



South Heywood, Rochdale

Ecological CEMP

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Nothing in this report constitutes legal opinion. If legal opinion is required, the advice of a qualified legal professional should be secured.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) was commissioned by Electricity North West in April 2025 to produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) report for a development on land south of Queen Elizabeth II Way, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (hereafter referred to as the 'site').

Background

- 1.2 This CEMP is for an application for the approval of details reserved by conditions pursuant to hybrid planning permission 16/01399/HYBR (a large, mixed-use development at South Heywood) and following an application for the approval of reserved matters for the appearance, landscaping, layout, access and scale of an electricity substation (ref: 24/01250/REM). The application seeks to discharge the requirements of planning conditions from the hybrid planning permission which are relevant to the reserved matters approval.
- 1.3 To satisfy ecological conditions Rochdale Borough Council have requested a CEMP to be submitted. The council have requested that the CEMP address condition 23.
- 1.4 Condition 23 states: *No development shall take place on any phase of the development (including demolition, ground works, vegetation clearance) until a construction environmental management plan (CEMP: biodiversity) for that particular phase has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP (Biodiversity) for each phase shall include the following:*
- i. *Identification of "biodiversity protection zones".*
 - ii. *Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements).*
 - iii. *The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.*
 - iv. *The times during construction when specialist ecologists may need to be present on site to oversee works.*
 - v. *Responsible persons and lines of communication.*
 - vi. *Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.*

The approved CEMP for each phase 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.

Reason: To minimise detrimental effects to the neighbouring amenities, the amenities of the area in general, detriment to the natural environment during the construction phase in accordance with Policies DM1, P2 and P3 of the adopted Rochdale Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Reason for pre-commencement condition: As the development will include site clearance, demolition works, ground works and engineering works an understanding will therefore be necessary of what measures will be put in place to protect the amenity of the natural environment and the area in general, prior to commencement of any works taking place.

1.5 The CEMP should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Amphibian RAMs;
- Bat RAMs;
- Badger and hedgehog RAMs;
- Measures to avoid harm to breeding birds;
- Tree protection measures; and
- Invasive species control.

Site Description

1.6 The site is located on the land to the south of Queen Elizabeth II Way, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester, OL10 2TB. The approximate central grid reference of the site is SD 85057 09072.



Figure 1 Site Location

Scope of Report

1.7 This CEMP sets out a practical working strategy to be implemented during the pre-construction and construction phases of the development, to ensure that features of ecological interest, including notable habitats, and protected or notable species, within

the working areas, or within influencing distance of the working areas, are not compromised.

- 1.8 This CEMP has been informed by a site walkover by TEP in April 2024 and REC Report 100944EC1R2 - 2016 The methods detailed within the CEMP follow best ecological working practices in respect of the habitats currently present on site and species identified within the working areas or within influencing distance of the working areas. The document includes:
- Summary of ecological baseline; and
 - Construction ecological management plan.
- 1.9 The methods are to be followed by site contractors at all times during the pre-construction and construction phases of the development.

2.0 Ecological Baseline and Assessment of Potential Impacts

- 2.1 A summary of the ecological baseline of the site and relevant ecological features is provided below.

Designated Sites

- 2.2 There is one internationally designated site within 10km of the site Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation SAC which is located 3.4km south east of the site.
- 2.3 There is one nationally designated site within 5km of the site Rochdale Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest SSSI which is located 3.4km south east of the site.
- 2.4 There are four non-statutory local wildlife sites identified within 2km of the site. These include:
- Hoplands Woodland Local Nature Reserve LNR – 1.8km southeast of the site.
 - Railway Cutting at Heywood Site of Biological Interest SBI - 1.3km northwest of the site.
 - Pilsworth SBI - 1.9km west of the site.
 - Glade & Oaken Bank Woods SBI - 1.6km east of the site.
- 2.5 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) highlight the potential for effects on a SSSI if certain types of development are planned within a specified radius of it. The site falls within a single IRZ. The proposals do not meet any of the risk parameters identified for this IRZ.

Habitats

- 2.6 There are no Priority Habitats within the site. The majority of the site is an open area of previous grassland habitat, more specifically described as semi-improved, disturbed ground which undulates to the south towards an adjacent ditch.
- 2.7 The semi-improved grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and has abundant Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, nettle *Urtica dioica* and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*. There are rare occurrences of Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica* within this habitat.

