Woodward Court, Mirfield – Construction Environmental Management Plan

Bellway Homes

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Cura Terrae Land and Nature (Cura Terrae) were commissioned in November 2025 by Bellway Homes to produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the proposed residential development at Woodward Court, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, WF14 0PR (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR): SE 20974 21050), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

1.1.2 Site proposals have been taken from Parker Reel Architectural '*Site Layout – Woodward Court, Mirfield*' (Drawing no: 2520-SI-02F, Revision F, dated November 2025) and Golby & Luck Landscape Architects '*Woodward Court, Mirfield – Landscape Masterplan*' (Drawing no: GLY0209 MP01A, Revision A, dated November 2025), and include the construction of 75 residential units with associated gardens, road and parking infrastructure. Areas of greenspace will be created along the north, south and eastern extents of the Site including an attenuation pond. Most of the vegetated habitats on Site will be lost to facilitate the development, with the retention of hedgerows and individual trees.

1.1.3 This CEMP incorporates the mitigation measures outlined in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) produced for the Site by Cura Terrae in 2025 *('Woodward Court, Mirfield – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal'* (Reference: 25566-PEA-V1.0), dated September 2025) (Cura Terae, 2025) and the Tree Constraints Plan produced by Golby & Luck Landscape Architects '*Land of Woodward Court, Mirfield – Tree Constraints Plan*' (Drawing no: GLY0209 AR01, dated September 2025).

1.1.4 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 (LPA).

1.1.5 Potentially damaging impacts of the works are assessed within section 3.2, actions to be taken if any protected species are found during construction are detailed within the Toolbox Talk in Appendix 1, and a Method Statement detailing practical measures to avoid or reduce impacts during construction activities is discussed in Section 4.

2. Existing Site Condition and Features of Interest

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The Site measures approximately 4.7 hectares (ha) and is located within the Kirklees Council local authority on the northeastern edge of Mirfield.

2.1.2 The Site is split across two horse-grazed fields bounded by three Public Rights of Way (PRoW) to the north, east and south. Mostly residential housing lies south and west of the Site associated with Mirfield, with a school and playing fields adjacent to the northern boundary of the Site. The land to the east of the Site is mostly agricultural land with grazed pasture. The wider area is predominantly urban but is interspaced by pockets of woodland, fields and other greenspace.

2.2 Designated Sites

2.2.1 A desk study undertaken as part of the PEA identified two statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site, including Sunny Bank Ponds Local Nature Reserve (LNR), located approximately 0.93 km northwest of the Site, and Lower Spen Wildlife Area LNR located 1.5 km east of the Site. A total of three non-statutory designated sites were located within 2 km of the Site. The closest non-statutory Site is Sunny Bank Ponds Local Wildlife Site (LWS) which is at the same location as Sunny Bank Ponds LNR. Full details of designated sites are provided in the PEA report (Cura Terrae, 2025).

2.2.2 The works are anticipated to remain wholly within the Site boundary and are not expected to impact the integrity of the designated sites identified within 2 km of the Site. This is based on the nature and scale of the proposals and the distance between the Site and designations. Therefore, no specific mitigation measures are required in relation to designated sites.

2.2.3 The Site is located within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SSSI, located approximately 7.8 km southeast of the Site, following a review of MAGIC. As no risks relating to the IRZ and the proposed development were identified when reviewing the risk register, this matter is not detailed further in the CEMP as no specific mitigation is required.

2.3 Ecological Summary

2.3.1 The below provides a summary of the habitats present on Site (pre-development) and their associated potential to support protected and notable species following completion of the PEA (Cura Terrae, 2025). UK Habitat Classification types (UKHab 2.0) (UKHab Ltd., 2023), including

any relevant secondary codes and Target Notes (TN), are provided below and illustrated in Figure 1.

Habitats

2.3.2 Habitats at the Site recorded during the PEA include UK Habitat Classification types; Modified grassland (g4) ('32 – Scattered trees'), Other broadleaved woodland (w1g) ('33 – Line of trees'), Bramble scrub (h3d), Species-rich native hedgerow (h2a5) and Other native hedgerow (h2a6).

Species

2.3.3 The following provides a summary of the Site's suitability to support protected and notable species following completion of the PEA (Cura Terrae, 2025):

