

**Land off Burn Road, Birchencliffe**

**CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
PLAN: BIODIVERSITY**

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**KNIGHT SKY ECOLOGY**  
PRACTICAL ECOLOGY SOLUTIONS

**E:** [info@knightskyecology.co.uk](mailto:info@knightskyecology.co.uk)

**M:** 07535 457027

**W:** [www.knightskyecology.co.uk](http://www.knightskyecology.co.uk)

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Instruction and Background**

Knight Sky Ecology was commissioned to provide ecological consultancy services in relation to a housing development located off Burn Road, Huddersfield, HD3 3BT. The development received outline planning permission on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (Application no. 2019/60/94051/W).

Part of this commission included the provision of a Construction Environmental Management Plan relating to biodiversity (referred to as 'CEMP: Biodiversity' herein). The CEMP: Biodiversity forms part of a framework of biodiversity protection, enhancement, monitoring and management documents stemming from the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) report (Brooks Ecological, 2020) and the subsequent updated EclA report (Knight Sky Ecology, 2023).

The detail within this document has been designed in respect of the confirmed layout of the housing scheme which incorporates 26 dwellings along with the associated Landscape Masterplan.

## 2 RISK ASSESSMENT

Table 2.1 provides an overview of the potential risks to each biodiversity feature that was taken through the full EclA process (Brooks Ecological, 2020). A traffic light system (i.e., red, amber and green) along with a severity rating (see associated key) is used to indicate the risk rating of such impacts. Risks, both without the implementation of mitigation and with mitigation are stated. A red rating represents a high ecological impact to the feature and potentially, a high risk of non-compliance with the relevant legislation. An amber rating constitutes a moderate risk of impacts and a green rating represents a low risk in which no significant impacts are envisaged with regards to biodiversity.

**Table 2.1. Potential risks to biodiversity features as a result of construction impacts**

Biodiversity Feature	Baseline Description	Potential Risks	Risk Factor (without mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Risk Factor (with mitigation)
<b>Woodland / trees (including Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network)</b>	Broadleaved woodland located on the southern boundary and trees located on the east boundary.	In the absence of mitigation, construction activities could result in the damage of trees through collision, root severance, ground compaction or leaching of hazardous chemicals.	5	The development layout has been designed to maintain a buffer area from the woodland / trees. A Tree Protection Plan has been provided to ensure no trees are damaged during the construction process.	1
<b>Watercourses</b>	A watercourse is present to the south-east of the development.	Potential indirect impacts from surface water run-off and leaching during construction. Potential for siltation effects. Potential for hazardous chemicals / spillages entering watercourse.	5	Use of good practice pollution control measures to be adopted throughout the construction process.	1
<b>Invasive non-native species (INNS)</b>	Himalayan balsam present on the site.	Construction activities may result in the spread of the species or unlicensed transportation off site.	6	A separate INNS Method Statement to be submitted to detail the control measures for Himalayan balsam.	1
<b>Nesting birds</b>	Dense bramble scrub located within the site provides suitable nesting opportunities.	Vegetation clearance in the nesting season may result in the destruction of active nest sites.	8	Vegetation clearance works are timed to avoid the bird breeding season.	1

Biodiversity Feature	Baseline Description	Potential Risks	Risk Factor (without mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Risk Factor (with mitigation)
<b>Bats</b>	No trees or structures with potential to support bat roosts identified. The trees immediately adjacent to the south boundary of the site provides suitability for foraging and commuting bats.	No direct impacts to bats or bat roosts. No night time construction work to be undertaken.	1	<u>No mitigation requirements during construction.</u> The landscape scheme includes the provision of a wildlife corridor which widens the existing habitat network. A development lighting strategy is also to be detailed separately.	1
<b>General wildlife (including badger and hedgehog)</b>	The site habitats provided some potential for use by hedgehog. The wider area is suitable for badger.	Harm to individual animals during construction. Trapping of animals in excavated pits.	4	Tool box talk provided by Ecological Clerk of Works prior to ground clearance. Pre-works check for badger setts. Any works to remove vegetation is to be undertaken by hand-tools with care, whilst checking for wildlife. If a hedgehog is found during works, it will be translocated to a safe area where there is adequate vegetation cover. Good practice measures for excavations including the placement of mammal ladders or ramps to ensure wildlife can escape.	1

Key		
Low Risk = 1-4	Moderate Risk = 5-7	High Risk = 8-10

### 3 MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS

#### 3.1 Biodiversity Protection Zones

The most sensitive habitat features within or adjacent to the site are:

- 1) The woodland / tree line on the south and east boundary (incorporating Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network).
- 2) The watercourse adjacent to the south-east boundary.

Figure 3.1 below shows the location of these features (highlighted orange). Such features provide suitable habitats for nesting birds, bats (when foraging / commuting) and potentially, badger and hedgehog. There is no requirement for any development activities to take place within any such habitat feature. No official on-site areas for demarcation in relation to biodiversity protection is deemed to be required.

**Figure 3.1. Biodiversity Protection Zones**



With regards to nesting birds, there are dense areas of bramble scrub which will support nesting birds, most of which will need to be cleared prior to construction. Figure 3.2 highlights the locations of bramble scrub.

**Figure 3.2. Areas of suitable bird nesting habitat (all bramble scrub highlighted purple).**



### **3.2 Practical Control Measures & Timings**

#### **Woodland / Trees**

A tree protection plan has been submitted which details the protective fencing, root protection areas and areas subject to special tree protection measures in accordance with arboricultural good practice guidance.

