

Rochdale Borough Council
Number One Riverside,
Smith Street,
Rochdale,
OL16 1XU

BG Reference: BG26.034

10th February 2025

Dear Mr Hiles,

RE: Construction Management Plan at Land Off Dig Lane, Milnrow: Habitat Creation and Translocation Works

This letter seeks to address the request for additional details to the existing Construction Management Plan (Balance Power, 2026) at the site known as Land Off Dig Gate Lane, Milnrow, Rochdale, grid reference: SD 9187 1117. The wider site is subject to an approved planning application (24/00043/FUL) for a battery energy storage facility including the creation of an Ecological Mitigation Area (Appendix 1). The Ecological Mitigation Area is to be created in advance of the wider development and will be used as a receptor area for the translocation of the known population of Pond Mud Snail (*Omphiscola glabra*) present on site.

This document details the site operations and environmental management considerations for the works on the Ecological Mitigation Area. This document outlines the proposed programme, resource levels, access arrangements, environmental controls, and operational procedures for the upcoming habitat creation and translocation works on the site known as Land off Dig Gate Lane, Rochdale.

Programme (Dates, Durations, and Any Ecological Constraints)

The programme for the works is structured into pre-translocation, translocation, post-translocation, and planting phases. The full programme is provided in table 1, overleaf.

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Table 1: Programme of Works

Tranche of Works	Duration (Day(s))	Optimal Month / Timing
Pre-Translocation Works		
Site clearance: existing vegetation.	1	March / April 2026 – latest early to mid May 2026
Excavation and formation of translocation receptor pond and scrapes.	6	March / April 2026 – latest early to mid May 2026
Refugia installed in the basin for the translocation period	1	By end of May 2026
Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) walkover and removal if required prior to translocation works.	Walkover anticipated to take 1 day, removal works to be determined following walkover	May 2026
During Translocation		
Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) (2 surveyors) – Preliminary translocation visit prior to pond destruction works.	1	July 2026
Pond translocation including sediment, marginal and emergent vegetation and pond mud snail, followed by destruction works and levelling of baseline pond.	5	July 2026
ECoW (1 surveyor) – During pond translocation & destructive works to collect Pond Mud Snail and supervise works to ensure the success of translocation	5	July 2026
Post-Translocation		
Rubble Removal & Ground Decompaction	1	Post Translocation – July 2026
Hibernacula creation	1	Post Translocation – July 2026
Gravel basking mound creation	1	Post Translocation – July 2026
Habitat pile creation	-	Post Translocation – July 2026
Bund construction and ground preparation for planting	2	Post Translocation – July 2026
Grassland seeding	1	Post Translocation – July 2026
Install sheep stock fencing	2	Post Translocation – July 2026
Next Planting Season		
Native scrub mix planting	1	Mid-Autumn 2026 – stock availability dependent
Native hedgerow planting	1	Mid-Autumn 2026 – stock availability dependent
Native tree planting	1	Mid-Autumn 2026 – stock availability dependent
Marginal planting	1	Mid-Autumn 2026 – stock availability dependent

Tasks requiring seasonal considerations are outlined in Table 2.

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Table 2: Seasonal parameters for tasks associated with translocation works

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
INNS Walkover and removal (if required)												
Translocation works												
Planting works												

*Months indicated in grey are unsuitable season for works, months indicated in green are suitable for works

Translocation works will require drainage of the pond and subsequent disturbance and risk of death / injury to amphibians present within the water along with eggs and/or larvae, and disturbance/injury to Pond Mud Snail. The programme of works as detailed in this report have been timed to avoid the breeding season of the population of notable invertebrates Pond Mud Snail (*Omphiscola glabra*) considered to be February to March and the breeding period of notable amphibians such as common frog (*Rana temporaria*) and common toad (*Bufo bufo*) – generally considered to be March to June. Precautionary working measures detailed in Appendix 3 will be followed for the duration of habitat creation and translocation works to safeguard notable amphibians which may use the site incidentally

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Anticipated Average and Maximum Numbers of Personnel

- Average number on site: 4
- Maximum number on site:
 - 4 Contracting Technicians – Brindle & Green
 - 1 Ecologist (ECoW) – Brindle & Green

Total: 5

Working Hours

The anticipated working hours for the duration of the habitat creation and translocation works will be between **08:00 and 16:30**

Overtime may be worked depending on progress; if night work is required lighting will conform to parameters set in 'Temporary Lighting' section and an ECoW will be present to safeguard amphibians utilising the vegetative features for foraging.