- 2.8 An area of bunded ground and disturbed grassland is in the north and east of the site. This habitat includes the same species as the semi-improved neutral grassland but shows evidence of recent ground works / ground compacting in the area.
- 2.9 The north and eastern portion of the site supports dense scrub over a wet ditch. The wet, steep sided ditch has a buffer of defunct hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* that has developed in dense scrub. The water is currently flowing within it via a culvert that connects to the nearby highways detention basin. The dense scrub and wet ditch are dominated by bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg*, and has abundant rosebay willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, broad-leaved willowherb *Epilobium montanum* and frequent horsetail species *Equisetum sp*.
- 2.10 Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* is present within the wet ditch and at the north-west aspect of the site. Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* is present in the south-west corner of the site.
- 2.11 A square area of land behind posted wooden fence, that is offsite and to the west of the site. An area of land that is adjacent to the west of the site and habitats within this area are disturbed, semi-improved / improved land, with also a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme comprising a main water body with high banks sloping down to the western edge. The waterbody is approximately five years old with goat willow *Salix caprea* and crack willow *Salix fragilis* saplings frequently found along its edges. The land is dominated by broad-leaved dock, and has abundant nettle, hard rush *Juncus inflexus*, and common reed *Phragmites australis* and greater reedmace *Typha latifolia*.
- 2.12 No protected notable (WCA8) or invasive (WCA9) non-native invasive species were recorded within desktop records.

Fauna

Amphibians

- 2.13 There are two waterbodies within 250m of the site and one pond 277m from the site.
- The SUDS scheme, adjacent to the west of the site - SD 84929 08960
 - Waterbody south of Workers Way Road – 277m south-east of the site, SD 85188 08759
 - Potentially stationary wet ditch - 160m south-east of the site, SD85140888

- 2.14 Surveys previously undertaken by REC in 2015 did not reveal presence of great crested newts REC Report 100944EC1R2-2016. The habitats on site, scrub, grassland and areas of fly tipping provide suitable foraging and sheltering habitat for amphibians.

Badger

- 2.15 No setts or signs of badger activity were observed within the site or its surrounds however the site and its immediate surrounds are favourable for this species.

Bats

- 2.16 There are no buildings on site. There are no trees on site suitable to support roosting bats.
- 2.17 The habitats on-site, particularly the trees and scrub, are suitable for use by commuting and foraging bats, particularly pipistrelle species which have been recorded in the wider area and are typically associated with suburban sites.

Birds

- 2.18 No birds were detected on site during the habitat survey. The trees and scrub on site are suitable for use by passerine bird species. The scrub may provide hunting opportunities for birds.

Hedgehog

- 2.19 Habitats on site including scrub and grassland are considered suitable for supporting foraging and sheltering hedgehog.

3.0 Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP)

Roles and Responsibilities

Environmental Champion

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of works on site, the Client will appoint an 'Environmental Champion' for the site. This will be an employee of the developer who is informed and aware of the ecological features and constraints present on site, and the requirements of the CEMP. They will also need to have a regular presence on site and be aware of the day-to-day workings of the site during construction.
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of the Environmental Champion to ensure all construction works are compliant with this CEMP. The Environmental Champion will liaise closely with the Project Ecologist, seeking advice when necessary.
- 3.3 The Environmental Champion must communicate with the Project Ecologist to keep them informed about works on site, to ensure that the Project Ecologist can provide appropriate and well-informed advice.
- 3.4 The Environmental Champion will be responsible for the following:
- Ensure all construction works are compliant with the CEMP.
 - Ensure the site team and sub-contractors are informed of the ecological receptors and potential impacts of construction works.
 - Ensure the site team and sub-contractors comply with the site protocols regarding ecological receptors.
 - Make the Project Ecologist aware of works which could have potential impacts on ecological receptors.
 - Liaise with the Project Ecologist to ensure appropriate ecological supervision can be provided.
 - Ensure works are completed following best practice guidelines in relation to ecology, by seeking advice from the Project Ecologist; and
 - Keep a site log relating to ecology. The site log will contain a log of daily activities, details of any recommendations made, details of any further actions required and with whom the responsibility for those action lies.

