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South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4FH

CONSTRUCTION ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Lovell

P.1464.21
July 2026

Ascerta
Mere One, Mere Grange, Elton Head Road, St Helens WA9 5GG
T: 0845 463 4404 E: info@landscapetreesecology.com
www.landscapetreesecology.com

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Jack Kay MRes, Ecologist	Liz Kenyon BSc (Hons) Head of Ecology	Richard Anderson, Quality & Office Administrator

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A	29 June 1016	General updates

1. Introduction

This Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP) has been prepared for the proposed redevelopment of South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4FH. The development comprises of the construction of sixty residential dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping.

The purpose of this CEcMP is to set out the details for the environmental management measures that should be implemented during the pre-construction and main construction phases of the development in order to:

- Minimise any risk of harm to persons and property, along with both common and protected species
- Prevention of pollution and any environmental damage
- Protect any retained habitats and biodiversity within and adjacent to the site
- Ensure compliance with all relevant planning conditions and wildlife legislation

This report has been prepared to discharge **Condition 16** of the planning application.

Condition 16 states:

Prior to the commencement of works, including demolition, ground works/excavation, site clearance, vegetation clearance and boundary treatment works, a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP) shall be submitted to the local planning authority for approval in writing.

The CEcMP 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) 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 CEcMP.

Ecological context

The PEA identified that the onsite habitats comprise of improved grassland, dense scrub, and hedgerows; all of which have the potential to provide refuge, foraging and dispersal opportunities for several species such as amphibians, reptiles, hedgehogs and other small mammals.

Legal context

This document will aim to ensure that all works will avoid committing any offences relating to killing, injuring or disturbing protected or priority species by complying with the relevant legislation as included below:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- NERC Act 2006 (Section 41 – Species of Principal Importance)

2. Updated Ecology Surveys and Survey Validity

The PEA and BIA reports carried out by Ascerta were used to inform this CEcMP. The PEA comprised of a desk study, including a biological records search for species within 2km of the site and an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey which was undertaken in May 2026. These results will be used to form the ecological baseline for this CEcMP and RAMs.

The surveys identified habitats suitable for:

- Badgers
- Reptiles
- Hedgehogs
- Other small terrestrial mammals
- Nesting birds
- Bats

In accordance with CIEEM good practice guidance, any ecological survey data is considered to remain valid for two years from the date of survey, subject to no significant changes in site condition.

Should any vegetation clearance, demolition or earthworks be delayed beyond two years of the PEA survey date (May 2026) or if there is evidence of any material change in the on-site habitats, the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist will be sought, and updated walkover surveys and/or species-specific surveys may need to be undertaken where necessary prior to works commencing.

Pre-commencement verification

Prior to vegetation clearance or earthworks, a precautionary site check will be undertaken to confirm that:

- Site conditions remain consistent with the baseline surveys
- No new ecological constraints have arisen
- The RAMs detailed within this CEcMP remain appropriate

Should any protected species be identified during updated surveys or pre-commencement checks, works will proceed in accordance with relevant legislation and any additional mitigation or licensing requirements.

3. Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities and practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction

The PEA (Ref. P.1464.21 Ascerta Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, South Pavenhill Farm) has been utilised to identify ecological constraints and inform the following measures to ensure that potentially damaging construction activities are avoided or reduced as far as practicable. The principal ecological receptors relevant to construction activities at this site are:

- Badgers
- Reptiles
- Hedgehogs and other small terrestrial mammals
- Nesting birds
- Retained boundary vegetation

Preparing and maintaining the site

- Clearly define the site boundary prior to commencement of works to prevent encroachment into adjacent land and retained boundary vegetation
- Install protective fencing around any retained trees or hedgerows in accordance with BS5837:2012, where identified within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)
- Ensure no plant, materials, waste, fuels, chemicals or site cabins are stored within retained vegetated areas
- Locate site compounds, welfare facilities and material storage areas within cleared or hardstanding areas as far as reasonably practicable
- Prevent site runoff, sediment or contaminated water from entering retained vegetation or adjacent habitats through appropriate drainage and silt management measures
- Maintain fencing and ecological protection measures in good condition throughout the construction phase and repair immediately if damaged

Operating vehicle/machinery and sustainable travel

There is a risk of soil compaction and habitat damage during construction activities. The following measures will be implemented:

- Restrict construction traffic to defined access routes shown on the approved layout
- Avoid vehicle access within retained vegetated areas and root protection areas identified within the AIA
- Install temporary ground protection measures where construction activity is required adjacent to retained trees
- Ensure engines are switched off when vehicles are stationary to minimise noise, vibration and emissions
- Brief all contractors via ecological toolbox talk prior to works commencing

