

Construction Ecological Mitigation and Management Plan

Survey site: Land near Touchwood, Stockbridge Road, Lopcombe Corner, SP5 1BW

Client: Rob Jones

Date: 24/05/2026

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with **Wiltshire Council**. The proposal is described as: *change of use of land to a Travellers caravan site*

This Construction Ecological Mitigation, Management Plan (CEMP) has been prepared for the above-named client to outline measures to be implemented construction works at the above named site.

The purpose of this plan is to ensure the protection and mitigation of ecological receptors, adhere to best practices and industry standards, and provide adequate supervision by licensed professionals. The CEMP also outlines the management frameworks required for the planning and implementation of construction activities that comply with legislation and the environmental commitments.

CEMP The below table provides the wider ecological context of the site and details any associated planning conditions.

Site Context and Landscape History	
A detailed description and history is provided in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. (Katie Warren, 2022). The site which is just north of Stockbridge Road lies on the outskirts of the hamlet of Lopcombe Corner. The site is located approximately 11km northwest of the city of Salisbury. The site is surrounded by arable and pasture fields with a network of trees and hedgerows as well as Stockbridge Road (A30) adjacent to the southern boundary and a small number of commercial and residential properties within close proximity. Two woodlands are located within close proximity to the site including a small woodland (c. 3.5 acres) which is located 125m north of the site and a large woodland (> 250 acres) which is located approximately 200m to the south.	
Planning Conditions	
Condition 8	Prior to the commencement of development or works, including ground works/excavation, site clearance, and boundary treatment works, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP shall provide details of the avoidance, mitigation and protective measures to be implemented before and during the construction phase, including but not limited to: a. Identification of ecological protection areas/buffer zones and tree root protection areas and details of physical means of protection; b. Working method statements for protected/priority species, such as nesting birds;

	c. Mitigation strategies related to ecological receptors; 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 shall be present on site. e. Key personnel, responsibilities and contact details (including Site Manager and ecologist). The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved CEMP.
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The below table describes the ecological baseline conditions on site.

Ecological Background Information
Detailed using desk study and site survey.
The site had a PEA undertaken by Katie Warren in 2022. Habitats identified at the site include- • Lowland Calcareous grassland • Mixed scrub • Other mixed woodland • Individual trees • Ruderal vegetation This does not include habitats identified outside of the development boundary, in the wider site landscape. Value for protected species on the site includes the following- • Birds- The woodland trees, scattered trees and scrub are likely to provide suitable nesting habitat for common bird species during the breeding season. It is also possible that some areas of the grassland may provide ground nesting suitability for (ground nesting) birds such as skylarks <i>Alauda arvensis</i> but the suitability is reduced by the number of predator perches within the site (e.g., trees, fences and scrub) which may reduce the likelihood of ground nesting birds • Badgers- The site does have areas suitable for sett building particularly in the areas with embankments (towards the northern and southern boundaries within areas of scrub and woodland) and raised areas within the site. No badger setts or evidence of badgers (e.g., latrines, footprints or snuffle holes) were identified during the survey. • Bats- The surrounding environment is predominantly rural supporting areas of woodland including a small woodland (c. 3.5 acres) which is located 125m north of the site and a large woodland (> 250 acres) which is located approximately 200m to the south. These provide habitats of high suitability for foraging and commuting. The site itself has open areas which are less preferable to bats however other vegetative features such as the woodland and dense scrub were considered suitable to support commuting and foraging bats from the surrounding areas and to provide connectivity. • Reptiles- Slow-worms and common lizards were the reptiles found on the site. Both species were identified covering the same general areas with the majority of the individuals found in the north and in the centre towards the eastern side of the site. It is noted that all reptiles apart from one

count of a slow-worm on two separate occasions were within the blue line boundary rather than the red line boundary. A maximum count of 9 adult slow-worms (3 males and 6 females) were recorded during any one visit (survey 2). A maximum of 2 common lizards (1 male and 1 female) were recorded during any one visit (survey 7).

- **Amphibians**- The site contains no standing water that could provide potential breeding habitat for great crested newts or other amphibians. Opportunities for great crested newts and other amphibians exist in their terrestrial phases including tall grassland, woodland, scattered trees, areas of dense and scattered scrub and other features such as wood piles. A single pond was identified within 500m of the site using aerial photography, OS maps and ground-truthing (see Figure 1). This pond is located 150 metres west of the site at grid reference SU 25702 35396 and when it was surveyed it was found to be dry.
- **Terrestrial mammals**- The habitats on the site and wider site are likely to support a variety of terrestrial mammals, such as hedgehogs, foxes, rabbits and rodents.

The following tables detail the proposed mitigation, habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement measures for the development as well as management requirements to ensure the longevity of these measures. as detailed in the PEA and BNG. These include further details of the habitats on site and the impacts of the development upon them and will be read in conjunction with this document.

Scope

This CEMP outlines construction and ecological measures for the following works:

The clearance of land to allow for the site to be used as a traveler site.

Aims and Objectives

This report aims to identify key stakeholder requirements, ensure compliance by all stakeholders with all relevant legislation, minimise potential adverse effects on the environment and protected/notable species during construction, and provide site specific methods to avoid, minimise and mitigate construction effects on the environment and protected/notable species.

Work Schedules and Ecological Presence

Construction Ecological Management Plan

Work schedules will be developed to ensure activities with specific timing requirements are carried out in a manner that minimises harm to ecological receptors. These schedules will be provided to all relevant personnel and contractors involved in the project. The following measures will be implemented:

Ecological Clerk of Works

A qualified and suitably experienced ecologist will be present on-site during critical phases of construction activities, namely turf stripping. Their role will be to oversee and monitor compliance with the CEMP, provide guidance, and take immediate action to prevent any harm to ecological receptors. Should protected species be identified during vegetation clearance, works will be halted whilst a suitably licenced ecologist and/or Natural England is contacted.

