

Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

SITE LOCATION

Woodland South of Hollingworth
Lake – High Ropes

PREPARED FOR

Rochdale Borough Council

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PRINCIPAL AUTHOR

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OUR REFERENCE

241008 1340 CEMP V1 FINAL ISSUE





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1. Introduction/Background

1.1 The Principal Author

- 1.1.1 The Principal Author of this report is Laura Carter BSc (Hons), (Head of Ecology). The Principal Author has over six years of professional experience in ecological consultancy and has worked on projects ranging in scale including commercial and residential sites. The Principal Author currently holds a Level 2 class survey licence from Natural England for bats (*Chiroptera* spp.) and a Level 1 class survey licence for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*), and is a Qualifying Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM); she is therefore subject to CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct.

1.2 Purpose and Brief

- 1.2.1 Rochdale Borough Council (The Applicant) commissioned Wharton Natural Infrastructure Consultants Ltd (Wharton) to produce a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) in respect of ecological considerations at a parcel of land at Woodland South of Hollingworth Lake ('the Site' – outlined in red on Appendix 1).

1.3 Description of Site and Local Area

- 1.3.1 The Site is located to the south of Hollingworth Lake and west of Rakewood Road in Littleborough. It is centred approximately at National Grid reference SD 93762 14689.
- 1.3.2 The Site comprised an area of broad-leaved woodland with dense canopy cover, with an area of other neutral grassland present in a clearing. Public footpaths and Hollingworth lake were present to the east and north of the Site at c35m and c100m respectively. The Site is bordered to the south by woodland and further areas of grassland with access roads and footpaths.
- 1.3.3 Land use in the immediate and wider areas is a mix of residential and commercial land use. The Site is relatively well connected from an ecological perspective due to grassland and woodland throughout the local area.
- 1.3.4 Wildlife corridors are present in the local area, such as the River Roch c.1km northwest of the Site. There is good ecological connectivity to/from the Site. The woodland at the Site contributes to peripheral connectivity around Hollingworth Lake, however, the Site itself does not contribute to the functionality of the wildlife corridors.

1.4 Development Proposals

- 1.4.1 The Proposed Development comprises the installation of a high net and lower ground activity course including a timber framed shelter, a storage container, and 2.4m high boundary fencing and gates.
- 1.4.2 The proposals detailed above will be referred to throughout this report as the 'Proposed Development'.

1.5 Scope of this CEMP

- 1.5.1 This CEMP applies to the Proposed Development including Site Clearance (SC) and Construction (C) phases.



1.6 Roles and Responsibilities

1.6.1 The Applicant or their appointed third-party contractor will be responsible for the implementation of the methods detailed within this document. The appointed contractor is yet to be confirmed; however, they will be referred to in this document as 'the Appointed Contractor'.

1.6.2 Where the Site Manager, is referred to within this report, who is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the CEMP, this is . The contact details for the Site Manager are provided below:

Name:

Mobile:

Email:

1.6.3 Where an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) is referred to within this report, the ECoW is the Principal Author. The contact details for the Principal Author are provided below:

Name: Laura Carter

Mobile: 07508 410 880

Email: laura@wnic.co.uk

1.6.4 Where an Arboricultural Clerk of Works (ACoW) is referred to within this report, the ACoW is Peter Wharton. The contact details for the ACoW are provided below:

Name: Peter Wharton

Mobile: 07888728295

Email: peter@wnic.co.uk



2. Baseline Ecological Constraints

2.1 Previous Ecological Reports

Reports Referenced in this CEMP

2.1.1 The following ecological reports have been reviewed in relation to the Construction Phase and the historical baseline information detailed below is taken from these reports unless otherwise specifically stated:

- 220111 1340a PEA Final – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Wharton (Wharton, 2022)
- 221107 1340a BNG V2 Final– Biodiversity Net Gain Report by Wharton (Wharton, 2022a)

Ecological Baseline and Historical Data

2.1.2 The historical baseline survey information is detailed below and is taken directly from the PEA for the Site by Wharton.

Protected Sites

2.1.3 The Proposed Development is located 30m at its closest point from a Site of Biological Importance (SBI).

Hollingworth Lake and surrounds SBI

2.1.4 This SBI is a 54ha area c.30m west of the Site at its closest point, comprising a lake, broad-leaved woodland, scrub, flush, and fen.