Vegetation clearance and habitat protection

Vegetation clearance presents the greatest ecological risk, particularly in relation to amphibians, hedgehog and nesting birds. The following measures will therefore be implemented:

- Avoid vegetation clearance between 1 March and 31 August inclusive unless a nesting bird check has been undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist within 48 hours prior to works
- If active nests are identified, establish an appropriate buffer and delay works in that area until nesting has concluded
- Undertake vegetation clearance using a two-stage, phased and directional approach to allow mobile fauna to disperse naturally
- Dismantle dense scrub, brash piles and refugia by hand where practicable
- Implement the RAMs detailed within Section 4 of this document in relation to amphibians and hedgehog
- Remove invasive species in accordance with the approved Invasive Species Method Statement

Waste management

- Bonfires and burning of waste materials will not be permitted on site
- Waste will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy, with refuse and recycling prioritised
- Waste will be stored in a designated area away from retained vegetation and removed regularly from site
- All hazardous materials will be stored and disposed of in accordance with relevant legislation

Storage of materials

- Materials will be tidily stacked within designated storage areas shown on the approved layout
- Storage areas will be located away from retained vegetation as far as reasonably practicable
- The volume of materials stored on site will be kept to a minimum due to limited space
- Fuels and chemicals will be stored in bunded containers with spill kits available on site
- Pipes will be capped when not in use to prevent wildlife entrapment

Measures specific to earthworks

- Earthworks will be undertaken in a controlled manner to prevent sediment runoff into retained habitats
- Exposed soil stockpiles will be minimised and stabilised where practicable
- Open excavations and trenches will not be left uncovered overnight without escape ramps to prevent entrapment of amphibians and mammals
- Trenches will be inspected daily prior to works recommencing

Measures Specific to Construction

- Haul routes will be inspected regularly to prevent sediment migration
- Dust suppression measures will be implemented where necessary
- Construction lighting will be directional and designed to minimise light spill onto retained boundary vegetation

Ecological Supervision

To ensure effective implementation of the above measures:

- An appropriately qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will undertake a pre-commencement site visit
- The ECoW will supervise initial vegetation clearance and any works affecting pond features (if required)
- Toolbox talks will be delivered prior to commencement of site clearance
- A site log will be maintained recording inspections and any remedial actions

4. Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid, reduce or mitigate the impacts on important habitats and protected species during construction

The PEA and BIA reports identified that the site supports habitats that are considered suitable for nesting birds, badger, reptiles, hedgehogs, along with other small mammals.

The following measures will be implemented to avoid adverse impacts on protected species and ecologically valuable habitats during construction.

Retained boundary vegetation and trees

- Retained trees and hedgerows are to be protected in accordance with BS5837:2012
- Retained vegetated areas should be kept free from storage of materials, plant access, mixing of concrete and spoil deposition
- Preventative methods should be put in place to prevent pollution such as sediment, runoff or chemical contamination from encroaching on any retained vegetation
- Any additional lighting is to be directional and designed in a way to minimise any light spill onto the retained vegetation on the boundaries of the site

Nesting birds

The on-site grassland, mixed scrub and scattered trees provide birds with nesting and foraging opportunities. In order to mitigate for this, the following precautionary working methods are to be implemented:

- Vegetation clearance shall be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1 March – 31 August inclusive) where practicable
- If works are required during the nesting season, a nesting bird check shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist within 48 hours prior to clearance
- If an active nest is identified, an appropriate buffer should be established and works delayed in that area until nesting has concluded

Hedgehog and other small mammals

The on-site grassland and mixed scrub provide sheltering and foraging opportunities for a range of small mammal species, including hedgehogs. In order to mitigate for this, the following RAMs are to be implemented:

- A toolbox talk will be delivered to all contractors by the ECoW prior to works commencing
- Vegetation clearance shall be undertaken in a phased and directional manner to allow any small mammals to disperse of their own accord
- Materials and waste are to be stored on raised pallets or within skips to prevent use as refugia
- Trenches and excavations left open overnight shall be covered or fitted with escape ramps
- All excavations should be inspected each morning prior to recommencement of works
- Any exposed pipes shall be capped overnight to prevent animals becoming trapped
- Post-construction, gaps (minimum 130mm x 130mm) are to be incorporated beneath any boundary fencing, to maintain habitat connectivity

Badger

There was no evidence of badgers, badger setts or any significant badger activity recorded during the site survey, so species to specific mitigation is not anticipated to be required at this time. However, due to the unpredictability of badgers, it is not possible to completely out rule commuting individuals, therefore the following precautionary working methods are to be implemented:

