



A **CAF** GROUP COMPANY

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Blackmoorfoot Road

Huddersfield

Construction Environmental

Management Plan (Biodiversity)

Miller Homes Ltd and Vistry Group and

Countryside Properties UK Ltd

**ENVIRONMENT**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Background

1.1 This Construction Environmental Management Plan (Biodiversity) (CEMP(B)) has been produced on behalf of Miller Homes Ltd and Vistry Group and Countryside Properties UK Ltd (the 'Client') in respect of planning application application Ref: 2020/60/92546 is for: "Outline application (with details of points of access only) for the development of up to 770 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), including up to 70 care apartments (Use Classes C2/C3) with doctors surgery of up to 350 sq m (Use Class D1); up to 500 sq m of Use Class A1/A2/A3/A4/A5/D1 floorspace (dual use), vehicular and pedestrian access points off Blackmoorfoot Road and Felks Stile Road and associated works" and was approved in 2022.

1.2 This CEMP(B) has been produced to address the requirements of the proposed development proposals as described above and has been produced in line with Condition 25 of the approved planning application Ref: 2020/60/92546 which states:

*"25. No development shall take place within a phase (including demolition, ground works, vegetation clearance) until a Biodiversity Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP: Biodiversity) for that phase 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 for that phase.*

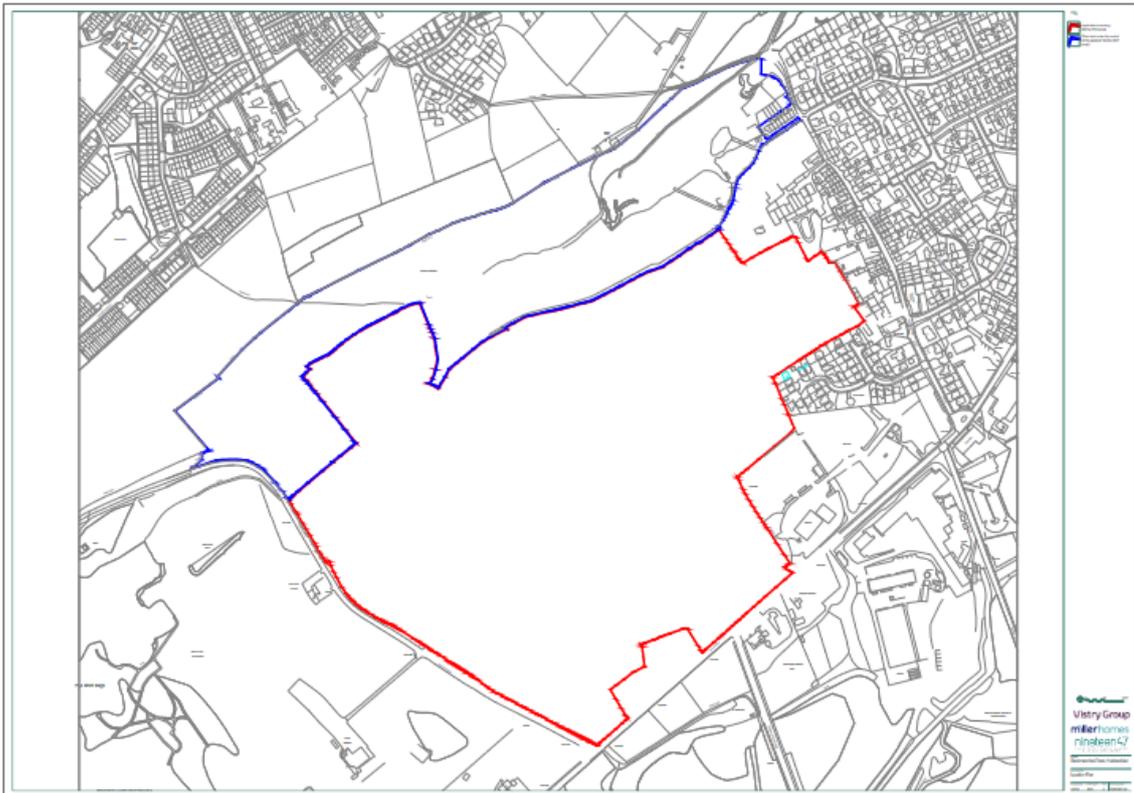
*Reason: In order to protect the natural environment."*