#### **Watercourse: Polluting Sources – Controls**

Fuel, oil, building materials and chemicals that have the potential to cause significant damage to the environment would be stored in a safe and secured bund or other container from which they cannot leak, spill or be open to vandalism. Drip trays and absorbent mats/pellets will be used to contain or absorb accidental spillages during machinery refuelling. In addition, stockpiles, plant maintenance zones and storage areas will be positioned at least 10m from the watercourse to limit the likelihood of leaks and spills entering the drainage system.

Other measures implemented to prevent surface water run-off are anticipated to include the following:

- Storage compounds (for the storage of construction materials or temporary stockpiling of excavated soils) would not be located within at least 10m of the watercourse.
- A Site Waste Management Plan would be produced which would be fully implemented when construction begins.
- Areas of bare soil would be kept to a minimum to reduce silty runoff and would be left for the shortest period practicable.
- The use of water sprays for reducing dust or washing construction areas would be carefully regulated in order to avoid washing substantial quantities of silt (etc.) into surface water drains. Where large quantities of gravel, mud or other such material required clearing, the area would be swept clean prior to any subsequent hosing down.
- Storage compounds for fuels, oils or other liquid chemicals would be located away from surface water drains. They would have an impermeable base and impermeable bunds with a capacity of 110% of the stored volume, and if positively drained they would pass through an oil interceptor prior to entering the broader drainage network or receiving watercourse.

- Emergency response procedures would be developed to handle any leaks or spillages. Staff would be trained in their use.

The construction phase will be undertaken in accordance with the following good practice guidelines:

- CIRIA (2000). Environmental handbook for building and civil engineering projects. Part 2: construction (C528).
- CIRIA (2000). Environmental handbook for building and civil engineering projects. Part 3: Demolition and Site Clearance Process (C529).
- CIRIA (2001). Control of water pollution from construction sites. Guidance for consultants and contractors (C532).
- CIRIA (2015). Environmental good practice on site guide (fourth edition) (C741).

### 3.3 Other Biodiversity Features

There are no requirements for separate method statements given the low risks involved; however, the table below details the mitigation measures to be undertaken to the other relevant biodiversity features listed in the risk assessment.

**Table 3.1. Control measures for biodiversity features**

Biodiversity Features	Control Measures	Timing
Nesting Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial tool box talk provided by Ecological Clerk of Works prior to ground clearance to show contractors where all bird nesting habitats are.</li> <li>• Vegetation clearance works are timed to avoid the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive).</li> <li>• All works to avoid nesting habitats (all Biodiversity Protection Zones).</li> </ul>	No vegetation clearance during March to August (inclusive).
Badger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-works check to be undertaken by Ecological Clerk of Works prior to ground clearance to confirm absence of setts (as per previous findings).</li> </ul>	No timing constraints.
Hedgehog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial tool box talk provided by Ecological Clerk of Works prior to ground clearance.</li> <li>• Any works to remove vegetation is undertaken by hand-tools with care, whilst checking for wildlife.</li> <li>• If hedgehog are found during works, they can be picked up and moved to a safe place away from the area of works where there is vegetative cover.</li> <li>• In order to protect animals including hedgehog during the construction phase, good practice methods should be implemented throughout works. These include covering or ramping any excavations to prevent mammals from falling in and becoming trapped, capping any open pipework over 200mm in diameter.</li> </ul>	No timing constraints given the negligible level of risk of hibernating animals.



### **3.4 Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.**

Aside from the tree protection fencing, given the negligible risk to the biodiversity features upon the implementation of the above mitigation, no fences, barriers or warning signs are deemed to be required throughout the duration of the construction.

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## 4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 4.1 Ecological Clerk of Works

An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) is to be appointed prior to the commencement of any construction works and will oversee all biodiversity related aspects of the scheme throughout the duration of the construction programme. The role of the ECoW is to advise on how works should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant good practice, precautionary working measures, legislation and mitigation and to monitor compliance with all measures as set out. Where risks are not being appropriately managed, or unforeseen risks emerge, the ECoW has the power to stop works if necessary. The ECoW should report to and provide any requirements for remedial action to the contractor's Project Manager and / or the Site Environmental Champion (see below) who would be responsible for implementation. The responsibilities of the ECoW are to include (but not limited to):

- Delivery of toolbox talks to contractors in order to explain the ecological sensitivities of the site and the precautionary working measures to be adopted in relation to each biodiversity feature in line with this CEMP: Biodiversity.
- Monitor delivery of the measures set out to protect the watercourse.
- Supervise construction activities where required (i.e., within any areas which pose a risk of impact to sensitive features).
- Directly advise on bat and bird box installation (a bat / bird box scheme to be submitted separately).
- Oversee the delivery of habitat creation / enhancements (this is part of the Biodiversity Net Gain commitments made); and
- Advising on unforeseen risks as they emerge.

Given the low environmental risks, the ECoW is expected to have limited on-site commitments but will be available in an advisory capacity throughout the construction programme.

### 4.2 Responsible Persons and Lines of Communication

The parties responsible for the delivery of the biodiversity (and other environmental) commitments are provided below along with a brief overview of responsibilities.

#### **Project Manager (Contractor)**

Responsible for overall project delivery, construction management and provision of resources to ensure delivery of environmental requirements and commitments on site. Monitor construction activities to ensure that identified and appropriate control measures are effective and in compliance with the relevant documents including this CEMP: Biodiversity.

#### **Site Environmental Champion (Contractor)**

The principal contractor will nominate an environmental champion whose role it will be to oversee the implementation of environmental protection measures including mitigation measures outlined within this document.

Ensuring compliance with environmental legislation, consents, objectives, targets and other environmental commitments, including those arising from this CEMP: Biodiversity.