Construction Environmental Plan: Biodiversity

Proposed Construction of New Residential Development

Land Adjacent to Chapelgate, Scholes, Holmfirth HD9 1SX

12th August 2025

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 *Background*

This document is a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) relating to a proposed development of residential dwellings at land adjacent to Chapelgate, Scholes, Holmfirth HD9 1SX (see Figure 1.1 for the site location) and has been produced in accordance with the pre-commencement planning condition number 6.

In March 2022, Encon Associates were instructed by Ecoholmes Community Land Trust to undertake an ecological survey of the site in order to provide information regarding the ecology of the site and inform plans for its redevelopment. The Ecological Assessment report[1] resulting from this survey identified features of ecological value within the Zone of Influence of the development and provided recommendations for their protection. This CEMP details measures required to protect features of ecological value during construction, based on the recommendations within the Ecological Appraisal and consultation with Kirklees Council.

1.2 *Brief Description of the Proposed Works*

The proposals entail the clearance of the site which comprises a disused quarry and the construction of 10 affordable new houses.

[1] Russell, L. (2022). *Ecological Assessment – Proposed New Residential Development, Chippings, Holmfirth*. Report no. A5478. Produced by Encon Associates, Ltd, Nottingham, for Ecoholmes.

1.3 *Scope*

This CEMP covers the measures required to prevent damage to features of biodiversity and ecological value during construction only. It does not cover other construction-related environmental issues. For example, the protection of trees that have landscape value, but which are not considered to be of significant ecological value, are covered in a separate tree protection report. This report does not include ecological compensation and/or enhancement measures, which are covered in a sperate report.

The scope of this report is to:

- Identify features of ecological value, including legally protected species, features protected by planning policy, and any other features considered to be of value.
- Identify risks of damage to these features during construction.
- Identify biodiversity protection zones
- Detail protection measures and/or working practices to ensure compliance with relevant legislation protecting features of ecological value.
- Detail protection measures and/or working practices to ensure compliance with relevant planning policy protecting features of ecological value.
- Detail protection measures and/or working practices to ensure protection of any other identified features of ecological value.
- Identify any activities where supervision by a suitably qualified ecologist is required.
- Identify the person(s) responsible for ensuring physical ecological protection measures and working practices are implemented.