Persons Responsible and Lines of Communication

A Development Biodiversity Champion is selected for the construction phase of the development. The Biodiversity Champion will be someone with significant influence during construction, such as the contract, site or project manager. They are responsible for ensuring all actions outlined in the approved LEMP are implemented including the provision of a toolbox talk prior to works commencing. Any queries with regards to the mitigation prescriptions will be addressed to the project ecologist and communication will be retained between the Development Biodiversity Champion and project ecologist and/or a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) throughout the construction phase of the development where necessary to ensure the mitigation is applied and impacts to adjacent ecological receptors are effectively minimised. The project ecologist’s contact details are located on the title page of this report. It is recommended that the Biodiversity Champion informs the project ecologist and designated ECoW of the commencement of construction works and provides updates where necessary. The ECoW will provide ecological expertise and guidance throughout.

Table 2- Construction and Ecological mitigation measures

Ecological Mitigation Measures	This table includes any measure required to obtain or comply with planning permission or other consent and to comply with legislation.
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Ecological Protection Areas and Buffer Zones	
Ecological protection areas and buffer zones within the project site. These areas will be demarcated using physical means of protection, such as exclusion fencing, to prevent unauthorised access and minimise disturbance to sensitive habitats.	
Construction measures-	
Pollution Prevention	
<i>Risk</i>	Pollution resulting from increased levels of water run-off, noise, and dust creation during construction works have potential to pollute the area to the north which is likely to enact adverse impacts upon the proposed reptile receptor site (see section 2.0 of this report) and subsequently reduce both plant and animal diversity.
<i>Statutory Compliance</i>	To limit impacts of pollution resulting from the construction phase of the development, construction works must be completed in accordance with current statutory guidelines relating to pollution prevention (Environmental Agency 2016). Furthermore, although withdrawn in 2015, pollution prevention guidelines detailed within guidance document: <i>PPG6: Working at Construction and Demolition Sites</i> (Environment Agency 2010) remain applicable to the site. Considering both the relevant statutory requirements and best practice measures detailed within guidance document PPG6, the below mitigation prescriptions are considered suitable to mitigate impacts of pollution during the construction phase of the development. The allocated Biodiversity Champion will be responsible for ensuring the below mitigation recommendations are undertaken successfully during the works.
<i>Materials Storage and Surface Water Runoff</i>	It is recommended that the Biodiversity Champion ensures that: • No stockpiles are created on exposed ground areas and ensure that all materials and chemicals are stored securely and safely on site in accordance with current Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations (HSE 2002). • Stockpiles are located as far away as possible from the reptile receptor site (Detailed in section 2 of this report) and on level ground to prevent any accidental run-off.

	• Contaminated materials, chemicals, and other hazardous substances must be stored on an impermeable surface, in a bunded area, within any area of the site. • All chemicals and hazardous substances are stored away from areas where there is heightened risk of damage from impact or collision such as site traffic. • All chemicals and hazardous substances are labelled, containers are sealed when not in use and inspected regularly and fit for purpose. • Any damaged or old containers are replaced in line with the duty of care requirements. Note such containers may be considered hazardous waste. • Staff are trained in use of spill kits and emergency procedures. • Ensure there is a designated 'responsible person' on site at all times. • Lock storage facilities when not in use.
<i>Site Drainage</i>	It is recommended that the Biodiversity Champion ensures that: • Pollution risks are identified pre-construction. • Pollutants are prevented from entering drains where possible. • If any pollutant enters a drain, immediately stop the pollution with a physical block, stop the activity causing the pollution, then notify the Environment Agency for surface water drains or the local sewerage provider for foul water drains. If there's a spill, accident, or emergency, try and prevent pollutants entering the drains. • Report all pollution incidents to site management and the Environment Agency. • Inspect drains and protection measures frequently and maintain them during the construction activity. Well maintained drains will also reduce risks of flooding and subsequent surface water run-off.

	As a last resort, should any pollutants be required to enter the drainage system on site, permission from Environment Agency or the local sewerage provider must be sought before discharging anything other than clean uncontaminated surface water to a drain and other surface waters or groundwater. Apply for permission early, as authorisation can take up to four months.
<i>Airborne particle suppression</i>	It is recommended that the Biodiversity Champion ensures that: - Effective water suppression is used during demolition operations. Handheld sprays are more effective than hoses attached to equipment as the water can be directed to where it is needed. In addition, high volume water suppression systems, manually controlled, can produce fine water droplets that effectively bring the dust particles to the ground. - Avoid explosive blasting, using appropriate manual or mechanical alternatives. - Bag and remove any biological debris or damp down such material before demolition. - Carry out regular site inspections to monitor compliance. - Ensure all vehicles switch off engines when stationary. - Avoid the use of petrol- or diesel-powered generators and use mains electricity or battery power where possible. - Only use cutting, grinding, or sawing equipment fitted or in conjunction with suitable dust suppression techniques such as water sprays or local extraction. - Ensure an adequate water supply on the site for effective dust/ particulate matter suppression/ mitigation, using non-potable water where possible and appropriate. - Use enclosed shuts and conveyors and covered skips.
<i>Noise</i>	The Biodiversity Champion must ensure that noise levels are kept to a minimum in accordance with best practice as defined in the Control of Pollution Act 1974 to avoid unacceptable levels of noise and vibrations. Further guidance can be found in British Standard

5228-1:2009. Such measures applicable to the proposed development primarily include agreed working hours limiting night work, using the quietest equipment and plant available, shutting down equipment when not in use, and completing deliveries during working hours only. Most notably, prescriptions as to limit noise of plant machinery as detailed within **Table B.1** within the code of practice for noise control (British Standards Institution, 2014) is likely to have the most significant impact during construction activity. Table B.1 is shown below.