Project Ecologist / Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

- 3.5 Prior to the commencement of works on site, the Client will appoint an appropriately qualified Project Ecologist. The Project Ecologist must be a member of the Chartered

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). The Project Ecologist will advise the Environmental Champion, Site Management Team, and Contractors, in relation to the ecology of the site.

- 3.6 When required, the Project Ecologist will arrange for an ECoW to provide a supervisory role on site. The ECoW will be a suitably qualified ecologist, put forward for the role by the Project Ecologist.
- 3.7 The Project Ecologist/ECoW will be responsible for the following:
- Be available to answer questions as they arise and to advise accordingly.
 - Carry out an Ecological Watching Brief / site supervision where necessary and asked to by the Environmental Champion.
 - Whilst on site ensure works are completed following best practice guidelines in relation to ecology.
 - When on site, provide toolbox talks as required and on-site supervision where necessary.
 - Raise a Quality Alert for any non-compliance with the ecological protocols.
 - Report any failings to the Site Manager immediately. If insufficient action is taken, stop the works and report to the appropriate statutory authority; and
 - Provide summaries of works undertaken on site to the Environmental Champion, to inform the site log.

Arboriculturist

- 3.8 An Arboriculturist should be appointed to advise on tree protection measures and to advise on tree safety issues, should they arise during the works.

Toolbox Talks

- 3.9 As part of the site induction, information relating to the ecology of the site will be provided by the Environmental Champion so that all site workers are aware of the ecological receptors on site.
- 3.10 Task-specific toolbox talks will be provided to contractors by the ECoW if required when on site. Toolbox talks will explain the potential presence of protected species on site, implications regarding these species, required working methods and locations of any

exclusion zones. Protection zones for retained trees and hedgerows will also be addressed.

General Ecological Protection Measures

Pollution Prevention

- 3.11 Measures outlined within Best Practice Pollution Prevention Guidelines will be followed to avoid pollution incidents which may indirectly affect terrestrial or aquatic habitats.
- 3.12 Measures will include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Arrive at the site with clean footwear.
 - Ensure footwear is visually clean from soil and debris before leaving the site.
 - Ensure vehicles are kept clean. Remove any accumulated mud before leaving the site using a stiff-haired brush. Cleaning should be carried out over a root barrier membrane or hard surface that can contain and collect any contaminated material.
 - Make use of facilities on site to clean footwear and equipment.
 - Keep vehicles to established tracks and park vehicles on hardstanding where practicable.
 - Any works carried out by contractors should be accompanied by a Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS). The RAMS should detail appropriate biosecurity measures to be observed during the duration of the works and outline the scope of the works and any ongoing monitoring/works required.
 - Fuel, oil and chemical storage will be sited on an impervious base within a bund and secured. The base and bund will be impermeable to the material stored and of adequate capacity. Storage areas will be located away from sensitive areas, particularly retained trees.
 - The amount of exposed ground will be minimised in the working area to reduce the risk of surface water runoff containing silt.
 - Where possible, water will be prevented from entering excavations; and
 - Standard dust prevention measures will be implemented.

Covering of Open Excavations

- 3.13 Excavations will be covered at the end of each working day, or (in the case of shallower trenches only) they will include a means of escape for any animal falling in. This will comprise wooden boards, placed no steeper than a 45° angle.
- 3.14 Pipes stored on site should be capped or if caps are not available, stored vertically to prevent entrapment.
- 3.15 The appointed Environmental Champion will carry out checks at the end of each working day to ensure either excavations are covered, or that provision is made for animals to escape.

Sensitive Storage of Materials

- 3.16 Storage areas will be located away from sensitive areas, such as trees.
- 3.17 Materials for works should be stored off the ground on pallets or in bags where possible.
- 3.18 Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development must be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.

Vegetation Management

- 3.19 During construction, any open ground will be managed to ensure that any vegetation growth remains short (<150mm) following the initial vegetation removal works to reduce its suitability as refuge habitat for wildlife.

Tree Safety Issues

- 3.20 Should any trees become a safety concern, the Project Ecologist and Arboriculturist will be contacted immediately who will advise on management requirements and whether further consideration to ecology (including nesting birds) is required.

Consideration to Wildlife

- 3.21 Staff will remain vigilant throughout the works. Should any protected or notable animals be encountered during the works, advice will be sought immediately from the Project Ecologist or ECoW.

