



Construction Environmental Management Plan

Ashworth Valley Scout Camp

Ashworth Valley, Rochdale

May 2026 Rev A

Prepared for: Ashworth Valley Scout Camp

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1. Introduction

1.1 Site

- 1.1.1. Land at land at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp, Ashworth Valley, Rochdale, OL11 5UP.
Ordnance Survey grid reference (centre of site): SD84811273.

1.2 Scope of Works

- 1.2.1 The proposals comprise the construction of four wooden tents and a round house on an area of modified grassland.

1.3 Target Start Date

- 1.3.1 June 2026

1.4 Roles and Responsibilities

Project Roles and Responsibilities

Position	Name	Responsibilities	Contact/Email
Principal Contractor	Creamy Crete	Project manager/work implementation	01706 396396
Health and Safety Representative	Matthew Rush	Safety, health and environment	Matt.rush@gmscouts.org.uk
Operations Manger	Matthew Rush	Link between contractor and project team	Matt.rush@gmscouts.org.uk
Project Delivery Managers	Matthew Rush	Management of site and quality of works	Matt.rush@gmscouts.org.uk
Ecological Clerk or Works/Representatives	Matthew Rush	Overseeing ecological site protection and mitigation	Matt.rush@gmscouts.org.uk



2. Training, Competency and Awareness

2.1.1 The site workers will be briefed on a phase-by-phase basis ensuring full understanding against relevant activities and their cumulative environmental mitigations to risk.

2.1.2 This will include:

- Site induction
- Daily Engagement Briefings
- Environment Toolbox Talks

3. Permits and Licencing

3.1.1 Cheesden Brook is not a Main River and there will be no risk of direct damage or flooding. Flood Consent and watercourse consent is not required.

4. Watercourses

4.1 Risk Management

Cheesden Brook: Environmental Controls and Methodology

- A 5m buffer with the use of Heras fencing will mark protection of the adjacent woodland and slope towards the watercourse during construction.
- During construction and habitat creation measures will be taken to avoid piling of loose materials including debris soil on the southern side of the site close to the woodland, to minimise the risk of leaching and run-off . If this occurs, debris and collectable materials will be removed immediately.
- All machinery will be stored at least 15m from the southern woodland edge when not in use as a precaution against spills.
- Any works that might result in high levels of dust will be undertaken on damp days to minimise the risk of spread, otherwise materials must be dampened on site.
- Biosecurity measures in relation to Himalayan Balsam will be employed.



5. Invasive non-native plant species

5.1 Risk Management

Himalayan Balsam: Biosecurity Measures

- The toolbox talk on Himalayan Balsam must be delivered to site operatives prior to the start of works by the ECoW or representative.
- When vegetation work is complete, all equipment, clothing and boots will be cleaned to remove any plant material, seeds or soil using brushes and water washes, where appropriate.

Himalayan Balsam: Prevention of Spread Measures

- It must be assumed that all soil within 10m of the site boundaries where Himalayan balsam has been recorded (the south site boundary), is contaminated with the seed of Himalayan balsam.
- All soil removed as a result of earthworks within the site must not be spread beyond the site boundary.
- No contaminated material, e.g. cut stems or soil containing seeds or invasive plant material, should be taken off site as it must be treated as controlled waste. If any controlled waste is required to be removed, it must be disposed of at a licensed landfill.
- Stems and flower heads can be left in a designated 'compost heap' on site for decomposition.
- Cutting or strimming of Himalayan balsam should ideally not take place whilst it is in seed, to minimised spread of the seed. The plant is most often in seed from late-June – September, but inspection of plants should take place prior to cutting. It is possible to bag the plant heads prior to cutting if cutting in the period of seed is necessary.



