

Construction Ecological Management Plan Land at Stonehill, Minety, Wiltshire SN16 9DX

March 2026

A report by

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Report details

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Declaration of compliance

Code of Professional Conduct

The information which we have prepared is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

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1. Introduction

Western Ecology has been commissioned to complete a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) in relation to the approved planning application for:

“Installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) together with associated ancillary infrastructure, equipment and access arrangements at Land at Stonehill, Minety, Wiltshire SN16 9DX in accordance with the terms of the application, Ref PL/2022/05504, Appeal Decision APP/Y3940/W/24/3357286”

Condition 9

9) No development shall commence on site until a Construction Ecological Management Plan (EMP) has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. The EMP 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:

- I. Identification of ecological protection areas/buffer zones and tree root protection areas and details of physical means of protection, e.g. exclusion fencing.*
- II. Working method statements for protected/priority species.*
- III. 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.*
- IV. Key personnel, responsibilities and contact details (including Site Manager and ecologist/ECoW).*
- V. 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 EMP.

This document provides the measures that will need to be implemented during the construction phase of the development in relation to Condition 9.

2. Implementation and management

- Prior to the start of works, a 'responsible person' will be designated to ensure that this CEMP is applied and implemented during all phases of construction.
- The Site Manager will be the responsible person for managing all activities and risks detailed within this CEMP.
- Everyone on site, including sub-contractors, will carry out their activities in line with this plan.
- A copy of this plan will be made available at all times on site, and where applicable, staff and sub-contractors will be notified of its contents through a formal site induction or will be given a copy.

3. Ecological mitigation

3.1. Non-Statutory Conservation Sites

Parkhill Copse Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

This LWS is adjacent to the northern Site boundary. It is possible that this LWS may be impacted by accidental damage during construction. The following mitigation will be adhered to:

- This area will be protected from accidental damage during the construction phase by adherence to the Arboricultural Method Statement.

3.2. Protected habitats

The site hedges and broadleaved woodland at the site margins are regarded as sensitive areas and will be protected throughout the duration of the construction activities in line with the Arboricultural Method Statement. This includes Bramble along the hedgerow base.

- Heras fencing (or similar) will provide protection areas between any hedge or tree base and the construction site. This will be subject to specific RPAs outlined within Arboricultural Method Statement
- Appropriate 'No Entry' signage will be attached to these exclusion fences at regular intervals to readily identify it as a no entry area. This signage will be installed prior to the start of construction and retained until the development is completed.

- All staff will be made aware of these sensitive areas and prior permission from the Site Manager will be required to enter/undertake works in this area.

Within these sensitive areas the following activities will not occur:

- storage, deposit, tipping or placing of any materials, soil, spoil or other matter,
- storage of fuel or chemicals within or along boundaries,
- parking or movement of vehicles or trailers,
- erection or siting of buildings or structures,
- excavation or raising of ground levels, and
- disposal of water or other liquid within these protected areas.
- fire(s) shall not be lit within 20m of any protected area without the prior written authorisation of the Local Planning Authority.

If any pollution incidents occur within the protected areas which are likely to impact the water bodies, works should stop immediately, and the Environment Agency should be informed by contacting the Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

3.3. Great crested newt

There is potential for GCN to be present in boundary and grassland habitats. The development will be completed under a great crested newt district level licence which will include suitable mitigation agreed with Natural England. This will need to be in place prior to the start of works.

THIS SECTION WILL BE UPDATED ONCE THE GCN DLL IS IN PLACE AND MITIGATION IS KNOWN

3.4. Reptile and Amphibians (common and widespread)

It is possible that common and widespread amphibians and reptiles are present within taller grass at the site margins. Reasonable avoidance measures (RAMs) will be adhered to avoid impacts to these animals as follows:

Reptile and amphibian reasonable avoidance measures

- During site clearance in March to October, vegetation will initially be cut to a height of no more than 10cm and cutting will occur in a direction towards retained boundary habitat. This will encourage any animals to disperse naturally. After at least 48hrs, a second cut will be made as close to ground level as possible. This will ensure that any reptiles or amphibians, if present, are displaced from the

construction site. Once cleared, vegetation within the works area will be maintained below 10cm for the duration of the works, to prevent attracting amphibians back into the area.

