Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

RED HOUSE, GOMERSAL.

OS REF: SE 20749 26229.

CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP : BIODIVERSITY).

Ref No: **250738 / CEMP:BIODIVERSITY.**

Date: **11th March 2026.**

Unit 34, The Business Village, Cudworth, Barnsley, S72 8RP.
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Company No. 4401613.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. A planning application has been approved for the development of the site known as Red House, on Oxford Road in Gomersall.

1.2. As part of the planning conditions set out by Kirklees Council, Condition 22 states the following:

No works shall take place until a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP: Biodiversity) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The CEMP (Biodiversity) shall include the following:
a) Summary of potentially damaging activities
b) Identification of "biodiversity protection zones"
c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (these 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
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: Biodiversity 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.
The CEMP must also include: • PWMS for reptiles • PWMS for bats (trees and buildings)

1.4. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to prepare this document to satisfy the above requirement.

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2. SUMMARY OF POTENTIALLY DAMAGING ACTIVITIES.

Construction activities and their associated ecological risks are outlined below and are each addressed separately in this report:

- Removal or works to any large trees or trees with ivy cover, resulting in harm to individual **roosting bats** that may be present.
- Works to buildings that may impact on any opportunistic **roosting bats** that take temporary refuge in the buildings.
- Vegetation clearance or building works during the **nesting bird** season, resulting in the destruction of active nests.
- Vegetation clearance and construction activities resulting in harm to **hedgehogs**.
- Vegetation clearance and construction activities resulting in harm to **reptiles**.
- The removal or disturbance of the cotoneaster plants, resulting in the spread of a **schedule 9 invasive plant species** into the wild.

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3. IDENTIFICATION OF BIODVIERSITY PROTECTION ZONES.

3.1. BS 5837:2012 fencing will be erected around all the retained woodland, trees and garden planting habitats to prevent any accidental access into those areas with machinery or on foot, that will potentially cause damage or disturbance to the wildlife species present.

3.2. If any active birds nests are found at any point throughout the works, a suitable buffer zone around them will be demarcated using a solid fence or barrier. No access or works will be permitted beyond this. This will be a standard 5m buffer until further advice is sought from an ecologist who may advise otherwise depending on the location of the nest and the nature of the works in the vicinity.

3.3. No other ecological features were identified on site to warrant any further protection zones being implemented.

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4. PRACTICAL MEASURES TO AVOID OR REDUCE IMPACTS DURING CONSTRUCTION.

4.1. *Bats.*

4.1.1. Any large or ivy covered trees that are to be removed will be soft felled, gently lowering sections of the tree to the ground. The tree sections will be left in situ on the ground for a minimum of 48 hours before cutting and chipping or removing from site. This will give any individual roosting bats present time to escape on their own accord unharmed.

4.1.2. As part of the site induction, a toolbox talk will be delivered on bats in line with the toolbox talk sheet at the end of this report. The induction will advise that any works should be carried out with care, personnel should remain vigilant of any opportunistic roosting bats taking refuge in any gaps or crevices of buildings, including in walls, roof structure or under roof tiles. All personnel will be advised that in the unlikely event that a bat is found, all works in the vicinity should stop immediately, the bat retained safely in situ and professional advice should be sought immediately on how to proceed.

4.2. *Nesting Birds.*

4.2.1. Where feasible, initial vegetation clearance, site clearance and building works will be carried out between September and February (inclusive) to avoid the nesting bird season.

4.2.2. Where is necessary to undertake these works within the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August each year, they will be immediately preceded by a nesting bird survey, carried out by a suitably competent person. The findings of that survey will be valid for no longer than 48 hours as birds can start building their nests at any time.

4.2.3. If an active nest is found, it will be left undisturbed with a suitable buffer around it fenced off, until the young have fledged. The buffer will be defined by the competent person undertaking the nesting bird survey to ensure that sufficient area is maintained to ensure that the birds do not abandon the nest.