## Location

1.3 The Site is situated on the south western outskirts of Huddersfield and encompasses approximately 41.82 ha of land, formerly a sandstone quarry and since around 1910 it

has been used as a firework factory which was closed in 2023. The agricultural land which surrounds it to the north east and west sides has remained largely undeveloped.

- 1.4 The main Site comprises a range of buildings and infrastructure with grassland and grassland, areas of heathland, mixed scrub, bramble scrub, woodland, developed land; sealed surface, artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface, buildings, lines of trees and individual trees.
- 1.5 The location of the Site can be found in **Figure 1.1**.



**Figure 1—1: Site Location Plan**

### **Previous Ecology Reports and Surveys**

- 1.6 The following previous reports for the Site were reviewed to identify the ecological constraints at the Site in order to inform this document:
  - Conops Entomology Ltd (2024) A Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment: Blackmoorfoot Road. Report Ref: 24.02.
  - Ebsford (2022) Blackmoorfoot Road. Drawing Ref: Blackmoorfoot Road – JK/HB-A4L-001.
  - Ebsford (2024) Invasive Species Survey Update. Email dated 11 June 2024.
  - Ecus (2023) Land off Blackmoorfoot Road, Huddersfield: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Ref 20899. Ecus Ltd, Sheffield.
  - Ecus (2024) Blackmoorfoot Additional Buildings – Dusk Emergence Surveys. 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. Ref 20899/JS. Ecus Ltd, Sheffield.

- Ecus (2024) Blackmoorfoot Rd – Badger Activity Survey Interim Report. 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Ref 20899/ST. Ecus Ltd, Sheffield.
- Ecus (2024) Blackmoorfoot Rd – Badger Survey Report. August 2024. Ref V1.0. Ecus Ltd, Sheffield.
- Ecus (2024) Land off Blackmoorfoot Road, Huddersfield: Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment. Ref 20899. Ecus Ltd, Sheffield.
- Ecus (2024) Reptile Survey Report: Land off Blackmoorfoot Road, Huddersfield. Report Ref: 20899 V1.0/
- Lithos (2024) Remediation Strategy: Land at Black Cats, Blackmoorfoot Road, Huddersfield. Report Ref: 4486/3B.
- Tyler Grange (2024) Crosland Hill, Huddersfield: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment. Tyler Grange.

### Existing Site - Habitats

- 1.7 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecus, 2023) describes the habitats within the Site as follows:

*"The Site is a total of circa 45 ha, and comprises other neutral grassland and modified grassland, areas of heathland, mixed scrub, bramble scrub and willow scrub, woodland, developed land; sealed surface, artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface, buildings, lines of trees and individual trees".*

### Existing Site - Species

- 1.8 Specific species surveys undertaken at the Site in 2023 and 2024 included:

- Nocturnal Bat Survey of five buildings (Ecus, 2024)
- Badger survey and monitoring (Ecus, 2024)
- Reptile survey (Ecus, 2024)
- Terrestrial invertebrate survey (Conops Entomology Ltd, 2024)
- Invasive species survey update (Ebsford, 2024)

- 1.9 Species determined to be likely utilising the Site/impacted by the development proposals included those listed below:

- **Common amphibians** potentially present at the Site: amphibian Reasonable Avoidance Measures are recommended by the PEA report (Ecus, 2023);
- **Nesting birds:** potentially nesting in buildings and vegetation, including ground nesting, further survey recommended (Ecus, 2023);
- **Hedgehog:** foraging and refuging: sensitive timings and approach to vegetation clearance was recommended (Ecus, 2023);
- **Invasive species** Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, and horsetail present at the Site. Management currently underway by a specialist contractor (Ebsford, 2024);

