



Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

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Report	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP): Biodiversity (Condition 18)
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

Ecosupport Ltd were commissioned by Redcliffe Homes to produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP): Biodiversity for the development of the site known as 'Beaumont Business Park, Mere'. This was requested to satisfy the discharge of condition 18 of the planning approval (20/07469/OUT), which states the following:

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

- *Identification of ecological protection areas/buffer zones and tree root protection areas and details of physical means of protection marked on a plan, e.g. exclusion fencing.*
- *Working method statements for protected/priority species, such as nesting birds and reptiles.*
- *Mitigation strategies already agreed with the local planning authority prior to determination, including for great crested newts, reptiles, breeding birds and bats; this should comprise the pre-construction/construction related elements of strategies only.*
- *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.*
- *Key personnel, responsibilities and contact details (including Site Manager and ecologist/ECoW).*
- *Timeframe for provision of compliance report to the local planning authority; to be completed by the ecologist/ECoW and to include photographic evidence.*

Development shall be carried out in strict accordance with the approved CEMP.

REASON: To ensure adequate protection and mitigation for ecological receptors prior to and during construction, and that works are undertaken in line with current best practice and industry standards and are supervised by a suitably licensed and competent professional ecological consultant where applicable

1.2 Aim

The aim of the CEMP is to protect the ecological interests on the site during the construction period. This includes habitats of importance to be retained and various protected species such as GCN, breeding and nesting birds, reptiles, Badgers and Hazel Dormice. This report details the approach that construction workers will adopt in dealing with the potential ecological impacts associated with various construction activities, including:

- Details of construction activities which have potential to impact on biodiversity interests of the site;

- Details of sensitive biodiversity zones that require specific protection;
- Method statements to avoid and mitigate impacts on protected species from construction works;
- Details of locations and timing of works to avoid impacts on protected species;
- Outline works which require supervision by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW)
- Outline the roles and responsibilities and lines of communication of the involved parties including the developer, site manager, ECOW and any other contractors/subcontractors;

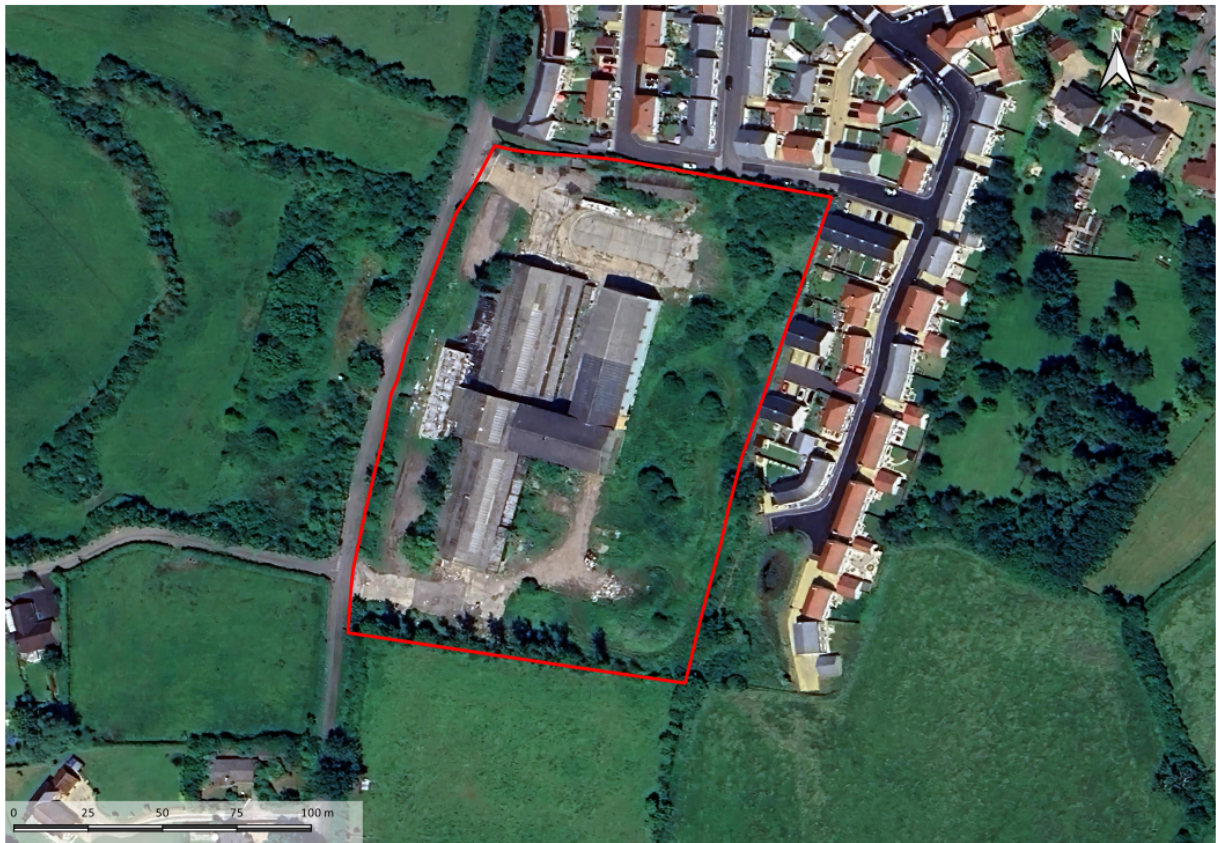
The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority and/or Natural England.