Client is to advise if restrictions to site access apply

Traffic Movements

Table 3: Traffic movements and details of vehicle parking and storage arrangements

Maximum Number of Vehicles (per day(s))	Type of Vehicle
Pre-translocation habitat creation works	
1	5T Excavator (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
1	6T Dumper (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
2	Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) – Pickups (to be parked in zone designated in Appendix 2 plan).
During translocation works	
1	5T Excavator (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
1	6T Dumper (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
2	LCV – Pickups (to be parked in offsite zone designated in Appendix 2 plan).
1	Car (ECoW) (to be parked in offsite zone designated in Appendix 2 plan).
Post-translocation habitat creation works	
1	5T Excavator (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
1	6T Dumper (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
2	LCV – Pickups (to be parked in zone designated in Appendix 2 plan).
1	2T Excavator (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
1	Compact tractor & power harrow (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
1	Avant Loader (to be stored on site for the duration of works).

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Planting works/initial maintenance visits	
1	Ride-on mower (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
1	2T Excavator (to be stored on site for the duration of works).
2	LCV – Pickups (to be parked in offsite zone designated in Appendix 2 plan).

Site Operative and Visitor Parking

As detailed in the site set up plan in Appendix 2, no cars or light commercial vehicles (LCV) will enter the site at any time. Parking for operatives and visitors will be restricted to kerbside parking on Dig Gate Lane (Appendix 2).

Deliveries, Plant Access, Loading and Storage

Only plant/machinery deliveries are expected over the course of the works. Machinery will be stored securely stored within the site boundary as detailed in Appendix 2 for the duration of the works. Access to the working area for plant and operatives will be via the existing 12ft gate situated on the northern site boundary off Dig Gate Lane.

All unloading loading operations will be carried out entirely within the site boundary.

Environmental Protection (Spillages, Dust, Debris and Trees)

Spill kits will be provided in all site vehicles used during the works and additional spill kit provision will be located at plant working areas. Operatives will ensure spill kits are available during use of handheld equipment such as brush cutters.

Dust suppression measures will be applied where required at the discretion of the site manager.

Retained trees within the hedgerow on the northern site boundary will be identified on plans provided to operatives prior to the commencement of works. The retained hedgerow boundary feature is separated from the working area by existing stock fencing, given the minor scale of vegetation works required; it is not anticipated that the retained vegetative features will be impacted

Temporary Lighting

If site operations require night work at any stage, lighting should be faced down at an angle of less than 90° with no upward tilt and directed away from the boundaries. LED luminaires instead of low-pressure sodium, halogen or metal halide will be used to avoid disturbance from UV elements to notable species. Fixtures with a warm white spectrum of >2700K will be sourced to avoid blue light spectrum. All construction lighting should have a maximum light overspill onto vegetative features of less than 1lux.

Noise, Vibration, Mud and Dust Suppression / Run-Off Management

Light commercial vehicles and cars will not enter the site and plant machinery will operate only within the site, eliminating risk of mud tracking. Plant machinery will be cleaned and tracks will be cleared of dried mud prior to

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loading. Plant will be loaded directly onto collection vehicles within the working area, avoiding contamination of the highway. Wheel washing facilities are not considered necessary under this method of working

Measures will be taken to prevent suspended solids entering surface water run-off.

Waste Disposal

Arisings from limited vegetation clearance will be retained on site in a designated location to later form part of proposed refugia. Any additional waste will be transported off site under a valid Waste Carrier's Licence.