- The Site displays some suitability to support sheltering and foraging amphibians, although is very unlikely to support great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*. This is based on the absence of aquatic habitats within 250 m of the Site and the presence of significant barriers to dispersal, including housing, roads and other infrastructure between the Site and similar to higher quality habitats in the surrounding area.
- No evidence of badger *Meles meles* or badger setts were recorded on or within 30 m the Site. The Site displays suitability for sett building and supporting foraging and commuting badger and is connected to other similar to higher quality habitat in the wider area, although the Site likely experiences regular disturbance from the neighbouring PRoWs which may deter badgers from taking up residence at the Site.
- One mature sycamore tree (TN1; Figure 1) was assessed as displaying suitability for roosting bats and categorised as Further Assessment Required (FAR) in accordance with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023). It is understood that this tree will be retained as part of the development.
- Habitats within the Site were assessed as displaying 'Moderate' suitability for foraging and commuting bats in accordance with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023). No bat activity surveys have been undertaken to date to assess the value of the Site for foraging and commuting bats, and approval should be sought from the LPA regarding the need for any further survey effort (and it is assumed this consultation has already taken place). Based on the nature and scale of the proposals and given that the habitats of value of foraging and commuting bats are largely being retained and safeguarded throughout the development, additional activity surveys are not required should the measures set out in this CEMP be followed in full.
- The Site displays suitability for breeding, foraging and wintering birds through grassland margins, scrub, grassland, trees and hedgerow habitats.
- Suitable habitats for a range of invertebrates were identified at the Site including grassland, scrub, hedgerow and line of trees provide suitable foraging suitability and commuting corridors for a variety of pollinators.
- Site habitats, including grassland, scrub and hedgerow bases provide a variety of shelter, basking, dispersal and foraging opportunities for reptiles, although areas within the centre of the fields that receive regular disturbance from horse grazing are sub-optimal based on the

predominantly short sward height. The Site displays suitability for foraging, commuting and sheltering/hibernating hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*.

- Site habitats display some suitability for brown hare *Lepus europaeus*.

Invasive Species

2.3.4 The ecological walkover survey as part of the PEA (Cura Terrae, 2025) recorded Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) adjacent to the Site boundary:

- Two stands of cotoneaster species *Cotoneaster sp.* were recorded adjacent to the southeastern boundaries off-site (TN3; Figure 1). Five species of cotoneaster are listed as INNS on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA), 1981 (as amended).
- An area of snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus* was recorded adjacent to the southeastern boundary off-site (TN2; Figure 1). Species of this plant are not listed as INNS on Schedule 9 of the WCA, 1981 (as amended), however it is described as non-native with invasive tendencies due to its ability to spreadly rapidly through suckering and berry dispersal.

3. Proposals and Impacts

3.1 Proposals

3.1.1 Site proposals have been taken from Parker Reel Architectural '*Site Layout – Woodward Court, Mirfield*' (Drawing no: 2520-SI-02F, Revision F, dated November 2025) and Golby & Luck Landscape Architects '*Woodward Court, Mirfield – Landscape Masterplan*' (Drawing no: GLY0209 MP01A, Revision A, dated November 2025), and include the construction of 75 residential units with associated gardens, road and parking infrastructure. Areas of greenspace will be created along the north, south and eastern extents of the Site including an attenuation pond. Most of the vegetated habitats on Site will be lost to facilitate the development, with the retention of hedgerows and individual trees.

3.2 Potential Impacts

3.2.1 Pre-construction and construction operations with potential to damage the Site and other potential sources of ecological impact arising from the development include:

- Ground compaction, disturbance, and damage to retained trees and hedgerows, including their root systems, may occur as a result of the movement of machinery and storage of construction materials;
- Risk of killing/injury/disturbance of amphibians, badgers, reptiles, , brown hare and hedgehog, if present, as a result of ground and vegetation clearance works;
- Any management of the retained tree (TN1; Figure 1) (e.g., pruning), may lead to killing, injury, or disturbance of bats, if present;
- Clearance of vegetation during the bird nesting season (typically March–August inclusive) may result in the killing, injury, or disturbance of individual birds and active nests; and,
- Risk of disturbance to roosting, foraging, and commuting bats, nesting birds, and foraging badgers, brown hare, and hedgehogs due to increased artificial lighting at night and elevated noise levels during the proposed works.
- Risk of spread of invasive plant species into the Site from off-site habitats during the proposed works.

4. Construction and Management Implementation

4.1 Construction Management

4.1.1 During construction, and in accordance with good practice measures outlined in Table 1 below, Bellway Homes will implement the following working methods and considerations specific to habitats, species/species groups and other ecological constraints.

4.1.2 The measures set out in this CEMP are based on recognised good practice and relevant industry guidance to ensure compliance with wildlife legislation and to safeguard protected or notable species and all retained habitats during construction.

4.2 Toolbox Talk

4.2.1 An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed prior to vegetation clearance and construction works commencing to deliver a Toolbox Talk (TbT) to all contractors. The TbT will outline the key habitats, protected species and INNS that are potentially present on the Site, how to identify them, legislation associated with them, and good practice measures that should be implemented and maintained throughout the construction phase.

4.2.2 The TbT will form part of the Site induction process for all contractors involved in activities where ECoW presence is required, or where a residual risk remains but ECoW attendance is not essential. For new contractors that begin work on the Site after the initial TbT has been delivered by the ECoW will receive an appropriate briefing by the Site Manager appointed by Bellway Homes.

4.2.3 A copy of the TbT documents and identification sheets will be kept on Site at all times within the Site office. All contractors will be required to sign these documents to demonstrate that they have been briefed on the ecological features associated with the Site prior to commencing works. The TbT documents are provided in Appendix 1.