Please note, at this stage, the demolition has been undertaken on-site, under demolition application PL/2025/03735. Therefore, mitigation in regard to bats is not discussed within this report and the CEMP for the demolition application should be consulted.

1.3 Site Description

The application site lies to the south of the town of Mere (approximate central Ordinance Survey Grid Reference ST 81680 31493). The site comprises a collection of industrial and storage units, hard standing and scrub, bounded with hedges and trees in places. The site is bound by Woodlands Road to the west, agricultural fields to the south, the former Hillbrush Factory to the north (now a residential development), and Great Crested Newt compensation ponds to the immediate east (**Figure 1**). In the wider environment, the site is located in a rural setting surrounded by agricultural fields to the south, east and west, with the urbanised town of Mere located to the north and small numbers of residential buildings to the southwest and east.

Figure 1. Site Boundary (Google Satellite 2026).



1.4 Development Proposals

The proposals comprise the demolition of all existing structures, the clearance of the majority of vegetation on site (aside from boundary hedgerows and trees), and the erection of 56 new dwellings, with their associated parking and gardens, alongside wildflower planting and pond creation (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2. Proposed development (250215 L 02 01 Clifton Emery Design 2025).

2.0 ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

2.1 Habitats

Initial site walkovers were carried out by Sophie Hughes BSc (Hons) MSc on 16th May 2019 and then by Lyndsey Barratt BSc (Hons) PGCert ACIEEM on 19th April 2021. An updated walkover was undertaken by Lyndsey Barratt BSc (Hons) PGCert ACIEEM and Shannon Dagnell MBiol on 31st October 2024. During the updated survey, habitats on-site pre-development were identified in accordance with the categories specified for a UK Habitats survey, using Habitat Definitions Version 2.01 (UKHab Ltd., 2023).

A full description of the habitats present on site can be found within the Ecological Assessment for the site (Ecosupport 2025, Beaumont Business Park EclA Nov 2025), however a list of the habitats identified on-site is provided below.

The following habitats were identified across the site:

- Developed land; sealed surface (u1b) (secondary habitat code 81 ruderal)
- Bramble scrub (h3d)
- Woodland and forest (w) (secondary habitat code 33 line of trees)
- Modified grassland (g4) (secondary habitat code 32 scattered trees)
- Hedgerows (h2) (secondary habitat code 11 native hedgerow with trees)
- Rivers and lakes (r) (secondary habitat code 46 ornamental lakes or ponds)
- Buildings (u1b5)

2.2 Reptiles

Ecosupport undertook reptile surveys in 2019, 2021 and 2025, after identifying that the modified grassland, bramble scrub and linear features provided suitable habitat for reptiles. During the suite of seven presence/likely absence surveys undertaken in 2019, a maximum of three Slow Worms (*Anguis fragilis*) and two Grass Snakes (*Natrix natrix*) were recorded in one survey. In 2021, 2 adult male Slow Worms were recorded over the survey effort. In 2025, one juvenile and one adult Grass Snake were recorded over the survey effort. This shows a '**Low**' population of Slow Worms and Grass Snakes to be present on-site (HGBI guidelines (1998)).

2.3 Great Crested Newts (GCN)

Torching, netting, bottle trapping and egg searching were undertaken in 2021 and 2025 by Ecosupport Ltd. The ornamental pond on-site was surveyed in 2021, whereby 1 Common Newt was recorded, but no GCN were found. This pond was noted to be filled in in April 2025 and thereby could not be surveyed. The pond adjacent to the site, to the east was recorded to have GCN during the 2021 and the 2025 surveys. Throughout all 6 of the surveys carried out in 2021, a total of 9 GCN were recorded, as well as 8 GCN eggs. Throughout the 3 surveys undertaken in 2025, a total of 8 GCN were recorded, as well as 1 egg. Therefore, a '**Low**' population of GCN is present within the pond directly adjacent to the site.

3.0 BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION ZONES

Several Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) will be established across the site to ensure the protection of habitats deemed valuable for wildlife, including GCN, reptiles, and breeding birds.

As described further in **Section 5.2**, the BPZs include the GCN/reptile receptor and retained boundary habitats, such as the linear habitats and individual trees. These will be protected by Heras fencing as well as HDPE exclusion fencing where appropriate (i.e. around the GCN and reptile receptors). The location of BPZs and protective fencing can be seen in **Appendix 1** with the location of HDPE exclusion fencing indicated in **Appendix 2**.