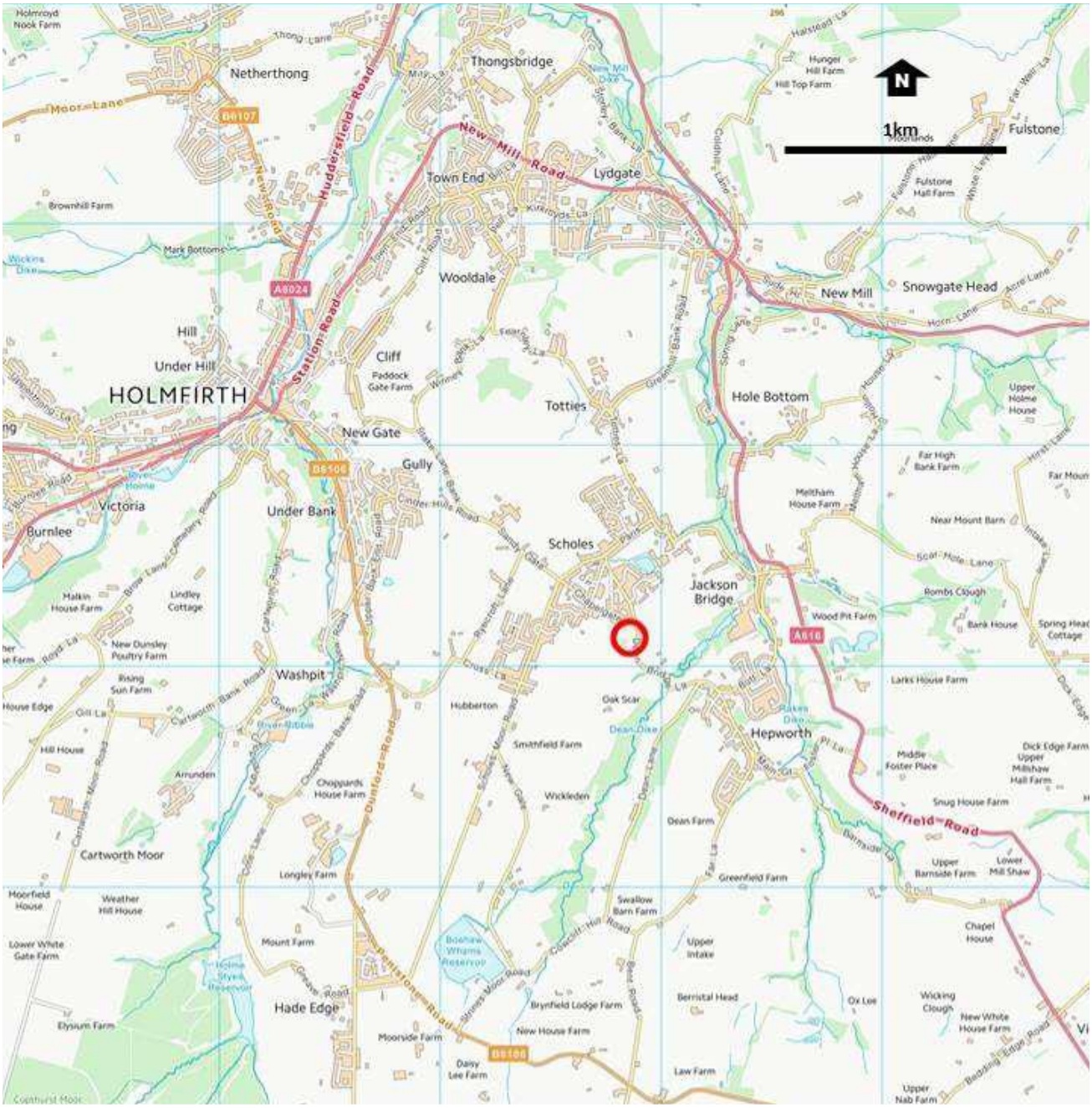


Figure 1.1: ***Site location.*** *Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018.*

2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 *Developer*

The developer, Ecoholmes, will be responsible for the implementation of this CEMP. They will ensure that any contractors/subcontractors are aware of the CEMP and their roles and responsibilities in its implementation. They will ensure that adherence to the CEMP is a condition within any contracts relating to the construction. They will be responsible for commissioning the ecologist for any site attendance or supervision works if required and liaise with the ecologist in relation to any issues regarding the implementation of the CEMP.

2.2 *Main Contractor/Site Manager*

The Site Manager appointed by the Main Contractor will be responsible for the implementation of all the biodiversity protection measures detailed within this report. This will include supervision of subcontractors where required. They will also consult the ecologist if further advice is required at any stage. The Site Manager may also appoint an Environmental Manager who would be responsible for implementing this plan.

2.3 *Ecologist*

An ecologist should be appointed to assist the developer/site manager on the required ecological protection measures, to be “on-call” to provide advice regarding ecological protection during construction, and to attend site if required. Encon Associates Ltd (contact 0115 987 5599) have undertaken ecological consultancy prior to planning permission, however the developer/contractor may appoint another ecologist providing they are suitably qualified, trained and experienced.