4.2.4. Some bird species, such as blackbirds, are known to take advantage of nesting opportunities and are not always deterred by human activities. Therefore, as part of the site induction a toolbox talk on nesting birds will be included in line with the toolbox talk sheet at the end of this report. Personnel will be advised to be vigilant throughout, and if any active birds nests are found, a 5m protection buffer will be demarcated and professional advice will be sought to advise on how to proceed.

4.3. *Hedgehogs and Reptiles.*

4.3.1. Prior to any site clearance works commencing, all personnel on site will be briefed on hedgehogs and reptiles using the toolbox talk sheets provided at the end of this report.

4.3.2. Initially, all vegetation will be cut to a minimum of 150mm above ground level using hand tools only, the arisings carefully removed by hand and the area will be left for a minimum of 24 hours before clearing to ground level. This will encourage hedgehogs and reptiles at ground level to vacate the area and will deter them from returning whilst construction activities are ongoing.

4.3.3. Any stored materials on site will be lifted cleanly off the ground and not dragged to avoid any harm to reptiles taking refuge underneath.

4.3.4. All excavations will either be covered overnight, or, they will be left with a mammal ramp to allow any animals that fall into the excavation a means of escape. These ramps will be at an angle no greater than 45 degrees in order to be functional. Any open excavations will be checked each morning prior to the works commencing.

4.3.5. In the event that any individual reptiles or hedgehogs are encountered during the works, the works in that area will temporarily cease until they have vacated the area by their own means. In the event that multiple reptiles, or hibernating reptiles or hedgehogs are found between November and February, they will be left in situ and professional advice will be sought to advise how to proceed.

4.4. *Schedule 9 Invasive Plant Species*

4.4.1. Where required, the cotoneaster plants present on the site will be removed in their entirety when there are no berries present and the plants (spring / summer). This

includes the plants, roots and the soils directly around the plants. These will all be disposed of as controlled waste to prevent them spreading further.

4.4.2. All machinery used to undertake these works will be washed in situ, with a membrane to catch all the washed arisings and then disposed of as controlled waste.

4.4.3. A cotoneaster toolbox talk sheet is provided at the end of this document to allow identification of these plants.

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5. LOCATION AND TIMING OF SENSITIVE WORKS TO AVOID HARM TO BIODIVERSITY FEATURES.

5.1. As already discussed, initial vegetation clearance, site clearance and building works will be carried out between September and February (inclusive) to avoid the nesting bird season. Where this is not feasible, the nesting bird methodology outlined in Section 4 will be followed.

5.2. If any reptiles or hedgehogs are found November to February, during the hibernation period, they will be left in situ and professional advice will be sought to advise how to proceed.

5.3. Any cotoneaster plants to be removed will be done so during the spring or summer months, April to August, when there are no berries present. The cotoneaster methodology outlined in Section 4 will be followed.

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6. TIMES DURING CONSTRUCTION WHEN SPECIALIST ECOLOGISTS NEED TO BE PRESENT ON SITE TO OVERSEE.

6.1. If there is a requirement to undertake a nesting bird survey in line with the methodology outlined in Section 4, an ecologist will be commissioned to undertake this no more than 48 hours ahead of the clearance works.

6.2. An ecologist will be consulted immediately in the case of any of the following circumstances:

- A bat is found in any trees or structures during the works.
- An active bird's nest is found in or close to the working areas.
- Any reptiles or hedgehogs are found during the hibernation period, November to February inclusive.
- Any other ecological issues that are of concern are identified during the construction works.

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7. RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

7.1. It is the responsibility of the developer to commission the ecologist to undertake all works under the role of ECoW, in line with the methodology outlined in Section 4.

7.2. The ECoW contact information will be on display at all times in the site cabin. The ECoW will be:

Ruth Georgiou – Whitcher Wildlife Ltd
07947 828137
info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk

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8. THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES ON SITE OF AN ECOLOGICAL CLERK OF WORKS (ECoW).

8.1. The role of the ECoW is primarily to provide ecological advice in the event that any ecological issues are identified by the developer during the works and to fulfil the role of an ECoW in line with that advice.