4.0 CONSTRUCTION MITIGATION MEASURES

4.1 Risk Assessment

A summary of the risk assessment of potential impacts and reference to relevant method statements has been provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Summary of risk assessment and mitigation

Ecological Feature	Risk Assessment of Potential Impacts	Summary of Mitigation Required & Relevant Method Statements
Retained habitats	Damage from machinery or from storage of materials, soil compaction	Before construction - Protective fencing and BPZs established (Section 5.2) - Toolbox talk (Section 5.1) During construction - Regular monitoring of fencing and fencing repairs as needed (Section 5.10)
	Accidental killing, harm or disturbance to species using retained habitats	
	Damage from pollution such as atmospheric pollution (e.g. dust) coating vegetation or aquatic pollution from runoff leading to deposition of soil, silt or chemicals in sensitive habitats, which could lead to degradation of habitat	Before construction - A Construction Management Statement will be produced prior to the commencement of work. General good practice measures are detailed in Section 4.2 below. During construction - Ecological monitoring (Section 5.10)
Badgers and nocturnal mammals	Badgers and other terrestrial mammals may become entrapped in excavations or may be killed or injured during works (such as collision with vehicles)	During construction Precautionary measures will be employed during construction (Section 5.4)
Foraging and commuting bats	Lighting may impact on foraging and commuting activity	During construction Sensitive lighting (Section 5.3).
Reptiles	Accidental killing or injury of reptiles	Before construction - Creation of the reptile receptor to the east and south (Section 5.5.2.1) - Construct two hibernacula (Section 5.5.2.1) - HDPE exclusion fencing installed (Section 5.5.2.2) - Reptile translocation carried out (Section 5.5.2.3) - Destructive search (Section 5.5.2.4) During construction - Regular monitoring of fencing and fencing repairs as needed (Section 5.10)

		After construction - Exclusion fencing removed (Section 5.5.2.2) - Management of the receptor area (Section 5.5.2.1)
Great Crested Newts	Accidental killing or harm to GCN or impacts to GCN habitat	Before construction - Toolbox talk (Section 5.1) - Creation of the reptile receptor to the east and south (Section 5.6.2.4) - Construct two hibernacula (Section 5.6.2.4) - Fencing installed (Section 5.6.2.2) - GCN trapping carried out (Section 5.6.2.3) - Destructive search (Section 5.6.2.5) During construction - Regular monitoring of fencing and fencing repairs as needed (Section 5.10) After construction - Exclusion fencing removed (Section 5.6.2.2) - Management of the receptor area (Section 5.5.2.1)
Hazel Dormice	Accidental killing or harm to Hazel Dormice (if present)	Before construction - Toolbox talk (Section 5.1) During construction - Precautionary measures during any habitat removal (Section 5.7.2)
Nesting birds	Nesting birds in habitats such as scrub and the linear features may be impacted by vegetation clearance resulting in death, injury or disturbance.	During construction Precautionary measures during any habitat removal (Section 5.8.2)

4.2 General Good Practice Construction Measures

The following sections outline general good practices to adopt to ensure the protection of ecological features. These will be included within a full CEMP, which will detail the required site-specific measures.

4.2.1 Dust Generation

Generation of dust will be mitigated by wetting down and/or using screening as needed. Particular care will be taken around the BPZs or valuable retained habitats such as the individual trees and linear features.

4.2.2 Excavations and Trenches

Any excavations or trenches will be covered at night and/or escape ramps will be provided to prevent nocturnal species, such as badgers and hedgehogs, from becoming trapped. These areas will be inspected each morning to ensure no wildlife has been trapped.

4.2.3 Open Pipework

Any open pipework larger than 15cm in diameter will be covered at the end of each day to avoid mammals, such as hedgehogs, from entering pipes and potentially becoming trapped.

4.2.4 Hazardous Materials and Waste

Any chemicals or hazardous materials and waste will be stored in secure areas, according to best practice, and will be well-labelled. No construction materials will be stored within BPZs, and any hazardous materials will be stored away from the BPZ.

4.2.5 Storage of Materials

Materials will be stored to avoid creating potential refuges for wildlife. This includes avoiding stacked or piled materials on the ground. Materials should be stored off the ground, for example on pallets or in skips, allowing the sites to remain tidy. Materials will be stored away from valuable retained vegetation where possible (e.g. the linear features) to avoid impacts from dust generation and the disturbance of wildlife species.

Stockpiles and soils should be stored in such a way that they are smoothed, preventing cavities or burrows from being created. If an animal is found within the site, it should be moved gently to a habitat away from the working area, or an ecologist should be consulted if required.

5.0 Method Statements for Habitats and Protected Species

The following method statements have been produced to ensure the protection of retained habitats and protected species within the site:

1. Toolbox talk
2. Biodiversity Protection Zones
3. Bats
4. Badgers and Nocturnal Mammals
5. Reptiles
6. GCN
7. Hazel Dormice
8. Nesting birds
9. Lighting during construction
10. Ecological Monitoring during construction

5.1 Toolbox Talk

5.1.1 Summary

- **Description:** A Toolbox Talk provided to all site personnel to cover all ecological constraints and method statements.
- **Purpose:** To ensure site personnel are aware of ecological obligations and will carry out construction works as per method statements for the protection of habitats and species.
- **Dates:** Prior to construction commencing, and throughout the construction period, for any new site personnel or if there are any significant changes in the status of ecological features requiring a change in practice.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and Site Manager.

5.1.2 Method Statement

A Toolbox Talk will be provided prior to the commencement of construction. This will be provided by the ECoW to all site personnel. Following this, it will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to provide all information within the toolbox talk to any new site workers as part of their site induction. The information provided to site personnel will include all method statements included within this report to sufficient detail necessary for site personnel to understand ecological constraints and obligations.

5.1.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

A record of the Toolbox Talk will be kept, detailing the location, date, and participants. Participants will sign or initial the record to confirm that they have understood the constraints and method statements. Following the initial talk, all new site workers will be provided with the toolbox talk as part of their site induction, and they will sign to confirm that they have understood.

