

Animal Welfare Method Statement



Hollingworth Road, Littleborough
28th January 2026

10120_R02_LR



DUNHAM
ECOLOGY

Project No:	Report No.	Date	Author	Reviewed
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Section 1: Introduction

Introduction

- 1.1. This Animal Welfare Method Statement has been prepared by Dunham Ecology Ltd on behalf of Bloor Homes in respect of land at Hollingworth Lane, Littleborough (OS Grid Reference SD 94099 15290).
- 1.2. A hybrid planning application was submitted to Rochdale Council with a full application for residential development with associated access, landscaping and open space, and an outline application for a primary school. The application for development was separated into two plots: Hollingworth Road and Rakewood Road. Following consent of the full planning application (Ref 24/00581/HYBR) the following planning condition relating to animal welfare at the Hollingworth Road plot was received.

35. Prior to commencement of development in the Hollingworth Road plot, a construction phase animal welfare method statement (to address impacts on wildlife including but not limited to deer and foxes) relating to that plot shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development phase shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved method statement.

Purpose

- 1.3. This method statement seeks to provide the relevant details required to discharge the planning condition set out above, it specifically includes:
 - Summary of species that may be utilising the site;
 - Mitigation to be implemented during the construction phase; and
 - Responsible persons for implementation.

Background

- 1.4. An extended phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken by Tyler Grange Group Ltd in 2018 with a further update survey being undertaken in 2022. Full details of the ecological features within the site, including the suitability for wildlife, is detailed within the 'Environmental Statement – Volume 2: Hollingworth Road Land Parcel (332010570/ ES Vol.2) which was submitted as part of the 24/00581/HYBR planning application.
- 1.5. The Hollingworth Lake land parcel is dominated by agricultural land with a farm complex at the centre of the parcel. The southeastern section of the lake comprises the visitors carpark for Hollingworth Lake. Proposals for this parcel include the construction of a school with associated playing fields. Wildlife corridors and links are also proposed within the Hollingworth Lake parcel.



Quality Control

- 1.6. All ecologists or subcontractors at Dunham Ecology Ltd are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) or are working towards membership and act under the direction of members, and abide by the Institute's Code of Professional Conduct¹.

¹CIEEM (2022) Code of Professional Conduct, CIEEM, Winchester



Section 2: Site Suitability for Wildlife

- 2.1. The Environmental Statement (ES) identified the site as being suitable for the following protected species: badger *Meles meles*, bats, birds and great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*. Specific mitigation for such protected species is to be provided separate from this mitigation plan.
- 2.2. Whilst not all have specific legislative protection, all British wildlife has a level of protection secured via legislation that must be adhered to (see *Relevant Legislation* below). Such species that may utilise the site include; hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, deer *Cervidae* species and fox *Vulpes vulpes*. Habitats onsite provide suitable resting and foraging habitats, whilst the site itself also provides a commuting habitat for wildlife moving through the local area.
- 2.3. The site is located within a rural setting with an abundance of agricultural land surrounding the site. Therefore, it is considered likely that wildlife occurrences are regular within the site and surrounding habitats.

Relevant Legislation

- 2.4. British wildlife is protected by the following legislation, with specific legislation in place for those with a higher level of protection (such legislations are not detailed here):
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)² includes legislation detailed within the following sections that are relevant to this management plan:
 - Schedule 5;
 - Schedule 5A; and
 - Schedule 9.
 - The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996³ inhibits the unnecessary suffering of all wild animals.
 - The Protection of Animals Act 1911⁴ inhibits the unnecessary suffering of all wild animals, including infuriating and terrifying animals.