- It is unlikely that grassland habitats would support hibernating reptiles and amphibians and mitigation outside the period March to October would not be needed, unless woody scrub is removed. If woody scrub is removed in the hibernation period an ECoW will be present onsite to oversee works.
- During the cutting of any grassland or scrub, all arising waste must either be removed from the operational construction area, or placed in a skip so that it does not create a suitable habitat and shelter for amphibians or reptiles;
- During construction, any trenches, holes, pits, or other excavations which reptiles or amphibians could fall in to must be covered overnight, or have sloped banks or ramps suitable for their escape;
- The construction team will ensure appropriate storage and transport of any hazardous materials, with all waste materials stored in a skip or alternative, and not on the ground, where they could be used as a refuge by reptiles or amphibians;
- If any reptiles or amphibians is detected on site, it must be carefully picked up, placed in a clean bucket and moved to an area of suitable habitat e.g. edges of grassland/scrub or woodland, away from any development footprint, but near to, or with connectivity to, aquatic habitat.

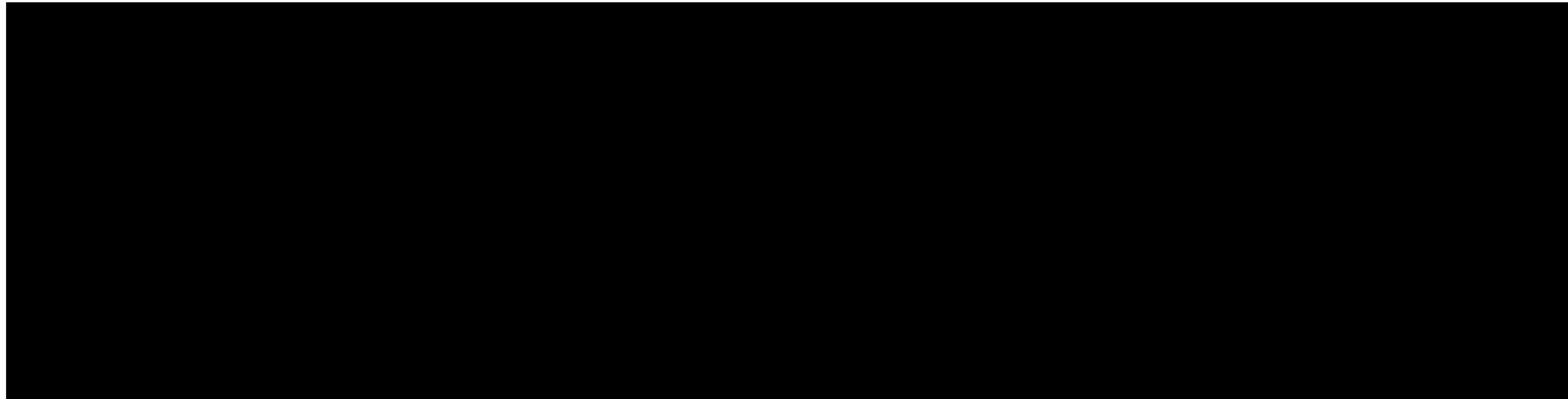
3.5. Nesting birds

It is likely that nesting birds are present in woodland and dense boundary vegetation (i.e. hedges).

Any removal of these potential nesting bird habitats will follow the following reasonable avoidance measures:

Nesting bird reasonable avoidance measures

- The removal of site vegetation with potential for nesting birds (such as hedgerow, scrub, and trees) will be completed in the period between September and February inclusive, outside the accepted bird nesting season. If this is not practicable, activities will be preceded by a thorough inspect for nesting bids by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).
- If an active bird nest is discovered, even if outside the accepted bird nesting season, it will be necessary to stop work immediately and create an exclusion zone in which no works are undertaken until the birds have fledged naturally. All activities within 10 metres of the nest will be halted until nested chicks have fledged and that area will be sectioned off with barrier tape. All site staff will be made aware of the presence of nesting birds and the need to protect them.
- Once the ECoW is satisfied that the nested chicks have fledged, the barrier tape will be removed and the vegetation in that area will be cleared.



