

Land off Ashton Rise, Hilperton

Construction Environmental Management Plan

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Revised -

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed to avoid, minimise or mitigate any construction effects on sensitive ecological receptors within or near to the proposed development site at Land off Ashton Rise, Hilperton (central grid reference: ST 87366 58945), to provide the management frameworks required for the planning and implementation of construction activities that comply with legislation¹ and the environmental commitments decided through planning.

1.2. The CEMP will support the discharge of Condition 13 of the Planning Consent with reference PL/2022/05120 which states;

Prior to the commencement of works, including demolition, ground works/ excavation, site clearance, vegetation clearance and boundary treatment works, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) shall be submitted to the local planning authority for approval in writing. The Plan shall provide details of the avoidance, mitigation and protective measures to be implemented before and during the construction phase, including but not necessarily limited to, the following:

a) Identification of ecological protection areas/buffer zones and tree root protection areas and details of physical means of protection, e.g. exclusion fencing.

b) Working method statements for protected/priority species, such as nesting birds and reptiles.

c) Mitigation strategies already agreed with the local planning authority prior to determination, such as for great crested newts, dormice or bats; this should comprise the pre-construction/construction related elements of strategies only.

d) 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.

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

f) 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 professional ecological consultant where applicable.

1.3. The CEMP is a 'living document' and regular reviews will be undertaken. This document will be shared with all relevant stakeholders (including sub-contractors) to ensure that the environmental requirements are communicated effectively. The details of this document should be considered compulsory unless otherwise stated. All stakeholders should combine

this document with their existing site policies and procedures.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. This report aims to:

- Identify key stakeholder requirements;
- Ensure compliance by all stakeholders (landowners, contractors, etc.) with all relevant legislation;
- Effectively minimise any potential adverse effects on the environment, designated sites and protected species during construction; and
- Provide site specific method statements to avoid, minimise and mitigate construction effects on the environment, designated sites and protected species.

2.2. Environmental objectives for the construction phase of the works will include, but may not be restricted to:

- No light, noise, airborne or waterborne pollution incidents;
- Minimisation of disruption to neighbouring residential curtilages;
- Protection of all protected species and habitats on site; and
- enhancement of the site for protected species and habitats.

2.3. This report has been informed by previous reporting including the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (January 2023) produced by Seasons Ecology.

3. SITE OVERVIEW

3.1. The site is in Wiltshire, to the northeast of Trowbridge, and within the settlement of Hilperton. A site surrounded by residential properties on three sides and a abutting semi-enclosed filed pattern on the southwest.

3.2. The site is an undeveloped plot within a residential area, approximately 0.2 hectares in size. It consists predominantly of bare ground with modified grassland, rubble piles and a tarmac footpath. A wood-panel fence encloses the site on the north, east and south boundaries and a hedgerow enclose the site on the west boundary. Pedestrian access to the site is provided by a footpath connecting to the north-west corner of the site and vehicle access is provided by a gap in the wood-panel fencing in the south-east corner of the site.

3.3. The south-west boundary hedgerow is approximately 50m in length comprises predominantly hazel *Corylus avellana*, with yew *Taxus baccata*, common plum *Prunus*

domestica and the occasional ash *Fraxinus excelsior* sapling. The hedgerow is located on a bank and has an understorey of dense ivy *Hedera helix* coverage and bramble *Rubus* species.

The hedgerow borders the site but is owned and managed by the neighbouring landowner this is the only ecological feature that is to be retained.

4. OPERATIONAL CONTROL PROCEDURES

Introduction

4.1. To ensure the works are undertaken in accordance with the details of the CEMP, a series of control measures will be utilised. These measures include:

- Regular site checks.
- Monitoring and review.

Responsibilities

4.2. The following persons will be responsible for ensuring the CEMP is adhered to throughout the construction phase and ensuring works comply with legal and contractual agreements:

- Developer - Land owner;
- Primary Contractors - Construction Site Managers;
- Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoW) if required - Suitably qualified ecologist; and
- Appointed primary and sub-contractors.