Table B.1 Methods of reducing noise levels from construction plant

Plant	Noise reduction of plant			Alternative plant
	Source of noise	Possible remedies (to be discussed with machine manufacturers)	A-weighted sound reduction dB	
Hammer drive piling equipment	Pneumatic/diesel hammer or steam winch vibrator driver	Enclose hammer head and top of pile in acoustic screen	5 to 10	Bored piling Vibratory system
	Sheet pile	Acoustically dampen sheet steel piles to reduce levels of resonant vibration		Drop hammer completely enclosed in box with opening at top for crane access
	Impact on pile	Use resilient pad (dolly) between pile and hammer head. Packing needs to be kept in good condition		Steel jacket completely enclosing drop hammer with dolly and polystyrene chips fed to impact surface to dissipate energy
	Cranes cables, pile guides and attachments	Careful alignment of pile and rig		Pressed-in piling which generates its driving force from the frictional restraint of other piles
	Power units or base machine	Fix more efficient sound reduction equipment or exhaust. Acoustically dampen panels and covers. When intended by the manufacturer, engine panels need to be kept closed. Use acoustic screens when possible		
Earth-moving plant: • bulldozer • compactor • crane • dump truck • dumper • excavator • grader • loader • scraper	Engine	Fit more efficient exhaust sound reduction equipment Manufacturers' enclosure panels need to be kept closed	5 to 10	Alternative super silenced plant might be available. Consult manufacturers for details

Table B.1 Methods of reducing noise levels from construction plant (continued)				
Plant	Noise reduction of plant			Alternative plant
	Source of noise	Possible remedies (to be discussed with machine manufacturers)	A-weighted sound reduction dB	
Compressors and generators	Engine Compressor or generator body shell	Fit more efficient sound reduction equipment	Up to 10	Super silenced plant is available. Consult manufacturers for details Electric-powered compressors are available as opposed to diesel or petrol Sound-reduced compressor or generator can be used to supply several pieces of plant. Use centralized generator system
		Acoustically dampen metal casing Manufacturers' enclosure panels need to be kept closed		
	Total machine	Erect acoustic screen between compressor or generator and noise-sensitive area. When possible, line of sight between top of machine and reception point needs to be obscured	Up to 10	
		Enclose compressor or generator in ventilated acoustic enclosure	Up to 20	
Pneumatic concrete breaker, rock drills and tools	Tool	Fit suitably designed muffler or sound reduction equipment to reduce noise without impairing machine efficiency	Up to 15	Hydraulic and electric tools are available For large areas of concrete, machine designed to break concrete in bending can be used Thermic lance
		Ensure all leaks in air line are sealed		
	Bit	Use dampened bit to eliminate ringing		
	Total machine	Erect acoustic screen between compressor or generator and noise-sensitive area. When possible, line of sight between top of machine and reception point needs to be obscured	Up to 10	
Enclose breaker or rock drill in portable or fixed acoustic enclosure with suitable ventilation		Up to 20		
Rotary drills, diamond drilling and boring	Drive motor and bit	Use machine inside acoustic shed with adequate ventilation	Up to 15	Thermic lance

	Table B.1 Methods of reducing noise levels from construction plant			
	Plant	Noise reduction of plant		Alternative plant
		Source of noise	Possible remedies (to be discussed with machine manufacturers)	A-weighted sound reduction dB
Hammer drive piling equipment	Pneumatic/diesel hammer or steam winch vibrator driver	Enclose hammer head and top of pile in acoustic screen	5 to 10	Bored piling Vibratory system
	Sheet pile	Acoustically dampen sheet steel piles to reduce levels of resonant vibration		Drop hammer completely enclosed in box with opening at top for crane access
	Impact on pile	Use resilient pad (dolly) between pile and hammer head. Packing needs to be kept in good condition		Steel jacket completely enclosing drop hammer with dolly and polystyrene chips fed to impact surface to dissipate energy
	Cranes cables, pile guides and attachments	Careful alignment of pile and rig		Pressed-in piling which generates its driving force from the frictional restraint of other piles
	Power units or base machine	Fix more efficient sound reduction equipment or exhaust. Acoustically dampen panels and covers. When intended by the manufacturer, engine panels need to be kept closed. Use acoustic screens when possible		
Earth-moving plant: • bulldozer • compactor • crane • dump truck • dumper • excavator • grader • loader • scraper	Engine	Fit more efficient exhaust sound reduction equipment Manufacturers' enclosure panels need to be kept closed	5 to 10	Alternative super silenced plant might be available. Consult manufacturers for details
Implementation of the Waste Hierarchy	The Biodiversity Champion must ensure that all construction activity is completed in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy (Defra 2011) in an attempt to reduce the amount of waster produced during the construction phase of the development. As such, the construction phase must be completed in accordance with the below core principles: <i>In the first instance:</i> • Re-use products and materials where possible.			

	• Recycle and compost material resources where possible. • Attempt to recover energy from waste. <i>Where none of the above options offer an appropriate solution, waste disposal is the final option:</i> • Only transfer controlled waste to an “authorised person” (Waste Collection Authority, the holder of an Environmental Permit, Registered Water Carrier or Waste Disposal Authority). • Ensure that non-hazardous waste is transferred under a Waste Transfer Note which must be retained for two years. • Hazardous waste is moved under a waste consignment note that provides a clear description of the waste material. The consignment note must be retained for three years. • The waste is the responsibility of the company until it has been fully recovered or finally disposed of.
Wildlife Protection – Precautionary Methods of Working-	
<i>Birds</i>	The proposed development could result in the destruction or the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests. Proposed development could result in the disturbance and/or destruction of nests of schedule 1 species. The areas of scattered hawthorn scrub within the blue and redline need to be removed to improve the quality of the calcareous grassland. Vegetation clearance, topsoil stripping and other activities will be undertaken outside the core nesting period 1st March to 31st August. If this timeframe cannot be avoided, a nesting birds check of the vegetation (and any remaining or regrowth vegetation from earlier cuts) will be undertaken, by the project ecologist or ECoW, within 48 hours prior to the commencement of work. All