2.1.5 The waterbody is important for a variety of birds such as reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*). Wintering species include goosander (*Mergus merganser*), teal (*Anas crecca*), goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*), whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), siskin (*Carduelis spinus*), lesser redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*), fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) and redwing (*Turdus iliacus*). '

2.1.6 The Site is already used for public recreation with boating activities on the lake and public footpaths all the way around. There may be an increase in recreational pressure from the Proposed Development, however, this is unlikely to be significant in the wider context of the Site due to its current use for recreational activities, which are actively managed.

Habitats

2.1.7 The Site is dominated by broadleaved woodland which supports mature trees species including pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), occasional red maple (*Acer rubrum*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), and Australian pine (*Pinus nigra* var *nigra*).

2.1.8 Lowland mixed deciduous woodland is a Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI). The woodland on Site supports many mature tree specimens within the canopy layer. Invasive species management had been undertaken within the woodland for *Rhododendron* sp. The ground flora species were largely absent due to being outcompeted by *Rhododendron* sp. that was present throughout the woodland. Although the Site qualified as an HPI, the condition of the habitat was not considered to be a good example of this Habitat type. This was due to significant encroachment by invasive species and a poorly developed ground layer from recreational pressure and being outcompeted and overshadowed by the *Rhododendron* sp. throughout the woodland.

2.1.9 The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report (221107 1340a BNG V2) produced in tandem with



this report (PEA), demonstrates that the woodland within the Site is of *poor* condition. This is due, in part, to the woodland comprising trees at only two life stages, there being no recognisable NVC community and there being no regeneration/coppice regrowth within the woodland, in addition to the presence of invasive non-native species.

Protected and Notable Species for further consideration

Wild Birds

2.1.10 There are 400 records for birds within 2km of the Site. Species include:

- Barn owl (*Tyto alba*)
- Common scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)
- Scaup (*Aythya marila*)
- Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)
- Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
- Spotted flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)
- Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- Tree pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)
- Twite (*Linaria flavirostris*)
- White-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*)
- Willow tit (*Poecile montanus*)
- Yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

2.1.11 The Site supports suitable nesting habitat for wild birds via mature trees.

2.1.12 Due to the size of the Site, it is unlikely to support important assemblages of nesting birds, however, it does form part of the wider woodland habitat (outside of the Site) and is likely to provide nesting habitat for low numbers of woodland nesting birds.

Invasive species

2.1.13 *Rhododendron* sp. was present at the Site and its immediate surrounds. Due to the time of year, it was not possible to identify the *Rhododendron* to species level. Areas of the Site and its immediate surrounds had undergone recent clearance works for *Rhododendron*.

2.1.14 It must be noted that some *Rhododendron* sp. are listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, where it states that it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause the species to grow in the wild (HMSO, 1981).

2.1.15 The *Rhododendron* sp. recorded on Site may fall under Schedule 9 and as such would require treatment for removal to prevent its spread. Based on the Site assessment and current management for removal it is likely the species on Site will be prolific and spread if not managed appropriately.



3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation Plan

3.1 Impacts Resulting from the Clearance and Construction Phase

- 3.1.1 Impacts on ecological features as a result of the Proposed Development are considered to be minor to moderate in the absence of mitigation,

Habitats

- 3.1.2 In the absence of mitigation, the Proposed Development will result in the following impacts and effects to important habitat.
- 3.1.3 Significant effects have been detailed in **bold** for ease of reference.

Woodland

- Permanent, negative, not-significant effect due to the loss of three trees to facilitate the Proposed Development.
- Reversible, negative effect, **significant up to the County level** due to movement of plant machinery/vehicles causing direct compaction of roots. Covered in the accompanying Arboricultural Report from Wharton
- Reversible, negative effect, **significant up to the Local level** due to contamination of soil and tree roots from concrete plugs used during construction.

Sites

- 3.1.4 In the absence of mitigation, the Proposed Development will result in the following impacts and effects on important sites (significant effects are in **bold**):

Hollingworth Lake and Surrounds SBI

- **Temporary, short-term negative significant effect** on Smite Brook due to toxic spillage (from concrete) and sedimentation through soil removal during the construction phase of the Proposed Development

Species

- 3.1.5 In the absence of avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures, the Proposed Development will result in the following impacts and effects to important sites (significant effects are in **bold**):

Nesting Birds

- A negative, not-significant effect on nesting birds will arise due to loss of breeding habitat as a result of the removal of three trees.
- A permanent negative not-significant effect on nesting birds may arise due to injury and/or death of birds, fledglings and/or eggs due to vegetation clearance at the Site, also resulting in a breach of legislation.