- Any trenches left open overnight are to include escape ramps or be covered over
- Should any evidence of badger activity be identified during works, all works in the area should cease until the ECoW can advise on next steps

Reptiles

The on-site grassland, scrub and hedgerows provide sheltering, commuting and foraging opportunities for reptiles. In order to mitigate for this, the following RAMs are to be implemented:

- A toolbox talk will be delivered to all contractors by the ECoW prior to works commencing
- Vegetation clearance shall be undertaken in a phased and directional manner to allow any reptiles to disperse of their own accord
- Materials and waste are to be stored on raised pallets or within skips to prevent use as refugia
- Trenches and excavations left open overnight shall be covered or fitted with escape ramps
- All excavations should be inspected each morning prior to recommencement of works
- Any exposed pipes shall be capped overnight to prevent animals becoming trapped
- Post-construction, gaps (minimum 130mm x 130mm) are to be incorporated beneath any boundary fencing, to maintain habitat connectivity

Ecological toolbox talks and supervision

- A pre-commencement toolbox talk shall be delivered by the ECoW to all contractors
- The ECoW is to undertake a pre-commencement site inspection
- The ECoW will supervise initial vegetation clearance and any works affecting pond features
- A site log should be maintained recording inspections and any remedial actions

5. The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features

The PEA of the site was undertaken in May 2026 by Ascerta, to inform the proposed development, which identified that one statutory designated site (Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood SSSI) lies approximately 190m southwest of the site, meaning works are likely to impact this statutory designated site. The survey also highlighted that the site contains suitable habitats for badger, hedgehogs, small mammals, reptiles and nesting birds. The boundary hedgerows, dense scrub and grassland were noted to represent the principle ecological receptors within the site. All other construction activities may proceed without full-time ecological presence provided the measures outlined within this CEcMP are adhered to.

Timing of sensitive works

To minimise ecological risk, the following should be avoided where possible:

- Vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1 March – 31 August inclusive)
- Clearance should also be avoided during heavy periods of rain, frost or prolonged cold weather to reduce risk to amphibians seeking refuge
- Works at night should be avoided near retained vegetation where possible

Ecological supervision summary

An ECoW is to be appointed and present for the following key stages of the development:

- Pre-commencement site meeting
- Initial vegetation clearance
- Any works affecting the on-site ponds or pond features
- Installation of any fencing for tree protection
- Should any unexpected ecological issues arise at any time during construction

Sensitive ecological receptors

On-site sensitive ecological receptors are limited to:

- Grassland and dense scrub which provides suitable habitat for hedgehogs and other small mammals
- Any nesting bird habitat within the scattered trees, mixed scrub or hedgerows
- All retained boundary trees and/or vegetation as identified within the AIA

Sensitive works requiring a specialist ecologist to be present in an overseeing capacity are identified below:

Nature of works	Role of the ecologist
Pre-commencement setting out and site establishment	- Confirm areas of retained vegetation and ecological constraints - Ensure construction compounds and storage areas are located outside retained habitat areas - Deliver ecological toolbox talk
Installation of tree protection fencing (where required)	- Verify fencing alignment corresponds with retained trees identified in the AIA - Confirm fencing is robust and suitable to prevent encroachment - Authorise commencement of works once protection measures are in place
Removal and clearance of vegetation	<u>Nesting birds:</u> - If clearance occurs between 1 March and 31 August inclusive, undertake nesting bird check within 48 hours prior to works - Establish buffer around any active nests until fledging <u>Amphibians and hedgehog:</u> - Oversee initial two-stage directional clearance - Supervise clearance of dense scrub, brash piles and refugia - Advise if amphibians or hedgehogs are encountered <u>Reptiles:</u> - Oversee initial two-stage directional clearance - Supervise clearance of dense scrub, brash piles and refugia - Advise if reptiles are encountered
Works affecting pond features (if removal or infilling required)	- Inspect pond margins prior to works - Oversee staged dewatering where necessary - Advise on capture and relocation of amphibians if required - Cease works and advise if suspected GCN encountered
Excavation for foundations, services and access road construction	- Undertake periodic inspections during early groundworks - Confirm escape ramps and trench protection measures are in place - Provide advice if protected species are encountered
Installation of temporary and permanent external lighting	- Review lighting layout to ensure minimal spill onto retained boundary vegetation - Confirm directional, low-spill lighting design in line with ecological recommendations

Unexpected discoveries

If any protected species (including amphibians, hedgehogs or nesting birds) are discovered during construction:

- Works in the immediate area should cease until further notice
- The designated ECoW is to be contacted immediately
- Works will only be permitted to recommence once the designated ECoW has given advice on how to proceed – this may require further surveys and/or delays to works to ensure the safety of any protected species

6. Responsible persons and lines of communication

The following table lists key contacts and their responsibilities for the completion of the project.