4.3 Habitat Protection

4.3.1 Construction practices will follow good practice in terms of dust and noise control by ensuring unsealed surfaces are kept damp during dry weather conditions and ensuring that machines are not idling when not in use. All machine refuelling will be carried out in designated areas on Site where spill mats have been installed to prevent any pollution on Site and within adjacent habitats off-site.

4.3.2 Temporary Protective Fencing (TPF) will be installed ahead of construction commencing to ensure operations remain within a defined working area and do not encroach into habitats that are due to be retained and prevent spread of INNS into the Site from off-site habitats. Appropriate warning signage will be installed by Bellway Homes to inform and direct contractors with access routes and movement of machinery carefully planned to avoid these areas. TPF Zones will incorporate designated Root Protection Zones (RPZs) in accordance with arboricultural guidance (e.g., BS 5837:2012 or equivalent best practice) to prevent damage to individual retained trees and their root systems. Habitats to be protected by TPF Zones are illustrated in Figure 1.

4.3.3 Lighting of retained and adjacent habitats, including treelines, hedgerows and individual trees will be avoided during construction to prevent light spill and pollution, thereby safeguarding these habitats for nocturnal wildlife. Additional lighting mitigation measures for protected species are provided in Table 1.

4.3.4 Good practice pollution prevention (i.e. run-off control measures) will be implemented throughout the construction phase. Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) documents produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) should be referred to for any construction activities which may impact the local environment. Relevant examples include (but are not limited to):

- GPP 21 – pollution incident response planning (NRW, NIEA and SEPA, 2017); and,
- GPP 22 – dealing with spills (NRW, NIEA and SEPA, 2018).

4.4 Species Protection

4.4.1 To protect any species potentially present on the Site during the pre-construction and construction phases, good practice measures will be adhered to during the vegetation clearance and construction works, as detailed in Table 1.

4.4.2 These measures are designed to safeguard amphibians, badgers, bats, birds, reptiles, brown hare and hedgehog in the event that they are present on the Site at the time of works.

4.4.3 Where any outstanding ecological surveys are required, the findings should inform any additional site-specific mitigation measures that may be necessary. Such measures should be incorporated into an update to the CEMP prior to the commencement of works in the affected area(s) to ensure protection of species and habitats throughout the construction phase.

Table 1: Protected Species Good Practice Measures

Mitigation	Species Concerned	Reason	Timing
Toolbox Talk (TbT) & Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) Provision			
All site contractors will be briefed during their site induction by the ECoW or the Site Manager on the potential presence of wildlife on the Site. A TbT (see Appendix 1) including an identification guide will be provided and shown to all site personnel and will be made available for reference at all times. The ECoW will ensure that the measures outlined below are implemented and adhered to throughout the construction phase.	All wildlife	To ensure all site contractors are fully aware of the potential presence of wildlife on the Site, including the identification of areas with an increased risk of presence and explain the relevant legislation and the proposed methods of working as detailed below. To ensure that all site contractors are aware of appropriate precautionary measures to minimise the risk of committing an offence during the works.	Prior to works commencing.
Pre-works Checks			
Should the sycamore tree identified as displaying suitability for roosting bats (TN1; Figure 1) require any management (e.g., pruning) as part of the construction works, this will be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist well ahead of any planned works commencing. Where trees are identified as having confirmed or suspected bat roosts, no works will be undertaken that could affect the tree until appropriate mitigation measures have been agreed, including the requirement for licencing.	Roosting bats	To ensure appropriate mitigation measures are implemented to minimise risk to roosting bats.	Prior to works commencing.

Mitigation	Species Concerned	Reason	Timing
Badgers are a highly mobile species capable of routinely excavating new setts. To verify current badger activity on the Site, regular walkover surveys will be undertaken from three months prior to the commencement of works. These surveys will identify any new setts established on the Site. The frequency of walkover surveys will be determined by the appointed ECoW once the construction programme is confirmed. The final walkover survey will be completed within 24 hours of any site clearance or construction works commencing. Should a suspected badger sett be recorded on or within 30 m of the Site during the works, works should cease, and the ECoW should be contacted for advice before works resume.	Badger	Confirm current Site usage by badgers and identify any new setts or activity since the PEA. To prevent disturbance or destruction of any identified active setts and ensure the safety of badgers if present at the Site.	Prior to works commencing.
Prior to the commencement of works, a pre-works survey will be undertaken to verify the presence/extent of any INNS within or adjacent to the Site. If any INNS are identified within the Site, appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented prior to the commencement of works. This may include containment, removal, or treatment under an approved management plan to prevent spread both on and off-site. Contractors will be briefed to avoid disturbing any suspected INNS (and confirmed INNS located beyond the southern boundary) during the TbT and to report any sightings to the ECoW immediately.	INNS	To ensure that no INNS are present or inadvertently spread during vegetation clearance and construction.	Prior to works commencing.
If vegetation clearance works are programmed during the main nesting bird season (typically March to August inclusive) there is a risk that active nests could be disturbed or destroyed during grassland, hedgerow or scrub clearance works on the Site.	Birds	To ensure appropriate checks and precautionary measures are implemented before any vegetation removal occurs to	Prior to works commencing.