Other.

- 3.1.6 Risks to any other protected species as a result of the Proposed Development are considered to be negligible owing to the nature of the Site and the work proposed.
- 3.1.7 The measures required to bring these impacts to a negligible level are detailed below.



4. Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS)

- 4.1.1 General avoidance/mitigation measures designed to avoid adverse effects to species/habitats as detailed within Section 0 are described below.
- 4.1.2 Unless otherwise specifically stated, providing that the measures detailed within this CEMP are adhered to, the continued presence of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) at the Site is not considered to be necessary.
- 4.1.3 A toolbox talk will be carried out by the ECoW prior to the Proposed Development commencing. This will inform contractors of the potential ecological constraints at the Site as well as suitable working methods to be undertaken in accordance with this CEMP.
- 4.1.4 This CEMP will remain in the Site office at all times as a point of reference for contractors.
- 4.1.5 Given the nature of the Proposed Development, it is unlikely that contractors will disturb protected species other than nesting birds during tree removal. Any common fauna be found during works (excepting any European Protected Species or nesting birds) will be relocated to suitable retained vegetation either within the retained vegetation on Site or outside of the construction footprint of the Proposed Development.
- 4.1.6 A Records Form (Appendix 2) record must be completed and kept of any fauna discovered and moved during the construction phases by the Site Manager (or ECoW, if present on Site at the time of discovery) including a record of the area of relocation.
- 4.1.7 If at any point European Protected Species are found during works, works in that area must cease immediately a Records Form completed and the ECoW will be contacted for advice and the LPA are to be informed.

4.2 Dust Pollution Prevention

- 4.2.1 To reduce dust emission from the Site during Site clearance and construction work, working areas will be dampened down to assist with preventing dust emissions. This will reduce the impact of dust deposition on adjacent retained habitats, specifically habitats associated with the SBI.
- 4.2.2 All runoff resulting from dampening down of areas must be controlled such that runoff into the adjacent lake and the trees within the Site and habitats associated with the SBI can be avoided.
- 4.2.3 Localised activities that may affect air quality or generate dust will be located away from sensitive ecological features whenever possible (habitats associated with the SBI).
- 4.2.4 Due to the construction work being located within a clearing in the woodland area, it is not anticipated that the Proposed Development will generate significant quantities of dust, and so dust suppression measures are likely to be minimal throughout construction.

4.3 Excavations, Posts and Concrete Pads

- 4.3.1 No large excavations are anticipated from the Proposed Development.
- 4.3.2 If post-hole excavations are to be left open overnight, these will be covered by a solid and stable material (e.g., weighted plywood board) to prevent injury to species such as hedgehogs (and other small terrestrial fauna) from falling into the post-holes. This can be removed during the day but will be replaced each night until the post-hole is filled.
- 4.3.3 No works to post-hole excavations will commence until they have been checked for trapped fauna immediately prior to the recommencement of works.
- 4.3.4 Any concrete pads for the construction of the kiosk and toilet block will be fenced off from ground level until set. This will prevent terrestrial fauna from entering these areas until the



concrete has set and there is no risk of entrapment.

4.4 Watercourse Pollution Prevention

- 4.4.1 To minimise the risk of pollution, the [Guidance for Pollution Prevention \(GPP\)](#) (NetRegs, 2023) must be adhered to during work to ensure there are no adverse effects on groundwater condition, in particular, *GPP6: Working at construction and demolition sites*.
- 4.4.2 Pollution prevention measures should be used to prevent contamination of the watercourses from factors such as surface run-off, waste management, chemical pollution via concrete, and nitrate ingress.
- 4.4.3 Oils and hazardous waste (if applicable) will be stored appropriately to minimise pollution risk including compulsory use of bunded fuel browsers, drip trays and spill kits on Site.
- 4.4.4 An appropriate buffer of 20m between the top bank of the Lake adjacent to the boundary of the Site and the works will be maintained throughout the clearance and construction phases. This will be marked by the fencing around the high ropes Site. The emphasis on the buffers importance will be made by the ECoW prior to construction works starting.
- 4.4.5 Fuel, chemical or concrete handling, mixing and storage must be undertaken away from aquatic habitats to minimise the risk of spillage and subsequent contamination. Any spills on Site must be cleaned immediately with a spill kit.
- 4.4.6 Any pollution events must be reported to the Environment Agency as soon as possible after the event.