	active nests will need to be retained with a species-appropriate (generally 5m) buffer until the young have fledged (species specific but typically 4-6 weeks). A watching brief will be undertaken during clearance in case any nests were not evident during the first check. The buffer will need to be increased in the event of the presence of any Schedule 1 species as reckless disturbance as well of destruction of the nests of such species is an offence. Buffer zones regarding schedule 1 species are on a case by case, species by species basis and must be reflected accordingly.
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	If schedule 1 species are identified nesting, these areas must be retained, and suitable fencing and signage installed to prevent encroachment into these areas. It is an offence to recklessly disturbed adult and independent young in proximity to their nests as well as the nests themselves. Examples of appropriate installed work signs are shown in Figure 1. Signs can also be installed in regard to non-schedule 1 species, installed in full view in areas where nesting birds have been identified on the pre-work checks. Figure 1- Work signage regarding nesting birds on the site. Source- www.Britishsafetysigns.co.uk
<i>Bats</i>	Bat roosts are not expected to be directly impacted by the development but may be disturbed during commuting and foraging activities. A lighting strategy is provided later within the report.
<i>Badgers and other terrestrial mammals</i>	The following recommendations are given in order to mitigate against potential harm to hedgehogs, badgers and other mammalian fauna during the development works.

	• The work zone will be checked for wildlife prior to works commencing, with any fauna encouraged to move away via their own volition or transported by gloved hand to the reptile receptor area if this not be possible. This will only apply to smaller mammal species. Larger mammals such as badgers and foxes will not be transported by hand. • Any inadvertently injured wildlife will be taken to an appropriate local wildlife carer or vet. • Any trenches dug will ideally be backfilled before contractors leave. If this is not possible they will be covered at night or have a rough sawn plank placed in them to act as a ramp for any wildlife which may fall in. They must be checked for wildlife before backfilling. • Security lighting must be directed away from undergrowth and vegetated site boundaries. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development will be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.
Lighting Strategy	
The habitats on site have high habitat value for roosting, commuting and foraging bats and other nocturnal wildlife within what is at present a dark area. Additional lighting could impact behaviour of wildlife and adversely affect the integrity of roosting and foraging resources. Any proposed external lighting will be installed in accordance with current guidance issued by the Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professionals: Guidance Note 08/18: Bats and Artificial lighting in the UK (BCT & ILP 2018). The below strategy utilises light prescriptions detailed within this guidance to limit impacts of artificial lighting on bats and other light sensitive species using retained habitats on and directly adjacent to the site including badgers and hedgehogs. In particular, the lighting strategy seeks to influence the lighting design so that impacts can be avoided to key habitats of value including: ○ Any woodland within the adjacent site ○ The species-specific habitat enhancements detailed below, predominantly the bird and bat boxes. ○ Newly proposed landscaping.	

- Retained habitats on and directly adjacent to the site.

The following lighting design prescriptions are considered suitable for the type and scale of the Development to minimise the impacts of artificial lighting on site or within the public realm on bats and other light sensitive species.

Lighting design prescriptions recommended for the Site comprise:

- Bat boxes and other ecological enhancements must not be illuminated to ensure the present dark zones are retained.
- Reducing the operating time of any installed public realm lighting and levels of illuminance provided via: Part-night operation. Turning off lights between certain hours, for example between midnight and 06:00.
- The use of motion sensors will be avoided to ensure no unnecessary light spill occurs during night-time hours. Where the use of motion sensors cannot be avoided, lights must be set to be turned on for no longer than 1 minute.
- Wall lights and security lights will be 'dimable' and set to the lowest light intensity settings. There are several products on the market that allow the control of the light intensity and the duration that the lights are on.
- Avoiding light spill via: The use of directional lighting by using luminaires with rear shields and an upwards lighting ratio of zero; and Consideration to the height and spacing between lighting columns where practicable. Examples include stud LED or footpath lighting. There will be no bare bulbs and no light pointing upwards. The spread of light will be kept in line with or below the horizontal. Use low-level lighting in conjunction with hoods, cowls, louvers and shields.
- Lights will be directional to ensure that light is directed to the intended areas only.
- Light type: Use of lamps that minimise UV emissions or use UV filters to reduce the attractiveness of the lamp to invertebrates. Use high-pressure sodium or LED lamps, ideally warm white as its function as an invertebrate attractant is relatively low.
- The use of landscaping as to block light spill where appropriate.

- Install lighting systems that deliver no greater than a 3lux average illuminance, with a maximum horizontal illuminance of 0.6 uniformity (subject to appropriate maintenance factors).
- Use narrow spectrum light sources to lower the range of species affected by lighting.
- Use light sources that emit minimal ultra-violet light.
- Avoid white and blue wavelengths of the light spectrum to reduce insect attraction and where white light sources are required in order to manage the blue shortwave length content they will be of a warm / neutral colour temperature <4,200 kelvin.
- External lighting will be on PIR sensors that are sensitive to large objects only (so that they are not triggered by passing bats) and will be set to the shortest time duration to reduce the amount of time the lights are on.
- All lighting on the developed site will make use of the most up to date technology available.