6. Protected Species

6.1 Table of Protected Species / Taxa Considered

Species	Mitigation required	Measures required	Time of year
Bats	Reasonable avoidance measures	Sensitive lighting Checking of trees for potential roost features	May - October
Badger	Reasonable avoidance measures	Precautions when site is left with vehicles and equipment.	All year
Hedgehog	Reasonable avoidance measures	Care taken during vegetation management and tent installation	All year
Great Crested Newt	Reasonable avoidance measures	Care taken during vegetation management and tent installation	All year
Common Toad	Reasonable avoidance measures	Care taken during vegetation management and tent installation	All year
Reptiles	Reasonable avoidance measures	Care taken during vegetation management and tent installation	All year
Birds	Reasonable avoidance measures	Daily pre-works check for nesting birds	March – September inclusive



6.2 Risk Management: Reasonable Avoidance Measures

Nesting Birds: Methodology

- The toolbox talk on Nesting Birds must be delivered to site operatives prior to the start of works on site.
- Wooded boundaries and trees are protected with the use of Heras fencing, creating a 5m buffer, or to ensure protection of root protection zones.
- If this is not possible and works are undertaken within 5m of the trees/shrubs then a suitably qualified ecologist should check the trees and vegetation close to the works site to determine the presence / absence of nesting birds each day prior to the start of any works.
- If birds are found actively nesting close to the works area a buffer of (5m) must be left undisturbed around the tree/area of vegetation supporting the nest until the young have fledged.
- During the bird nest season (March – September) machinery should be stood at least 5m from the east wooded boundaries, to minimise disturbance of any associated nesting birds.

Badger: Methodology

- There is a risk badger could cross the site upon occasion.
- To prevent harm a plank or other object must be positioned in any large holes or trenches dug and left open overnight to allow any large mammals to climb out.
- Equipment that is sharp or dangerous in any other way must not be left exposed on site.

Common Toad and Great Crested Newt: Methodology

- The toolbox talk on Common Toad and Great Crested Newt must be delivered to site operatives prior to the start of works on site.
- Works are undertaken in daytime only. Great crested newt are more active at night.
- Works to cut down or clear vegetation (grassland), to remove topsoil and any debris is undertaken with care, whilst checking for wildlife in the presence of the ECoW.



- Construction materials are stored on pallets or short grassland where possible. This minimises the risk of animals utilising the stored materials for shelter.
- If common toads are found during works, they can be picked up (with gloves on) and moved to an area with suitable cover outside the works site.
- If great crested newts are found on site, the ecologist must be called for advice.

Reptiles: Methodology

- The toolbox talk on common reptiles must be delivered to site operatives prior to the start of works on site.
- Works to cut down or clear vegetation (grassland), to remove topsoil and any debris is undertaken with care, whilst checking for wildlife in the presence of the ECoW.
- Construction materials are stored on pallets or short grassland where possible. This minimises the risk of animals utilising the stored materials for shelter.
- If reptiles such as slow-worm are found during works, they can be picked up (with gloves on) and moved to an area with suitable cover outside the works site.
- If there is any concern, the ecologist must be called for advice.

Hedgehog: Methodology

- The toolbox talk on hedgehogs must be delivered to site operatives prior to the start of works on site.
- Works to clear vegetation (sparsely vegetated land), to remove topsoil and any debris is undertaken with care, whilst checking for wildlife in the presence of the ECoW.
- Construction materials are stored on pallets or short grassland where possible. This minimises the risk of animals utilising the stored materials for shelter.
- If hedgehogs are found during works, they can be picked up (with gloves on) and moved to an area with suitable cover outside the works site.

Bats: Methodology

Sensitive lighting strategy



- Works on site are undertaken in daylight, minimising the need for lighting.
- If lighting is necessary, this must be directed to avoid the vegetated site boundaries including the woodland.
- A 5m buffer is retained between the woodland edge and the tents in order to retain a dark corridor.
- If lighting is required on site, this should be minimised by utilising LED bulbs. These emit low UV and will not attract as many insects.