2.4 *Management and Record Keeping*

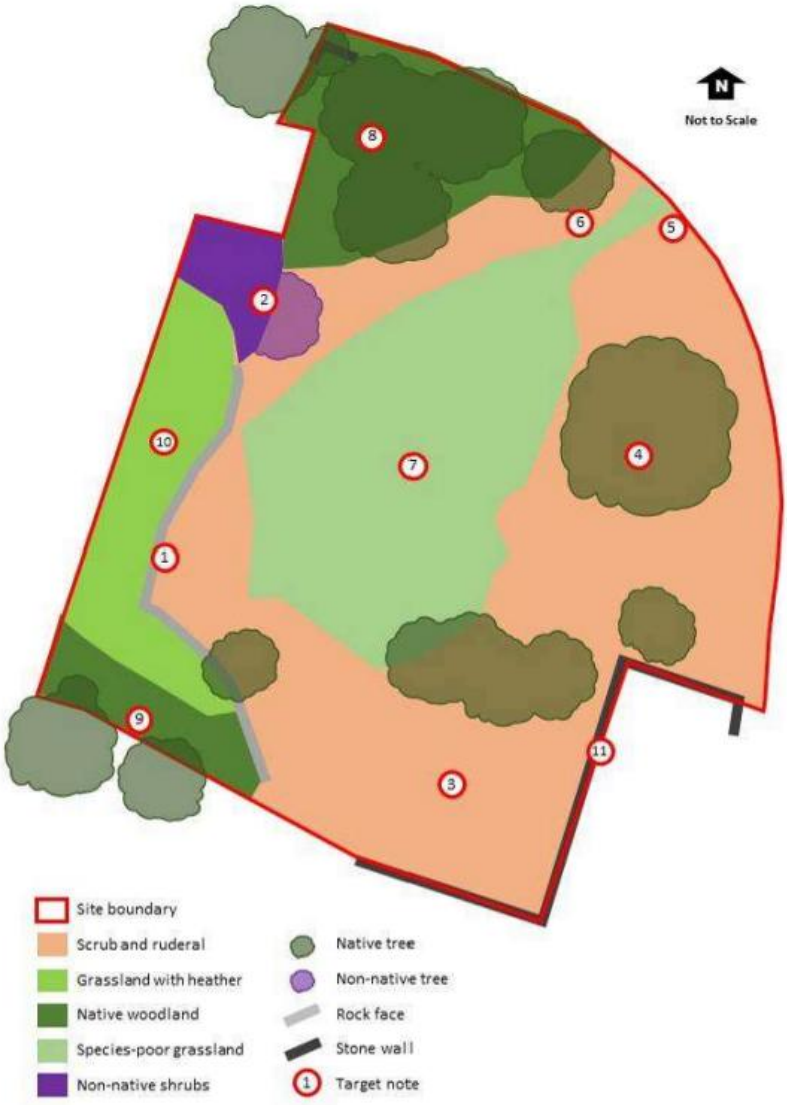
The implementation of measures to protect ecological features will be monitored and recorded.

- The name and contact details of the person accountable for environmental protection will be displayed on the site boundary (i.e., the Site Manager/ Environment Manager).
- The head or regional office contact information will be displayed on the site boundary.
- Complaints related to environmental issues will be recorded, causes identified and appropriate measures taken to address identified issues in a timely manner. Measures taken will be recorded.
- The complaints log will be made available to the local authority when asked.
- Any exceptional incidents that cause potential breaches of legislation, failure to implement Control Measures, dust, surface water and/or air emissions, either on- or off- site will be recorded in the log-book along with the action taken to resolve the situation.
- Daily on-site and off-site inspections will be undertaken to monitor compliance with Control Measures, inspection results will be recorded, and the log made available to the local authority when asked.

3.0 Biodiversity Protection Zones

3.1 *Introduction*

The following ecological features, identified in the Ecological Assessment Report, will be safeguarded through implementation of Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) or through adoption of sensitive working methods to avoid and minimise adverse impacts during the construction phase. The location of ecological features and BPZs are illustrated in Figure 3.1. A detailed risk assessment of the construction phase impacts of the proposals for these features is provided in Chapter 4.