Mitigation	Species Concerned	Reason	Timing
Where vegetation clearance is programmed during the nesting bird season, a nesting bird check must be carried out by the ECoW or a suitably qualified ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to the commencement of clearance. This check will confirm whether any active nests are present within the affected vegetation. If an active nest is identified, a suitable exclusion zone will be established around it. No works will take place within this zone until the chicks have fledged and/or the nest is confirmed to be no longer in use, as determined and monitored by the ECoW/ecologist.		prevent disturbance or destruction of active bird nests.	
Vegetation Clearance			
Clearance of suitable shelter and hibernation habitat (i.e. tall grass/tussocks, hedgerows and habitat piles (leaves, brash, rubble etc.) will avoid the winter hibernation period (which runs from November to February inclusive and is weather dependant in March and October). If works must be completed during the winter hibernation period and a hedgehog nesting or hibernation site is identified during the works, the area shall be immediately buffered with a 10 m no-works exclusion zone. All construction activities within this buffer will be halted and postponed until the end of the hibernation season, unless advised otherwise by the ECoW.	Reptiles, amphibians, hedgehog	To minimise the risk of harming wildlife during site clearance operations, works will be planned and undertaken with consideration for species that may be concealed below ground or within sheltering habitats during their hibernation period.	Site clearance activities will be undertaken between March/April and September/October, outside of the core hibernation period.
Vegetation clearance will be undertaken during suitable weather conditions for reptile activity, typically when temperatures are between 10–18°C and dry, with no rainfall. These conditions increase the likelihood that reptiles will be active and able to move away from working areas, reducing the risk of harm. Early morning	Reptiles	To ensure that reptiles are active and able to move away from disturbance by themselves, thereby reducing the risk of	During vegetation clearance works.

Mitigation	Species Concerned	Reason	Timing
clearance should be avoided unless temperatures are already above 10°C, as reptiles may otherwise be immobile and basking at lower temperatures, increasing their vulnerability to injury during clearance operations.		injury or mortality during vegetation clearance.	
All aspects of vegetation removal and removal of suitable habitat to be supervised by the ECoW to check for wildlife and relocate individuals if necessary. Prior to any clearance works in suitable habitat the area to be cleared should be subject to a fingertip search by the ECoW to check for sheltering wildlife. Any individuals encountered should ideally be allowed to move away from the area by themselves or alternatively be carefully captured by the ECoW and relocated to suitable habitat outside the zone of works e.g. retained hedgerows (H2 and H3; Figure 1). Areas of tall vegetation (e.g., scrub, tall grass above 100 mm) will be cleared using a two-stage process to reduce the risk of harming wildlife: • The first strim will cut the vegetation to approximately 100-150 mm above ground level to encourage any animals present to move into suitable off-site habitat away from the construction zone. • The second strim will take the vegetation down to ground level (or 50 mm as appropriate). Ideally, the second strim will ideally take place following a one-day interim period between the first cut, or a minimum interval of two hours if timing constraints require. • Arisings should ideally be removed off-site or, if left on-site, thinly scattered across the Site to avoid creating refuges for wildlife in the construction zone. Alternatively, arisings could be incorporated into habitat features for	All wildlife	To significantly reduce the likelihood of harm to wildlife during vegetation clearance works.	During vegetation clearance works.

Mitigation	Species Concerned	Reason	Timing
amphibians and other wildlife, such as grass heaps or newly created brash piles. Site clearance will be carried out in a systematic, directional manner, as directed by the ECoW. Vegetation will be cleared towards the most suitable off-site habitats, allowing any wildlife present within the vegetation to move away naturally and safely from the construction zone.			
Once clearance of all suitable habitat has been completed and confirmed by the ECoW, construction works can continue unsupervised. After this time the construction footprint should be maintained as short vegetation (less than 50 mm)/bare ground as appropriate until works are completed.	All wildlife.	Help prevent colonisation of these areas by wildlife and reduce the risk of disturbance or harm to protected species during ongoing construction activities.	Post Site clearance and to be maintained until construction is complete.
Lighting			
Night working during the construction phase will be avoided where possible, however, if short-term lighting is required during construction, when daytimes are short, unnecessary light spill would be controlled through a combination of directional lighting, low lighting columns (reduced wattage lamps and louvres), hooded/shielded luminaires and/or strategic screening planting. All luminaires will lack Ultra Violet (UV) elements and metal halide, fluorescent sources should not be used. LED luminaires should be used where possible with a warm white spectrum adopted (<2700 Kelvin (K)). Lighting will be directed away from retained and off-site vegetated habitats including suitable bat roost features (TN1; Figure 1).	Nocturnal wildlife.	To safeguard nocturnal wildlife that utilise the Site and surrounding area.	Throughout construction.