3.7. Bats

It is possible that light-averse bat species might occasionally be active along the hedgerow boundaries and the edges of adjacent woodland habitat. To mitigate any adverse effects lighting will follow reasonable avoidance measures:

Lighting and bats, reasonable avoidance measures

- Construction phase lighting will be orientated into the site away from site boundaries.
- No nighttime works will not occur in the bat active period of April to October inclusive
- The site will be unlit outside working hours.
- Security lighting will be activated by movement sensor with a time limit switch to 300s;
- Lighting designed to minimise light spill beyond the required target;

3.8. Common Dormice

It is possible that dormice are present within woodland and hedge habitats. However, a precautionary approach will be adopted and the following reasonable avoidance measures will be put in place :

Dormice reasonable avoidance measures

1. Prior to habitat clearance commencing in suitable hazel dormouse habitats (woodland, hedgerows and associated habitats), a detailed inspection of all vegetation to be removed/impacted will be undertaken by a suitably qualified/licenced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) in order to ensure no hazel dormice are present
2. Potential impacts of killing and injury during site clearance will be mitigated using the 'persuasion' approach (Bright et al, 2006¹). This approach is normally adopted where:
 - Less than 100m of hedgerow will be removed – as long as the remaining habitat is linked to a larger potential dormouse habitat.
 - Less than a 50m wide strip of woodland will be removed – as long as the remaining habitat is linked to a larger dormouse habitat.
3. If works are proposed during the dormouse hibernation period between November – March, vegetation will be 'soft' felled in order to avoid impacts on potential dormouse hibernation habitat such as tree/hedge 'stools' and exposed roots (no ground clearance should take place in these habitats during this period). Felled tree sections may be logged into approximately 2m lengths and piled away from proposed works areas to provide wildlife habitat (including summer and winter nest/hibernation sites for dormice). As a precautionary measure, remaining stumps that may provide places of shelter should be removed the following April/May, under the direct supervision of a suitably licensed ecologist and/or accredited agent.
4. All clearance will be undertaken by an appointed contractor under the supervision of a suitably qualified/licenced ECoW, , using hand tools or light machinery, and will be sensitive to the likelihood of disturbing dormice. Vegetation will be gradually reduced to stump level, with all cut brash stacked in habitat piles or chipped into piles at suitable locations around the site (outside of the development works areas in retained woodland habitats), as directed by the ECoW to provide habitat for invertebrates, small mammals (including dormice), amphibians and reptiles.
5. Site operatives will be informed by 'tool box' talk of the potential for protected species to occur on-site, what to look out for and what to do in the event that animal is found and information regarding hazel dormouse on-site protocols will be detailed within the Site induction process.

¹ Bright, P.W, Morris, P.A. & Mitchell-Jones, A. (2006) Dormouse Conservation Handbook: Second Edition. English Nature, Peterborough.

6. If a hazel dormouse is found during site clearance or construction periods, works must stop immediately and contact should be made with a suitably qualified/licenced ECoW.

3.9. Timetable of ecological mitigation strategy

The following timetable indicates when an ECoW is likely to be needed on site. It is important that prior to the start of works this timetable is discussed and agreed with the construction team.

Table 1: Timetable of ecological mitigation strategy

Ecological feature	Timing of mitigation	Mitigation	ECoW presence needed?
Parkhill Copse LWS	For whole period of construction	This area will be protected from accidental damage during the construction phase by adherence to the Arboricultural Method Statement	ECoW check needed once habitat protection is in place
Hedges and trees (sensitive habitats)	For whole period of construction	Hedgerows will be protected from accidental damage during the construction phase by adherence to the Arboricultural Method Statement	ECoW check needed once habitat protection is in place
Great crested newt	For whole period of construction, and to be in place prior to the start of works	The project will join the Local District Level Licence agreement. Under this licence, mitigation will be dictated by Natural England.	To be decided by Natural England, but very likely during certain works. ECoW will be needed during vegetation clearance and potentially during certain ground works
Amphibians (common and widespread) and reptiles	During vegetation clearance	See: Reptile and amphibian reasonable avoidance measures	Depending on timing, ECoW will be needed during vegetation clearance
		See: Nesting bird reasonable avoidance measures	
Nesting birds	During initial site clearance in the period March to August inclusive	See: Nesting bird reasonable avoidance measures	Depending on timing, ECoW will be needed during vegetation clearance
Badgers	For whole period of construction	See: Badger reasonable avoidance measures	No
Bats	For whole period of construction	See: Lighting and bats, reasonable avoidance measures	No
Common Dormice	For whole period of construction	See: Dormice reasonable avoidance measures	ECoW check needed if any woody scrub, including bramble, is removed or trimmed.

3.10. Timeframe for providing compliance report to planning authority

A compliance report, to include digital images, will be provided to the planning authority by the developer team within 6 months of the completion of construction.