4.5 Lighting

- 4.5.1 No works at night will be carried out in order to avoid disturbance to nocturnal fauna.
- 4.5.2 No additional lighting is proposed by the Proposed Development.

4.6 Noise Pollution Prevention

- 4.6.1 It is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development will result in significant disturbance to legally protected species via noise impacts due to the small-scale, localised nature of the Proposed Development and the existing recreational use of the Site.

4.7 Storage of Building Materials

- 4.7.1 All stored materials will be kept within a designated open material storage area within the Site.
- 4.7.2 The open material storage area will be located outside of the Root Protection Area (RPA) of all retained trees.
- 4.7.3 Materials must be raised off the ground on pallets to remove the potential of creating suitable refugia for fauna, particularly reptiles and amphibians.
- 4.7.4 All toxic substances will be stored safely and appropriately within the material storage area within the Site and will not be accessible to terrestrial mammals - fencing these areas off with HERAS fencing flush to ground level is advised to prevent fauna passing beneath the fencing.

4.8 Vegetation Removal

- 4.8.1 The construction works are likely to take place during the bird breeding season (the bird breeding season is typically between March-September inclusive) however some birds do nest all year round. Therefore, prior to any tree removal that is required between March and September, a check for nesting birds and nests will be carried out by the ECoW a maximum of 48 hours prior to the works, to check for the presence of any active nests.

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- 4.8.2 If evidence of breeding/nesting is discovered at any other time, the area will be appropriately buffered and the location communicated and demonstrated to the Site Manager, and works will be stopped in that area until young birds have fledged, and no other signs of breeding activity are recorded.



5. Species-Specific Avoidance Measures

Table 1. Breeding Birds

Breeding Birds	
Relevant Legislation	
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (HMSO, 1981)	
Offences under legislation relevant to the development may include:	
Intentional killing, injuring, or taking any wild bird. Intentional taking, damage to or destruction of the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built. Intentional taking or destruction of the egg of any wild bird. The use of traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds.	
Likelihood of offence(s) being committed in the absence of avoidance/mitigation measures	
Low	
Likelihood of offence(s) being committed with avoidance/mitigation measures	
Negligible	
Avoidance/Mitigation Proposed:	
Prior to vegetation removal that is required between March and September, a search for nesting birds and nests will be carried out by the ECoW a maximum of 48 hours prior to the works, to check for the presence of any active nests. If evidence of breeding/nesting is discovered, the area will be appropriately demarcated, and works will be stopped in that area until young birds have fledged, and no other signs of breeding activity are recorded. A 5m (minimum) buffer from any nesting birds will be enforced at the Site until young birds have naturally fledged and nesting has ceased.	



Table 2. Terrestrial Mammals

Hedgehog
Relevant Legislation
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Species of Principal Importance under section 41 of the NERC act
Likelihood of offence(s) being committed in the absence of avoidance/mitigation measures
Low
Likelihood of offence(s) being committed with avoidance/mitigation measures
Negligible
Avoidance/Mitigation Proposed:
Avoidance measures for excavations are to be adhered to. No night works will take place. All toxic substances will be storage safely and appropriately within the open material storage area within the Site compound and will not be accessible to terrestrial mammals. Precautionary measures to prevent the entrapment in concrete pads If hedgehogs are found during the search, they will be carefully moved from the works area to a safe location within or adjacent to the Site.



6. Compliance

- 6.1.1 The Site Manager will ensure copies of all ecological reports relevant to Site works, and relevant planning conditions are kept in the Site office and are available to refer to at any time.
- 6.1.2 The ECoW will carry out regular reviews of the implementation of the CEMP throughout the construction phase to monitor the effectiveness of mitigation and avoidance measures as well as compliance with legal, planning and/or contractual requirements.
- 6.1.3 If the ECoW deems it appropriate for changes to be made to this CEMP, they will provide details in writing to LPA and await approval before implementing the changes.



References

Google Earth Pro, 2024. s.l.: Google.

HMSO, 1981. *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office.

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[Accessed 8 October 2024].

Wharton, 2022. *220111 1340a PEA Final*, s.l.: s.n.

Wharton, 2022a. *221107 1340a BNG V1 - Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment*, s.l.: s.n.



Appendix 1 – Location Plan (Google Earth Pro, 2024)





Appendix 2 – Recorders Form

Record Form	
Site:	Date:
Species:	
Location found:	
Action taken:	
Relocation area (if required):	
Found by:	
Notified Individuals:	
Notes:	



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