8.2. If the ECoW is commissioned to undertake a nesting bird survey ahead of site clearance works, it is their responsibility to ensure that they undertake that survey to a high standard and provide suitable guidance to the developer going forward. If the ECoW finds an active nest, they will need to advise the developer of the limits of the buffer zone that will need to be demarcated around the nest.

8.3. It is the responsibility of the ECoW to advise the site manager what activities, if any, are permitted beyond any protection fencing or barriers.

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9. USE OF PROTECTIVE FENCES, EXCLUSION BARRIERS AND WARNING SIGNS.

9.1. BS 5837:2012 fencing will be erected around the retained areas of vegetation and the root protection zones of retained trees.

9.2. Exclusion barriers will be erected to demarcate buffer zones around any active birds nests found. These will be solid barriers to avoid and noise from 'flapping' materials.

9.3. All of the above fencing / barriers will have signs fixed to them stating 'Ecologically sensitive area'. As part of the site induction, all personnel will be instructed not to go beyond any such signage without prior agreement with the site manager, who will ensure that they have clear instruction from the ECoW what activities, if any, are permitted beyond that point.

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Prepared by:	
Ruth Georgiou BSc MCIEM	Date: 11th March 2026.

Checked by:	
Derek Whitcher, BSc MCIEEM, MCMI	Date: 16th March 2026.

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Toolbox Talk: Bats

18 species of bats are regularly recorded in the UK, 17 of which are known to breed here. Bats utilise trees and woodland as well as buildings and structures in varying ways. Most bat species have declined substantially in recent years mainly due to habitat loss and fragmentation.

Habitat:

Bats require safe and reliable roosting sites, particularly during breeding and hibernation. They are heavily dependent on buildings and trees for their roost sites and therefore extremely susceptible to disturbance from human activities and developments.

Bats have been known to abandon roost sites after instances of disturbance and can result in breeding females being killed or the abandonment and subsequent starvation of dependant young. Repeated disturbance during winter hibernation can result in the death of adult animals from starvation. Bats hibernate during the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and occasionally the roofs of buildings.

The Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines include the following in relation to roost potential:

- Low potential – A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of year.
- Moderate potential – A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats, but unlikely to support maternity or hibernation roost types.
- High potential – A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use my large numbers of bats on a more regular basis and longer periods of time. These structures have the potential to support maternity or hibernation roosts.

General precautions to avoid impact on bats where works are deemed to be low risk:

(Always refer to site-specific reports for additional recommendations)

- If bats or roosts may be impacted during works, it is highly likely that surveys and / or licencing will be required.
- Lighting levels should be kept to a minimum, with all works downlit and only ongoing works illuminated. Flood lighting should be avoided at all costs.
- Noise levels should be kept to a minimum with vehicles, tools and machinery turned off when not in use.

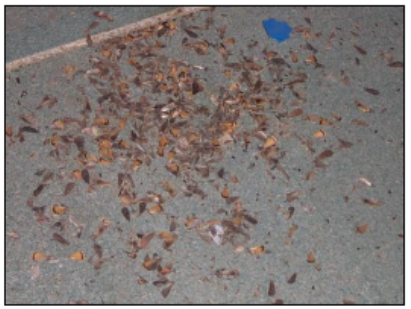
Legislation:

Bats and their roosts are fully protected at all times (whether the bats are currently present or not), under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (updated by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000) and the Habitats Regulations 2017. This means that it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, capture or disturb bats. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection. Under the Habitats Regulations, where bats may be affected by development proposals, a licence is required from Natural England.

Identification:

Some bat species, such as the Brown Long Eared, are easily identified by physical characteristics. However, some species can be extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

Bats are more easily identified by field signs such as droppings or feeding remains. The species can often be determined by doing eDNA testing of droppings. As shown below, feeding remains are often made up of insect wings.



If bats or bat field signs are identified at any point, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk or 07947828137.

Toolbox Talk: Bats in Trees

Whitcher Wildlife

18 species of bats are regularly recorded in the UK, 17 of which are known to breed here. All of these species utilise woodland and trees in varying ways. Woodland and trees are used for roosting, foraging and navigation.