- **Roosting Bats (buildings):** buildings offer suitability for roosting bats, a sensitive lighting strategy and further surveys were recommended (Ecus, 2023);
- **Roosting Bats (trees):** a large number of trees will be lost to facilitate the development and a ground level tree inspection is recommended (Ecus, 2023);
- **Foraging and commuting bats:** Site considered to offer high suitability, with further surveys recommended (Ecus, 2023);
- **Invertebrates:** assemblage of local (low) importance no mitigation measures recommended for site clearance works. d (Conops Entomology Ltd, 2024); and,
- **Reptiles:** unlikely present at the Site, precautionary Site clearance measures recommended (Ecus, 2024).

1.10 The following surveys were recommended by Ecus within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2023), with the results of these surveys not provided for this CEMP(B):

- Breeding Bird Surveys;
- Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment of the trees;
- Foraging and Commuting bats (bat activity surveys); and,
- Further bat activity surveys of the trees and buildings (other than those completed in 2024) (Ecus, 2024).

1.11 For the purpose of the CEMP(B), those species listed above are considered potentially present at the Site and therefore measures to reduce impacts and avoid harm have been provided. Species not listed above are considered not likely present at the Site and were scoped out as part of the PEA (Ecus, 2023).

### **Designated Sites**

1.12 Glenholt Woods LNR and Delves Wood LWS are the closest designated sites within 2 km. The PEA report (Ecus, 2023) recommends that:

*“In order to protect local designated sites, general principles of pollution prevention should be adhered to. Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) documents produced by NRW, NIEA and SEPA should be referred to for site works which may impact the local environment. Relevant examples include:*

- *GPP5 – works and maintenance in or near water (NRW, NIEA and SEPA, 2018),*
- *GPP21 – pollution incident response planning (NRW, NIEA and SEPA, 2017) and*
- *GPP22 – dealing with spills (NRW, NIEA and SEPA, 2018”.*

## Impacts Summary

1.13 It is considered that the Site clearance, including vegetation clearance works and construction works at the Site, could potentially impact the following species:

- Retained habitats;
- Designated Sites within 2 km;
- Common amphibians;
- Roosting bats;
- Foraging and commuting bats;
- Nesting birds;
- Reptiles;
  
- Hedgehogs;
- Invasive species; and,
- Other mammals.

## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 **Table 2.1** shows the potential risks during the construction phase and the proposed control measures. Control measures will be discussed in greater detail further into the report.

**Table 2.1: Risk Assessment and Mitigation**

Significant Hazard	Pre-control Likelihood	Pre-control Severity	Control Measures	Post-control Likelihood	Post-control Severity	Risk
<b>Retained Habitats and Designated Sites</b>						
Risk of pollutants impacting the retained habitats/designated sites during the Site clearance and construction phases	5	5	Good practice measures during the Site clearance and construction works	2	3	3
Damage to retained habitats/designated sites from, e.g., movement of plant, storage of materials, pollution etc	5	5	Installation of fencing. Best practice guidelines and pollution prevention techniques to be followed.	1	3	3
<b>Common Amphibians</b>						
Risk of harm or killing of amphibians during vegetation and Site clearance works	6	4	Clearing of habitats under a precautionary method statement. Checks of vegetation bases prior to removal	2	3	3
Risk of amphibians becoming trapped in open excavations	6	4	Follow best practice guidelines / appropriate mitigation requirements	1	3	3
<b>Foraging and Commuting Bats</b>						
Risk of foraging and commuting bats disturbed during night works	6	6	Avoidance of any lightworks on the Biodiversity Protection Zones	1	3	3
Risk of important bat commuting and or foraging site removed or damaged	6	6	Further surveys to identify the current use of the Site by foraging and commuting bats which will also inform mitigation requirements	2	2	2
<b>Roosting Bats</b>						