3.3 *Species*

- The site has limited potential to support legally protected species, although it is suitable for some Species of Principal Importance, particularly nesting birds. Vegetation on the site is suitable for a variety of bird species to nest. The nests, eggs and nestlings of all wild birds are protected from disturbance, damage and destruction under the Wildlife & Countryside Act. Any nests found will have a 5 metre buffer installed where no works can take place until the chicks have fledged.
- The site is not considered of value for reptiles outside of the zone of influence and therefore any impacts to reptiles would not be ecologically significant. However, the presence of reptiles on the site cannot be conclusively ruled out, and as reptiles are protected from killing and injuring under the Wildlife & Countryside Act and the likelihood of the proposals causing an offence under this legislation should be considered.
- Habitats within and adjacent to the site are suitable for nocturnal wildlife such as foraging bats and hedgehogs:
  - Bats are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019.
  - Hedgehogs are a Species of Principal Importance, within the Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006.

4.0 Risk Assessment

4.1 *Introduction*

An assessment of construction-related risks to features of ecological value is provided in table 4.1. This also details timings of activities to avoid risks, and Control Measures (CM) which will be implemented to avoid damage to features of ecological value. Full details of the Control Measures Are provided in Chapter 5.

Table 4.1: *Assessment of construction-related risks to features of ecological value.*

Feature	Risk	Timing	Control Measures
Habitats and Vegetation			
Invasive non-native species	Risk of spread within or beyond the site.	None	Survey and removal prior to vegetation clearance (CM2)
Species			
Bats	None of the buildings or trees on the site have been identified as having suitability for roosting bats. However, site personnel should be aware of action to take in the event of unexpected discoveries.	None	Toolbox talk/site induction (CM1)
	Disruption of foraging and/or commuting behaviour due to temporary lighting.	None	Construction lighting control measures (CM3)
Nesting birds	Potential for nesting birds to be disturbed or their nests damaged during vegetation clearance.	Vegetation clearance should be timed outside of the bird nesting season (March to August)	None required if works are outside of nesting season. Pre-clearance check required outside of this time (CM4)
	Potential for nesting birds to be disturbed or their nests damaged during demolition.	Demolition should be timed outside of the bird nesting season (March to August)	None required if works are outside of nesting season. Pre-clearance check required outside of this time (CM4)
Reptiles	Risk of disturbing reptiles during vegetation clearance.	Vegetation clearance should be timed when reptiles are active (March to September)	Two phased clearance (CM5 and CM6)
Hedgehogs	Risk of disturbing hedgehogs during site clearance and construction.	None	Toolbox talk/site induction (CM1) Sensitive vegetation clearance (CM6) Construction lighting control measures (CM3) General Practices to Protect Mammals (CM7)

5.0 Control Measures

5.1 *Introduction*

The Control Measures (CM) detailed below relate to the ecological features identified in Chapter 4. Adherence to these Control Measures will ensure that construction activities remain legally compliant and follow best practice measures relating to biodiversity.

- CM1: *Toolbox talk/site induction*
- CM2: *Control of Invasive Non-native Species*
- CM3: *Construction lighting control*
- CM4: *Nesting bird survey*
- CM5: *Precautionary Measures for Reptiles*
- CM6: *Sensitive vegetation clearance*
- CM7: *General Measures to Protect Mammals*

CM1: Toolbox Talk/Site Induction

Purpose

To ensure all personnel working on the site or visiting the site are aware of ecological risks associated with the project and the control measures required to avoid damage to features of ecological value.

Method

It is important that all personnel working on site (including visitors when relevant) are fully informed of the ecological issues relating to site clearance, demolition and construction activities. This information can be delivered directly by an Ecologist in the form of a Toolbox Talk. However, where there are no features of high ecological value at risk and the required control measures are not significantly different from standard good practice on construction sites, it is appropriate for this information to be delivered as part of the general site induction. Given the ecological risks associated with this project, this information will be delivered as part of the Site Induction.

