

HARESHILL ROAD NORTH, SOUTH HEYWOOD, ROCHDALE

CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN: BIODIVERSITY

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Report Control Sheet

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE & PURPOSE

1.1.1. Collington Winter Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Northstone to prepare a Wildlife Enhancement Plan. The plan has been produced in support of the planning application at Hareshill Road North. The proposed development includes the creation of 186 residential properties.

1.1.2. The author of this report is Michael Boucher BSc (Hons), Graduate Ecologist at Collington Winter. The report has been overseen by Katie Bird, Associate Director, at Collington Winter.

1.2 LOCATION

1.2.1. Please refer to Figure 1.1 for the site location. The site is in South Heywood on the outskirts of Rochdale.

Figure 1.1 Site Location



1.3 OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. The objectives of the report are to provide the detail required as set out in Condition 23 to discharge the planning condition attached to hybrid planning consent 16/01399/HYBR. Condition 23 states:

1.3.2. *"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.*

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- 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.*

1.3.3.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.

1.3.4.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.

1.3.5.This report has been written with the view it can be used to aid site contractors in understanding works required as part of the planning approval.

1.3.6.The objective of the CEMP includes:

- Demonstrate the responsible persons and lines of communication, as detailed in Section 4.
- Demonstrate the role and responsibilities on site of Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and details of when the ECoW is required to oversee specific works as part of the construction phase.
- Demonstrate the potential impacts on protected/notable fauna and habitats anticipated and confirmed to be on site, in relation to the proposed construction activities.
- Demonstrate the proposed retention of habitats to maintain the site's ecological value for local wildlife using protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.
- Describe the provision and maintenance of shelter for protected/notable species during the construction phase using protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.
- Demonstrate the locations of 'Biodiversity Protection Zones' and outline the working methods to be followed during the construction phase, regarding retained habitats and associated fauna.
- Outline monitoring procedures of ecological features within the site during the construction phase where necessary.
- The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.

2. BASELINE CONDITIONS

2.1. PREVIOUS SURVEYS AND ASSESSMENTS

2.1.1. Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEAs) have been completed at the site, which aim to identify potential ecological constraints and opportunities on a site by assessing the biodiversity value of the area. The site was previously surveyed by REC Ltd in 2016, and an updated walkover of the site was undertaken by E3P in May 2018.

2.1.2. Collington Winter then completed a walkover survey on 18th November 2024, the purpose of the walkover was to determine if habitats and conditions on site were the same as when surveyed by Collington Winter, REC Ltd and E3P Ltd in 2021, 2016 and 2018 respectively. All the updated walkovers have shown the site to be in similar condition to the initial 2016 PEA.

2.1.3. The site was found to support low value habitats of improved grassland and species poor native hedgerow. The habitats were found to have value for breeding birds as well as bats and badger (*Meles meles*) (though no active badger setts were identified).

2.2. ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS

2.2.1. Please refer to Table 2.1 summarising the ecological constraints identified and anticipated to be on site, and the potential risks of the proposed development during the construction phase.

Table 2.1 Ecological Constraints and Potential Risk Summary

Ecological Constraint	Potential Risk	Relevant Legislation and Planning Policy
Designated Sites		
Rochdale Canal SSSI, located 2.7 km East.	Potential for the indirect impact of designated sites during the construction phase through accidental pollution events and dust deposition.	Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).
Habitats and Flora		
Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) habitats	Hedgerows present onsite.	Listed on LBAP for Greater Manchester.
Non-native invasive species	No non-native invasive plant species were found on site.	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) under Section 14 (2) (a) to "plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild" any species listed on Schedule 9, Part II of the Act.
Fauna		
Amphibians	Ponds are located within 250 m of the site boundary. It is anticipated they could use the onsite habitats for commuting.	Common toad are listed as species of Principal Importance in England, as defined by Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006).
Bats (Roosting)	Several trees are located within the site and require removal to facilitate development. Potential damage/removal and/or disturbance to trees with bat roosting potential on site, may cause an offence under	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and by UK law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Bats (activity)	The onsite tree and hedgerow habitats, provide suitable foraging and commuting routes. The central grassland habitats provide foraging opportunities.	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and by UK law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Breeding birds	The trees and hedgerows provide nesting opportunities for passerine species. The grassland habitats provide limited value for ground nesting birds due to regular disturbance of the site. However, the presence of ground nesting birds, cannot be ruled out.	With certain exceptions, all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive further protection.
Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	Deemed likely present on site, due to the presence of unmanaged habitats present on site which may provide resources for foraging and shelter.	Listed on the UK BAP species in 2007 and is on the Biodiversity Lists for England and Wales.
Badger	No active badger setts have been identified, however, the habitats onsite and within the local area have been assessed as having high value for the species.	Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