Significant Hazard	Pre-control Likelihood	Pre-control Severity	Control Measures	Post-control Likelihood	Post-control Severity	Risk
Risk of bat roosting place disturbed, damaged or destroyed during building demolition and tree felling	10	10	Surveys in line with current best practice guidelines to inform appropriate mitigation should be undertaken. An appropriate licence from Natural England should be obtained.	1	5	5
<b>Nesting Birds</b>						
Risk to breeding birds during any building demolition. vegetation clearance including ground clearance	10	10	Conduct all vegetation clearance works outside of main breeding season (March to August) or checks undertaken by a Suitability Qualified Ecologist. Undertake a check for nesting birds within buildings all year round.	1	4	4
<b>Reptiles</b>						
Risk of harm or killing of reptiles during vegetation and Site clearance works	3	5	Precautionary Working Methods to be followed	1	2	2
Risk of reptiles becoming trapped in open excavations	3	5	Follow best practice guidelines and Precautionary Working Methods	1	2	2
				4	5	5
				1	2	3

Significant Hazard	Pre-control Likelihood	Pre-control Severity	Control Measures	Post-control Likelihood	Post-control Severity	Risk
<b>Hedgehog</b>						
Risk of hedgehog becoming trapped in open excavations/harmed during Site clearance.	5	5	Follow best practice guidelines Sensitive approach to vegetation clearance Presence of EcOW	1	3	3
<b>Invasive Species</b>						
Risk of spreading Schedule 9 species	10	8	Pre works Site personnel toolbox talk Fencing to protect areas from accidental encroachment Biosecurity measures Specialist method statement and advice to be sought and followed	4	6	6
<b>Other Mammals</b>						
Risk of mammals becoming trapped in open excavations/harmed during Site clearance	5	5	Follow best practice guidelines	1	2	2
<b>Key:</b>						
Low Risk (1-4)		Moderate Risk (5-7)		High Risk (8-10)		

### **3. PRE-COMMENCEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

3.1 Due to the presence of protected and invasive species within the Site, the following mitigation measures should be undertaken prior to any commencement of works including site clearance works:

- **Fencing of biodiversity protection zones** as outlined on Drawing 1 and other areas requiring protection – such as the invasive species (see separate Invasive Species Management Plan produced by Ebsford Environmental Ltd).
- **Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment** to assess the trees within the Site for their suitability to support roosting bats in line with best practice guidelines (Colins, 2023). This should be undertaken by a suitability qualified bat licenced ecologist and will inform if any further mitigation measures are required i.e. aerial inspections and nocturnal surveys.
- **Mitigation Strategy and any associated European Protected Species Licences** for the badger setts identified at the Site; and,
- **Further nocturnal bat surveys** of the buildings at the Site, and potentially the trees (or climb inspect surveys where appropriate). This should include all buildings with low to high bat roost potential as recommended within the Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (Ecus, 2024) to determine further mitigation requirements i.e. Natural England Protected Species Licenses.

## 4. MEASURES TO AVOID OR REDUCE IMPACTS DURING SITE CLEARANCE WORKS

- 4.1 The following impacts and associated mitigation measures are relevant to the habitats and protected or notable species identified to be present at the Site or potentially present at the Site which could be impacted by the Site clearance and vegetation clearance works.

### Habitats and Designated Sites

- 4.2 All habitats to be retained within the Site will be protected during the Site clearance works through the installation of Heras fencing or similar and will be known as a Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ).
- 4.3 The habitats to be retained and protected are provided as Biodiversity Protection Zones with areas to be implemented as dark corridors are provided on **Figure 4.1**, below. The BPZ has been based on the landscape masterplan Drawing Ref GLY0043 MP01 (Golby+Luck, 2024) and should be updated when a finalised layout is published and any additional species mitigation is known such as the location of any badger and bat mitigation. An example of the fencing to be installed is shown in **Figure 5.1**, within **Section 5** of this report with more details relating to appropriate signage and procedures relating to the BPZ.