The Site Induction will include information on all the Control Measures detailed within this report. None of the trees or buildings on the site are considered to be suitable for roosting bats. However, site personnel will be informed that they must stop works in the event of an unexpected discovery of bats, or evidence of use by bats such as droppings, and immediately report the discovery to the Site Manager, who will consult the Ecologist.

Timing

The toolbox talk/site induction will be developed prior to the start of any site clearance, demolition or construction activities. It will be provided to any contractor, subcontractor or visitor (if relevant) working on the site at any stage during the site clearance, demolition and construction phases of the project.

Responsibilities

It will be the responsibility of the Developer/Main contractor to develop the relevant sections of the Site Induction following advice from the Ecologist. Delivery of the Site Induction will the responsibility of the Site Manager.

CM2: Control of Invasive Non-native Species

Purpose

To prevent the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) and therefore ensure compliance with relevant sections of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Method

1. Prior to any other works taking place on the site, a survey will be undertaken to identify all INNS plants on the site. Only *Cotoneaster* has been identified to date, however the survey will seek to identify any other potential INNS present.
2. If the control tales place in the spring or summer (March to August), any plants will be checked for the presence of bird nests immediately prior to undertaking any works. If any active nests are found, the works must be delayed until the nestlings have fledged.
3. Given that only a few plants are present, waste material (plant, root and the soil beneath) can be disposed of using a dumpy bag. A skip can also be used. The waste container will be located as close as possible to the plants in order to minimise the movement of the plant material through the site.
4. If berries are present on the plants, the ground below will be covered before undertaking Step 5 to collect any berries that drop during removal.
5. The plants will be cut to ground level, placing cut material immediately into the waste container and taking care to avoid dropping berries in the process.
6. The root mass will then be excavated in its entirety to prevent regrowth. Extra care must be taken to ensure that all the root system is removed. Given the small size of the plants, this may be possible using had tools, however a mechanical excavator can also be used. If a

mechanical excavator is used, care must be taken to avoid tracking over cut material or untreated plants.

7. If it is not possible to remove the entire root mass, the stumps will be treated with herbicide to prevent regrowth.
8. Once the plants are completely removed, waste will be taken from the site as soon as possible using a licensed contractor. If the waste container is left on site for any time at all it must be covered to prevent birds from taking any berries.

Timing

This will be undertaken prior to the start of any vegetation clearance on the site, or any other activity that would affect existing vegetated areas of the site.

Responsibilities

The Developer/Main contractor will be responsible for the implementation of the INNS control measures. They may appoint the Ecologist to undertake the survey prior to works. However, if a specialist subcontractor with appropriate experience dealing with INNS is appointed to carry out the control, they may be able to undertake the survey without the input of the Ecologist.

CM3: Construction Lighting Control

Purpose

To prevent the disturbance of nocturnal wildlife such as bats and hedgehogs.

Method

The use of artificial lighting will be avoided during construction will be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

Should any artificial lighting be necessary, it will be directed away from ecologically significant habitats on the site boundary features, particularly the scrub woodland on the M1 verge, to ensure light spill is avoided in these areas.

Lighting will only be used during working hours and no lighting will be switched on overnight, unless under prior agreement with the Ecologist. In this event, lighting will be controlled by a motion sensor with a maximum agreed time limit.

Timing

Construction lighting control measures will remain in place for the duration of the construction programme.

Responsibilities

The Developer/Main contractor will be responsible for ensuring construction lighting control measures are implemented.

CM4: Nesting Bird Survey

Purpose

To prevent the disturbance of nesting birds and therefore ensure compliance with relevant sections of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Method

This will only be required if vegetation clearance or demolition takes place during the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive). The first measure of control is to undertake such works outside of this period.