4.3. All personnel will be made aware of their contractual agreements in fulfilling the project's environmental obligations. Any amendments must be communicated with all relevant stakeholders and documents updated where applicable. Hard copies of documentation should be stored on site and accessible to all those who may require it.

Training & Awareness

4.4. All personnel whose work may cause a significant impact on the environment will receive a site induction by the **Site Manager**, covering the main environmental points of the CEMP. This may include but is not restricted to:

- Site safety;
- Waste management;
- Pollution prevention and emergency spill response;
- Requirement for specific Toolbox Talks on spillage, noise prevention or mitigation if necessary; and

- Protected species and habitats legislation.

Ecological Legislation

- 4.5. With current understanding of the presence / likely absence or usage of the site by protected species, a few precautionary working methods must be employed, including:
- Removal of vegetation outside of the breeding bird season or only after a breeding bird survey has been conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist; and
 - Vegetation clearance outside of the hibernation period for hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*).
 - Protective fencing to the mature hedge to be retained

Detailed Responsibilities

- 4.6. The **Site Manager** and **Developer** will be responsible for the overall implementation of the CEMP. A suitably qualified ecologist will be appointed as an **ECow** to supervise aspects of the CEMP if required.
- 4.7. The **Site Manager** will be responsible for the following:
- Ensuring all works on site comply with relevant legislation in relation to protected habitats and species;
 - Ensuring that the CEMP is adhered to throughout the construction phase of the project;
 - Providing Toolbox Talks to all contractors and developers on protected species, sensitive habitats, their respective locations and what to do if protected species are found during works, when required;
 - Providing advice to developers and contractors on how best to minimise impacts on wildlife throughout the construction phase of the development;
 - Providing the main point of contact should any issues relating to ecology arise during construction and contact the **ECow** for advice;
 - Ensuring the supervision of any construction activities that have the potential to impact on protected species and / or sensitive habitats;
 - Ensuring fence lines are monitored and respected throughout the construction phase of the development; and

- 4.8. It is the responsibility of the **Developer (or Land owner)** and the **Site Manager** to ensure that the **ECoW** is kept informed regarding work and construction activities that monitoring and advice is required, so that they are able to carry out their responsibilities efficiently and reliably.
- 4.9. If the **ECoW** identifies any issues relating to the CEMP during the construction phase, the **Developer** and **Site Manager** will be contacted and measures will be taken to resolve any issues. Likewise, if the **Developer** or **Site Manager** (or their contractors) notice any ecological or environmental issues during the construction phase, the **ECoW** must be contacted for advice immediately.

Access to Ecological Reports During the Construction Phase

- 4.10. Hard copies of this CEMP, the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and the previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisal prepared by Seasons Ecology, will be kept in the site office during the construction phase. The **Site Manager** will ensure the reports are available for contractors to refer to when necessary.

Environmental Risk Assessments of Construction Activities

- 4.11. The **Site Manager** will undertake risk assessments for the proposed activities to be undertaken on site. These will be shared with all relevant stakeholders and hard copies kept on site in the site office. Risks assessments will be made of each activity and measures for reducing impacts implemented, examples could include dust control and control of hazardous substances.

Environmental Incident Reporting

- 4.12. The **Site Manager** and other key stakeholders will establish and implement an environmental incident procedure as part of their Emergency Plan combined with their management systems on site. This procedure will be designed to respond to anticipated environmental hazards and risks on site and will include emergency control measures taking into account the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention guideline, General Guide to the Prevention of Pollution and Pollution Incident Response Planning.
- 4.13. The environmental procedure will include:
- Measures to mitigate the adverse effects of an environmental incident;
 - Emergency contact details and method of notifying emergency services, Local Authorities, Environment Agency and other statutory authorities and key personnel; and
 - Measures to be adopted to investigate and prevent the recurrence of an environmental incident.