Figure 4—1: Biodiversity Protection Zones



## **Bats**

### Roosting - Trees

- 4.8 Prior to the start of works a preliminary Bat Roost Assessment including additional nocturnal and/or climbed aerial inspections of the trees identified to have moderate or high potential for roosting bats in line with best practice guidelines (Collins, 2023) should be undertaken – see the Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (Ecus, 2024) and Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecus, 2023).
- 4.9 These bat surveys should inform any further mitigation requirements for the trees within the Site in relation to mitigation. This also includes obtaining licences from Natural England for any bat roosts identified. The BPZ may need to be amended based on these results.
- 4.10 No trees should be felled or have any maintenance works until the update bat surveys have been completed. No trees should be subject to any artificial lighting until the bat surveys and mitigation requirements are known.

### Roosting - Buildings

- 4.11 All buildings to be demolished and assessed as having potential to support roosting bats should be subject to further surveys in line with best practice guidelines (Collins, 2023). No works to any buildings including demolition should be undertaken until these surveys have been completed – see the Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (Ecus, 2024) and Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecus, 2023).
- 4.12 Where bat roosts are identified, appropriate mitigation and compensation requirements will need to be agreed as part of the Natural England European Protected Species Licencing process.
- 4.13 No buildings should be subject to any artificial lighting until the bat surveys and mitigation requirements are known.

### Foraging and Commuting

- 4.14 No Site clearance works should be undertaken until a suite of bat activity surveys in line with current bat survey guidelines (Collins, 2023) has been undertaken – see the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecus, 2023). Important foraging or commuting routes may be present at the Site and suitable mitigation or compensation will need to be put in place prior to any Site clearance works.
- 4.15 Any lighting utilised during the Site clearance phase of the development should follow best practice guidelines outlined in Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK (2023) to maintain suitable foraging and commuting routes along the Biodiversity Protection Zones. These zones should remain as dark corridors at all times and if any works are required within close proximity, then floodlights should be directed away from these areas and no nightworks should take place.

- 4.16 Any lighting within close proximity to the Biodiversity Protection Zone or within this zone should not measure any more than 0.5lux.

### **Nesting birds**

- 4.17 A suite of bird surveys should be undertaken at the Site prior to the start of Site clearance works. The surveys should be in line with the Bird Survey Guidelines (2023) and should inform mitigation and compensation requirements for the development – see the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecus, 2023).
- 4.18 To avoid disturbance to nesting birds, vegetation removal, including ground clearance will be undertaken outside the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive), unless preceded by a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified Ecologist. Works outside of this period should still be preceded by a nesting birds check conducted by the contractors, as some species can nest year-round.
- 4.19 Any buildings to be demolished should also be subject to a nesting bird check within 48 hours prior to demolition. Some species such as feral pigeon can nest all year round.

### **Reptiles**

- 4.20 The suite of reptile surveys identified that reptiles were likely absent from the Site. The report recommended that a precautionary method of working should be undertaken at the Site during Site clearance including vegetation clearance works (Ecus, 2024).
- 4.21 The Precautionary Working Methodology for reptile and amphibians has been provided in **Appendix 1**.

### **Common Amphibians**

- 4.22 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecus, 2023) considered it highly unlikely that great crested newts would be present within the Site.
- 4.23 As discussed in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecus, 2023) *'In the unlikely event that a GCN is encountered during the works, works must cease and an ecologist should be contacted for advice on how to proceed'*.
- 4.24 A working methodology including measures to protect common amphibians (as well as reptiles) during the vegetation and Site clearance phase of the development has been provided within Appendix 1. Works should be undertaken fully in accordance with this Method Statement.