Mitigation	Species Concerned	Reason	Timing
Good Site Housekeeping			
All construction materials on the Site will be stored in suitable locations away from suitable retained habitats (i.e. tall grassland, hedgerows, trees, brash/logs/rubble) and ideally raised off the ground) (e.g. on pallets) or on hard standing/bare ground. If earth spoil arises from the works, this should be removed from the Site as quickly as possible or placed in a skip or other sealed container immediately if stored on the Site. Good general housekeeping practices will be maintained throughout the works to prevent a build-up of debris which could provide refuge for wildlife.	All wildlife.	Prevent colonisation of the Site by wildlife and ensure that debris and waste do not accumulate in a way that could create suitable habitat for wildlife that could pose a risk during construction works.	Throughout construction.
Hedgehogs and badgers are highly mobile and inquisitive animals that may move onto the Site at any time. As a precautionary measure, any excavations left overnight will be covered or have a suitable escape ramp, e.g. a long scaffold board, fitted to allow animals to escape should they fall in. The latter will act to allow any animals entering the excavation to escape which is particularly important if the excavation fills with water. All excavations will be inspected each morning to ensure that no animals have become trapped overnight, and appropriate action will be taken if found.	Badger, hedgehog.	To protect animals in the event that they are present at the time of excavation works.	Throughout construction.
Food or litter will not be left on the Site.	All wildlife.	To reduce the likelihood of encouraging badger and other opportunistic species onto the Site to forage.	Throughout construction.
Encountering Wildlife			

Mitigation	Species Concerned	Reason	Timing
During works, if reptiles are encountered, all activities in the immediate area will cease and the ECoW will be contacted for guidance. Reptiles must not be handled by staff and should be allowed to move away of their own, as incorrect handling can result in injury or death to the animal. Although the likelihood of encountering reptiles on Site is low, it should be noted that the UK supports a venomous species, the adder *Vipera berus*. Adders will only use their venom as a last resort, typically if handled or accidentally trodden on. In the unlikely event that an adder is encountered, works should stop immediately and the ECoW contacted. If a bite occurs, the affected area should be kept immobilised, and the individual should proceed to the nearest hospital with an Accident and Emergency (A&E) unit.	Reptiles	To protect wildlife in the event that they are present at the time of works.	Throughout construction.
Any common amphibians, including smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*, common frog *Rana temporaria*, and common toad *Bufo bufo*, encountered during works may be carefully moved by gloved hands to an area of shelter outside the footprint of the works, preferably within retained vegetation. Contractors can carry out this relocation, and the ECoW does not need to be informed if only common frogs, newts or toads are encountered. In the unlikely event of encountering GCN, works will stop where safe to do so and the ECoW will be contacted immediately for guidance on how to proceed.	Amphibians		Throughout construction.

Mitigation	Species Concerned	Reason	Timing
In the unlikely event that badgers are suspected to be present on or in proximity to the Site during construction, including if a suspected badger sett is identified on or within 30 m of the Site by a contractor, works will cease immediately. The appointed ECoW or a suitably experienced ecologist will be contacted for advice before any further works continue.	Badgers		Throughout construction.
If hedgehogs are encountered between November and March or juveniles are encountered (not whilst clearing the sites as specified above) the ECoW will be contacted for advice immediately. If hedgehogs require rescue the ECoW should pick up the hedgehog with a gloved hand and place the hedgehog into a high sided carboard box, water should be provided in a shallow dish within the box. The hedgehog should be checked for injury and should be taken to a local hedgehog rescue organisation for further examination. If a hedgehog is encountered outside of November – March, the site personnel should allow the hedgehog to move away on its own, unless the animal is in immediate danger. If in immediate danger, works should stop and the animal should be moved using a gloved hand into an area of retained vegetation away from the works footprint.	Hedgehog		Throughout construction.
If brown hare are encountered, site personnel should allow it to move away on its own, maintaining a safe distance and avoiding sudden movements, loud noises, or machinery that could cause stress. If the hare is in immediate danger within the works footprint, operations in the area should stop and the ECoW should be contacted for advice. Where safe and appropriate, the hare may be encouraged to move into retained habitat away from	Brown hare		Throughout construction.

Mitigation	Species Concerned	Reason	Timing
construction activities, but should not be handled unless instructed by the ECoW.			

4.5 Biosecurity Measures

4.5.1 Biosecurity measures will be implemented during both the construction phase and post-development to minimise the risk of introducing or spreading invasive species on to the Site. These measures will also aim to prevent the transmission of diseases, such as Chytridiomycosis, an infectious disease affecting amphibians (ARG UK, 2017). All personnel working on Site will be briefed on these measures, including hygiene protocols for equipment, footwear, and vehicles, to ensure compliance and reduce biosecurity risks.

4.5.2 TPF Zones will be used to prevent the spread of confirmed INNS identified off-site (TN2 and TN3; Figure 1) into the Site, which will be monitored by the ECoW.

4.5.3 Larger equipment i.e. small plant and vehicles should be washed before arriving at the Site if they have been used at other sites where the presence of invasive species or diseases is known. Larger equipment should also be washed before they leave the Site where practicable.

4.5.4 Should invasive species or diseases be identified at any point within the Site then these would need be managed through a management plan to be implemented by appointing a specialist contractor.