Trees with Bat Roost Potential:

PRF (Potential Roost Features) can be present, regardless of the size and maturity of the tree.

These features are split into two categories:

- **PRF-I:** The feature is only suitable for individual or very small numbers of bats. This could be due to the size of the feature or if surrounding habitats are suboptimal.
- **PRF-M:** The feature is suitable for multiple bats and therefore, could be used as a maternity roost.

PRF may not be visible from ground level due to foliage cover, location of the PRF or size of the PRF.

General recommendations to avoid impact on bats in trees:

(Always refer to site-specific reports for additional recommendations)

- Trees with PRF-I can be soft felled and left on the ground for twenty-four hours before being disturbed.
- Trees with PRF-M cannot be impacted until further surveys have been undertaken to determine presence or likely absence of roosting bats. This can include aerial inspection surveys or dusk emergence surveys.
- Lighting levels should be kept to a minimum, with no lighting directed towards trees with bat roost potential. Flood lighting should be avoided at all costs.
- Noise levels should be kept to a minimum with vehicles, tools and machinery turned off when not in use.

Legislation:

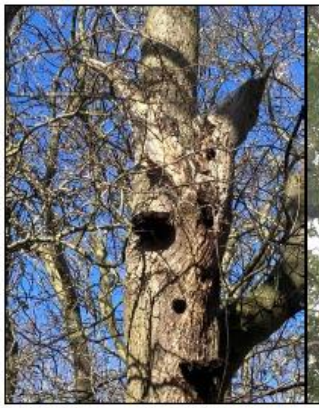
Bats and their roosts are fully protected at all times (whether the bats are currently present or not), under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (updated by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000) and the Habitats Regulations 1994. This means that it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, capture or disturb bats. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

Under the Habitats Regulations, where bats may be affected by development proposals, a licence is required from Natural England.

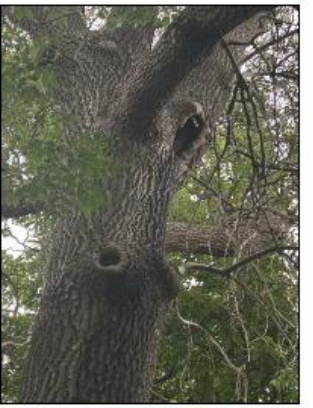
PRF – Potential Roost Features:

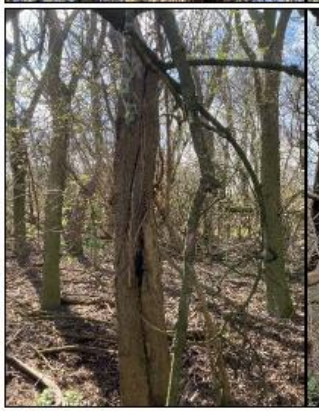
Bats will utilise an abundance of different features around a tree at different times of year including trunk hollows, knot holes, splits/cracks in branches and sheltered areas of flaking bark with different species typically utilising different features.

Woodpecker Holes

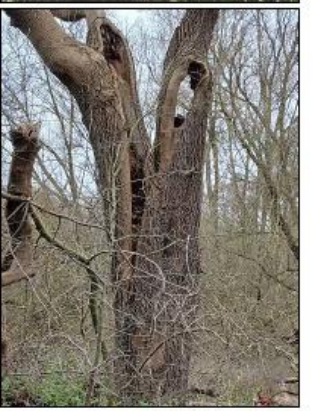


Knot Holes





Split Trunk



Rotten Tree

Toolbox Talk: Cotoneaster Species

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Cotoneasters are a large group of trees and shrubs including both deciduous and evergreen species. There are five species considered to be invasive: Wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), entire leaved cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster integrifolius*), Himalayan cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*), hollyberry cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster bullatus*) and small leaved cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster microphyllus*). Some of these species can be difficult to distinguish.