### **Invasive Species**

- 4.25 Ebsford Environmental Ltd has produced an invasive species management plan and works to control the invasive species identified at the Site have already commenced.
- 4.26 Prior to the start of works on-Site all areas of invasive species should be identified and fenced off with suitable buffer zones to prevent spread. All other measures including

biodiversity and control measures outlined within the management plan should be strictly adhered to.

### **Hedgehogs and Other Mammals**

- 4.27 All wild mammals are protected from harm under The Protection of Wild Mammals Act 1996. To protect hedgehogs and other mammals during the vegetation and Site clearance works the methodology outlined in Appendix 1 is considered sufficient to protect hedgehogs and other mammals during the clearance works.
- 4.28 If any hedgehogs are found they should be left in situ, all works should cease within the vicinity of the area and either a suitability qualified ecologist or the hedgehog preservation society should be contacted for further advice. In most cases the hedgehog can be moved by hand to a nearby off-Site place of safety. However, dependant on the time of year, i.e. if temperatures are low (below 5°C) and the hedgehog was found within the hedgehog hibernation season (from November to March) then it may be necessary to take the hedgehog to a wildlife sanctuary. Moving a pregnant hedgehog or hedgehog with young can also result in mortality and therefore the hedgehog should be left, and advice sought wherever possible.

## 5. MEASURES TO AVOID OR REDUCE IMPACTS DURING CONSTRUCTION

5.1 The following impacts and associated mitigation measures are relevant to the habitats and protected or notable species identified to be present at the Site or potentially present at the Site, which may be impacted by the construction works. During the Site induction, all Site personnel will be made aware of the following ecological features.

### Retained Habitats and Designated Sites

5.2 The retained habitats identified within the Biodiversity Protection Zones, as shown above in **Figure 4.1** will be fenced where reasonably practicable using Heras fencing or similar which will remain in place for the duration of the construction works at the Site. The BPZ has been based on the landscape masterplan Drawing Ref GLY0043 MP01 (Golby+Luck, 2024) and should be updated when a finalised layout is published. An example of the fencing to be installed is shown in **Figure 5.1** below.

5.3 No works will take place within these zones, and they will not be entered at any time by personnel, plant, or equipment. There will be no vegetation clearance within these zones without the supervision of an Ecologist and no storage of any materials.

5.4 Additionally, best practice guidelines will be followed to ensure pollution prevention measures are adhered to. This should include the provision of dedicated plant and equipment refuelling areas on hard standings and a dust management plan provided by the contractor.

