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South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4FH

Avoidance of Harm to reptiles and badger During
Construction

Lovell

P.1464.21
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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to identify the impact to reptiles and badger in regard to any works within the site and to provide avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures to ensure completion of these works without the risk of disturbing these species.

Based on the findings following the site visits, Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) have been prepared to ensure no harm to the above species. These include the following:

1. Vegetation clearance applies to all habitats cleared in daytime air temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C.
2. The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site
3. If any reptiles are found, they will be removed to a predetermined receptor area.
4. The cut vegetation should remain at the mown length
5. Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible
6. Throughout the works, all trenches must be covered at night or ramps provided to prevent reptiles and badger from getting stuck. Large pipes must also be covered to prevent badger access and risk of these species getting stuck.
7. Construction material will be stored on pallets to avoid creating habitats for reptiles and badgers
8. To comply with legislation protecting nesting birds, clearance of any vegetation or the demolition of buildings should ideally be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season, which is considered to run between 1 March to 30 August inclusive, unless it is established that nesting birds are not present via an appropriately timed ecological nesting bird check

Provided that the above measures are secured, it is considered that reptiles and badgers will not be harmed by the proposals.

1. Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by Lovell to produce a RAMS statement for reptiles and badgers at South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4FH (hereafter referred to as the site).

2. Precautionary Working Methods

Prior to the start of works, all site operatives working within the site will receive a Toolbox Talk (TBT) by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW). The TBT will include information on the ecology, identification and legislation, where relevant, related to reptiles and badgers. All operatives must sign a register to confirm they have received the TBT and understand the legal protection of these species once the TBT has been given.

The following will be undertaken to ensure no harm to reptiles and badgers during the works:

1. The vegetation clearance will be undertaken at a slow walking pace and using directional clearance from the centre of the site to the boundaries. The clearance method will encourage any active reptiles and badger to move towards connecting and retained habitats surrounding the working area. This directional cutting applies to all habitats cleared in daytime air temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C.
2. The cut material will be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site. Where this is not possible, cut vegetation is to be chipped and spread thinly across the site.
3. Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible
4. Any reptiles found within the working area will be removed to a predetermined receptor area
5. Throughout the works, all trenches and holes will be covered at night or ramps provided to prevent reptiles and badger from getting stuck
6. Construction material will be stored on pallets to avoid harm to reptiles and badger

To comply with legislation protecting nesting birds, clearance of any vegetation should ideally be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season, which is considered to run between March to August inclusive. Should this not be feasible, all areas of suitable nesting bird habitat will be inspected by the appointed ecologist to determine the presence/absence of any nesting birds (including ground nesting species) prior to any clearance. In the event of an active nest being identified, a temporary exclusion zone would need to be placed around the nest in which works would be put on hold until the nesting attempt has finished, which may be several weeks. Safe working distances will be determined by the appointed ecologist and the distances will be dependent upon the bird species present.

3. Post-development

To enable hedgehogs to continue the use of the site, gaps of at least 13cm by 13cm will be installed within any fence panels and boundary treatments to create a hedgehog highway to interlink gardens and provide connectivity to the surrounding habitats. If concrete bases are required to secure any fences or boundary treatments, a base panel / gravel board with hedgehog holes will be installed.

4. Precautionary Methods of Works (PMoW)

Prior to works commencing on the site, the following reptile and badger RAMS will be implemented. If works have not commenced on-site by May 2028, an updated survey is advised to confirm the details of the PMoW are still appropriate.

Table 4.1: Actions to be taken prior to the commencements of works

No.	Works	Methods	Timing	Person responsible	Person required to carry out work	Completed (name, company and signature)
1	The vegetation clearance will be undertaken	The vegetation clearance will be undertaken at a slow walking pace and using directional clearance from the centre of the site to the boundaries. This directional cutting applies to all habitats cleared in daytime air temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C.	Prior to works	Developer / main site contractor	Developer / main site contractor	
2	The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles	The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site. Where this is not possible, cut vegetation is to be chipped and spread thinly across the site.	Prior to works	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
3	Utilise existing tracks to access the site	Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible.	Prior to works	Main site contractor	Main contractor	

Table 4.2: Actions to be taken during the construction phase

Works	Methods	Timing and frequency	Person responsible	Person required to carry out work	Completed (name, company and signature)
Monitoring / site inspections	All protective fencing and exclusion barriers will be checked weekly and repaired where necessary. The protective buffers will be walked weekly, and any signs of protected species will be reported to the ECoW.	Throughout construction / weekly	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Excavation of Trenches	All steep-sided excavations will be covered overnight or fitted with ramps to prevent any reptiles and badger from getting trapped within them; these will be checked to make sure they are in place at the end of each day.	Throughout construction / daily as appropriate	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Pipe work	Any exposed open pipe systems will be capped to prevent any reptiles and badger gaining access. These will be checked to make sure they are in place at the end of each day.	Throughout construction / daily as appropriate	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Water Sources	Water sources will always be safeguarded.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Fires and chemicals	Fires and chemicals will not be used within 20 metres of suitable hibernacula features.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Pile driving, loud noise and vibration	No pile driving will take place within 100m of suitable hibernacula features. Disturbances, such as loud noise or vibrations, that might agitate hibernating amphibians or terrestrial mammals.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Consideration to wildlife	Staff will remain vigilant throughout works. Should any protected species be encountered during the works, works will cease and advice will be sought immediately from the appointed ecologist.	Throughout construction	All site staff	All staff	

5. Ecological Compliance Register

Contact for the appointed ecologist - Ascerta (0845 463 4404).

Any deviation from this PMoW must be approved in writing by the appointed ECoW.

To be signed by all contractors to say they have read and understand the PMoW and TBT.

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