Habitat Protection Measures

Tree Protection

3.22 All works on trees will be undertaken in line with advice provided in an Arboricultural Method Statement. Measures may include:

- Tree works will be carried out by an appropriately qualified and insured contractor in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Work - Recommendations'.
- Tree Protection Fencing must be installed and signed-off prior to commencement of construction works; and
- In compliance with BS5837 (2012) standards for tree protection during demolition and construction, all retained trees and hedgerows, including those in close proximity to the site, will be fully protected during felling and construction operations.

4.0 Amphibian/Reptile PWMS

Baseline Ecology Information

- 4.1 In accordance with current Natural England guidance all ponds/suitable waterbodies within an unobstructed 250 metres of a site should be considered for their suitability to support breeding great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*.
- 4.2 Examination of aerial photography and Ordnance Survey maps identified two suitable waterbodies within 250 metres of the site and one pond 277m of the site. Surveys previously undertaken by REC in 2015 did not reveal presence of great crested newts REC Report 100944EC1R2-2016. Therefore updated surveys are required to determine current presence or absence of great crested newt.
- 4.3 There is habitat for hibernating, foraging, and commuting amphibians which are proposed for removal, so there is a potential direct impact risk of killing/injuring any amphibians present during clearance and construction phase of the proposals.

Relevant Legislation

- 4.4 Killing or injury to GCN or damage to their hibernation sites is a criminal offence under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and the *Conservation Regulations 2017* (as amended). It is an offence to handle GCN without either a survey licence or a development licence obtained from Natural England if you are not centred in a Natural England District Level Licence zone.
- 4.5 Common toad *Bufo bufo* are species of principal importance (SPI) for biodiversity as listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Common toads, smooth newts *Lissotriton vulgaris* and palmate newts *Lissotriton helveticus* are also offered limited protection by section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, prohibiting the sale, barter, exchange or transport for sale or advertising to sell or to buy.

Potential Impacts

- 4.6 The proposed vegetation clearance works could result in the killing or injury of great crested newt and common amphibians. Direct injury and mortality of amphibians and

reptiles during the site clearance and construction phases can be avoided through the implementation of Best Practice measures as set out below.

Further Survey for Great Crested Newt and Natural England Licensing

- 4.7 An Edna survey of the three ponds will need to be undertaken to determine presence or absence of great crested newts. Edna surveys can be undertaken between 15 April and 30 June. Should great crested newt be present in any of the ponds then a District Level Licence or alternatively a traditional licence from Natural England will be required to permit works on site.

Precautionary Working Methods for Common Amphibians

Toolbox Talk

- 4.8 A toolbox talk will be delivered by the ECoW to ensure that all site contractors are made aware of the potential presence of common amphibians on site. The toolbox talk will include identification of these species, details of their legislative protection, details of the method statement, and what to do in the eventuality that these species are found.
- 4.9 The ECoW will supervise clearance of vegetation if required.
- 4.10 Prior to commencement of works, any potential sheltering and hibernation features for amphibians within the works area will be removed by hand by the ecologist, where size allows. This includes logs, rocks, boulders, and scrub.
- 4.11 Clearance of any scrub will be undertaken using a staged approach. The ecologist will hand search the vegetation for common amphibians. Following the hand search, the vegetation may be cut to 150mm. A final check will then be conducted by the ecologist. Once confirmed clear, the vegetation will be cut to ground level. Pulling up of root systems of scrub must be supervised by the ECoW. The ECoW will hand search the rootballs for amphibians and reptiles, following which they can be removed from site.
- 4.12 Any common amphibians encountered during the works will be captured by the ecologist and translocated to suitable habitat located within the wider area.
- 4.13 The following standard precautionary working measures will also be implemented during the works:

- Excavations will be boarded or otherwise suitably covered at night. Where this is not practicable, a ramp will be provided (at an angle of no more than 45°) to allow any animal that may become trapped to escape.
- Materials for works should be stored off the ground on pallets or in bags where possible.
- Spoil piles should be kept off the ground on pallets or in skips where possible.
- Any spoil piles present on site will be compacted to prevent them being used as refugia by amphibians.

5.0 Badger PWMS

Baseline Ecology Information

- 5.1 Given that no field signs were present within the site, or within 30m where visible, impacts to badger are likely to be low.

