St George's Rd, Semington, Trowbridge, BA14 6JQ

Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)



April 2023

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Document Control

Site: St George's Rd, Semington, Trowbridge, BA14 6JQ

Title: Construction and Environmental Management Plan

For: Newland Homes

Project Number: 20173

Document Version: 1.0

Document Date: 25th April 2023

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1.0	25/04/23	-	DR	VP	JG

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The flora and fauna detailed within this report are those noted during the field survey and from anecdotal evidence. It should not be viewed as a complete list of flora and fauna species that may frequent or exist on site at other times of the year.

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1.0 Introduction

Background

1.1 All Ecology was commissioned to produce this document in respect of a proposed development at a site known as St George's Rd, Semington, Trowbridge, BA14 6JQ.

1.2 The site is subject to a proposed planning application for the erection of 18 new residential dwellings with associated gardens, infrastructure and landscaping as a second phase of the adjacent residential development.

1.3 The following condition will be attached to the planning permission for which the present report is intended to discharge:

No work shall commence on site including ground works/excavation, site clearance, vegetation clearance and boundary treatment works, until a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The Plan shall provide details of the avoidance, mitigation and protective measures to be implemented before and during the construction phase as recommended in Section 4 of the Walkover Survey report prepared by All Ecology (November 2021) including but not necessarily limited to:

a) Ecological protection areas/buffer zones and tree root protection areas around retained hedgerows and trees including details of specification of physical means of protection, e.g., temporary fencing.

b) Mitigation strategies for protected/priority species, such as reptiles, amphibians, nesting birds, badger and hedgehog.

c) Work schedules for activities with specific timing requirements in order to avoid/reduce potential harm to ecological receptors; including details of when a licensed ecologist and/or ecological clerk of works (ECoW) shall be present on site.

d) Key personnel, responsibilities and contact details (including Site Manager and ecologist/ECoW).

e) Timeframe for provision of compliance report to the local planning authority; to be completed by the ecologist/ECoW and to include photographic evidence.

Development shall be carried out in strict accordance with the approved CEMP.

REASON: To ensure adequate protection and mitigation for ecological receptors prior to and during construction, and that works are undertaken in line with current best practice and industry standards and are supervised by a suitably licensed and competent.

Objectives and Aim

1.4 The aims of this CEMP are as follows:

- To cover the management of all construction activities by defining the requirements and standards that need to be met.
- Ensure that the works are carried out and site managed in accordance with planning approval and wildlife legislation, and ensure the delivery of the proposed ecological enhancements in order to maximise the potential for gains on site.
- Ecological objectives are set out for which management proposals are specified for the construction phase and the operational phase of the development, which is expected to continue in perpetuity.

Scope

1.5 The CEMP will address ecology and biodiversity. Other items typically included in a CEMP e.g. Noise, Water Pollution, Safety and Security, Air Quality and Construction Traffic Management, are not included.

Key Ecological Features

1.6 Key features of ecological value have been identified as follows:

- Boundary hedges provide habitat for foraging and commuting bats, breeding and foraging birds, reptiles and invertebrates.

Site Location



Figure 1: Site location plan.

2.0 Survey and Site Assessment

Survey and Site Assessment

2.1 The site does not fall within, or in close proximity to, any statutory or non-statutory designated sites. An Ecological Appraisal of the site carried out by AD Ecology Ltd in 2015 with a subsequent Walkover Survey update of the site carried out by All Ecology Ltd in 2021 that established the following with regard to habitats and their potential for protected species either on site or in the surrounding area.

2.2 The field interior supports poor semi-improved, neutral grassland, which is a common and widespread habitat. Hedgerows comprise of native species-rich on the south and east boundaries with a short section of native species-poor hedge adjacent to Common Nettle dominated tall ruderal vegetation on the west boundary of the site. All the higher plants recorded within the study area are widespread and common, none are legally protected, nationally or county notable, listed in the WSBRC records or are listed in the UK or Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan. No invasive plant species were recorded.