2.2.2. The ecological constraints identified above can be effectively mitigated through controlled working practices and the implementation of the proposed site management measures, as outlined in the following sections of this report.

3. CONTROL OF WORKS

3.1. SITE OPERATIONS

- 3.1.1. All operations on site will be the overarching responsibility of the site manager. The site manager will ensure that all site staff are appropriately inducted to the site and are aware of their legal responsibilities regarding wildlife legislation. Updates, regarding ecology, between the project ecologist and site manager are to be completed every quarter year.
- 3.1.2. The project ecologist will consult with the site manager to make them aware of all working methods relevant for each phase of works. It will be the site manager's responsibility to ensure all site contractors are aware and competent to undertake these works.
- 3.1.3. The ECoW will supervise works where necessary, as detailed in Section 5. All works will be recorded within a site diary which will be reviewed periodically by the project ecologist. Any issues will be reported immediately to the project ecologist, and where necessary works may be paused to explore alternative methods.

3.2. ECOLOGICAL CLERK OF WORKS

- 3.3.1. A suitably qualified ecologist will be employed as an official ECoW on site and will be responsible for undertaking all ecologically sensitive works on site, including undertaking any required Toolbox Talks and supervision work.
- 3.3.2. They will also be the nominated person of contact when required and responsible for the following during the construction phase of development:
- Undertaking nesting bird checks pre-vegetation clearance on site, under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
 - Providing advice to developers and contractors when desired on how best to minimise impacts on site biodiversity throughout the construction phase of development if necessary.
 - Where deemed necessary, giving Toolbox Talks on protected species and sensitive habitats to contractors carrying out works within the site. These will cover all potential protected species, invasive species and habitats relevant to the site and what to do should any such flora or fauna be discovered during the works.
 - Carry out pre-commencement and supervision works as outlined in Section 5, to minimise risk of breaching relevant legislation.
 - Being the main point of contact should any issues relating to ecology arise during site construction.
 - The ECoW will be provided with an updated programme of works to determine watching brief requirements and the associated ecological issues before commencement of any development related activities on site.
- 3.3.3. If the ECoW identifies any issues in relation to ecology or considers that the CEMP is not being adhered to at any point during construction, the developer will be contacted, and measures will be taken to resolve any issues. If the ECoW or construction team identifies any ecological issues themselves, the ECoW will be contacted for advice immediately.

4. MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.1. GENERAL POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES

- 4.1.1. Measures will be taken throughout the construction phase to avoid pollution incidents, which may indirectly affect terrestrial, or offsite aquatic habitats and associated protected/notable fauna. Pollution prevention and control strategies will be adhered to at all times. Any accidental damage to the adjacent habitats or fuel spillages within proximity to the site and/or adjacent habitats will be reported to the site manager and the ECoW.
- 4.1.2. Retained habitats are to be appropriately fenced as 'Biodiversity Protection Zones' and all staff personal undertake a site induction on their working limits in regard to protected species and habitats within the vicinity of the site.

4.2. GENERAL LIGHTING CONTROL MEASURES

- 4.3.1. Lighting is to follow the protocols outlined in the Institute for Lighting Engineers document "Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting" (2005) and BCT's "Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night" (2023). The construction lighting may impact species on site and within the local area which are sensitive to light. Directional lighting will be achieved by angle and orientation of beam, use of a cowl, louvre or other light shield, or a combination of these.
- 4.3.2. Construction lighting is not to be directed towards retained habitats and surrounding habitats which includes hedgerow and tree habitats to be retained.