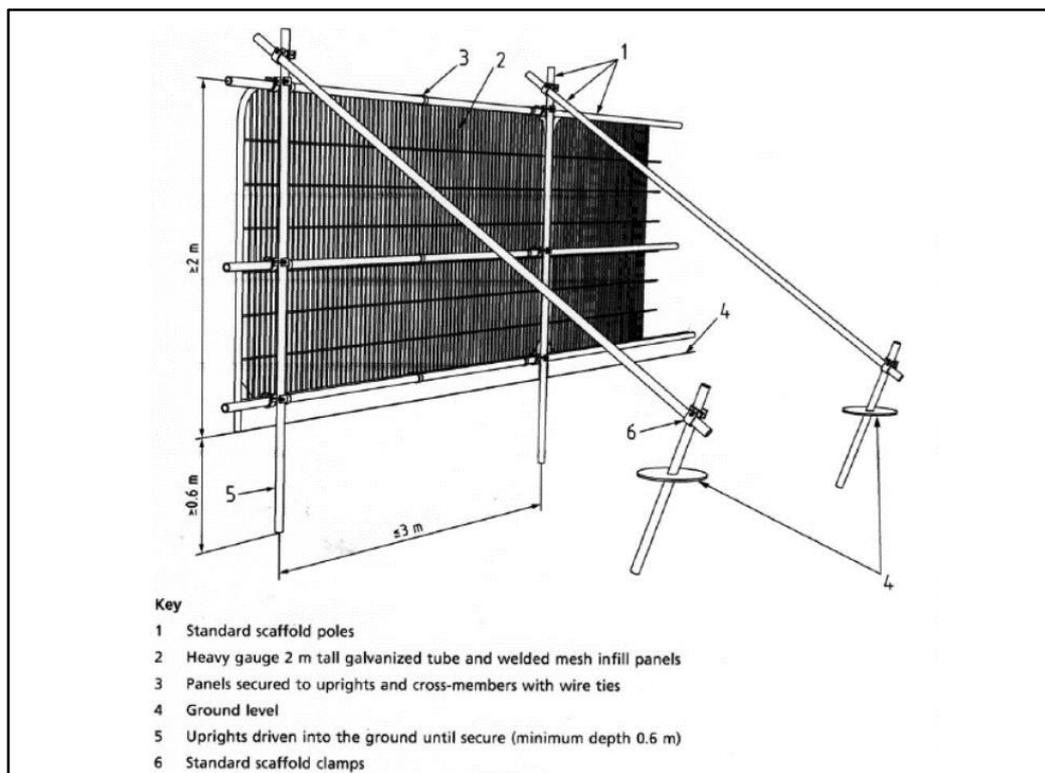


Figure 5—1: Example Protection Fencing

5.5 The BPZ will contain suitable warning signs to inform any Site personnel of their purpose. The warning signs should state the following or similar:

- Biodiversity and Tree Protection Area – Do not enter in any circumstance

### **Bats**

5.6 Any lighting utilised during the construction phase of the development should follow best practice guidelines outlined in Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK (2023) to maintain suitable foraging and commuting routes along the Biodiversity Protection Zones. These zones should remain a dark corridor at all times and if any works are required within close proximity then floodlights should be directed away from this area and no nightworks should take place within close proximity.

5.7 Any lighting within close proximity to the Biodiversity Protection Zone or within this zone should not measure any more than 0.5lux.

5.8 Any bat roosts identified within the trees at the Site should be adequately protected until the appropriate licence and mitigation is in place.

### **Nesting Birds**

5.9 Those features of potential value to nesting birds (woodland and trees) within the Site which are to be retained will be protected during the works phase by the Tree Protection Fencing which will be installed in accordance with BS5837:2012. If any works are required to vegetated habitats within the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive), during the construction phase of the development then they must be preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified Ecologist.

### **Reptiles and Common Amphibians**

5.10 Good practice measures during construction should be implemented at the Site to prevent amphibians and reptiles becoming trapped within open excavations or injured as a result of the proposed works:

- Wildlife ladders (such as a wooden plank) or earth ramps to be placed in any open excavations at the end of each day.
- Any open pipework to be capped overnight to prevent mammals from accessing the pipe work and becoming stuck.
- Excavations should be checked each morning and evening for the presence of trapped animals.
- Materials should be stored off the ground on pallets to prevent reptiles and amphibians utilising any materials as refuge.
- Any chemicals or machinery are to be stored in a secure compound.

5.11 Where a reptile is encountered or becomes entrapped, a suitably qualified ecologist should be contacted in the first instance to provide advice.

## **Invasive species**

- 5.12 A specialist management plan has been created for the invasive species at the Site by Ebsford Environmental Ltd. This management plan details any further measures to be undertaken for invasive species at the Site during the construction phase of the development.

## **Badgers, Hedgehogs and Other Mammals**

- 5.13 Specific good working practices for badgers and other mammals in line with BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development include:
- All construction staff will be made aware of the potential presence of badgers and other mammals within the Site during the pre-start toolbox talk which should be provided on-Site as part of the Site induction;
  - All chemicals and machinery should be stored securely to prevent accidental harm to mammals;
  - As a matter of good practice, any trenches dug as part of construction work should be covered over at night, or left with a ramp or sloping end, to prevent mammals from falling in and becoming trapped. Similarly, any pipes over 200mm in diameter should be capped off at night;
  - Should a suspected badger sett be encountered at any point in the works (any holes measuring at least 30cm in diameter), all works within 30m of the suspected sett should cease and a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) contacted for further advice.