Trees

- The toolbox talk on Bats In Trees must be delivered to site operatives by the ECoW.
- No direct work to trees are anticipated, however if this is necessary, trees must be checked for the presence of Potential Roost Features prior to the start of works. This check must be undertaken by a competent person.

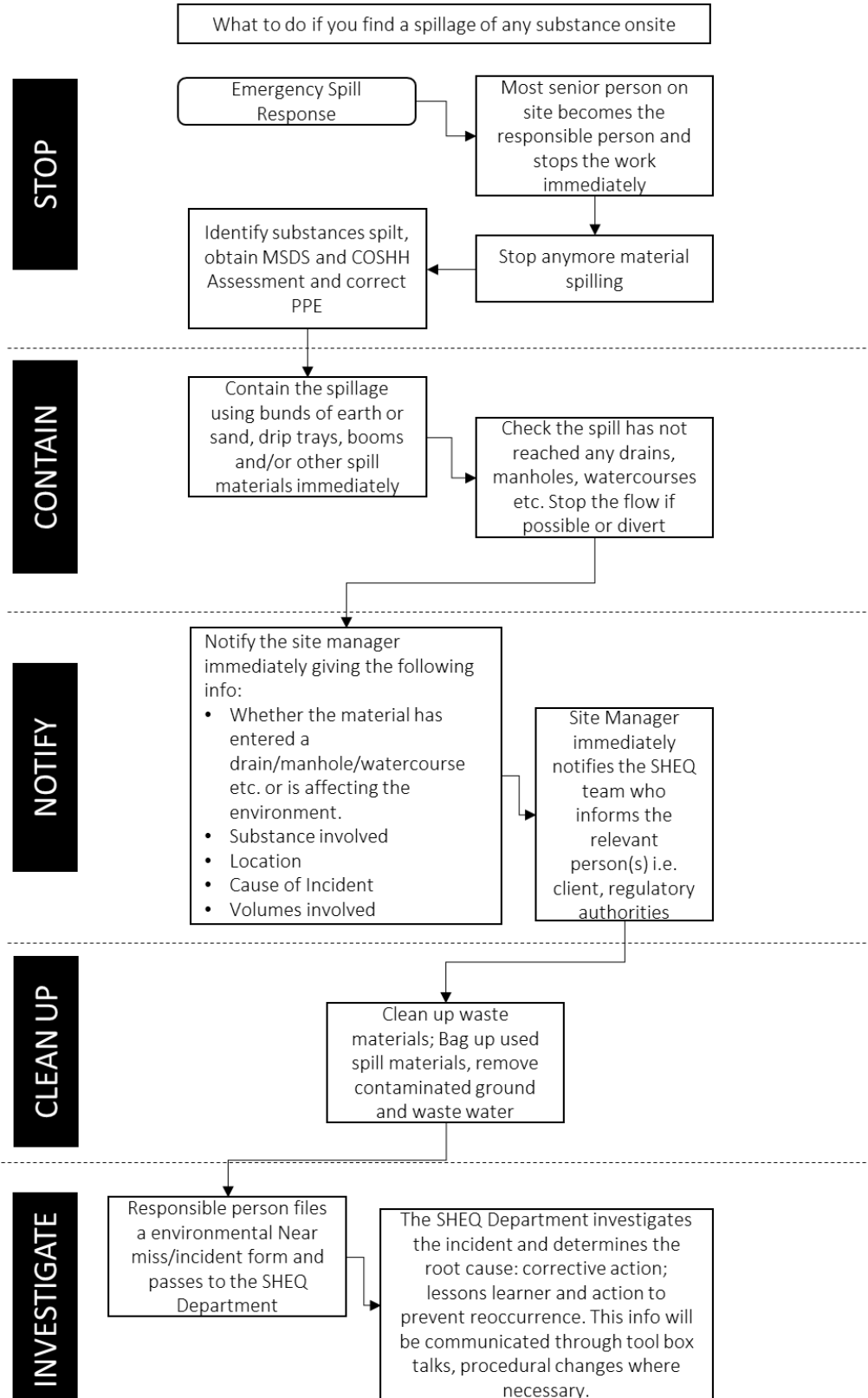


7. Pollution Prevention/ Refuelling Strategy

- Fuel shall be stored in dedicated bunded, impervious storage areas, away from drains and watercourses, and at least 10m away from the woodland edge.
- On available supply, Bio diesel to be used in all applicable equipment.
- Fuel tanks shall be stored within a bund capable of holding 110% of their capacity. All pipes and gauges shall be within the wall of the bund.
- Plant and equipment check to be completed daily and weekly respectively by a competent person. These will be recorded and readily available within the site office.
- Small mobile plant shall be placed on drip trays.
- Spill kits will be available at various points around the site and located next to stored vehicles.
- CO2 extinguishers will be located close to the compound and storage.
- Access to fuel resources will only be granted to a competent personnel and will be locked securely unless in use.
- Appropriate signage will be put up such as 'NO SMOKING' and 'KEEP OUT' signs.
- When refuelling away from the compound, jerry cans will be provided to refill machinery, again being completed at least 20m away from the watercourse.



Emergency Spill Response





8. Ecological Clerk of Works/Responsible Person

8.1.1 The ECoW or responsible person will be responsible for the following:

- Delivery of toolbox talks
- Daily nesting bird survey
- Monitoring of impacts at key stages of work
- Ensuring biodiversity protection zones remain protected.
- Reporting at each key stage of work

Key stages of work:

- Installation of protective Heras fencing
- Installation of Pods on Site
- Planting of trees

9. Biodiversity Protection Zones