Relevant Legislation

- 5.2 Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett, interference with a sett includes blocking tunnels or damaging the sett in any way.
- 5.3 Setts are defined in the Act as 'any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by badger'. Setts are therefore only protected under the Act when they display such signs.
- 5.4 Section 3(e) of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it an offence for a person to interfere with a badger sett by disturbing a badger that is occupying the sett.

Potential Impacts

- 5.5 There is the potential for badgers to become trapped and injured or killed in any holes, trenches dug into the ground, or pipes and drains. There is also the risk of injury and death from entanglement in mesh and other construction materials associated with the construction phase of the development.

Precautionary Working Methods

Toolbox Talk

- 5.6 Construction staff will be given a pre-commencement toolbox talk by a suitably qualified ecologist, in which they will be made aware of the potential presence of badger in the local area and the need to implement the measures set out herein.
- 5.7 A pre-commencement check for badger setts will be undertaken by the ecologist prior to works commencing to confirm that no setts have been excavated on site or within 30m of the works area which may be impacted by the proposals. This pre-commencement check should be completed prior to the start of the works.

- 5.8 If no badger setts are identified during the pre-commencement check, the works may commence.
- 5.9 In the event that a sett is identified within the site or within 30m of the site, either during the pre-commencement check or during any works, works must stop immediately, and advice sought from the ecologist.
- 5.10 An appropriate exclusion zone of up to 30m will be established around any potentially active sett entrance. There should be no works within the exclusion zone of an active sett. If works are required within the exclusion zone, further monitoring will be necessary to determine the activity status of the sett. If an active set cannot be retained or if high levels of noise/vibration disturbance are anticipated, then a licence from Natural England must be obtained to allow works to continue.
- 5.11 Standard Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) must be implemented to ensure no harm or disturbance occur to foraging or ranging badgers as a result of the works. The following best practice measures should be undertaken to reduce entrapment and mortality risk during the mineshaft investigation and site construction works:
- The site supervisor or other nominated site-staff representative from the construction team will be appointed whose role will be to ensure works adhere to these RAMs and that a suitably qualified ecologist is contacted if further advice is required.
 - Access into and out of the working area will be along agreed routes only. Machinery and vehicles will not be permitted to move outside of the agreed access routes and working areas.
 - Any excavations will be inspected by the ECoW, site supervisor or nominated site-staff representative for the presence of any holes before they are filled in.
 - Any spoil piles present on site will be covered or compacted to discourage being used by badgers for sett building. Stored soils should be checked daily by site staff to ensure there has been no attempted creation of new mammal holes; if any new mammal holes are identified advice from the ecologist must be sought.
 - Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development must be stored off the ground or in protected and fenced areas to prevent badger access and must be disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.
 - Night-time working will be avoided.
- 5.12 In the event that contractors encounter any badgers or badger setts during construction of the site, works must cease immediately and advice from a suitably qualified ecologist must be sought.

6.0 Bats PWMS

Baseline Ecology Information

- 6.1 The site is of negligible suitability for roosting bats. The habitats on-site, particularly the dense scrub, are suitable for use by commuting and foraging bats, particularly pipistrelle species which have been recorded in the wider area.

Relevant Legislation

- 6.2 All bats, their breeding and resting places are internationally protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). In England and Wales, bats are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill bats.
- Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place.
- Obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places.
- Possess, sell, control or transport live or dead bats, or parts of them; and
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection.

Works that can affect bats include:

- Renovating, converting or demolishing a building.
- Cutting down or removing branches from a mature tree.
- Installing lighting in a roost, or outside if it lights up the entrance to the roost.
- Removing 'commuting habitats' like hedgerows or woodland.
- Changing or removing bats' foraging areas; and
- Using insecticides or treating timber.

Potential Impacts

- 6.3 There is no roosting bat habitat on site. There will be no potential impacts on bats. There will be a risk to foraging and commuting bats from construction lighting.

Precautionary Working Methods

- 6.4 During construction night-time working should ideally be avoided, including within the hour before dusk and an hour after dawn between April and October. If night-time working is required during construction then measures will be taken to prevent light spill onto retained trees and hedgerows around the periphery of the site.
- 6.5 The lighting strategy is of particular relevance to construction during the autumn, summer, and spring when bats are active, and when working hours fall within an hour of dusk or dawn and artificial lighting is required.
- 6.6 The following five key design principles will be implemented if lighting is required during construction:
- Use of unnecessary lighting will be avoided, particularly on to retained trees and hedgerows; and
 - A dark corridor will be maintained across all site boundaries to allow bats to continue to forage and commute across the site.