If the Site Manager changes, a Toolbox Talk will be provided by the ECoW to the new Site Manager.

5.2 Biodiversity Protection Zones

5.2.1 Summary

- **Description:** Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) will be established and protected.
- **Purpose:** To protect retained habitats, such as the retained linear features and retained trees, and protected species, including GCN and reptiles.
- **Dates:** Established prior to construction and maintained in place until all construction is completed.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), Fencing Contractor, and the Site Manager.

5.2.2 Method Statement

Biodiversity Protection Zones will be installed and maintained on-site to ensure the protection of retained habitats and protected species on-site. Firstly, Heras fencing will be installed around the site boundaries and the buffers outside of the impact area, preventing access to retained linear features. Standard arboricultural tree protection measures will be utilised to protect retained individual trees. The GCN/reptile receptor will be a separate BPZ. HDPE exclusion fencing will be installed along the eastern and part of the southern boundaries of these zones to prevent wildlife from entering the construction area, once a Natural England GCN mitigation license has been granted. Plans showing the BPZs and Heras fencing (**Appendix 1**) as well as the HDPE exclusion fencing (**Appendix 2**) are appended to this report.

The protective fencing will remain in place until construction works are complete, no site personnel or machinery will enter the BPZs, and no materials will be stored within these areas. Where personnel must access the BPZs to carry out management works (such as for the creation of footpaths, landscaping and habitat enhancement), the minimum required personnel and smallest-sized machinery possible will be used to carry out the works (e.g. hand machinery will be used wherever suitable or a mini digger will be used as opposed to a large excavator).

The fencing installation will be overseen by the ECoW, who will ensure it has been correctly installed.

5.2.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

The fence will be inspected monthly and an Ecological Inspection Form will be completed by the ECoW and provided to the Site Manager. It will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to ensure the fencing is maintained and that any repairs are carried out immediately, as necessary.

5.3 Bats

5.3.1 Foraging and Commuting Bats – Lighting During Construction

In order to avoid any disturbance to bats (and other potential nocturnal wildlife), construction works will be limited to daylight hours and will not be undertaken 30 minutes prior to dusk through to dawn. All lighting will be sensitive to the use of the site by nocturnal wildlife and will comply with Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at night (ILP / BCT, 2023).

5.4 Badgers and Nocturnal Mammals

5.4.1 Summary

- **Description:** Foraging and commuting Badgers may be present on site and avoidance measures will be required during construction. An updated walkover will also be required to check for new evidence of Badger activity.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury of various wildlife such as Badgers and other mammals.
- **Dates:** Immediately prior to and during the construction period.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Suitably qualified ecologist and Site Manager.

5.4.2 Method Statement

Although no evidence of Badgers was recorded on site, the site does have potential for foraging, commuting and sett-building Badgers. Therefore, a walkover of the site and the zone of influence of the works is recommended to be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist in search of recent Badger activity at least 2 weeks prior to works commencing. In the case that evidence of recent Badger activity is identified, further survey works may be required to assess the status of any potential Badger setts on site.

5.4.2.1 Avoidance Measures

The following avoidance measures will be carried out during construction to allow connectivity within the site for mammals and prevent any harm to mammals that may be present:

- 10-15cm gaps will be maintained at least every 200m in external fencing to allow mammals to move within the site. These gaps will be made at the base of boundary fences, gravel boards and between the gardens.
- Signage will be put up on the fence above either side of these access points to ensure they remain open. This will be kept in place during construction and post-development.
- Any excavations or trenches will be covered nightly, and/or a rough wooden plank will be placed inside at a 45-degree angle, to allow animals to climb out.
- Any temporarily exposed open pipe systems will be checked and suitably capped to ensure wildlife cannot access it.
- Pipework with a diameter >15cm will be covered at the end of each day to prevent animals such as hedgehogs from entering.
- All electrical equipment or installations will be secured or fenced to prevent wildlife from entering and being electrocuted.
- A 10mph speed limit will be imposed on the site to prevent collision with wildlife.
- If an injured animal is found, the ECoW must be immediately consulted and if required the RSPCA Helpline (0300 123 4999) will be used to rescue the animal.

5.4.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional monitoring beyond the monthly ecological monitoring and Ecological Inspection Forms (see **Section 5.10**) is required.

5.5 Reptiles

5.5.1 Summary

- **Description:** Reptiles will be translocated from the works area into the receptor to the east of the site. The receptor will be enhanced for reptiles. Exclusion fencing will be installed around the boundary of the main development parcel / construction area.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to reptiles and provide suitable habitat compensation.
- **Dates:** Prior to start of construction (between April and September) with fencing in place until completion of construction.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), Fencing Contractor, and Site Manager.

5.5.2 Method Statement

5.5.2.1 Receptor Area

The other neutral grassland to be created to the east of the site will act as a reptile/GCN receptor for captured GCN and reptiles to be placed into. The receptor will be planted with a rough/tussocky grassland mix and managed to benefit reptiles and GCN. Scrub reduction will be undertaken to the north of the receptor. Two hibernacula will be constructed and included within the receptor.