9.1.1 Biodiversity protection zones include areas and habitats that are to be retained and protected during works, but may be extended to include areas around birds nests if applicable.

9.1.2 Heras fencing and appropriate signage will be used to protect and indicate the presence of biodiversity protection zones.

9.1.3 Biodiversity Protection Zones will be entered for habitat creation only.

Figure 1: Biodiversity Protection Zones and Protection Measures



10. Risk Assessment

RISK ASSESSMENT									
Data and information				Judgement			Action (by permitting)		
Receptor	Source	Harm	Pathway	Probability of exposure	Consequence	Magnitude of risk	Justification of magnitude	Risk management	Residual risk
What is at risk? What do I wish to protect?	What is the agent or process with potential to cause harm?	What are the harmful consequences if things go wrong	How might the receptor come into contact with the source	How likely is this contact	How severe will the consequence be if this occurs?	What is the overall magnitude of the risk?	On what did I base this judgement	How can I best manage the risk to reduce the magnitude?	What is the magnitude of the risk after management? (This residual risk will be controlled by Compliance Assessment).
Bird Species	Construction works	Loss of or damage to habitat and species Disturbance of species	During construction activities	High	High	High	Working in close proximity to woodland may result in disturbance and result in birds abandoning nests.	A daily check prior to any work will be underway and constant vigilance of the surrounding area during the project. ECoW is required for construction activities within and in close proximity to the woodland.	Low
Otter	Construction works	Harm to individual animal	During construction activities	Low	Low	Low	There is a very minor risk individual animals will move across the site. The risk of ham	Cover any holes or ditches created overnight or leave a plank in them to enable animals to climb out.	Low