1. The nesting bird survey cannot be undertaken more than 24hrs in advance of the proposed works.
2. The survey will entail a thorough physical check for the presence of active nests in all vegetation/buildings affected by the proposed works.
3. If any areas are not physically accessible or visible they will be continuously monitored for a suitable period (using binoculars if required) to observe any birds in the vicinity. If any birds are recorded exhibiting nesting behaviour (e.g., carrying nest-building materials or food for nestlings), the presence of a nest will be assumed.
4. If any active nests are found, they will be left *in situ* and monitored until the nestlings have fledged. For nests in vegetation, a 5m buffer of vegetation will be left uncleared and a suitable barrier erected around the retained areas. For nests in buildings, no works will take place until the nestlings have fledged unless it is guaranteed the activity will not result in any disturbance.

Timing

This will be required when vegetation clearance or demolition takes place during the bird-nesting season (March to August inclusive). The survey cannot take place more than 24hrs prior to the works starting.

Responsibilities

It will be the responsibility of the Developer/Main contractor to ensure nesting bird surveys are undertaken when required. Where it can be easily determined that no active nests are present (e.g. the removal of single trees which no holes), this can be undertaken by the contractor carrying out the works. Where it is less easy to determine that nests are absent, the Developer/ Main contractor will appoint an appropriately experienced Ecologist to undertake the survey.

CM5: Precautionary Measures for Reptiles

Purpose

To ensure reptiles are not harmed during vegetation clearance. This measure should be implemented in conjunction with CM7 (Nesting Bird Survey).

Method

1. All areas of grassland to be removed will be strimmed to a height of 10-15cm and arisings removed off site to minimise the risk of creating habitat that may encourage reptiles into the site
2. The area should be left for at least 24 hours to increase light and reduce shelter with the aim to encourage reptiles to leave of their own accord.
3. Any shelter features found such as root balls, logs, rocks ad rubble/debris piles will be lifted by hand.
4. If any wildlife it found, the operator will report it to the Site Manager, who will consult the Ecologist as necessary.

Timing

This will be implemented when vegetation clearance is required at any point during the construction programme.

Responsibilities

It will be the responsibility of the Developer/Main contractor to ensure precautionary measures for reptiles are undertaken when vegetation clearance is required.

CM6: Sensitive Vegetation Clearance

Purpose

To ensure wildlife, such as hedgehogs, is not harmed during vegetation clearance. This measure should be implemented in conjunction with CM7 (Nesting Bird Survey).

Method

5. Immediately prior to clearance, vegetation/trees to be removed will be checked for the presence of any wildlife.
6. Vegetation/trees will be removed using hand tools (chainsaw, brushcutter) rather than a mechanical excavator.
7. After the above-ground sections of the vegetation have been removed, the operator will check the ground/leaf-litter for the presence of any wildlife.
8. If any wildlife it found, the operator will report it to the Site Manager, who will consult the Ecologist as necessary.

Timing

This will be implemented when vegetation clearance is required at any point during the construction programme.

Responsibilities

It will be the responsibility of the Developer/Main contractor to ensure sensitive vegetation clearance is undertaken when required.

CM7: General Practices to Protect Mammals

Purpose

To ensure wildlife, particularly mammals such as hedgehogs, is not harmed during construction.

Method

1. Any excavations or other steep-sided holes (e.g. drains) that could trap hedgehogs of other mammals, including those containing water, will not be left uncovered overnight. If it is not possible to cover them, an escape ramp (such as a plank) will be added to enable escape.
2. Netting that could entangle hedgehogs will not be used in site.
3. Rubbish/litter on site will be disposed of carefully using appropriate bins/containers.
4. Food waste that could attract wildlife will be disposed of carefully using appropriate bins/containers.
5. If any trapped and/or injured wildlife is found, the operator will report it to the Site Manager, who will consult the Ecologist as necessary.

Timing

These measures will be implemented throughout the construction programme.

Responsibilities

It will be the responsibility of the Developer/Main contractor to ensure general measures to protect wildlife are implemented.