2.3 The site boundaries are likely to provide foraging habitat for some bat species, while also providing commuting routes for bats flying between foraging habitat outside the site. The grassland is of limited botanical diversity and as such is likely to support only a limited invertebrate population, and furthermore the site is small, isolated and much of it surrounded by further grassland of limited value and housing, roads, street-lighting etc. Therefore, the site is likely to provide only limited foraging habitat for bats

2.4 No badger setts were found on-site or identified adjacent to the study area. No other signs of badger were found (e.g., no latrines, no badger foraging, no well-worn badger paths, no prints, hairs or other signs).

2.5 There are no waterbodies on-site to support water vole or otter, and are not an issue for this scheme. The existing boundary habitat does not provide optimum habitat to support hazel dormouse, and the hedgerows are isolated/fragmented.

2.6 No direct observations or signs of other mammal species were identified, although it is likely that rabbit, fox and deer frequent the site and hedgehogs may be present in within boundary hedgerows.

2.7 The hedgerows provide nesting and foraging habitat for birds. The field itself is unsuitable for ground nesting birds and provides only a limited foraging resource.

2.8 The study area does not contain any ponds or other waterbodies suitable to support breeding great crested newt or other amphibians. There are no ponds identified on the OS map that lies within 500 m of the study area without a major barrier in between. Great crested newts are therefore not considered to be present within the study area and is not a constraint for the proposed development

2.9 The study area, is a mosaic of grassland, boundary hedgerows, tall ruderal vegetation with adjoining gardens and grassland field which provides some potential to support common reptiles, particularly slow worm and grass snake. However, the grassland interior provides no

diurnal or seasonal refuges, and therefore if present reptiles will be restricted to the site edges where scattered scrub and rough grassland are present along the south boundary and the southern portion of the west hedge.

3.0 Development Description and Objectives

Development Description

3.1 The site is subject to a proposed planning application for the erection of 18 new residential dwellings with associated gardens, infrastructure and landscaping as a second phase of the adjacent residential development.

Objectives

3.2 The objectives of this CEMP are therefore as follows:

- Maintain and protect the boundary hedges with appropriate management.
- Ensure compliance with the legal protection of breeding birds.
- Ensure compliance with the legal protection of Badgers.
- Ensure compliance with the legal protection of reptiles.

4.0 CEMP

Tool Box Talk

4.1 The proposed works have the potential to negatively impact on a number of ecological receptors. An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will appointed to undertake the following:

- Tool Box Talk to be provided prior to the start of works outlining the purpose the CEMP-B and details of works to be supervised.
- Carry out nesting bird survey of any nesting habitats (vegetation) to be removed during nesting season in the event that this is required.
- Oversee the removal of field margins and tall ruderal habitats with respect to reptiles.

Management Responsibilities

4.2 The implementation of this management plan will be the responsibility of Newland Homes who will instruct the strict adherence to this plan, with the available resources, as well as with assistance from area specialists where necessary to ensure that all measures are executed using best possible practice. All appointed sub-contractors will be approved as competent and knowledgeable in their position.

Responsible Persons and Lines of Communication

4.3 The EcoW will be an experienced ecologist from All Ecology Ltd. They will be responsible for delivering the pre-commencement toolbox talk, which will highlight the constraints on site, details of exclusion/protection zones, identification of species, and what to do in the event any of any discoveries during the works, and the purpose of the CEMP. The EcoW will also carry out any pre-works checks of habitats; nesting bird surveys and supervision works as required.

4.4 All other responsibilities during the construction process will be those of the Site Manager. These include compliance with planning conditions, wildlife legislation, installation of protection measures including maintenance checks and implementation of this CEMP.

Local Community Responsibility

4.5 The Site Manager will manage and co-ordinate on-site environmental activities and act as a point of contact for local residents. Liaison between the Construction Contractor and local residents will seek to ensure that any concerns are resolved quickly and efficiently.

4.6 The Site Manager will be responsible for briefing the CEMP to construction staff; fulfilling environmental obligations on site; attending to any on-site environmental incidents or concerns.

Mechanism for Ensuring Delivery

4.7 Upon completion of the works a report will be produced and sent to the Council Ecologist detailing and confirming that the works were carried out in accordance with this CEMP.