4.6 Contact Details

4.6.1 The overall responsibility of the Site during the construction phase lies with Bellway Homes. The person in charge of day-to-day Site activities will be the appointed Site Manager. The appointed ECoW should be contacted immediately in the event that protected or notable species (i.e. amphibians (inc. GCN), bats, badgers, birds, reptiles, hedgehogs or brown hare) are encountered during the works.

4.6.2 Cura Terrae has prepared this document and can be the main point of contact for ecological advice and the provision of ECoW, where requested and contracted to do so.

5. References

ARG UK. (2017). *'ARG UK Advice Note 4: Amphibian Disease Precautions: A Guide for UK Fieldworkers.'* Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom.

British Standards Institute (BSI). (2012). BS 5837:2012 – Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations. London: BSI.

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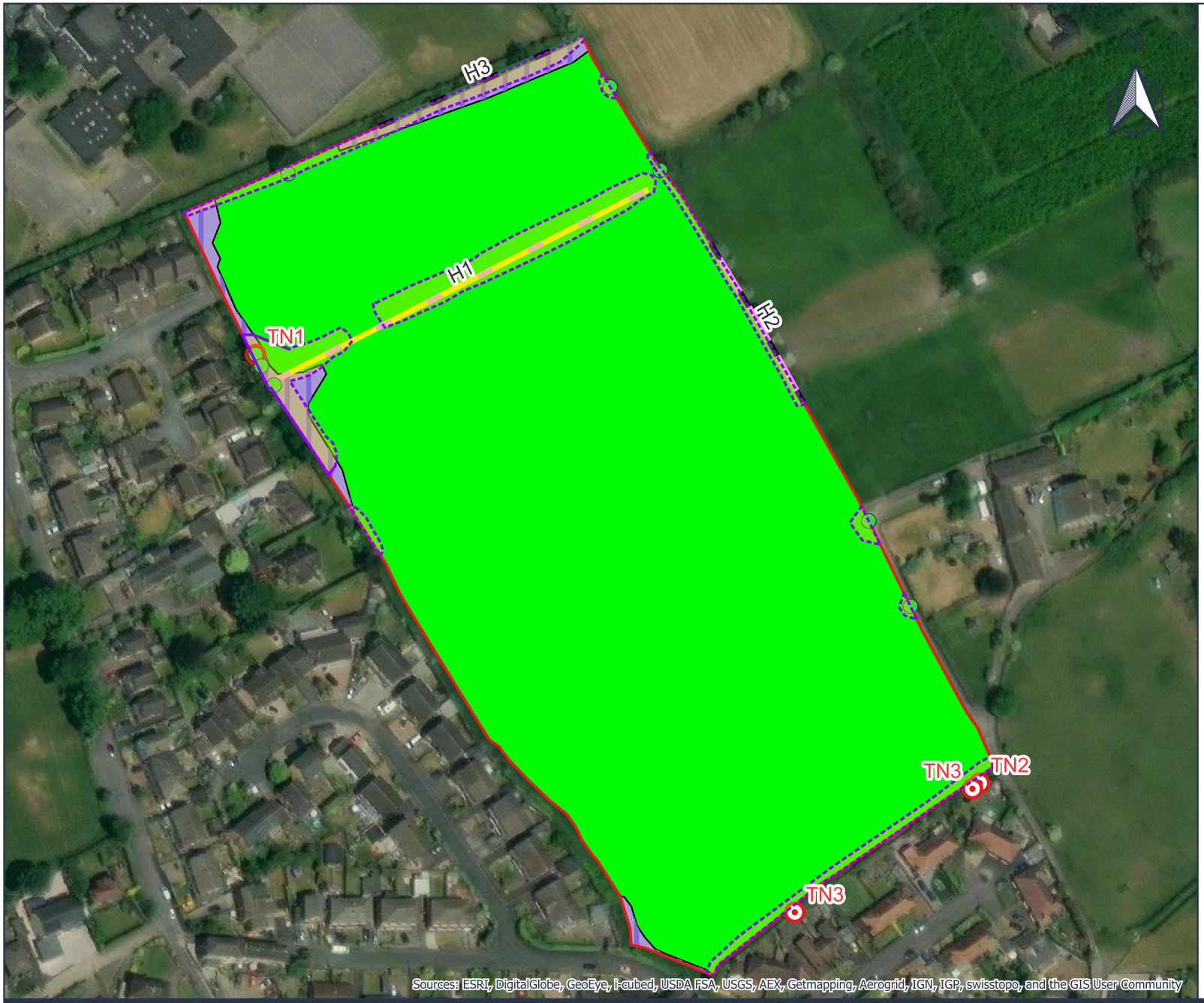
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Figure 1: Site Map



Legend

- Site boundary
- Temporary Protective Fencing Zones
- h2a6 - other native hedgerow
- h2a5 - species-rich native hedgerow
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- g4 - modified grassland
- h3d - bramble scrub
- SC: 32 Scattered trees
- Target Notes

0 50 100 m

Revision	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
A	01/12/2025	AW	JS

Drg. Ref.: 26095-ECO-1-A *Scale (A4): 1:2,000*

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Woodward Court, Mirfield - Construction Environmental Management Plan

Bellway Homes

Figure 1. Site Map

Appendix 1: Toolbox Talk

What you need to know

Protected and notable species that may be present: amphibians, badgers reptiles, , roosting bats, nesting birds, hedgehogs and brown hare.