							if they do, is considered moderate given construction activities.		
Badger	Construction works	Harm to individual animal	During construction activities	Low	Low	Low	There is a minor risk individual animals will move across the site. The risk of harm if they do, is considered moderate given construction activities.	Cover any holes or ditches created overnight or leave a plank in them to enable animals to climb out.	Low
Hedgehog	Construction works	Harm to individual animal. Damage to habitat	During construction activities	High	Medium	Medium	Vegetation clearance work within and close to woodland. .	Undertaking vegetation management with care in accordance with avoidance methodology. ECoW is required to be present during vegetation works.	Low
Common Toad	Construction works	Harm to individual animal. Damage to habitat	During construction activities	High	Medium	Medium	Vegetation clearance work within and close to woodland. .	Undertaking vegetation management with care in accordance with avoidance methodology. ECoW is required to be present during vegetation works.	Low
Great Crested Newt	Construction works	Harm to individual animal. Damage to habitat	During construction activities	Low	High	Low			
Bats	Construction works	Disturbance to foraging and roosting bats.	During construction activities	Medium	Medium	Medium	Vegetation clearance work within and close to woodland.	Undertaking vegetation management with care in accordance with avoidance methodology.	Low



							Use of lighting	Avoidance of direct impact to trees. Avoidance of use of lighting. ECoW is required to be present during vegetation works.	
Waterways and aquatic life	Construction works	Pollution- Impacts on water quality and loss of or damage to habitats/species	Runoff from machines or material falling in.	Low	High	Low	Construction works taking place on banks of Owler Brook. So there is a high likelihood that potential runoff from the works could cause accidental pollution from the machines.	Pollution measures in place at all times. All plants get checked daily.	Low
INNS spreading	INNS transferring to the work site or spreading off-site	Introduction of invasive species, loss of or damage to native species	Human/machine accidental transfer.	High	High	Medium	Himalyan balsam is present on site and without biosecurity, could easily be spread elsewhere on site or off site. Plant used for works may have been used at other sites where INNS are present.	All plant, equipment, PPE and tools shall be thoroughly cleaned prior to mobilising on site and during the project, work area to be inspected before works commence. Check, clean and dry procedure will be carried out if necessary. Any known invasive species will be barriered off or removed from the area and treated. ECoW will check area of works for INNS prior to vegetation clearance.	Low

Appendix A

Himalayan Balsam Toolbox Talk

Himalayan balsam is listed on the Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) making it an offence to spread it, or to cause it to grow in the wild.

About (Ecology)



Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens grandulifera*) is non-native plant now regularly seen along watercourses across the UK. It often forms continuous stands along streams and rivers. Due to its rapid growth, it shades out most of our native species, resulting in damage to natural habitats.

Himalayan balsam is pretty, and produces big, pink-purple flowers. Each plant produces about 2,500 seeds, which fall to the ground.

The soil within at least 7m of a stand of this plant is likely to contain seeds.

Where you might find it

Widespread throughout the UK, this plant is most commonly found along waterways (streams and rivers) and in damp areas, such as wet woodlands, marshes and mires.



Identification

Individual plants reach 2m in height, have translucent fleshy stems, pink-purple slipper-shaped flowers and large oval pointed leaves with obvious teeth around their edges. The midrib of the leaves can be tinged with red, which can help with identification early in the growing season.



Showing the pink flowers and seed pods of Himalayan balsam

The plant produces seed pods in late-summer that explode when touched, releasing 100s of seeds.



Biosecurity

If working in an area supporting Himalayan balsam, you should either avoid disturbing it and create a 7m buffer around the stand, or employ appropriate methods of treatment and biosecurity to prevent spread off site. This will include washing down equipment, machinery and clothing prior to leaving the site in case the seeds are transferred.

Any soil that may be contaminated by Himalayan balsam seeds must be treated as contaminated waste.



Toolbox Talk: BATS

About Bats – their ecology

There are 18 species of bats found in the UK. All these species are insectivorous, meaning they eat insects. A single common pipistrelle bat can eat over 3000 midges a night. All our UK bats forage at night and use echolocation to find their food and move through the landscape.

Examples are:



Common Pipistrelle



Brown long-eared bat

Bats live in roosts. They can roost in trees, buildings and caves. They like different types of roost in the summer and winter. Bats are generally active between April to September. In the winter all bats go into a form of hibernation to torpor, but will hunt on warmer nights. They hibernate, generally from late-November to February / March.