Following the translocation and during site operation, the receptor area will be managed to benefit reptiles. Non-intervention will be beneficial initially; however, scrub may need to be cut back between October and February (outside of the breeding bird season) as it begins to establish more than 15% of the grassland. Selective strimming of up to 50% of the grassland can be undertaken in late summer, to a height no lower than 15cm, allowing a structurally diverse habitat to be established.

5.5.2.2 Fencing

As described within **Section 5.5.2.3**, HDPE exclusion fencing will be installed around the boundaries of the construction area. This will prevent reptiles moving into the site. Locations of fencing can be seen in **Appendix 2**. This will be installed prior to translocation works and will remain in situ until construction is complete.

5.5.2.3 Translocation

Reptile refugia (e.g. roofing felts and corrugated metal) will be placed at high density around all areas to be trapped out. Capture of reptiles will take place in suitable weather conditions (i.e. temperatures are 10-18°C, with no rain or wind). Capture of reptiles can be carried out between April and September by experienced ecologists and must be completed prior to construction. The

most optimal period for reptile capture includes late March to June and September. All reptiles captured will be moved into the proposed receptor area to the east.

The survey indicated that the site supported a low population of Slow Worms and Grass Snakes. The HGBI (1998) guidelines therefore recommend a minimum of 60 capture effort days. This will be reviewed on an ad-hoc basis throughout the capture period, and the relocation may come to an end once 5 consecutive visits have been carried out without identifying any reptile presence.

5.5.2.4 Destructive Search

Following completion of the translocation, a destructive search of all suitable habitats on-site will be carried out by a licensed ecologist. The ecologist will be present during habitat removal. An excavator with a toothed bucket will gently remove the surface vegetation and topsoil under the supervision of the ECoW, and any additional reptiles captured will be moved into the receptor. This must take place in suitable weather conditions and at the right time (i.e., April to early October, temperatures of 10-20°C, with no rain or wind).

5.5.2.5 Avoidance measures

For areas too small for trapping, avoidance measures will be undertaken to reduce any risk to reptiles. The following steps will be carried out as avoidance:

- Prior to the commencement of works and in temperatures above 15°C (avoiding the winter months, November to February), a passive dispersal methodology will be carried out (following a walkover by the ECoW) in which vegetation will be managed in stages to discourage reptiles and amphibians from areas to be impacted. An initial cut of vegetation will be made no lower than 15cm. Arisings will be removed from site. After 48 hours, a second clearance to ground level will be carried out. All works will be directional, starting from the furthest point away from suitable retained habitat and working towards it. Where soil stripping will occur, works will be supervised by the ECoW and be carried out in a directional manner. All retained habitat will be avoided during works, and measures will be implemented to avoid indirect impacts on retained habitats
- Storage of machinery and materials will be on areas of hardstanding and/or on pallets
- Skips will be used, or waste material will be immediately removed from site to avoid creating refuges
- Excavations will be covered or will be provided with escape ramps (see Section 5.7)
- During rainy periods, construction areas and particularly excavations will be managed to ensure drainage of water, to avoid the creation of temporary waterbodies
- Existing roads and tracks will be established as access roads and vehicles will use established accesses to avoid disturbing habitat

5.5.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

The ECoW will oversee the implementation of this method statement. They will ensure the fencing is installed correctly prior to the commencement of the translocation, oversee the capture, and supervise the destructive search.

The ECoW will keep a Mitigation Work Log, which will be provided to the Site Manager, and complete the monthly Ecological Inspection Form as part of ecological monitoring (see **Section 5.10**). Monitoring will include checking the HDPE exclusion fencing and the receptor area. These monitoring visits will check the continued suitability of the receptor for reptiles. Should any repairs be required, these will be reported by the ECoW to the Site Manager. It will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to ensure the fencing is maintained and any repairs are carried out immediately. The management and monitoring of the receptor will occur for at least 5 years post-development and will subsequently be passed onto the Residents Management Company.

5.6 Great Crested Newts (GCN)

5.6.1 Summary

- **Description:** A low population of GCN is present on site and will be translocated and excluded from the area of works during the construction phase. Exclusion fencing will be installed around the boundary of the main development parcel/construction area. Appropriate habitat will be provided to compensate for losses, and the receptor will be enhanced for GCN.
- **Purpose:** To avoid impacts such as killing or injury of GCN and ensure that works legally take place under a suitable GCN mitigation licence.
- **Dates:** Trapping/capture to take place prior to construction (between March and October). HDPE and TAF fencing to be installed prior to trapping where fencing is possible to install around the site perimeter, with TAF fencing removed following completion of trapping and HDPE fencing left in situ until construction is complete.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), Fencing Contractor and Site Manager.

5.6.2 Method Statement

5.6.2.1 Natural England European Protected Species Licence

A Natural England EPS mitigation license will be applied for following the granting of full planning permission. This license must be obtained prior to any works taking place to suitable GCN habitat on site.

5.6.2.2 Fencing

HDPE exclusion fencing will be installed around the boundary of the site, where digging is possible around concrete. Trapping will be undertaken and allowing GCN to be excluded from the construction area. Temporary amphibian fencing (TAF) will also be installed within these areas, aiding in trapping. The fence will exclude the construction area, thereby preventing GCN from

moving into this area. The TAF will remain in place until trapping has been completed, however the HDPE will remain in place for the entire construction period.