- 4.14. Minor occurrences relating to environmental / ecological activities will be reported to the **Developer** and **Site Manager** by the **ECoW**. A hard copy and an electronic record will be kept on site for reference and inspection. Any incidents will be followed up by email to all relevant stakeholders and control measures will be reviewed as necessary.

5. ECOLOGICAL CONTROL PROCEDURES

Protection of Surrounding Habitat

- 5.1. The south-west boundary hedgerow which is owned and managed by the neighbouring landowner will be retained in its entirety. This hedgerow is approximately 50m in length comprises predominantly hazel *Corylus avellana*, with yew *Taxus baccata*, common plum *Prunus domestica* and the occasional ash *Fraxinus excelsior* sapling. The hedgerow is located on a bank and has an understorey of dense ivy *Hedera helix* coverage.
- 5.2. Heras fencing will be installed to give a 3m buffer area along this edge of the to ensure that off-site habitats are not negatively impacted by construction activities. Screening will be added to the barriers to prevent dust and waste from the construction site from contaminating off-site habitats. Screening barriers will comprise a shade netting or similar, fixed to the base of heras fencing, with 50 cm draped on the ground to catch any dust and site waste that may otherwise escape under the fencing. Monthly checks will be made by the **Land Owner or Site manager** to ensure airborne litter and dust do not have a negative impact on the adjacent habitats of the designated site or any retained habitat within the application site itself. Should any issues arise, appropriate remedial actions will be implemented.
- 5.3. No surface run-off from the construction site will be allowed to flow towards the retained habitat. Appropriate site drainage must be installed to avoid this and to ensure that all surface water runoff discharges into existing drains. The **Land Owner or Site Manager** will monitor for any potential issues and advise on any remedial actions if required.
- 5.4. The **Site Manager** must make all sub-contractors and labourers aware of all habitats that are to be protected.

Invasive Plant Species

- 5.5. If invasive plant species are present (within hedgerow bases or planting, etc.), soil excavated from these areas will not be spread to other areas of the site and will be appropriately disposed of.
- 5.6. Appropriate site management and waste disposal is required to ensure that invasive species, including *Cotoneaster* sp., *Rhododendron* sp. and Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*)², are not spread and that removal required as part of

enhancement works is conducted appropriately.

- 5.7. To dispose of invasive non-native plant waste off site it is the responsibility of the **Developer** and the **Site Manager** to:
- Use a registered waste carrier; and
 - Send plant waste to an authorised landfill site or suitable disposal site (check with the site directly, contact the local authority or check the Environment Agency public register).
- 5.8. Non-native plants must not be composted, as they are usually persistent and will generally survive the composting process. They can then infest the areas where the compost is spread. If herbicides are used, it is the responsibility of the **Developer** and **Site Manager** to dispose of all soil contaminated with persistent chemicals that do not break down, which are usually considered hazardous waste.

Birds

- 5.9. Any vegetation clearance within the site will be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season (March to August inclusive) where possible.
- 5.10. If vegetation clearance is required within the breeding bird season, a pre-works inspection will be undertaken immediately prior to this vegetation clearance by the **ECoW**. Should breeding birds nests be recorded, these will be left undisturbed until chicks have fledged. An appropriate buffer (dependent on species and age of chicks) will be implemented around nests, within which no vegetation clearance can proceed until the **ECoW** has confirmed that the nest is no longer in use.
- 5.11. It is the responsibility of the **Developer** and the **Site Manager** to schedule vegetation clearance works at the correct time of year to avoid impacts to breeding birds where possible. It is the responsibility of the **Site Manager** to inform the **ECoW** if vegetation clearance is required during the breeding bird season to ensure that pre-works checks can be conducted correctly.

Amphibians and Reptiles

- 5.12. Ground level vegetation will be cleared throughout the development area, ideally during the active season for amphibians and reptiles (March to October inclusive) as hibernating animals are more vulnerable to disturbance.