Consideration will be taken for internal lighting as well as external light. Measures in order to reduce light spillage from internal lighting are displayed below in **Figure 2**

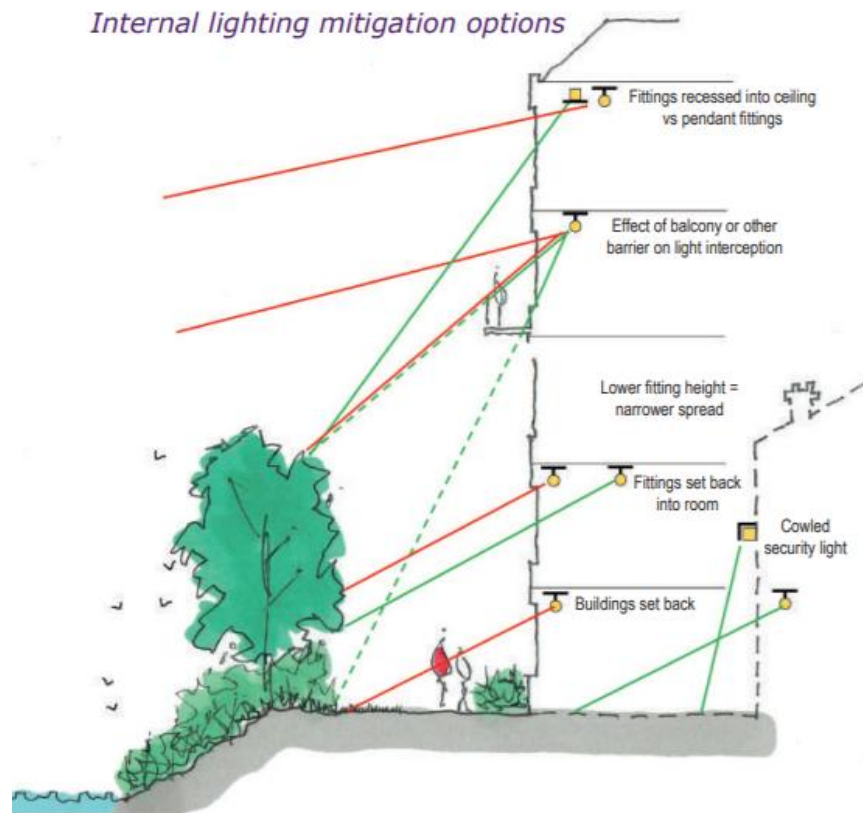


Figure 2- Mitigation measures for internal lighting.

2.0 Reptile mitigation measures

Reptiles Recorded

A reptile survey was carried in in March 2023 by Katie Warren, which was done for the entire blue line and redline boundary. The reptile survey recorded slow worms on site, with a peak count of 9 adults/ sub-adults. The survey also found common lizards on site with a peak count of 2.

Population Size Assessment

A peak count of 9 adults/ sub-adult slow worms is consistent with a “good ” population of slow worms in accordance with current guidance detailed within Froglife Advice sheet 10 (Froglife 1999). The site as has a peak count of 2 common lizards which is consistent with a “low” population. The parameters for each population class size is shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Population Size Assessment with Key Reptile Site Scores

Species	Low Population (Max Count) (Score 1)	Good Population (Max Count) (Score 2)	Exceptional Population (Max Count) (Score 3)
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>	<5	5 -10	>10
Grass snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	<5	5 -10	>10
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	<5	5 -20	>20
Slow Worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	<5	5 -20	>20

Key Reptile Site Characterisation

In accordance with current guidance detailed within Froglife Advice sheet 10 (Froglife 1999), to qualify as a “*key reptile site*”, the surveyed site must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a. *Supports three or more reptile species.*
- b. *Supports two snake species.*
- c. *Supports an exceptional population of one species.*
- d. *Supports an assemblage of species scoring at least 4 (see Table 4).*
- e. *Does not satisfy criteria a-d but is of regional importance due to local rarity.*

As above, the reptile population recorded does not characterise the site as a “*Key Reptile Site*”.

While no reptile species were recorded within the redline boundary during the targeted surveys, their presence must be assumed on a precautionary basis. The adjacent blueline boundary supports confirmed populations of slow worm and common lizard. Given the complete absence of physical barriers between these two zones, excellent habitat connectivity exists, and these species are highly mobile.

The implementation of a Reptile Mitigation Plan is considered a fully sufficient and proportionate response for this site, rather than requiring resource intensive measures such as translocation. This approach is justified because the recorded populations do not meet the criteria for an exceptional population, and the site does not qualify as a Key Reptile Site under guidelines. The potential impacts are therefore low scale, minor, and localised.

Mitigation and enhancement prescriptions to reduce adverse impacts to reptiles during development activity and to ensure the ongoing value of the site to reptiles is maintained post-development are detailed in **Table 2** and illustrated on the plan in **Appendix 3**.

Table 3: Reptile Mitigation and Enhancement Prescriptions

Mitigation	Specification
Persons Responsible and Lines of Communication	A Development Biodiversity Champion will be selected for the construction phase of the development. The Biodiversity Champion will be someone with significant influence during construction, such as the contract or project manager. The Development Biodiversity Champion will be responsible for ensuring all actions outlined in this RMEP are implemented. Any queries with regards to the mitigation and enhancement prescriptions will be addressed to the project ecologist and communication will be retained between the Development Biodiversity Champion and project ecologist throughout the project. The project ecologist's contact details are located on the title page of this report. It is recommended that the Development Biodiversity Champion informs the project ecologist of the commencement of enhancement installation works and provides updates where necessary. Once the ecological enhancements have been installed, a Post-Development Biodiversity Champion will be allocated who has influence on site once the development is complete, such as a long-term maintenance contractor or landowner. The Post-Development Biodiversity Champion will be responsible for ensuring all recommended management is undertaken and any associated remedial measures are completed where necessary.
Ecological Clerk of Works	All works detailed below will be supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist acting as an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). The ECoW will work alongside the Development Biodiversity Champion and all other site contractors to ensure that the mitigation and enhancement measures detailed below are implemented correctly and that any reptiles displaced during the works are removed and relocated unharmed. The primary aim of the ECoW will be to ensure a suitable receptor site is created prior to site clearance works and to supervise the sensitive removal of all habitats of value to reptiles within the development area. Once the ECoW confirms this has been achieved, the development can continue in the absence of the ECoW, whereby contact between the Development Biodiversity Champion and project ecologist can be maintained to resolve any ecological issues that may arise during works.
Receptor Site Creation	<i>Receptor Site Identification and Enhancement</i>

An area covering 1.3ha will be retained and protected in accordance with the proposed development as to form a reptile receptor site. The receptor site has been chosen as areas in the blue line will be enhanced by removing areas of scrub to enhance the priority grassland.