7.0 Birds PWMS

Baseline Ecology Information

- 7.1 The trees and scrub on site are suitable for use by passerine bird species and the scrub may provide feeding opportunities for hunting birds.
- 7.2 The trees and scrub on site are suitable for use by passerine bird species and the dense scrub may provide feeding opportunities for hunting birds.

Relevant Legislation

- 7.3 All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy an active nest or any part thereof.

Potential Impacts

- 7.4 Loss of habitats on site will reduce available nesting opportunities at the site, therefore there will be implications for the proposed development with regards to nesting birds. There may be further implications with regards to nesting birds if any vegetation clearance is proposed during the nesting period (typically taken to be March to August inclusive).

Precautionary Working Methods

- 7.5 Where possible, all vegetation clearance will avoid the core breeding bird season, March to August inclusive; although it should be noted that bird nesting can take place in some species outside this period.
- 7.6 Prior to any vegetation clearance within the nesting bird season, or at any time when bird nesting is suspected, the LPA will be informed, and a nesting bird check will be conducted of the affected area by the ECoW to confirm that no nesting birds are present which will be harmed or disturbed by the works.
- 7.7 The nesting bird check will take place no more than 24 hours prior to the planned vegetation clearance works.
- 7.8 In the event that an active bird nest is found, the ECoW will provide advice on setting up a suitable exclusion zone around the nest. The extent of the exclusion zone will depend upon the bird species present.

- 7.9 The exclusion zone will ensure that there is no disturbance to the nest as a result of the works. Works must not take place within the exclusion zone until the young have fledged. Monitoring visits will be undertaken by the ECoW of the active nest to confirm when the young have fledged.
- 7.10 If no active bird nests are found, vegetation clearance within the affected area must take place within 24 hours of completion of the nesting bird check. This will ensure that no bird nests are built within the intervening period between the nesting bird check and vegetation removal/building demolition.
- 7.11 Any arisings from the work i.e., brash, trunks, grass cuttings, must be removed from site on the same day as the work takes place. This is to avoid providing nesting opportunities for birds, which would then have to be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to their removal at a later date.

8.0 Hedgehog PWMS

Baseline Ecology Information

- 8.1 The scrub, grassland and areas of fly tipping on site provide potential opportunities for sheltering and foraging hedgehogs.

Relevant Legislation

- 8.2 Hedgehogs are considered species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. Hedgehogs are also partially protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in that they are protected from being killed, injured or taken by certain methods.

Potential Impacts

- 8.3 Vegetation clearance and the use of machinery have the potential to result in the injury or killing of hedgehogs, if present within the site. There is also the potential for hedgehogs to be killed through becoming trapped in any excavations, piping or containers associated with the construction activities.
- 8.4 PWMs should be adopted to minimise the risk of harm or injury to any hedgehogs that are present on-site during site clearance and construction.

Precautionary Working Methods

- 8.5 It is recommended that the early hibernation period (November to December inclusive) is avoided where possible in relation to the clearance of scrub vegetation. The risk of hedgehog death is increased if they are disturbed during this period.

Works during hibernation period (November – March)

- 8.6 If site investigation and vegetation clearance works are undertaken during the winter months, the following Precautionary Working Methods should be followed to increase the risk of hedgehog survival, if discovered during the site clearance works.
- 8.7 Clearance of the areas of trees, grassland and scrub habitats on site should be undertaken in stages. These habitats should be strimmed by hand, under supervision of an ECoW, to a height of 30cm to prevent any harm to hibernating or sheltering hedgehogs. A thorough hand search should be carried out by the ECoW in advance of

site clearance and any hedgehogs found will be relocated to the hedgehog box by the ECoW.

Works during active season (April – October)

- 8.8 Clearance of the areas of trees, grassland and scrub habitat suitable for hedgehogs should be undertaken in stages. These habitats should be trimmed by hand, under supervision of an ECoW, to a height of 30cm to prevent any harm to sheltering hedgehogs. A thorough hand search should be carried out by the ECoW in advance of site clearance and any hedgehogs found will be relocated to a suitable receptor area by the ECoW.
- 8.9 Regular strimming works within the development area should take place to keep any retained habitats short, which will make the area unattractive to foraging or resting hedgehogs. This will deter hedgehogs from the site thereby reducing the risk of harm occurring to this species.

