in order to prevent pollution incidents. In the event of a spill or if a leak is discovered do not hose the area down or use any detergents. If a significant spillage does occur, the Environment Agency should be contacted: the Emergency Hotline telephone number is 0800-807060. Agency staff may be able to provide advice and assistance, which could prevent a spill ending in pollution.

5. Timing

- 5.1.1 All work within the biodiversity protection zones will be signed off in advance by the ECoW and a record kept of the work proposed, date signed off and date complete within these areas. Aside from small scale exceptions, the work which would be permitted in these areas is considered to comprise:
 - Preparation works for the translocation of the semi-improved acid grassland, and the translocation itself. Subsequent to the translocation, works can proceed without further constraint in the area to be protected prior to translocation.
 - The partial culverting of the watercourse.
- 5.1.2 The translocation of the semi-improved acid grassland should take place in the first autumn or winter once the attenuation tanks have been installed.
- 5.1.3 Where possible vegetation clearance will avoid the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive)¹. If this is unavoidable the area will first be checked by the ECoW.

6. Grassland Translocation Specification

- 6.1.1 The translocation of the semi-improved acid grassland shall be supervised by the

¹ Nesting birds are subject to legal protection which amongst other things makes it an offence to take, damage or destroy a bird nest.

ECoW and carried out in the following manner²:

- The receptor site should be prepared by profiling to the correct depth, anticipating that subsoil and translocated turf shall total a minimum of 500 mm.
- A minimum of 200 mm of subsoil (compliant with BS8601:2013) should then be spread over the receptor area, including the attenuation tanks.
- Turves, a minimum of 300 mm depth and c. 1 m wide by c. 0.5 m long, should be cut by an excavator.
- The Turves should be moved directly to the receptor site and reinstated the same day.
- During reinstatement each turf should be carefully placed to ensure a tight fit with the adjacent turf.
- Turf off-cuts and soil from the donor area should be used to fill any gaps between turves.
- The extractor bucket should be used to compact all turves, in order to expel any air from beneath or between turves. Trapped air pockets must be avoided as these can lead to drying out of turves and the death of component plants.
- Once in place, the turves should be well-watered. Additional watering should take place once a week for the following six weeks unless rain is recorded.

7. Site Induction

- 7.1.1 During the initial site induction all staff will be made aware of the important habitat within and adjacent to the site and the measures required to keep species and habitats safe as identified in this CEMP: Biodiversity.

8. Construction Lighting

- 8.1.1 The site and surrounding area has been identified as having potential to be used by a range of nocturnal species including bats and hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus*. All construction work will take place between 7:30am and 5:30pm. In the event this does not coincide with daylight hours and construction lighting is required, the lighting will be located appropriately, as determined by the ECoW to ensure it is not directed at site boundaries.

9. Features to be Retained, Created, Enhanced and Managed

- 9.1.1 The habitats that will be retained, enhanced or newly created are described in the Ecological Design Strategy (MBE, 2023) along with the aims and objectives of habitat management.

10. Responsibilities

10.1 ECoW

- 10.1.1 The ECoW will undertake monthly site inspections to assess the effectiveness of the measures to reduce construction impacts.
- 10.1.2 The ECoW will complete any supervision and pre-works checks required. The translocation of the acid grassland, and the culverting of the stream should be directly

² The grassland translocation methodology was designed based on the case study provided in Box & Stanhope, 2010.

supervised by the ECoW.

- 10.1.3 The ECoW will hold regular meetings with the Project Manager, or their appointed deputy, to discuss the schedule and upcoming work. These will include an initial meeting, and thereafter meetings on a minimum of a monthly basis. During the meetings the work within the protected biodiversity zones and the results of the site inspection will be discussed.

10.2 Project Manager

- 10.2.1 The project manager will be responsible for ensuring that construction proceeds in accordance with the measures included in this CEMP: Biodiversity, and in accordance with relevant ecological legislation as communicated to the Project Manager, or their appointed deputy by the ECoW during the regular meetings.

11. References

Box J., & Stanhope K. (2010) Translocating wildlife habitats: A guide for civil engineers. Civil Engineering. Volume 163. Issue 3. Pp 123 – 130.

MBE (2020) MBE ECO 13 1 – Lingards Road, Slaithwaite – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Middleton Bell Ecology.

MBE (2023 a) MBE ECO 2020 13 5 – Lingards Road, Slaithwaite – Ecological Impact Assessment. Middleton Bell Ecology Ltd.

MBE (2023 b) MBE OTH 2023 17 02 Land off Lingards Road, Slaithwaite Ecological Design Strategy. Middleton Bell Ecology Ltd.

SLR (2015) SLR Ref: 424.04328.00004 Land off Lingards Lane, Slaithwaite – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. SLR