General precautions to avoid spread of cotoneaster species where works are deemed to be low risk:

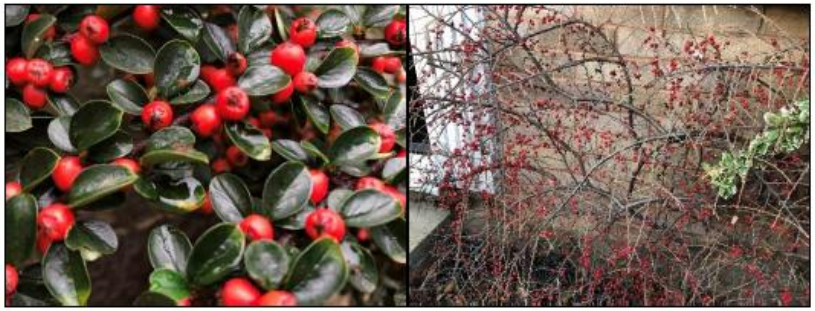
(Always refer to site-specific reports for additional recommendations)

- Works should be carried out when berries are not present on the plant. Berries are usually present throughout late summer and autumn.
- The plant should be marked up and all on site personnel briefed on how to identify it.
- If the above is not possible, a wash station should be set up in situ to facilitate cleaning and drying of PPE and equipment to prevent the spreading of seeds.

Spreading:

Cotoneaster plants are predominantly spread by birds. Birds eat the berries and seeds are therefore present in droppings, causing new cotoneaster plants to grow.

The best form of control of the plant is to prevent it from seeding by cutting back or pulling before the berries are present.



Legislation:

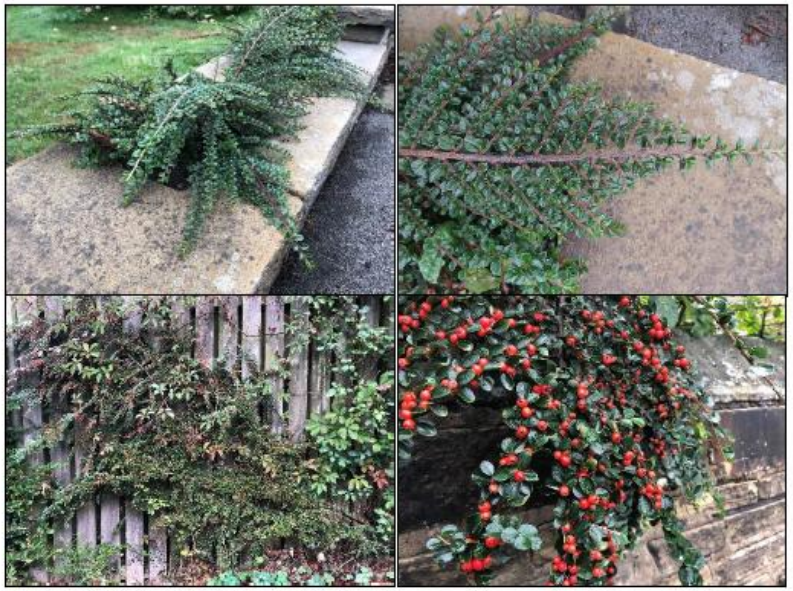
The above five cotoneaster species are listed under Section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as an invasive, non-native species. This means that it is an offence to allow or cause it to spread further into the wild.

Identification and Habitat:

Cotoneaster can grow in a variety of habitats. It is often used as an ornamental plant in urban areas and gardens.

In urban areas the plant is characteristic of disturbed dry sites and some species are also commonly found in herb-rich limestone grassland, crags and other semi-natural habitats.

Cotoneaster species vary and can be difficult to distinguish from one another. However, the most common species, wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) is distinctive with flattened herringbone like branches. Most species have shiny leaves located alternate along the stem.