Standard Precautionary Working Methods (at any time)

- 8.10 As part of the site induction process, all staff working on site should be made aware of the potential for presence of hedgehogs within the site and their status as a protected species during a toolbox talk delivered by the ECoW.
- 8.11 The following standard PWMS will also be implemented during the works:
- Arisings from the work i.e., brash, trunks, grass cuttings, must be removed from site on the same day as the work takes place. This is to avoid providing refuge opportunities for hedgehog, which would then have to be hand searched by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to their removal at a later date.
 - No site compounds, stored materials and soil piles sited within the core terrestrial habitat will be left uncovered. Soil storage mounds must be compacted before the end of each day's work to ensure they do not become attractive refuges. All stored materials and soil piles must be suitably covered with an inaccessible covering such as tarpaulin to prevent hedgehogs using this material as refugia.
 - Open excavations should be covered overnight using plyboard and sandbags to fully seal any gaps. If this is not possible, a plank of wood placed at an angle no steeper than 40° should be left within the excavations, or sloping exits to trenches provided, so any hedgehogs or small mammals which fall into the trenches are able to escape.
 - Pipes stored on site would be capped or if caps are not available, stored vertically to prevent entrapment of hedgehogs.

- 8.12 If an injured hedgehog is found on site, this should be taken to a nearby wildlife rescue centre or vet that accepts wild animals. Additionally, if any young hedgehogs are found during the autumn, immediately prior to the hibernation period, these should also be taken to a wildlife rescue centre as it would be unlikely that these would survive the winter. Details of the nearest wildlife rescue centre to the site are provided in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: Contact details for the nearest wildlife rescue centre to the site

Name	Address	Telephone Number	Distance and Direction from site
HogManor	20 Delph Lane Delph, Oldham OL3 5HX	07921 529020	11 miles east
Clovers Animal Rescue	22 Norwood Avenue, Salford M7 3PN	07929 919789	7.5 miles south
RSPCA Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre	Stapeley Grange, London Road, Nantwich CW5 7JW	0300 123 0722	57 miles south

- 8.13 If a situation arises regarding hedgehogs and the contractor is unsure what action to take, advice should be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

9.0 Invasive Species

Baseline Ecology Information

- 9.1 There are two Invasive Non-Native (plant) Species (INNS) on site, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam.

Relevant Legislation

- 9.2 INNS are defined as those which are either listed on Part II Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, Schedule 2 of the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 and/or listed as an Invasive Alien Species of Union concern under Regulation (EU) 1143/2014.
- 9.3 Under both the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019, it is a criminal offence to allow plants referenced to grow in the wild (including via moving contaminated soil or plant cuttings). Liability may also extend in situations where a landowner has knowingly permitted the spread of invasive non-native species on to neighbouring land.

Potential Impacts

- 9.4 If left unmanaged both Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam can spread and cause environmental and other issues. As the above legislation it is a legal requirement to remove invasive species.