Amphibian Protection

Two suitably qualified Ecologists will attend site 48-72 hours prior to the main tranche of translocation and destructive works for an initial translocation visit to estimate Pond Mud Snail population as a baseline for future monitoring and to inform ECoW supervision work to follow.

A suitably qualified Ecologist (ECoW) will oversee pond creation and destruction works.

All works follow the precautionary working methods to safeguard notable amphibians outlined in Appendix 3.

Public Right of Way (PRoW) Protection

Machinery and plant operatives will be advised to take additional precautionary measures when entering or exiting Dig Gate Lane near the PRoW. A banksman will monitor for members of the public and stop works if required.

10 panels of Heras fencing installed during commencement of works will prevent public access into the working zone. Safety signage and barrier tape will be used as appropriate.

Fencing & Security

Existing temporary fencing prevents unauthorised access to the site, as above the working area for the translocation and habitat creation works will be delineated with 10 Heras fence panels.

Permanent sheep-netting fencing will be installed post-translocation to secure the Ecological Mitigation Area and

Site will be kept secure when unattended.

I trust this report provides clarification regarding the construction management provisions for the habitat creation and translocation works on the site. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Brindle and Green using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

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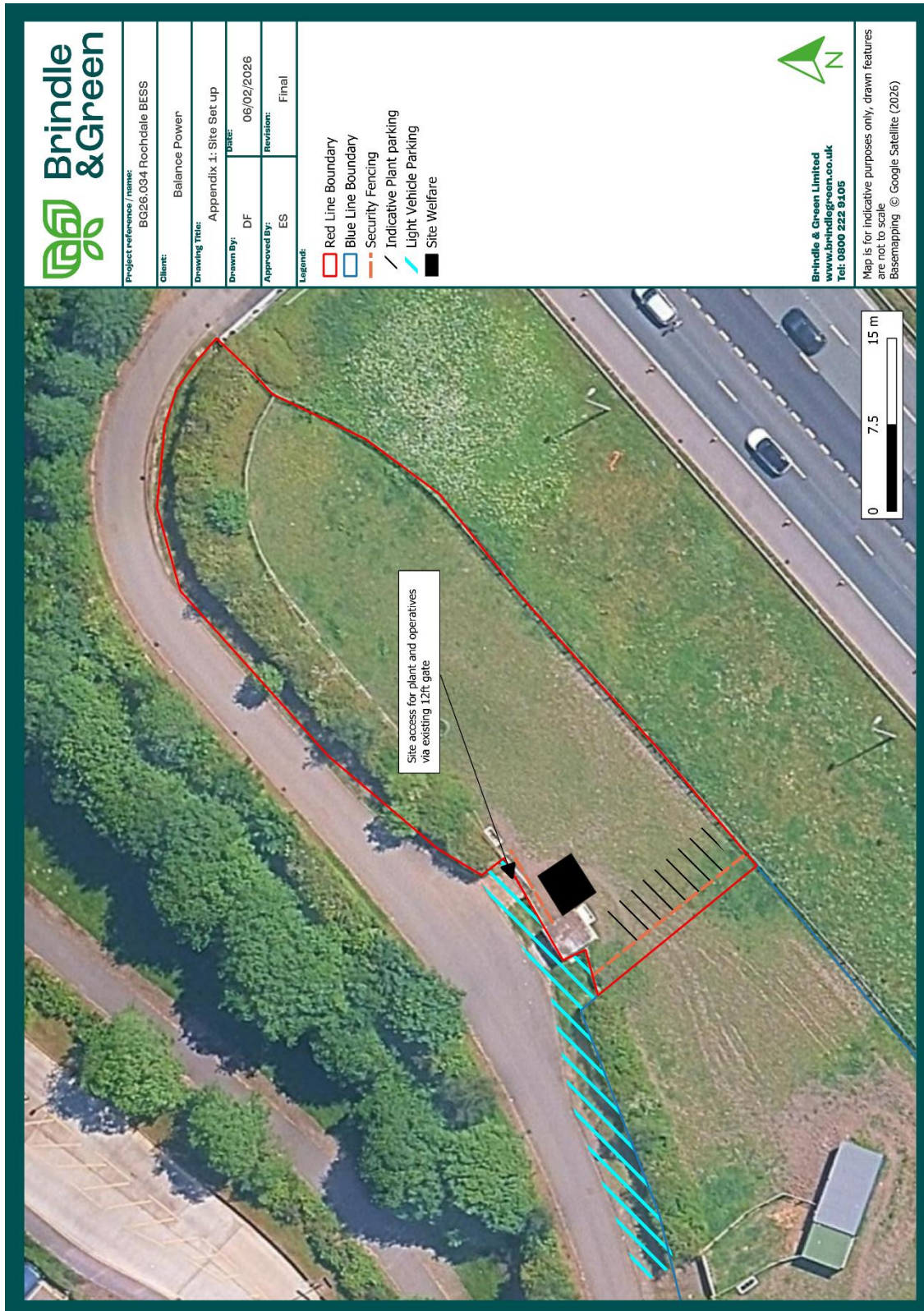
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Daisy Fretwell
Consultant Ecologist
For and on behalf of Brindle & Green Ltd