4.3. HABITATS

SCATTERED TREES AND HEDGEROWS

- 4.3.3. Temporary protective demarcation fencing will be used to protect trees that are being retained. The fencing must extend outside the canopy of the retained trees and must remain in position until all plots have been developed to ensure protection is provided throughout the construction phase. Relevant protection measures are detailed within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment.
- 4.3.4. The fencing will be in accordance with BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction: Recommendations.
- 4.3.5. Should any trees become a safety concern, then the appointed Arboriculturist and the ECoW will be contacted immediately to advise further with respect to the future of the tree and any consideration (such as bats and birds) that need to be given.

4.4. NON-NATIVE INVASIVE FLORA

- 4.4.1. If at any time non-native invasive flora species is identified on site, it is to be eradicated following the relevant guidance from a competent contractor.

4.5. FAUNA

AMPHIBIANS

- 4.5.1. Common toad and common frog are anticipated to utilise the surrounding ponds for breeding purposes and therefore cannot be ruled out from being onsite. The hedgerow may provide suitable hibernation resources also.
- 4.5.2. Areas of dense scrub are to be removed under ECoW supervision and are to be trimmed to 300mm (considers presence of hedgehog also). The areas of scrub will be inspected for presence of amphibians prior to clearance and if found they will be removed from the construction site to suitable habitat.
- 4.5.3. Storage of materials/waste is best undertaken on areas of hard standing or bare ground. Waste is best stored in

skips or removed off site as soon as possible to avoid creating refuges which could be utilised by amphibians. Mounds of soil are to be compacted around the base to avoid creating refuges which amphibians and reptiles could utilise.

4.5.4. Site working is to avoid the creation of temporary waterbodies which may be attractive to amphibians. For this purpose, excavations can be backfilled as soon as possible following creation or fitted with ramps to allow a means of escape. A check for the presence of amphibians is advisable before excavations are infilled.

BATS (ROOSTING)

4.5.5. If any trees with bat roosting potential are to be removed, they should be removed following the soft-fell technique as outlined within Collins (2023). It includes the removal of limbs which are lowered to the ground gently, with the crevice facing upwards on the ground for a least 24 hours to allow for any potential roosting bats to escape. The removal is to be undertaken under supervision of the ECoW.

BATS (ACTIVITY)

4.5.6. Slow-flying species such as brown long-eared and myotis species are sensitive to lighting, as such construction lighting is to be appropriately placed to minimise directional and light spill on habitats of importance.

4.5.7. As stated in Section 4.2, security lighting during construction is to be appropriately placed to avoid retained habitats which are of value for foraging and commuting bats (i.e. hedgerow and trees).

BREEDING BIRDS

4.5.8. The hedgerow and scattered trees provide nesting opportunities for passerine species. The grassland habitats provide limited value for ground nesting birds. However, the presence of ground nesting birds, cannot be ruled out.

4.5.9. Any necessary vegetation clearance required (including grassland) should be undertaken outside the breeding bird season of March to September, inclusive. If not possible, the ECoW will be present to undertake a nesting bird check of vegetation to be removed, including grassland to consider potential ground-nesting birds, within 48 hours of clearance works.

4.5.10. Active nests will be protected, and a buffer marked out with appropriate fencing (such as Heras fencing), until the young have fledged. The ECoW will determine the required buffer area based on species and status of breeding condition.

HEDGEHOG

4.5.11. During site clearance, the areas scrub/hedgerow is to be cleared under ECoW to ensure no sheltering hedgehogs are impacted by the works. If hedgehogs are located, they will be carefully moved by hand outside of the construction zone and covered by debris. The PWMs provided in Section 4.5.12 also apply to minimising the risk to hedgehogs.

BADGER

4.5.12. The following Precautionary Working Methods (PWMs) will be adhered to during proposed construction phasing, as stated within the Method Statement:

- An updated badger walkover is to be completed before construction begins.
- All site operatives will be made aware of the presence of the species, their working limits and legal responsibilities. All site operatives will be inducted as to identifying potential badger setts and should be vigilant if they suspect they locate a new sett during works and inform the project ecologist immediately.
- All excavations will be battened at a 45-degree angle, or a ramp to will be placed within the excavation, to allow escape should animals become trapped.