Why do we need to do this?

All UK bat species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which is UK law, and are also protected under the Habitats Regulations 2010, which is European law. They are protected because they have undergone considerable decline in the last century across Europe.

The reason they are declining is because of:

- Destruction of roost sites (trees and buildings)
- Loss of habitat (woodland, and good quality grassland)
- Chemical pollution of land, which results in loss of insects.
- Habitat fragmentation (or creation of barriers, like roads)

To counter these factors, there is a need to conserve and enhance bat populations.

Under the legislation it is an offence to disturb or ham a bat, or to damage or destroy a roost.

A roost is protected even if the bats are not present.

What features in trees have potential for bats?

Disease and decay:

- Woodpecker and squirrel holes (woodpecker hole goes down, squirrel holes goes up). Bats typically up, but will go down)
- Knot-holes (heartwood will rot back – water spirals down the stem)
- Pruning-cuts (many get infected)
- Tear-outs (infection rots up into the heartwood)
- Compression-forks
- Wounds and cankers (cankers bacterial infection)
- Butt-rot (brown rot enters the root)

Damage:

- Hazard Beam (wind turbulence)
- Frost-crack
- Subsidence and shearing (snow)
- Lightning
- Transverse-snaps



- Desiccation
- Bark
- Welds

What signs can we look for?

Bat droppings



Bat droppings look a lot like mouse droppings, but crumble to touch. They are made up of the exoskeletons of insects. Mouse droppings are very hard and will not crumble.





Look for bats



Look for bats – They are very small and usually brown like the tree. They can very easily be over-looked.



Substrate in the potential roost feature

The substrate in the hole will be smooth, shiny or blackened. If it is dusty with bits falling off, then bats will not be present. Bats do not mind it damp. Natterer's like damp in spring and autumn. Daubentons, noctule maternity roosts like it damp. Soaking wet is typical of a Daubentons maternity roost. Brown long-eared bats like it wet in the winter.





Pipistrelle bats are as small as your thumb:



Nathusius pipistrelle



How to undertake the work to minimise the risk of harm?

Check the trees for potential roost features. If you are in doubt, ring an ecologist.

What do I do if I find a bat or another animal?

Leave it alone. Do not touch the bat unless you need to in order to protect it. If you do need to touch it, use gloved hands and move it into a safe place.

Immediately call the ecologist.



Toolbox Talk: Nesting Birds

About Birds

All wild birds are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Deliberately take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

Birds nets from EARLY MARCH – LATE SEPTEMBER

What to nests look like?

- Nests come in various shapes and sizes and can be difficult to find.
- A cup made of dried grass, moss or mud
- A shallow scrape or tunnel made in the ground
- A pile of rotting vegetation twigs or little
- The 'classic' nest made of twigs in a tree
- Material such as moss and leave in a hole in a tree or other structure.

Deliberately take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.



What do they look like?



Nest in bramble



Nest in crevice



Nest in tree



Nest in grass

Listen and observe bird behaviour

It might be that you don't see a nest, but you can also observe bird behaviour. An alarm call (often a fast ticking) may mean you are close to a nest. Later in the summer you will be able to hear the chicks, or you may see birds return regularly to the same place in the vegetation.



How to undertake the work to minimise the risk of harm?

- The vegetation works have been planned for the winter months to avoid the bird nesting period.
- Undertake the vegetation works carefully, whilst watching for animals and birds and whilst looking for nests.
- If an active nest is found, or if birds are displaying activity indicating building a nest or visiting a nest, the works within the area must stop.
- A 5-meter buffer must be created around any active nest and the nest left undisturbed until the young have fully fledged.



Toolbox Talk: Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)



Hedgehogs are a UK mammal species that are a Species of Principle Importance under the NERC Act, 2006. They are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) which makes it illegal to kill or capture wild hedgehogs with the certain methods listed.