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Appendix 2: Site set up plan for habitat creation and translocation works



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Appendix 3

Method Statement: Amphibians			
Project Name	Rochdale BESS	Anticipated Start Date	March/April 2026
Site Address / Location	Land off Dig Gate Lane, Rochdale, OL16 4NR	Anticipated Finish Date	October 2026
Personnel Required	Ecological Clerk of Works (Brindle and Green Ltd.) Contracting Technicians (Brindle and Green Ltd.)		
Description of Work	Precautionary working methods to avoid adverse impacts upon amphibians during site clearance, habitat creation works and pond destruction works.		
Purpose	To avoid adverse impacts to notable amphibians and a breach of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and safeguard breeding populations of NERC Section 41 Priority species.		
Toolbox talk required prestart?	Yes. To all site operatives undertaking vegetation clearance and habitat creation/destruction activities. Sign off to be completed by each operative who has received the talk.		
Working Method	The following reasonable avoidance measures should be followed during the construction phase to prevent herptiles colonising any potential habitat incidentally created by spoil, open trenches or arisings. - Any tall grass / ruderal vegetation to be directionally strimmed in a two-phase process during the active season (March – October) to allow for any potential herptiles to disperse, the first cut to reduce the height to 30cm, then the second cut to 10-15cm. - Each tranche of works have been timed to avoid breeding season of notable amphibian species reported on site in previous reports and associated negative impact on continued success of resident populations. - All materials to be stored off the ground (for example on pallets) to minimise the likelihood of herptiles accessing them for refugia. - All spoil/waste materials to be removed from site at the end of each working day (or stored in a skip). - Construction materials to be stored on pallets or on hard standing. - Artificial refugia including vegetation cuttings and brash piles etc. will be removed from site and first dismantled by hand. The area will be checked by the ECoW to ensure absence of amphibians and dismantled in advance of the hibernation period. - Vegetation clearance will be supervised by a suitably experienced ecologist, including pre-clearance checks of the area to be affected. These areas will be systematically stripped / destructively searched under ecological supervision with arisings moved away. No temporary brash piles or artificial refugia will be stored in construction areas, as this creates refuge for herptiles and increases the likelihood of an injury occurring. Instead, will be located as per Ecological Mitigation Area Plan (Appendix 1) to implement natural refugia across the site both during and post-construction. - Exposed pipework to be capped at the end of each day, and any trenches filled to prevent entrapment. If filling cannot be undertaken a suitable means of escape such as plank of wood will be positioned to prevent entrapment.		

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Method Statement: Amphibians	
	It should be noted that if any great crested newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) are encountered during the construction phase, all works should cease and advice should be sought by an suitably qualified ecologist.
Completion	Implementation of correct procedures throughout each phase of the works, completion anticipated Autum 2026.
Monitoring Aftercare	/ Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) will be followed during habitat creation, destruction and translocation activities and site staff remain vigilant to the presence of protected species within the construction zone.

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