The receptor site will be created prior to any site clearance works under the supervision of the ECoW and subsequently retained for the duration of the development to form a suitable location for reptiles temporarily displaced as a result of site clearance and construction activity. The area covered by the proposed receptor site currently comprises of woodland, mixed scrub and rough grassland. The carrying capacity of the receptor site will be enhanced by retaining all existing rough grassland and woodland, allowing the existing grassland to grow long, and the installation of three hibernacula and a further three will be created throughout additional retained habitat. The hibernacula will be created using natural materials such as logs collected from the site, stone, vegetation arisings, and earth to provide additional refugia and basking opportunities. The proposed receptor area is shown on the plan in **Appendix 2** and a specification for the construction of each hibernaculum is provided in **Figure 3**. These habitats combined will provide effective foraging, basking, and refuge opportunities for reptiles considered suitable to support the low populations recorded. The receptor area will be retained and managed as a suitable reptile habitat in perpetuity post-development in combination with use as a wildlife education area. Long-term management prescriptions for the receptor area during the operational phase are detailed below.

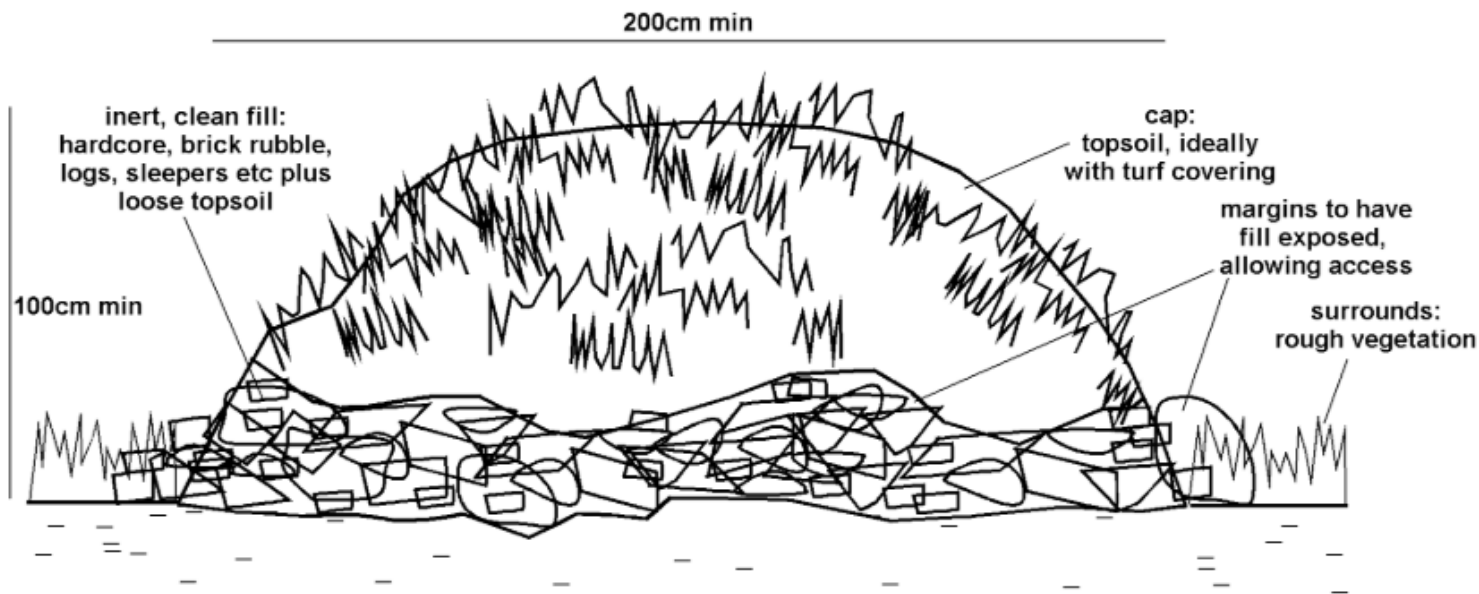
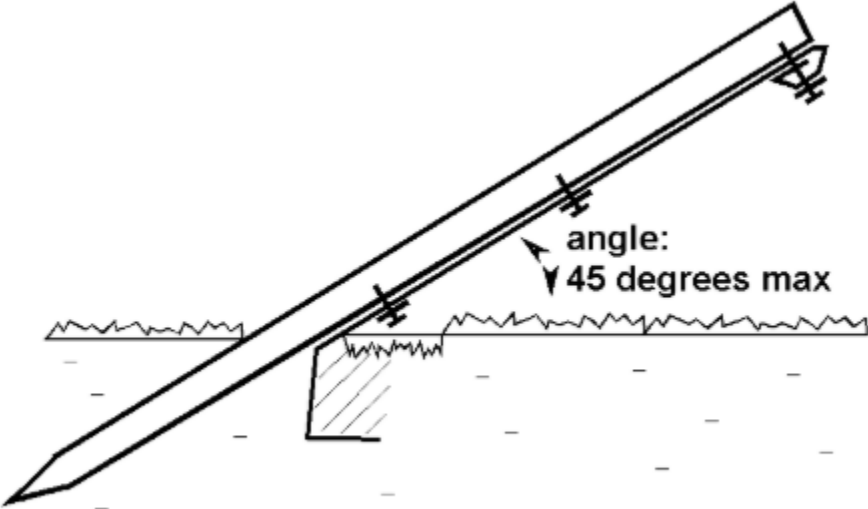