Protection

Distribution and Habitat

Hedgehogs are widespread across the UK and found in a variety of habitats including rough grassland, woodland and gardens. They are mobile and will travel around at night to forage.



Signs of Presence

Hedgehogs weigh about 1kg but they do not leave footprints unless the ground is very soft.

Droppings provide good evidence of presence. Their droppings are dark in colour because they have a diet mainly of beetles and range in length from 15mm to 50mm.

At night hedgehogs make quite a lot of noise, shuffling and snuffling through the undergrowth



A hedgehog dropping

How to protect Hedgehog

The best way to avoid harm to hedgehog is to take great care when clearing the site.

The site should be cleared by hand and ground material, including plants and dead leaves must be checked for hedgehog before being discarded.





Toolbox Talk: Amphibians

Common Toad

Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*) are native to Europe also, and are widespread across the UK. They are a species of Principle Importance under the NERC Act, 2006. They favour grassland, woodland and scrub also and can often be found under dead wood and leaf litter. They travel large distances to reach breeding ponds.

Why do we need to do this?

Common toad are a species of Principle Importance under the NERC Act 2006 and are in the UK Species Biodiversity Action Plan. They are a material consideration in planning. The species action plan is to maintain the current population and prevent damage to the population.

Common Toad



Common Toads are 'walty' and crawl or walk along the ground.



How do we undertake the work to minimise the risk of harm?

The aim is to minimise the risk of harm to amphibians.

The easiest way to minimise harm is to have all operatives aware of the species and to ensure the majority of works are undertaken by hand.

Use of machinery should be avoided if at all possible.

The reasonable avoidance methods for this site are as follows:

- Tall vegetation (scrub) should be cut to approximately 10cm in height, ideally one week before ground works to allow any animals to move out to other more suitable habitat.
- All works to remove ground vegetation, debris or materials such as logs on the ground will take place where possible by hand, with care.
- Heavy machinery must be kept on hard standing or existing track where possible, or on ground with least potential for amphibians: That is, as close to the road or an existing track as possible, preferably on short, grazed vegetation.

What do I do if I find a common toad or another animal?

Leave it alone if you can, let it move into cover of its own volition – if it is in an area that you will no longer be working in.

If it doesn't move, or there is risk you will disturb the animal again, you can move it by hand into a suitable location out of the way of the works.

A suitable area would be long grass with some scrub and some cover / protection.



Toolbox Talk: Great Crested Newts

What are Great Crested Newts?

Great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) are amphibians native to Europe. They are found across the UK.

Being amphibious, they breed in water (ponds), but spend the majority of their life cycle on land. They are found in lowland areas where there is a network of water bodies.

The terrestrial habitat they like includes grassland, woodland and scrub.

They are nocturnal and so move around at night.

They hibernate in the winter months in cracks and crevices in the ground, including places like under paving slabs and grass hummocks.

Why do we need to do this?

Great crested newts are our most strictly protected amphibian. They are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which is UK law, and are also protected under the Habitats Regulations 2010, which is European law.

They are protected because they have undergone considerable decline in the last century across Europe. The UK is a strong hold for this species, which is why so many people are surprised to find that they seem to be 'everywhere' but this is all the more reason to protect them.

The reason they are declining is because of:

- Destruction of ponds
- Pond loss through natural succession (poor management)
- Chemical pollution and nitrification of breeding sites
- Loss of terrestrial habitat
- Habitat fragmentation (or creation of barriers)
- Habitat management that renders the environment unsuitable for this species.

To counter these factors, there is a need to conserve and enhance great crested newt populations.



How do we identify great crested newts?