Habitats on Site: grassland, hedgerows, scrub, trees.

General Requirements

- Attend the ECoW Toolbox Talk before starting vegetation clearance or construction.
- Read and follow this guidance; keep a copy available on Site.
- Stay alert for wildlife at all times.
- Keep the Site tidy: store materials on hardstanding or raised pallets away from vegetation.
- No food or litter left on Site.

Vegetation Clearance

- Avoid clearing shelter or hibernation habitat during the winter hibernation period.
- If a hedgehog nest or hibernation site is found, stop work and establish a 10 m exclusion zone. Wait for ECoW instructions.
- Where vegetation clearance is programmed during the nesting bird season (March – August), a nesting bird check will be carried out by the ECoW no more than 24 hours prior to the commencement of clearance. This check will confirm whether any active nests are present within the affected vegetation. If an active nest is identified, a suitable exclusion zone will be established around it. No works will take place within this zone until the chicks have fledged and/or the nest is confirmed to be no longer in use, as determined and monitored by the ECoW/ecologist.
- Carry out vegetation clearance only in suitable weather conditions suitable for reptile movement (i.e. dry weather and 10–18°C, avoiding early mornings unless already above 10°C).
- All clearance of suitable habitat will be supervised by the ECoW. They will check for wildlife and relocate animals if needed.
- ECoW will carry out a fingertip search before clearance; stop work if any animals are found.
- Clear tall vegetation (scrub/grass >100 mm) using a two-stage method.
- Clear vegetation in a systematic direction towards suitable habitat so wildlife can move away safely.

- After areas are fully cleared and signed off by the ECoW, works can continue without supervision. Keep the footprint at short vegetation (<50 mm) or bare ground.

Excavations & Working Areas

- Cover or backfill all open trenches overnight; if not possible, install a sloped escape ramp.
- Check all trenches each morning for trapped animals.
- Avoid disturbing tree roots and minimise soil compaction.

If You Encounter Wildlife

Reptiles:

- Stop work in that area.
- Do not handle; allow them to move away naturally.
- Contact the ECoW.

Common amphibians (frogs, toads, smooth newt):

- Move gently by gloved hands to safe vegetation outside the work area.

Great Crested Newt:

- Not to be handled; ECoW must be notified immediately.

Badgers / Setts:

- Stop work and notify the ECoW immediately.
- Never block or disturb a sett.

Hedgehogs:

- Avoid disturbing dense vegetation or leaf/brash piles, especially Nov–Mar.
- If found, stop work and contact ECoW.

Nesting Birds:

- No clearance March–August unless checked by the ECoW within the 24 hours prior to clearance.
- If an active nest is found, stop and establish an exclusion zone.

Brown Hare:

- If a hare (especially a leveret/young hare) is seen, stop work in the immediate area and allow it to move away on its own.
- Avoid mowing or disturbing tall grass/field margins during the main breeding period (Feb–Mar).
- Report sightings to the ECoW if hares appear at risk or show repeated presence in the work zone.

Lighting (Bats and Other Nocturnal Wildlife)

- Avoid night working.
- No lighting (if required) directed at retained trees (TN1; Figure 1) with suitability for roosting bats.
- If lighting is needed: use warm white (<2700 K) LEDs, low-level, shielded, directional units, minimising light spill.

Biosecurity & Pollution

- Clean footwear/equipment before moving between sites (brush, rinse, disinfect, dry).
- Wash larger machinery before entering or leaving Site.
- Use designated areas for refuelling and vehicle washing; use bunded fuel storage.
- Prevent pollution and runoff at all times.
- Three stands of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) have been recorded off-site, adjacent to the southeastern boundary (TN2 and TN3; Figure 1). Temporary Protective Fencing (TPF; Figure 1) and warning signage will be installed to prevent contact with these species and avoid their spread into the Site.
- Report any new invasive species or disease signs to the ECoW.

A summary of the above including relevant wildlife legislation, identification, appropriate actions and best practice advice is provided in Table A1 below.