Toolbox Talk: Hedgehog

The hedgehog was once common and widespread throughout the UK but suffered a major decline in the 1900s due to habitat loss. They are still found throughout the UK but are more common in the south and east, meaning they are rare in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

General precautions to avoid impact on hedgehogs:

- Leave wild corners and avoid clearing entire areas of vegetation and hibernacula.
- Create access gaps in fences of around 13x13cm to allow passage through gardens and other sites.
- Piles of debris and vegetation should not be burnt unless fully dismantled immediately prior.
- Use of herbicides should be avoided where possible.
- If waterbodies or pits are present, ramps can be installed to allow a safe escape.
- Hedgehog crossing signs can be used in areas where hedgehogs are common to raise awareness to the general public.
- If a hedgehog is identified at any point, it should be allowed to move away from the area unharmed.

Habitat:

Hedgehogs feed on a variety of small creatures including insects, worms, snails, mice, frogs and snakes. They root through hedges and undergrowth and make pig-like grunts whilst they forage.

Hedgehogs nest all year round and produce different nests for daytime resting, breeding and hibernation. Hedgehogs often hibernate from October/November through to February/March depending on the weather. They can still be seen out and about throughout Winter though as they may move to other nest sites. They tend to hibernate under dense dead leaves and vegetation and may seek shelter beneath piles of garden debris.

Legislation:

The hedgehog is considered an endangered species, but it benefits only from general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They are listed under Schedule 6 of the Act which makes it illegal to kill, trap or capture wild hedgehogs, with certain methods listed. They are also listed under the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996), which prohibits cruel treatment of hedgehogs and they are a species of 'principal importance' under the NERC Act, which is meant to confer a 'duty of responsibility to public bodies'.

However, none of these deal with the issues that are a threat to the hedgehog. The main threat is the increasing loss of habitat, the increasing traffic on our roads and the use of herbicides, in particular those used to kill garden slugs.

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Identification:

The hedgehog is a small, spiny mammal around 20cm long with a long snout. Their back and sides are covered in 1-inch spines, but are absent from the face, chest, belly, throat and legs, which are covered with coarse, grey-brown fur instead. There are no other similar native species in the UK.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal and therefore most often seen at night. They roam the countryside but often venture into more urban areas and gardens. They can travel up to three miles in one night whilst foraging.

When alarmed, the hedgehog often curls up into a ball, with only the spiny back showing.

If a hedgehog appears to be sick or injured, stop works and contact Whitcher Wildlife at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk or 07947828137.

Toolbox Talk: Nesting Birds

Whitcher Wildlife

The nesting bird season varies each year according to weather and temperature. It generally extends from March to August inclusive. A bird's nest is the place in which a bird lays and incubates its eggs. Some species build a nest structure while other species lay their eggs directly onto the ground or on a rocky ledge.

General precautions to avoid impact on nesting birds:

(Always refer to site-specific reports for additional recommendations)

- Where possible, works should be carried out during the winter months, outside of the nesting season.
- If this is not possible, all works should be preceded by a nesting bird survey within 24 hours before works commence.
- If sheltered structures such as tunnels and bridges are present, these should be checked for nesting pigeons prior to works commencing. Feral pigeons are known to nest all year round.
- If a nest is identified, it must be left undisturbed until all young have fledged.

Legislation:

Part 1. -(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built.
- Take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that it is an offence to:

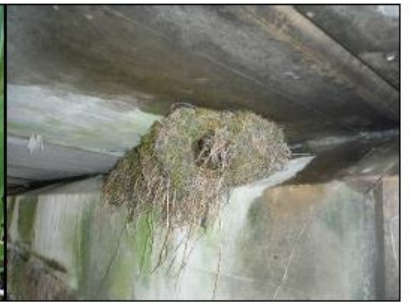
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb young of such a bird.

A special penalty will be applied if either of these two offences are committed.

Identification:

Nests can be constructed from a variety of materials and are usually lined with feathers or fur. These nests can be in obvious locations, or be more difficult to identify. The presence of a nest can be identified by field signs or by seeing the adult birds leaving and returning to the nest regularly with food to feed the chicks.