Company name	Contact name	Contact number	Area of responsibility
Lovell	TBC	TBC	Overall responsibility for compliance with planning conditions and implementation of approved CEcMP
Lovell	Site Manager (TBC)	TBC	Day-to-day implementation of CEcMP and protection measures
Lovell	Ben Howell	07815 238 486	Build Manager
Ascerta	Liz Kenyon	0845 463 4404	Ecological Clerks of Work and Ecology Surveys prior to commencement

Final contractor and ECoW details will be confirmed prior to commencement of development and provided to the Local Planning Authority upon request.

Lines of communication

Clear communication protocols will be implemented to ensure ecological protection measures are adhered to at all times.

- The appointed ECoW will report directly to the Client and Principal Contractor
- The Site Manager will be responsible for ensuring all operatives are briefed on ecological constraints via toolbox talks
- Any ecological issue identified on site are to be reported immediately to the Site Manager and ECoW
- Where necessary, the ECoW is to liaise directly with the LPA in respect of protected species matters

All site personnel will be informed that failure to comply with ecological protection measures may constitute a breach of planning condition and wildlife legislation.

Role and responsibilities of the ECoW

An appropriately qualified ECoW is to be appointed prior to the works commencing. They will have authority to halt the works when necessary, in the event that any ecological risks are identified that could result in harm to protected species or retained habitats.

They will have responsibility for the following measures:

- A pre-commencement site walkover will be undertaken to confirm ecological baseline conditions, including vegetation, ponds, pond features and retained boundary habitats
- Inspecting and confirming installation of any required tree protection fencing in accordance with the AIA
- A toolbox talk will need to be delivered to all contractors prior to works commencing
- Supervision of any initial clearance of vegetation (grassland and scrub) and any works affecting pond features
- Undertaking of any required nesting bird checks where clearance is required between the 1 of March and the 31 of August inclusive
- Providing any advice regarding protected species should any be encountered during the construction period

- Periodic monitoring visits, particularly during the early stages of construction, should be undertaken to ensure compliance with the approved CECMP
- A written site log will need to be maintained and should include inspections, supervision and any remedial actions should they be required

Procedure in the event of ecological incidents

In the event of any protected species being encountered or if any breach in ecological protection was to occur, the following steps will need to be taken:

- Works within and adjacent to the affected area shall cease immediately
- The area is to be secured by the Site Manager to prevent further disturbance
- The appointed ECoW is to be contacted as soon as possible
- Appropriate, species-specific mitigation or remedial action is to be agreed before works may resume
- Where required, the LPA should be notified
- Works shall not recommence in the affected area until ecological advice has been received and implemented

7. Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs

Protective fencing and exclusion measures are to be implemented where required to safeguard retained trees, boundary vegetation and sensitive ecological features throughout the construction phase, as identified within this CEcMP and the AIA.

Protective fencing and signage

- Where required, protective fencing using Block 'n Mesh (Herris) panels with concrete/rubber feet pinned to the ground to prevent movement are positioned to provide physical protection from on-site activities. Protective fencing should define exclusion zones around retained trees and vegetated boundaries identified for retention.
- The fencing will be erected in advance of the commencement of the main site activities and maintained in-situ throughout the course of the development until such times as the ecological consultants approve its removal
- Temporary protective fencing during construction will not include ground-level gaps within active construction areas, in order to maintain site safety and exclusion integrity
- Where protective fencing interfaces with retained habitat for the duration of works, fencing shall be installed flush to ground level to prevent construction encroachment
- No plant, materials, spoil, fuels, chemicals or site cabins shall be stored within fenced exclusion areas
- No mixing of concrete, refuelling or maintenance of machinery shall occur within retained vegetated areas
- In addition to standard construction health and safety signage, ecological protection signage shall be affixed to the protective fencing at regular intervals (approximately every 4 metres)
- Signage should clearly state: 'Ecological Protection Zone – No Access or Storage Beyond This Point' and shall remain visible and legible throughout the construction period

Post-construction habitat connectivity

Retained and newly created boundary treatments will, where practicable, incorporate gaps (minimum 130mm x 130mm) beneath permanent fencing to allow movement of hedgehogs and other small mammals across the site, maintaining habitat connectivity following completion of works.

8. References

- Ascerta (2025). Biodiversity Impact Assessment: Land at 188 Atherton Road, Hindley. Ref: P.2340.25.
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- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024). National Planning Policy Framework.
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- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 41).
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit.
- The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (2023). Hedgehog Ecology and Land Management Guidance.
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).



Ascerta

Mere One, Mere Grange, Elton Head Road, St Helens WA9 5GG
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