Figure 3: A schematic representation of a man-made hibernaculum (Natural England, 2001)

Rob Jones	Land near Touchwood, Stockbridge Road, Lopcombe Corner, SP5 1BW Retention of Reptiles and Protection of Receptor Site Following the effective enhancement of the receptor site, one-way reptile exclusion fencing will be installed separating the receptor site from the development area. The one-way fencing will need to be supplied, installed, and removed by a competent habitat management contractor with suitable experience installing this fence type under the supervision of the ECoW. The one-way exclusion fencing will be installed prior to the commencement of site clearance works or any other mitigation prescriptions (as detailed below) and will be maintained during the entirety of the construction phase of the development. Once the development is complete, the fencing can be removed to re-instate site wide access for reptiles. The one-way reptile exclusion fencing will be constructed using timber posts and a taught UV resistant membrane attached using pads and nails (not battens). The exclusion fencing will be installed with a sloped angle between 40 and 45 degrees with a right-angled/ folded top curl present at the top facing the receptor site. This allows reptiles to travel over the fencing from the construction area towards to receptor site but prevents re-colonisation. An example of this fencing structure is shown below on Figure 4. The proposed location of the fencing is shown on the plan in Appendix 2.  ONE-WAY FENCING: CROSS-SECTION Figure 4: A schematic image showing a cross section of one-way exclusion fencing (Natural England, 2001).
Reasonable Avoidance	Ongoing Grassland Management to Prevent Enhancement of Terrestrial Opportunities Prior to Works

Measures (RAMS)	Management of the existing grassland that dominates the site centrally will continue until the commencement of works. The grassland will be cut to a short and consistent sward no longer than 100mm every two weeks during the peak growing season between April and September inclusive. Management can be reduced to once every month during the late autumn/ winter period between October and March when growth will be limited. <i>Timing of Clearance Works</i> Site clearance works must be undertaken between April and September, which is outside of the reptile hibernation period. During this timeframe, reptiles are active and able to escape when disturbed. Clearance works must not take place between October and March when reptiles are torpid and thus highly vulnerable to injury or death. Clearance works must only take place during dry weather when temperatures are between 9°C and 18°C, when reptiles are least likely to be torpid or entering aestivation. <i>Toolbox Talk</i> The ECoW will provide a toolbox talk to contractors immediately prior to site preparation and vegetation clearance works to highlight the potential presence of reptiles, outline indicators of their presence, and to inform of protocol if a reptile is encountered. <i>Sensitive Destruction of Refugia</i> The ECoW will undertake a walkover inspection for the presence of refugia that will require removal within the peripheral vegetation such as log and brash piles. Any suitable refugia recorded will be carefully dismantled by the ECoW and effectively searched for the presence of reptiles. Any refugia materials displaced will be used to form additional hibernacula within the receptor site. <i>Sensitive Removal of Grassland and Scrub</i> A staged approach will be undertaken when removing long and dense vegetation of value to reptiles, which predominantly comprises the peripheral sections of scrub and rough grassland adjacent to the east and west site boundaries, as shown on the plan in Appendix 2. Vegetation will be cut in two phases, whereby the initial clearance will cut the vegetation to 15cm and left for a minimum of 1 hour to allow any reptiles a ground level to disperse. The vegetation can then be cleared to ground level. The staged vegetation clearance will be undertaken systematically, whereby vegetation will be cut as to encourage reptiles potentially present to move towards the receptor site. Two suitable systematic cutting techniques are schematically represented in Figure 5. Once the sensitive vegetation clearance has been completed and vegetation has been cut to ground level, the area will be subject to a soft strip to expose bare earth, which will then be subject to trampling or light rolling. This will create a habitat of compacted bare ground which provides negligible ecological opportunities for reptiles preventing colonisation of this area.
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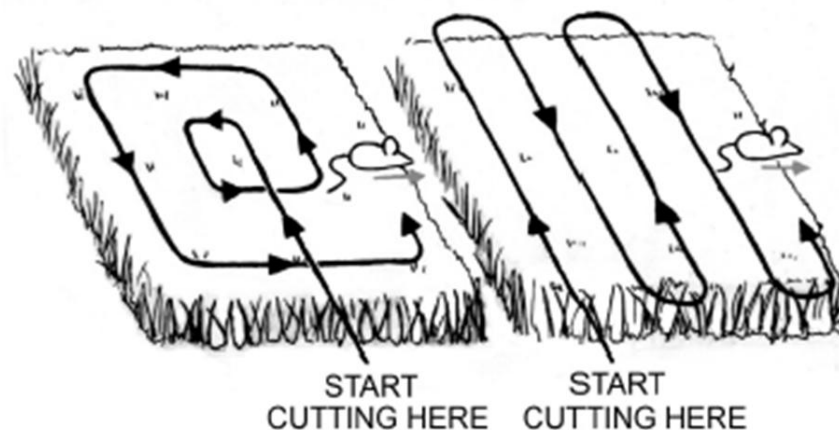


Figure 5: A schematic representation of vegetation cutting patterns as best to eliminate terrestrial opportunities for reptiles within the development area.

Mature Shrub and Tree Removal

A small number of trees and some mature shrubs within the scrub will require removal to facilitate the development. The trees and mature shrubs will support subterranean root networks that may provide refuge opportunities for reptiles. As such, the removal of each root ball will be undertaken sensitively, whereby each tree and mature shrub will be cut down leaving a short stump in preparation for root ball removal. The root balls will then be removed in a phased approach using hand tools (where possible) or small plant machinery to pull the root ball approximately 30cm out of the ground during each pulling phase followed by a break for the ECoW to check for the presence of reptiles. This procedure will continue until the roots have been removed. Holes created will then be infilled and subject to trampling to prevent recolonisation.