Risk Assessment

4.8 The following potentially damaging activities and their associated risk have been identified:

Table 1: Risk Assessment.

Activity	Risk
Pruning of hedgerows where necessary.	Risk of disturbing nesting birds and reptiles.
Site preparation and ground works	Disturbing, injuring or killing reptiles.
Open excavations	Trapping of wildlife.
Use of machinery and general construction works, storage of materials etc.	Risk of damaging retained habitats (hedges).

Biodiversity Protection Zones

4.9 The retained hedges and trees along the boundaries of the site are the only protection zones.

4.10 The hedges and trees would be protected with tree protection fencing to BS 5837 standard. Full details of locations and specification for protection are presented on Plan 1 – Tree Protection Plan

4.11 Workers will be fully informed of the presence of the protection areas during the tool box talk.

Mammals

4.12 The following general measures would be implemented to protect mammals and other wildlife during the construction phase.

- Any trenches and other excavations would be back-filled before nightfall or a ramp left to allow animals to easily exit.
- Open pipes/ducts larger than 150 mm would be capped off overnight.

Bats

4.13 There are no buildings on site and the only trees are on the boundary and will be retained. No precautionary measures with regard to bats are required.

Habitat Creation

4.14 The proposed mitigation strategy is to provide new roosting opportunities for Common Pipistrelles (and other crevice-dwelling species) through the creation of new roosts within the new development. The landscape proposals retain foraging habitat in the form of hedges and created/enhanced habitats such as gardens, pond, shrubs, trees and wildflower grassland within the development will provide new foraging habitats of at least the same quality as those currently present. Further details are provided in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).

Lighting

4.15 The use of security lighting during construction has the potential to disturb foraging and commuting bats as well as other wildlife. The intention is to avoid the use of security lighting but if becomes necessary then this will only be used when and where necessary and will avoid illuminating boundary hedges, trees etc. to minimise disturbance to foraging and commuting bats. This will be achieved by utilising highly directional LED PIR lighting with the use of shielding

4.16 In line with best practice, new external lighting on the houses will be kept to a minimum in order to minimise disturbance to foraging and commuting bats and reduce skyglow. Further details are provided in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).

Birds

4.17 Hedge clearance is not proposed; however, any necessary pruning of hedgerows should avoid the bird nesting season of March to August inclusive so there would be no requirement to check the vegetation for nesting birds prior to works. In the event that pruning of hedgerows is proposed to take place during nesting season, pre-works nesting bird surveys would be carried out by the ECoW within 24 hours prior to works. Any discovered nests will be left undisturbed until the young have fledged by implementing exclusion zones around nest, the size of which will be determined by the ECoW taking into account the species and nature of the surrounding habitats. The ECoW will determine when the young have fledged and the nest is no longer in use.

Reptiles

4.18 The site provides habitat in the narrow areas of tall ruderal habitats and field margins along the boundary hedgerows. Works in these habitats would be carried out in accordance with the following precautionary method of working for reptiles.

- A final schedule of works is yet to be determined. All clearance works would ideally be undertaken when common reptiles are likely to be fully active i.e. during the April to September period under a watching brief by a suitably qualified ecologist. Works over the winter period would be will be subject additional detailed ground checks.
- Clearance of tall vegetation would be undertaken using a strimmer or brush cutter with all cuttings raked and removed the same day. Cutting will only be undertaken in a phased way, cutting vegetation over three consecutive days to a height of no less than150mm at the first cut, 75mm at the second cut and 30mm at the third cut. Remaining vegetation will be maintained at a height of 30mm through regular mowing or strimming to discourage common reptiles from returning.
- Should any common reptiles be discovered during works, which are likely to be affected by the work, works should cease immediately. The owner/site manager should then seek the advice of a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and works should only proceed in accordance with the advice they provide.
- The retained south boundary hedge in the southeast corner of the site and its ground flora would provide a suitable location in which to place any captured reptiles away from the majority of works and in an area where reptiles can move away from the site to the south.

- Any excavations left overnight should be covered or provided with ramps to prevent common reptiles (and other animals) from becoming trapped.

5.0 Plans

Tree Protection Plan (Full resolution plan supplied separately)