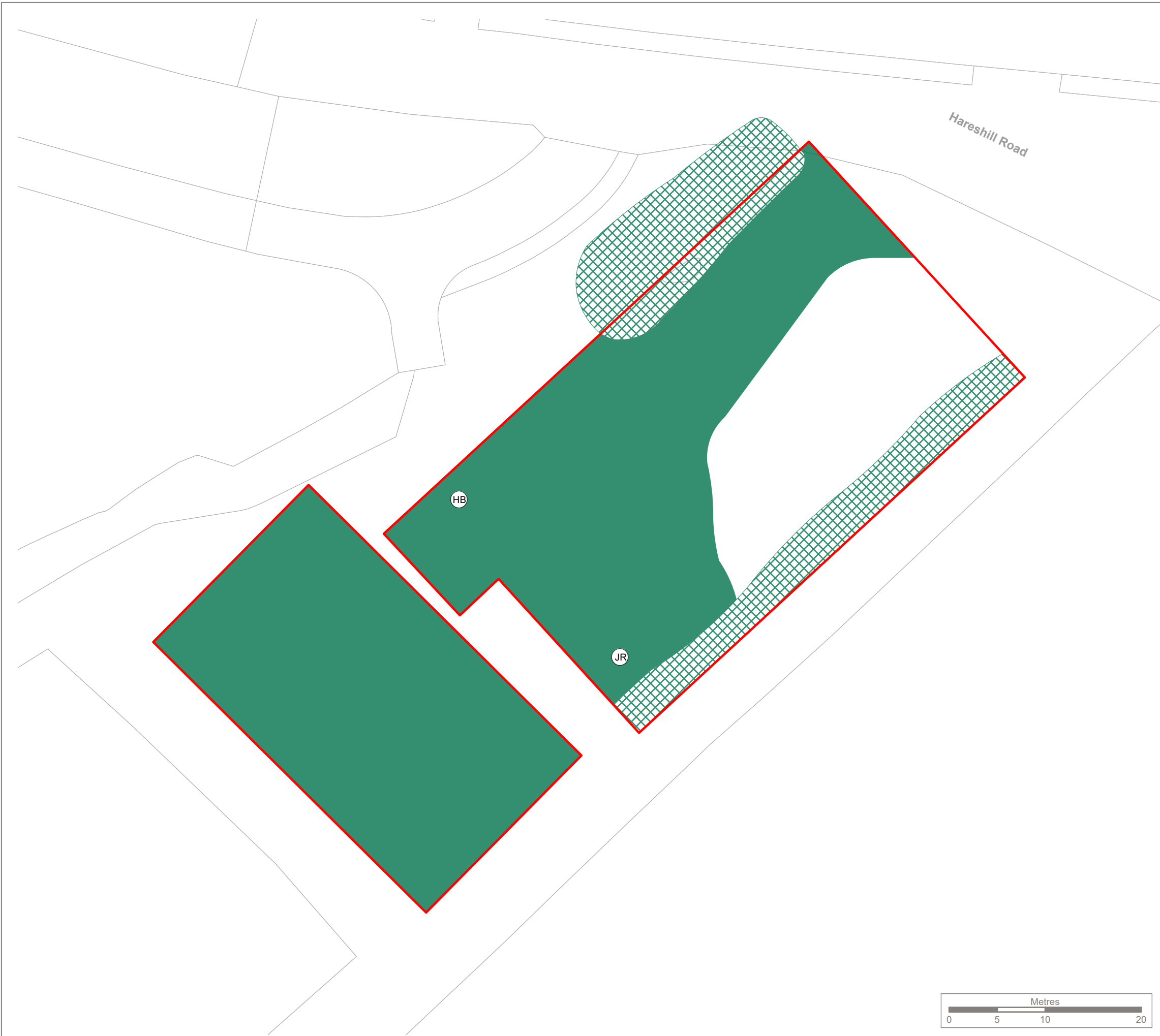
Precautionary Working Methods

- 9.5 A method statement will be required for safe removal of both these species from site prior to works commencing to prevent the spread of both these species during construction activities.

Drawings

Drawing 1: Ecological Constraints Plan (Ref: G10453.009)

Drawing 2: Phase 1 Habitat Map (Ref: G10453.002)



KEY

 Site boundary

Invasive Plant Species

 Himalayan balsam

 Japanese rose

Habitat Constraints

 Grassland provides sheltering and commuting for hedgehog and amphibians

 Dense scrub with suitability for:

Nesting birds

Commuting and foraging bats

Foraging and sheltering hedgehogs

Foraging, hibernating and commuting amphibians

Note:

The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.



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Site Map



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



**THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP**

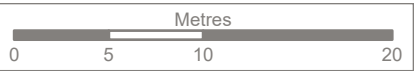
401 Faraday Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington, WA3 6GA
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
South Heywood Substation - Electricity North West Limited

Title
Ecological Constraints Plan

Drawing Number
G10453.009

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
SP	BJ	JC	1:400 @ A3	25/04/2025





KEY

Site boundary

Target note

Himalayan balsam

Japanese rose

Scattered introduced shrub

Standing water

Fence

Gate

Dense/continuous scrub

Semi-improved neutral grassland

Bounded ground with disturbed grassland

Culvert

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.

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Site Map

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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Project
South Heywood Substation - Electricity North West Limited

Title
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Drawing Number
G10453.002

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
MK	SP	LG	1:500 @ A3	11/04/2024



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