Displacement of Reptiles

Ideally, through appropriate sensitive habitat removal reptiles will disperse from the site on their own accord towards retained offsite habitats associated with the adjacent cemetery and enclosing tree lines and retained 1m strip or towards the receptor site. However, should a reptile be encountered that will not disperse appropriately, the reptile will be sensitively displaced by the ECoW and placed within the receptor area.

Progress Development without an ECoW

	Once the above mitigation has been completed and thus the development area and has been sensitively cleared of suitable reptile vegetation and individual reptiles, excavation and construction activity can commence in the absence of the ECoW. However, communication between the project ecologist and Development Biodiversity Champion will be maintained for the duration of the development, whereby any issues can be raised and addressed where required. <i>Removal of Debris and Storage of Building Materials</i> In order to prevent the creation of large debris piles resulting from development works that could in turn become suitable refuge hibernacula for reptiles, all debris will be stored over hardstanding or within a skip. Furthermore, the storage of building materials will be raised off the ground through storage on pallets. <i>Prevent Trapping Reptiles During Works</i> Deep excavations will be required during construction activity. Deep excavations could trap reptiles and cause injury or death. All excavations will therefore either be suitably sealed overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape such as a piece of rough timber that is long enough to reach the base of the excavation from ground level. Should any trapped reptiles be found, they should be carefully moved to the receptor area by the Development Biodiversity Champion.
Ecological Compliance Audit	An ecological compliance audit will be undertaken in the form of a site inspection by the ECoW once ground works have been completed and the above ground works have commenced. An inspection at this stage of the project will allow the project ecologist to check on the integrity of the mitigation measures required to be in-situ for the duration of the development, predominantly including the receptor area and enclosing fencing, and to identify any remediation requirements. Should remediation be necessary, it is possible works will need to stop until the remediation measures identified through the audit have been applied and thus the mitigation has been appropriately re-instated to prevent contravention of legislation and planning policy.

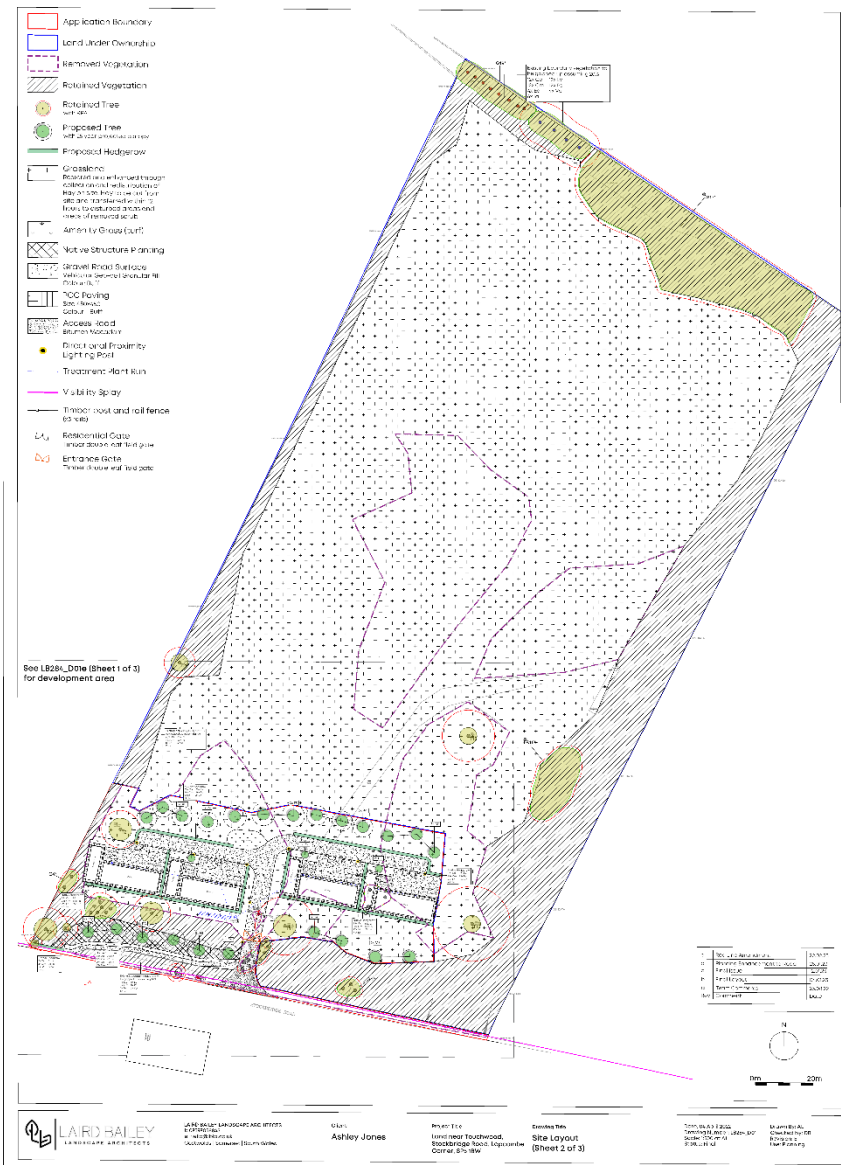
Compliance and Reporting

The CEMP requires stakeholders to comply fully with the pre-construction and construction-related elements of any mitigation strategies agreed with the Local Planning Authority and Natural England under any license requirements. Construction activities will therefore be conducted strictly in accordance with the approved CEMP. Regular inspections and monitoring will be undertaken to ensure compliance with the plan's requirements.

Any deviations or incidents that may affect ecological receptors will be immediately reported to the designated ecologist / Natural England. Updates to the CEMP will be relayed to the Local Planning Authority.

The CEMP will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary throughout the construction phase to address changing site conditions and evolving ecological considerations.

Appendix 1: Site Landscape master plan



Appendix 2: Reptile Mitigation Plan.



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