² GOV.UK (1981) Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)

³ GOV.UK (1996) Wild Mammals (Protection) Act

⁴ GOV.UK (1911) Protection of Animals Act



Section 3: Mitigation Strategy

3.1. In order for the site to be of continued use for local wildlife, the following interventions are to be implemented for the duration of the construction phase:

- Prior to the removal of habitats that may offer suitable hibernating habitat for wildlife such as hedgehog, including but not limited to piles of leaf litter and wood piles, a check is to be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist (SQE). The extensive grassland across the site does not offer hibernating habitat;
- Vegetation that is excavated should be removed from the site where possible to prevent wildlife from utilising the removed vegetation for shelter. Where this is not possible, such vegetation must be checked for species presence within the 24 hours prior to compaction and/or removal from site;
- If any fencing around the perimeter of the construction site is required, allowance should be made for continued passage of wildlife that may utilise the site. Gaps underneath fencing for small mammals, including fox and hedgehog are to be incorporated;
- A successful wildlife corridor is to be maintained throughout the duration of the construction period using the above fencing interventions, where required. Numerous suitable entrance and exit opportunities for wildlife across the site are to be incorporated. The site is to be constructed in two phases, with the road infrastructure through the centre splitting the site into western and eastern parcels. The eastern side will be constructed first, estimated to take 24 months. During this time, there will be a wildlife corridor maintained along the west and south of the site. When the western parcel is to be constructed (following completion of the eastern parcel), the landscaping/SUDs basins in the eastern parcel will provide a wildlife corridor during the 24 month construction period for the western parcel. This corridor should be sufficient to allow deer to move through the site unharmed;
- Fencing is to be in the form of Heras fencing. Other fencing including stock, mesh and wire fencing can be a danger to wildlife that can become trapped or injured in the material, especially for deer where antlers can become entangled or individuals jump hazardous stock fencing;
- Construction materials are to be stored in skips or off the ground on pallets, where possible, to prevent harm or injury to wildlife that may commute through the site;
- Any excavations that are >80cm in depth are to be either sealed overnight or have a suitable ramp installed to enable wildlife to safely exit, should they become trapped and to avoid injury;
- Any pipework that is not completed and exceeds 120mm is to be capped overnight to prevent the entrance of wildlife;
- All chemicals and construction materials are to be safely and securely stored to prevent any spills into the site or contamination that could impact wildlife;
- Should any measures be required to amend soil composition, wildlife safe interventions should be used where possible. Should chemicals be deduced as the only option, habitat to be treated must be sectioned off to prevent wildlife from accessing and potentially feeding on treated vegetation;
- Vehicle movements within the construction site must be cautious of wildlife movements. Contractors are to be aware that many animals travel in groups in the wild, particularly deer, and caution must be exercised at all times even if a single animal has safely passed;



- It is essential that all food is removed from the construction site or is secured in work cabins overnight. Wildlife are not adapted to eating human grade food and some foods may cause serious adverse reactions for individuals. Secondly, many wild species are opportunistic; if food is regularly left on site they may continuously return increasing risks to wildlife on site, and also potentially leading to aggressive behaviour if resources are not continuously provided; and
- Many wild species will find a safe place to rest their young whilst they feed. Whilst it is unlikely that a construction site will be chosen as such place, it is a possibility. If a young wild animal is found within the site, move away immediately. Cease construction works in the immediate vicinity of the young and ensure a corridor is available for the parent to return. The presence or scent of a human near young may prevent the parents return. Observe for at least three hours. If a parent has not returned, contact the local wildlife rescue. In the case of an injured young animal being found, contact the local wildlife rescue immediately.

Responsible Persons and Mitigation Communication

- 3.2. It is the responsibility of the site manager of the appointed contractor to ensure all interventions detailed within this mitigation strategy are communication to all contractors via a Toolbox Talk;
- 3.3. Should any new personnel arrive on site to complete works, regardless of duration, the Toolbox Talk should be repeated for their attendance; and
- 3.4. Should the appointed contractor and/or site manager have any queries regarding this mitigation strategy throughout the construction phase, Dunham Ecology are to be contacted.



Section 4: Conclusion

- 4.1. This Animal Welfare Method Statement sets out measures to be followed throughout the construction of the Hollingworth Road plot to ensure the safety and wellbeing of wildlife that may utilise the site.
- 4.2. Should all interventions detailed within this method statement be implemented, the discharge of Condition 35 of the planning permission is supported.