² See Appendix 2 for identification information.

- 5.13. Ground level vegetation clearance will be undertaken in two stages, using hand-held tools such as hand-strimmers or brush cutters only. The first stage will comprise an initial cut to 150 mm, with arisings blown off using a leaf blower and collected. A second cut to ground level will be undertaken at least 48 hours later to remove any remaining cover. During the cutting exercises, vegetation will be removed progressively from the edges of the development towards areas where vegetation will be retained (woodland parcels at the northeast corner etc.).
- 5.14. Piles of wood, brash or composted vegetation will be dismantled by hand.
- 5.15. If any amphibians or reptiles are discovered during the works, they will be carefully moved to habitat beneath the retained hedge area on the southwest boundary, which will be protected during the construction works.
- 5.16. It is the responsibility of the **Land Owner** and the **Site Manager** to schedule vegetation clearance works at the correct time of year to avoid impacts to hibernating reptiles and amphibians where possible.

Hedgehog

- 5.17. To minimise impacts to hedgehogs, vegetation clearance works will ideally take place during the active season for this species (March to October inclusive), to ensure that active individuals can move away from the works area. Prior to the second cut as outlined above in Paragraph 5.13, the **Site Manager** will search the area for hedgehogs and will move any found to safe-release areas of retained habitat.
- 5.18. After site preparation works have been completed and ground works begin, all excavations or trenches will either be covered over night or provided with ramps to ensure wildlife can escape if they fall in. Similarly, any open services will be capped overnight. It is the responsibility of the **Site Manager** to ensure that these precautionary measures are undertaken.

6. SEQUENCE OF WORKS

- 6.1. The site preparation phase will be carried out by the primary contractor or their sub-contractor. The process of works with relevance to environmental protection will be expected to take place in the following order:
 - Fencing, barriers and signage to be installed around the perimeter of the site, including fencing to protect retained hedge.
 - All site operatives to be made aware of the specific site hazards, including the various ecological receptors.

- Specialist vegetation clearance for invasive plant species if required.
- General vegetation clearance works to be undertaken.
- Installation of bat and swift boxes as building work proceeds.
- Arisings and materials produced through vegetation clearance to be stockpiled and segregated where possible on site in a designated area for use in habitat creation and enhancement.
- Boundary fencing adapted for hedgehog movement as fencing is installed.
- Hibernaculum is provided within the northern-most corner of the garden of the property once building works have completed and landscape works have commenced.

7. REFERENCES

British Standards Institution (BSI) (2012). BS 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations*. BSI, London.

Seasons Ecology, Preliminary Ecology Report, May 2022

Seasons Ecology, Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, January 2023

Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010). *Reptile Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

Environmental Management Guidance; Harmful Weeds and Invasive, Non-native Plants: Prevent them Spreading [online] www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-spread-of-harmful-invasive-and-non-native-plants#dispose-of-invasive-non-native-plants [Sept 2022].

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Legislation
<i>Planning Act 2008</i>
<i>Environmental Protection Act 1990</i>
<i>Control of Pollution Act 1</i>
<i>Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002</i>
<i>Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974</i>
<i>Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Regulations 2006</i>
<i>Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations</i>
<i>Badger Act 1992</i>
<i>Controlled Waste Regulations 1992</i>
<i>Contaminated Land Regulations 2006</i>
<i>Natural Environment & Communities Act 2006</i>
<i>Wildlife & Countryside Act 1987 (as amended)</i>
<i>Environment Act 1995</i>
<i>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010</i>
<i>Clean Air Act 1993</i>
<i>Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010</i>
<i>Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007</i>
<i>Water Resources Act 1991</i>
<i>Water Act 2003</i>

APPENDIX 2 - IDENTIFICATION OF INVASIVE NON-NATIVES

Spanish bluebell
Hyacinthoides hispanica



Hybrid bluebell
Hyacinthoides x massartiana



Native British bluebell
Hyacinthoides non-scripta



Rhododendron



Cotoneaster