All fencing will be installed under the supervision of a licensed ecologist. The fencing will ensure no gaps that newts could pass through. The grass within the fence line will be strimmed to a height of 15cm under the supervision of an ecologist. Any amphibians will be captured and prior to the trench being dug. The fence will be installed to a height of 600mm above ground level and at a depth of 250mm. All trenches will be filled on the same day that they are dug.

5.6.2.3 Trapping

Pitfall traps and carpet tiles will be installed approximately every 5-10m along the inside of the eastern fences to facilitate capture of GCN. Trapping has been focused to the east as this will be the main commuting route for GCN from the GCN breeding pond off-site, onto the site. Therefore, the east is the best place to capture the GCN. Pitfall buckets will be fitted flush up to the fence, with their tops just below ground level. Trapping will take place for a minimum period of 30 trapping days and until there are at least 5 negative capture days. This will be reviewed on an *ad hoc* basis. Any GCN or other amphibians that are captured will be moved to log piles within the receptor area.

The optimal period for trapping is March to May when GCN are migrating, but trapping may also continue until October. Trapping will take place in suitable weather conditions (i.e. when there has been rain in recent days and minimum nighttime temperatures are not less than 6°C). If there has been no rain, there must have been rain in the last few days to ensure the ground is damp. If pitfall trap checking will not take place the next day, pitfall traps will be securely closed to prevent prolonged entrapment of GCN or other animals.

5.6.2.4 Receptor Area & Compensatory Habitat

Any GCN found will be released into the receptor area located to the east of the site on the day of capture (see **Appendix 2**). This area will be seeded to create other neutral grassland and will be extended to the south of the site following the creation of the GCN pond and the SUDs. The GCN pond will be created adjacent to the neighbouring GCN breeding pond, and the re-seeding will be undertaken, prior to the beginning of the 2027 breeding season. The pond will have gently sloping edges to create a shallow water environment, with slopes less than 1:5 (12°) and preferably less than 1:20 (3°). The pond will have varying depths, with a maximum depth of approximately 0.9m, to support diverse aquatic life. Wetland species planting has been recommended to enhance the site for amphibians and invertebrates. The receptor will be further enhanced for GCN by two hibernacula (installed prior to the beginning of the first hibernation period). It is considered that the receptor area will have sufficient capacity to sustain the GCN population, particularly after the fencing opens up to the south.

5.6.2.5 Destructive Search

Once the ecologist is satisfied that all reasonable measures have been taken to ensure that newts have been sufficiently captured, all areas of suitable GCN habitat within the construction area will be destructively searched. This would entail the sensitive stripping of vegetation from suitable

GCN habitat on site using a toothed bucket. Any natural GCN refugia such as brash piles will also be sensitively dismantled.

All works will be supervised by a licensed ecologist and should be undertaken during the active GCN period (typically late March until early October) when temperatures are above 12°C with sunshine. The supervising ecologist will capture any GCN found and relocate them to the receptor area. The cleared areas will then be regularly managed and maintained unsuitable for GCN for the duration of the works. Please note, any suitable habitat within the root protection zone will not have the topsoil stripped and will only be maintained cut at ground level.

Each drain will have a 45-degree angled curb 1 m either side of it to prevent amphibians from falling into the drains. Each drain will also be fitted with an escape ladder.

5.6.2.6 Avoidance measures

Other areas of the site, which do not have suitable habitat for GCN and will be affected by construction or ground works, will not require trapping but will employ avoidance measures to reduce the risks to GCN and other wildlife (this includes habitat creation/enhancement works). The following steps will be carried out as avoidance:

- Prior to commencement of works and in temperatures above 15°C (avoiding winter months November to February), a passive dispersal methodology will be carried out in which vegetation will be managed in stages to discourage reptiles and amphibians from areas to be impacted. An initial cut of vegetation will be made no lower than 15cm. Arisings will be removed from site. After 48 hours, a second clearance to ground level will be carried out. All works will be directional, starting from the furthest point away from suitable retained habitat and working towards it.
- All retained habitat will be avoided during works and measures will be implemented to avoid indirect impacts on retained habitats
- Storage of machinery and materials will be on areas of hardstanding and/or on pallets
- Skips will be used, or waste material will be immediately removed from the site to avoid creating refuges
- Excavations will be covered or will be provided with escape ramps (see Section 5.7)
- During rainy periods, construction areas and particularly excavations will be managed to ensure drainage of water, to avoid the creation of temporary waterbodies
- Existing roads and tracks will be established as access roads and vehicles will use established accesses to avoid disturbing habitat

5.6.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

The ECoW will oversee the implementation of this method statement. They will ensure the fencing is installed correctly prior to commencement of trapping, oversee trapping, and supervise the destructive search.

The ECoW will keep a GCN Mitigation Work Log, which will be provided to the Site Manager, and complete the monthly Ecological Inspection Form as part of ecological monitoring (see **Section 5.10**). Monitoring will include checking the HDPE exclusion fencing and temporary amphibian fencing. Should any repairs be required, these will be reported by the ECoW to the Site Manager. It will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to ensure the fencing is maintained and any repairs are carried out immediately.