## **6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ECOLOGICAL CLERK OF WORKS**

6.1 An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will comprise of a Suitability Qualified Ecologist (SQE) (and appropriately licenced, and experienced where required) and required to attend Site for the following activities;

- A pre-commencement tool box talk must be given by the SQE to the Site manager and any contractors/staff on Site prior to the start of any works;
- To be present and advise on all vegetation clearance works in line with the separate 'Badger Mitigation Strategy';
- To be present and advise on vegetation clearance works if undertaken November to February (inclusive in line with the Precautionary Working Methodology for Reptiles and Amphibians (Appendix 1));
- A nesting bird check within 48 hours of scheduled vegetation removal, if any vegetation works need to be undertaken within the bird nesting season (from March to mid-September);
- To search any brush piles or areas of dense vegetation prior to their removal for hedgehogs, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals; and,
- Be a nominated contact prior to any works required in the Biodiversity Protection Zone to advise on type of works and if any mitigation measures are required;
- To be a nominated contact for ad-hoc advice as required for any ecological query.
- Where the SQE is not available a second SQE contact will be provided.

## **7. OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION**

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

7.2 Prior to the commencement of works on-Site the Site manager should contact obtain an SQE/ECoW.

7.3 The Site manager and nominated environmental ambassador should obtain the direct contact details of SQE/ECoW. This nominated SQE should also have the direct contact details of the Site manager and nominated environmental ambassador.

## 8. REFERENCES

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- Collins J. (ed) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd Edition). Bat Conservation Trust, London.
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## **APPENDIX 1: PRECAUTIONARY WORKING METHODOLOGY FOR REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

### **Timings**

All vegetation clearance and Site clearance works should be undertaken during the reptile active period (March to October inclusive), in suitable weather conditions (temperatures between 9°C and 18°C, with no rain or strong winds). Where this is not possible a SQE should be on-Site for the vegetation clearance works to provide advice and guidance.

### **Personnel and Tool Box Talk**

A nominated SQE will be available at all times to Site personnel. Where the SQE is not available a second SQE must also be provided.

A tool box talk must be given by the SQE or Site manager to all Site Staff prior to the start of any works at the Site.

### **Methodology**

- Prior to removal, vegetation will be hand searched for the presence of reptiles and amphibians by a SQE. Where reptiles or amphibians are encountered, they will be removed from the working area and placed in a suitable location outside of the works area to be identified by the SQE.
- Following the inspection by the SQE, the vegetation will be cut to approximately 20cm in height. This will then be left for a period of 24 hours to allow any reptiles and amphibians present to disperse (and other species, i.e. small mammals).
- Once a period of 24 hours has elapsed, the area will be checked again by the SQE then the vegetation will be removed.
- Where works are delayed, vegetation should be maintained at a height of less than 15cm to retain unsuitability for amphibians and reptiles. Prior to the maintenance any vegetation of 15cm should be cut under the supervision of a SQE.
- The vegetation should be cleared in a directional manner, to allow reptiles and amphibians into the suitable habitats adjacent to the Site. The direction will be determined by the SQE and will depend on the location at the Site and the type of vegetation to be cleared.
- During the Site clearance works, all cuttings should be removed from Site in order to prevent the creation of suitable refugia for reptiles and amphibians. Where accumulation of vegetation does occur, the vegetation should be hand searched by the SQE prior to removal from Site.
- Under no circumstances should reptiles be chased or handled by inexperienced persons unless the reptile is in immediate danger. Any instances of emergency handling or injury/fatalities should be reported to the SQE immediately.
- Where a reptile is encountered or becomes entrapped, the SQE should be contacted in the first instance to provide advice.



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