- All site machinery and materials will be appropriately stored to avoid harm to the species.
- No works will be undertaken in proximity to Sett 1 and Sett 2 after dusk, and no lighting will be directed at the sett, until the sett has been closed.
- Trees and shrubs must be felled so that they fall away from the obvious direction of a sett and must not be uprooted but cut to ground level where necessary.
- Badger trails must be cleared of felled timber and scrub.
- Any stored spoil must be compacted at the end of each day's work to discourage badgers from digging new setts within spoil mounds.
- All working areas are to remain clear of vegetation to discourage badgers from digging new setts with the development areas.

4.5.13. During site inductions, all contractors will be briefed on how to identify badger setts; and given the confidence to cease works and contact an ecologist if they believe any new setts have been located.

5. SUMMARY

5.1.1. The plan has demonstrated the following:

- The aim and objectives of the CEMP have been demonstrated via the following:
- Identification of "biodiversity protection zones".
- Information on practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction.
- Details of the location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.
- The times during construction when specialist ecologists may need to be present on site to oversee works.
- Details of responsible persons and lines of communication.
- Details of the use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.

TIMING OF WORKS			
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES	ACTION	TIMING	RESPONSIBILITIES
PRE-CONSTRUCTION/SITE CLEARANCE			
Erection of protection fencing	Installation of fencing to protected retained/adjacent habitats where required. Checks of fencing will be completed to ensure the works detailed in the Plan are being followed and remedial measures will be completed by the site manager where required.	Prior to Construction Phase	ECoW and Site Manager
General pollution measures	Measures will be taken throughout the construction phase to avoid pollution incidents, which may indirectly affect habitats and associated protected/notable fauna, as detailed in Section 4.1.1.	Prior and during Construction Phase	ECoW and Site Manager
General lighting control measures	Directional lighting will be achieved by angle and orientation of beam, use of a cowl, louvre or other light shield, or a combination of these, as detailed in Section 4.1.2.	Prior to Construction Phase	Site Manager
Toolbox Talk	Toolbox talk to be completed by the ECoW in relation to the 'Biodiversity Protection Zones', badgers, breeding birds, amphibians and bats.	Anytime of the year – completed when relevant.	ECoW and Site Manager
Vegetation Clearance - Nesting bird checks	Vegetation removal is to be completed outside of the breeding bird season (March to September, inclusive). If this is not possible, the area will be subject to a nesting bird check by the ECoW, within 48 hours to works commencing. If a nest (or nest in construction) is found, a suitable stand-off area will be maintained. The suitable stand-off will be decided by the ECoW and will be designated as a temporary 'Biodiversity Protection Zone'.	March to September (if required)	ECoW and Site Manager
Control of Non-native Invasive Species.	Eradication of invasive species by a qualified contractor (IF REQUIRED)	Anytime of the year	Specialist contractor and ECoW (if required)

Vegetation Clearance – Hedgehogs and Amphibians	PWMs for amphibians and hedgehogs (detailed in Section 5.4.1 and 5.4.6) during the removal of debris/wood piles, hedgerow, and removal of dense scrub.	November to April (if required).	ECoW and Site Manager
Updated badger survey	Updated badger walkover of habitats on site and within 30 m of the site boundary immediately prior to works commencing on construction phase. If badger sett located, relevant protection measures to be put in place by ECoW.	Anytime of the year	Contractors, supervised by ECoW (if required)
DURING CONSTRUCTION			
Vegetation Clearance - Nesting bird checks	Vegetation removal is to be completed outside of the breeding bird season (March to September, inclusive). If this is not possible, the area will be subject to a nesting bird check by the ECoW, within 24 hours to works commencing. If a nest (or nest in construction) is found, a suitable stand-off area will be maintained. The suitable stand-off will be decided by the ECoW and will be designated as a temporary 'Biodiversity Protection Zone'.	March to September (if required)	ECoW and Site Manager
Badger monitoring	Ongoing monitoring of badger activity during the construction phase by contractors/site manager. PWMs are to be followed throughout the construction phase. If a badger sett is identified, a 20 m buffer is to be maintained and the ECoW contacted immediately.	Throughout construction phase	Site Manager
Retained Habitats Protection	Pollution control measures detailed in Section 4.2 are to be followed throughout the construction phase.	Throughout construction phase	Site Manager

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