5.7 Hazel Dormice

5.7.1 Summary

- **Description:** The habitats on site have limited suitability for Hazel Dormice, however linear features and scrub are present on-site. Precautionary working methods must be implemented during vegetation clearance.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to Hazel Dormice.
- **Dates:** Between late April-mid May or during October, prior to construction until completion of construction.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), Vegetation Clearance Contractor, and Site Manager.

5.7.2 Method Statement

5.7.2.1 Sensitive Clearance Methodology

All clearance of suitable Dormouse habitat will adopt the following methodology:

- A fingertip search of all vegetation to be cleared will be undertaken by the licenced ecologist, immediately prior to clearance commencing (on the same day and every day clearance occurs). If any Dormice are found, works will cease and Natural England will be consulted.
- The licenced ecologist will deliver a toolbox talk to the vegetation clearance contractors, detailing the sensitive measures required. The ecologist will then supervise all vegetation clearance. No clearance will be undertaken without the supervision of the ecologist.
- Hand tools will be utilised to sensitively cut vegetation down to ground level in a **single stage**. This will be undertaken in a directional fashion to passively encourage Dormice to move away from the works area towards retained, suitable habitats (i.e retained tree line along the southern boundary and retained native hedgerows with trees to the south-east and south-west). All arisings will immediately be moved away from the cleared areas to

an area within the central part of the site and will then be chipped and immediately removed from the site.

- In the unlikely event of any Dormice being discovered (within areas where they cannot be left in situ), they will be moved (along with their nest) into one of the nest boxes.

No more than 500 m² of habitat will be cleared in a single day and works will take place during late April to mid-May (provided temperatures are warm enough for Dormice to have emerged from hibernation) or during October to avoid the breeding period (but ensure works are done during a time when Dormice are active).

5.7.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional monitoring beyond the monthly ecological monitoring and Ecological Inspection Forms (see **Section 5.10**) is required.

5.8 Nesting Birds

5.8.1 Summary

- **Description:** Vegetation that could support nesting birds will have preventative measures and/or nesting bird checks.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to birds or disturbance (and abandonment) of nests.
- **Dates:** Prior to construction until completion of construction.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Site Manager, Vegetation Clearance Contractor, and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

5.8.2 Method Statement

5.8.2.1 Vegetation clearance

Vegetation clearance will be carried out between October and February, where possible, to avoid bird nesting season.

Where this is not possible, the following measures will be carried out as relevant:

- Any vegetation to be cleared will be checked by the ECoW for nesting birds immediately prior to clearance. If any active nests are present, they will be retained in situ with a minimum c.5m exclusion zone until the birds have fledged. The exclusion zone will be marked with barrier tape and notices, stating that this area will not be disturbed due to nesting birds, will be positioned next to the tape.

If any birds begin to nest in new buildings being constructed, works will cease and the ECoW will be contacted. An exclusion zone marked with barrier tape and a notice will be put in place as above and works will not proceed until the chicks have fledged.

5.8.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional reporting beyond the monthly ecological monitoring and Ecological Inspection Forms (see **Section 5.10**) is required. However, if nesting activity is identified, active nests may be monitored more regularly to determine when nesting activity is completed for any delayed works to proceed.

5.9 Lighting During Construction

5.9.1 Summary

- **Description:** Artificial lighting will be avoided or minimised.
- **Purpose:** To reduce impacts on bats and other nocturnal wildlife.
- **Dates:** During the construction period.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Site Manager.

5.9.2 Method Statement

The following avoidance measures will be carried out during construction to minimise impacts from lighting on nocturnal wildlife:

- Works will be limited to daylight hours and no artificial lighting will be employed unless necessary and agreed with the ECoW
- No lighting will be used outside daytime working hours. If required for security, this will be on a motion sensor with a time limit.
- Where lighting is necessary, it will be directed away from retained habitats, site boundaries or Biodiversity Protection Zones.

5.9.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional monitoring beyond the monthly ecological reporting (see **Section 5.10**) is required. Any changes to lighting will be reported to the ECoW by the Site Manager.

5.10 Ecological Monitoring During Construction

5.10.1 Summary

- **Description:** Monthly monitoring will be carried out.
- **Purpose:** To ensure protection of retained habitats and protected species.
- **Dates:** Beginning at least one month prior to construction and until the completion of construction works.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

5.10.2 Method Statement

Monthly inspections by an ecologist will be carried out of the following to ensure compliance with the CEMP:

- Fencing is correctly installed and remains in good repair;
- Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) are protected and in good condition;

- Condition of all retained habitats;
- Implementation of all previous method statements, with the following specific actions as relevant:
 - I. Identification of any signs of Badger or mammal activity;
 - II. Identification of any nesting bird activity that may be impacted by works;
 - III. Adherence to the lighting strategy;
 - IV. Adherence to specific requirements under the EPSL for GCN;
 - V. Adherence to specific requirements under the mitigation strategy for reptiles;
 - VI. Adherence to specific precautionary working methods for Hazel Dormice and nesting birds;
 - VII. Adherence to avoidance measures for nocturnal mammals.

5.10.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

An Ecological Inspection Form will be completed monthly by the ecologist, which will summarise the findings of the monthly inspection. The form will be provided to the Site Manager and Client. If any immediate action is required, the Site Manager and Client will be informed immediately, with necessary remedial actions to be carried out as soon as possible. The report will be provided to the LPA following the completion of the capture, and again at the completion of construction works.