Table A1: Toolbox Talk Summary

Species / Group	Key Legal Protections	Identification	Typical Habitat / Where Found	Actions for Contractors
Great Crested Newt (GCN)	European Protected Species; WCA 1981. Offence to capture, disturb, injure or kill a GCN or to damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places.	 Male GCN	Ponds, ditches, and surrounding terrestrial habitat such as grassland, scrub, and woodland.	Clear vegetation in two stages, moving in a set direction towards suitable habitat. Avoid clearing shelter or hibernation habitat during the winter hibernation period. Avoid harming; can be moved carefully by gloved hands to safe area outside works within retained vegetation if common amphibians encountered. Works must stop and ECoW contacted if GCN encountered.
Common amphibians (smooth newt, common frog, common toad)	Section 9(5) WCA 1981. Best practice to avoid impacts and harm to common amphibians.	 Common frog	Ponds, ditches, wetlands, gardens, and damp grassland.	
Reptiles (widespread species: adder, grass snake, common lizard, slow worm)	Schedule 5 WCA 1981. Offence to kill or injure a reptile.	 Adder	Grassland, heathland, woodland edges, hedgerows, gardens.	Carry out vegetation clearance only in suitable weather conditions suitable for reptile movement. Avoid clearing shelter or hibernation habitat during the winter hibernation period. Clear vegetation in two stages, moving in a set direction towards suitable habitat. Stop works if encountered; allow to move away; contact ECoW. Do not handle; adders are venomous; avoid contact.
Badgers	Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Offence to kill, injure or take a badger, and destroy, damage or obstruct a currently active badger sett, or to disturb animals within the sett.	 Badger sett entrance	Setts in woodland, hedgerows, grassland, or field margins.	Pre-works walkover surveys to be completed to confirm current Site usage by badgers. Stop works if a sett or badger is seen; contact ECoW. Never block or disturb a sett. Food or litter not to be left on the Site.

Species / Group	Key Legal Protections	Identification	Typical Habitat / Where Found	Actions for Contractors
Bats	Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017; Schedule 5 WCA 1981. Offence to deliberately capture, injury or killing, from deliberate disturbance and from deliberate damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place (roost).	 Common pipistrelle bat	Roost in trees, buildings, bridges, tunnels; use woodland, waterbodies, grassland and linear features (hedgerows) for foraging.	Any trees identified as displaying suitability for roosting bats that could be impacted by construction activities (TN1; Figure 1) to be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist well ahead of any planned works to trees commencing. No works to be undertaken that could affect any trees with confirmed roosts until appropriate mitigation measures have been agreed, including the requirement for licencing. Night working to be avoided; any lighting to avoid suitable roosting, foraging and commuting habitats (trees, scrub and hedgerows) Do not touch bats; avoid disturbing roosts.
Birds	WCA 1981; CRoW Act 2000. It is an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird, with certain exceptions. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb a Schedule 1 species while it is building a nest, is on or near a nest containing eggs or young, or to intentionally or recklessly disturb dependent young of such a species.	 Typical bird's nest	Nests in trees, shrubs, hedgerows, grassland, buildings.	Nesting bird checks to be carried out no more than 24 hours prior to the commencement of vegetation clearance if undertaken during nesting bird season. Appropriate buffer zone to avoid disturbing any active nests March–August; do not touch eggs or young. Special protection for Schedule 1 species; avoid noise and habitat disturbance.
Hedgehog	Section 41 NERC Act 2006. Avoiding harm to these species should be taken into consideration during works.	 Hedgehog	Gardens, grassland, hedgerows, scrub.	Clear vegetation in two stages, moving in a set direction towards suitable habitat. Avoid clearing shelter or hibernation habitat during the winter hibernation period. Avoid harming or disturbing; report sightings to ECoW. Best practice: check areas before machinery or materials movement.

Species / Group	Key Legal Protections	Identification	Typical Habitat / Where Found	Actions for Contractors
Brown Hare	Section 41 NERC Act 2006; general animal welfare laws. Avoiding harm to these species should be taken into consideration during works.	 Brown hare	Open fields, grassland, arable farmland, field edges.	Clear vegetation in two stages, moving in a set direction towards suitable habitat. Avoid harming or disturbing; report sightings to ECoW if needed. Best practice: avoid mowing or disturbing areas where hares are active, particularly during breeding season (Feb to March).
Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)	Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to release or intentionally cause any Schedule 9 species to spread into the wild.	 Cotoneaster species (TN3; Figure 1)	Road verges, hedgerows, rocky slopes, woodland edges, disturbed ground. Two stands identified off-site, adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the Site (TN3; Figure 1).	An updated INNS walkover survey should be undertaken during the botanical season (April–September) to confirm the presence or likely absence of INNS on-site and to inform any necessary management or removal measures prior to commencement of works. All proposed works should incorporate standard biosecurity measures during both construction and operational phases to minimise the risk of spreading invasive species and disease. Site staff should receive a toolbox talk and information sheet identifying common invasive species, including those recorded off-site. During site clearance, biosecurity measures should be implemented to prevent the spread of invasive plants via equipment, machinery, or clothing. In line with the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) protocol, the Check, Clean, Dry principles should be followed, ensuring boots, equipment, and machinery are cleaned before leaving the Site wherever possible. The use of Temporary Protective Fencing (TPF) Zones (Figure 1) and warning signage will be implemented prior and during the works to prevent contact with these species and avoid their spread into the Site.
		 Snowberry (TN2; Figure 1). Not listed as INNS on Schedule 9 of the WCA, 1981 (as amended), however is described as non-native with invasive tendencies.	Scrub, hedgerows, woodland margins, shaded banks, disturbed or semi-natural habitats. Identified off-site, adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the Site (TN2; Figure 1).	

Record of Toolbox Talk:

Signature	Name	Organisation