There are three species of newts in the UK:

Smooth newt



Approx. life size

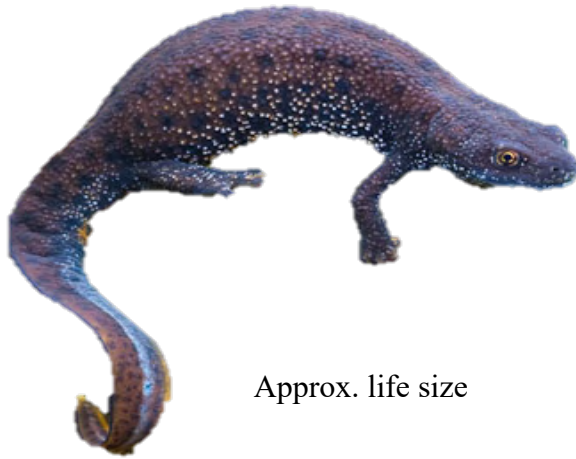
Palmate newt (usually found near woodland)



Approx. life size

Great crested newt





Approx. life size



How do we undertake the work to minimise the risk of harm?

The aim is to minimise the risk of harm to amphibians.

The easiest way to minimise harm is to have all operatives aware of the species and to ensure the majority of works are undertaken by hand.

Use of machinery should be avoided if at all possible.

The reasonable avoidance methods for this site are as follows:

- Grass within the garden is maintained at its existing short length during the period of works
- All works to remove ground vegetation, debris or materials such as paving slabs on the ground will take place where possible by hand, with care.
- Construction materials must be stored on pallets or hard standing where possible. This will minimise the risk that great crested newts will use them to



find shelter or to hibernate.

- The movement of any machinery on the grassland will be restricted to mown areas and the area used will be minimised to reduce ground disturbance.
- A plank or other material must be placed in all holes or ditches created and left over-night to enable any animals to climb out.

What do I do if I find a great crested newt or another animal?

Leave it alone if you can, let it move into cover of its own volition – if it is in an area that you will no longer be working in.

If it doesn't move, or there is risk you will disturb the animal again, you can move it by hand into a suitable location out of the way of the works.

A suitable area would be long grass with some scrub and some cover / protection.

If in doubt phone Verity: 07917 852401.



Toolbox Talk: Reptiles

Reptiles in the UK

There are six species of reptile native to the UK:

Common lizard, slow-worm, grass snake, adder, smooth snake and sand lizard.

The common species are common lizard, slow-worm and grass snake.

These species favour habitat with a varied structure, such as rough grassland with scrub and woodland with open rides. Grass snakes favour damper habitats such as ponds and ditches.

They hibernate in the winter months in cracks and crevices in the ground, including places like under paving slabs, logs and grass hummocks.

Why do we need to do this?

The common species of reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill or injure a reptile.

The rarer species (sand lizard and smooth snake) are also protected from disturbance.



How do we identify the common reptiles?

Common lizard



Slow-worm



Grass snake





How do we undertake the work to minimise the risk of harm?

The aim is to minimise the risk of harm to reptiles.

The easiest way to minimise harm is to have all operatives aware of the species and to ensure the majority of works are undertaken by hand.

Use of machinery should be avoided if at all possible.

The reasonable avoidance methods for this site are as follows:

- Tall vegetation (scrub) should be cut to approximately 10cm in height, ideally a couple of days to one week before ground works to allow any animals to move out to other more suitable habitat.
- All works to remove ground vegetation, debris or materials such as logs on the ground will take place where possible by hand, with care.
- Heavy machinery (eg chipper) must be kept on hard standing or existing track where possible, or on ground with least potential for reptiles and great crested newts: That is, as close to the road or an existing track as possible, preferably on short, grazed vegetation.
- Construction materials must be stored on pallets or hard standing where possible. This will minimise the risk that reptiles will use them to find shelter or to hibernate.

What do I do if I find a reptile or another animal?

Leave it alone if you can, let it move into cover of its own volition – if it is in an area that you will no longer be working in.

If it doesn't move, or there is risk you will disturb the animal again, you can move it by hand into a suitable location out of the way of the works.

A suitable area would be long grass with some scrub and some cover / protection.

If in doubt phone Verity: 07917 852401.