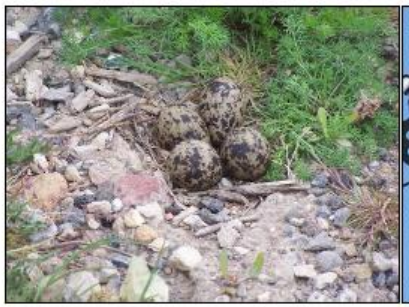
Care should be taken at any time during the nesting season particularly when regular bird activity is seen, or birds can be heard calling.



Habitat:

Birds regularly nest in a variety of places with some species nesting in buildings and structures, vegetation and trees and others nesting on the ground or on water.

However, birds may nest in any habitat or situation if they identify a suitable nest site.



If a bird nest is identified at any point, stop works and contact Whitcher Wildlife at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk or 07947828137.

Toolbox Talk: Reptiles

There are four common reptile species in Great Britain, the grass snake, adder, slow worm and common lizard. There are also two much rarer species, the sand lizard and smooth snake which are afforded a higher level of protection as they are European Protected Species.

General precautions to avoid impact on reptiles where works are deemed to be low risk:
(Always refer to site-specific reports for additional recommendations)

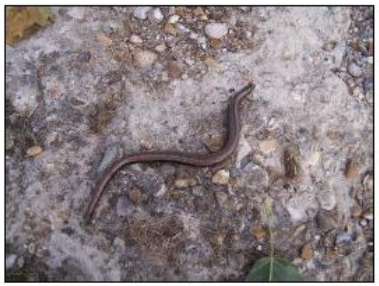
- All on-site personnel should be briefed on how to identify common reptile species.
- Vegetation clearance carried out to a minimum of 150mm in height.
- No refugia or habitat piles should be disturbed.
- All equipment should be removed from the site overnight or stored above ground on pallets.

Legislation:
Reptiles are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

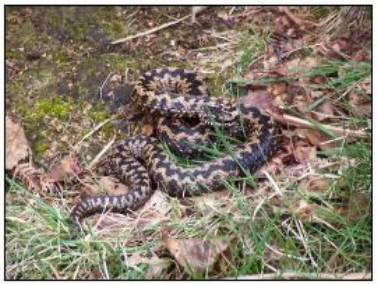
Habitat:
Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning, they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies and then later they may move back into the shade so as not to overheat. Hence, reptiles require a habitat that provides a range of suitable refugia for shelter such as dense vegetation, rubble or log piles, or crevices and open areas for basking such as bare ground, rocks or railway ballast shoulders. During hot summers reptiles may be found in damper, cooler sites. Reptiles hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators. When disturbed in their natural habitat reptiles will usually move away quickly.

Identification – Grass Snake:
The grass snake can be up to 120cm long. It is generally dar… green in colour but may occasionally appear grey wit… vertical black bars and spots that run along its sides. There is usually a yellow marking around the neck.

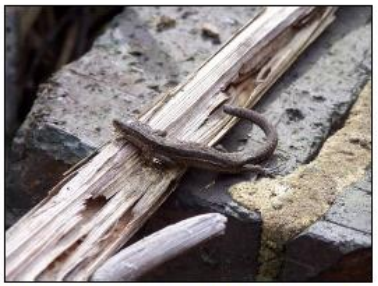
Identification – Slow Worm:
Slow worms grow to around 45cm in length. The males and females display a marked difference in colour when fully grown with the females often displaying a dark vertebral stripe. Their colouring varies from light brown, dark brown, grey, bronze to brick red and they can display occasional markings on the flanks.



Identification – …:
…ve species that is venomous, but it is …. Adult adders are generally up to 66cm long. Back ground colouration is a light shade of grey or brown with a black zigzag marking along the length of the back.



Identification – Common Lizard:
Common lizards grow to around 16cm. They are grey-brown to dark brown, often with a darker streak that may run the entire length of the spine. A continuous dark band bordered by light yellow or white spots is often seen on either side of the body. The underside of the males is egg yolk yellow to orange spotted with black. Females are yellowish grey.



If multiple or hibernating reptiles are identified, stop works immediately and contact Whitcher Wildlife at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk or 07947828137.