6.0 TIMING OF SENSITIVE WORKS

6.1 Construction Programme

Based on feedback from Redcliffe Homes, the proposed construction dates are from June 2026.

6.2 Timing of Sensitive Works

Timings for sensitive works are required. The above method statements detail where specific timings are required. A summary of timings of sensitive works can be seen in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Summary of timings of sensitive works on site.

Species & Relevant Method Statement	Dates / Weather Conditions	Details
Reptiles (Section 5.5)	April to September in suitable weather, 10-18 °C with no wind or rain	Translocation of reptiles (exclusion fencing and refugia to be installed prior to this).
	April – early October in suitable weather >12°C with no wind or rain	Destructive search for reptiles.
GCN (Section 5.6)	March – May (optimal) to October when night temperatures not <6°C and not too dry (the ground should be damp).	GCN trapping operation (exclusion fencing and pitfall traps to be installed prior to this).
	March – October in suitable weather, >12°C with sunshine	Destructive search for GCN.
	March – October when temperatures are above 15°C	Passive dispersal on all other areas of the site
Hazel Dormice (Section 5.7)	Late April – mid May or October at a time when temperatures are sufficiently warm for Dormice to be active	Toolbox talk, sensitive vegetation clearance with installation of mitigatory Dormouse boxes prior to works.
Nesting birds (Section 5.8)	October - February	Vegetation clearance should be carried out outside bird nesting season. If not possible, a nesting bird check will be required between March-Sep, with any nests suitably protected.

7.0 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION

7.1 Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

A suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed for the development. This person will have suitable qualifications, training, experience and licences to carry out the works on site. The ECoW will be responsible for providing advice to the Client and Site Manager appointed and overseeing sensitive works as needed.

The ECoW will have the following specific responsibilities for the duration of the project:

- Implementation of method statements to ensure all ecological features are protected with mitigation, compensation and enhancements carried out as needed;
- Provision of training and informative updates, such as through toolbox talks;
- Completion of monthly monitoring and reporting as per **Section 5.10**;
- Completion of all specific Mitigation Work Log Reports including for GCN, and reptiles;
- Supervision of all sensitive works, as per the method statements;
- Investigation and reporting of any incidents which may affect ecological features (e.g. spills, pollution, damage to retained habitats, protected species in works site, etc.)
- Completion of regular records and reporting to Site Manager, Client, Contractors, Natural England, LPA, etc. as needed;
- Completion of licence returns to Natural England upon completion of works;
- Provision of advice to the Client on any ecological constraints or features as needed; and
- Monitoring post-construction to ensure a compliance check of all compensation / enhancement features, management of habitats and implementation of any additional mitigation needed;

It is highly recommended that the ECoW is the named ecologist for any licences required (e.g. GCN mitigation EPSL). If this is not possible, the ECoW will be responsible for:

- Communicating regularly with the named ecologist and monitoring works as necessary;
- Confirm when the named ecologist will be required for works.

7.2 Roles

The CEMP (Biodiversity) will be distributed to all responsible parties to ensure that the environmental requirements are communicated effectively. **Table 4** below describes the roles and responsibilities to ensure the implementation of this CEMP. It is the overall responsibility of the Client to ensure roles are appointed prior to works commencing and that the Contractors are suitably trained to be carrying out the work.

Table 4. Key roles and responsibilities.

Role	Responsible Party	Responsibilities
Client	Redcliffe Homes	- Responsible for appointing Contractors and ensuring all contractors comply with environmental legislation - Responsible for appointing ECoW - Overall responsibility for the implementation of this CEMP
Lead Contractor	TBC	- Responsible for appointing Site Manager - Prepare site specific Risk Assessment and Method Statements taking into account all environmental issues
Site Manager	TBC	- Have a detailed understanding of ecological constraints on site - Provide toolbox talk for all new contractors/sub-contractors as part of site induction - Regular communication with ECoW - Ensure works on site conform to method statements
Contractor/Sub-Contractors	TBC	- Understand ecological constraints on site (i.e. through the toolbox talk as part of site induction) - Report any concerns to Site Manager - Take appropriate action to rectify any non-conformance
Ecological Clerk of Works	Ecosupport Ltd (also the named ecologist on the GCN licence)	- As described in Section 7.1 - Maintain regular communication and report to Site Manager all ecological constraints, findings or breaches of the CEMP within the site; - Provide monitoring reports to Client at regular intervals
Licenced Ecologist	TBC	Responsible for obtaining the GCN EPS licence and will be the point of contact for any works that might affect the parameters of that licence.

7.3 Training Awareness and Competence

Site staff shall be competent to perform tasks that have the potential to cause a significant ecological impact. Competence is defined in terms of appropriate education, training and experience. Ecological awareness and training shall be achieved by:

- Site induction, including a talk given by the ECoW (or by the Site Manager after the initial Toolbox Talk), during which information on all ecological sensitivities, constraints and the method statements within this CEMP will be provided. The importance of leaving areas outside of the construction zone undisturbed once the protective fencing is installed will be emphasised.

- Information on protected species will be given, including field signs to look out for during construction work.
- Environmental posters and site notices will be erected around the site.

7.4 Line of Communication Regarding Ecological Issues

Prior to the works getting underway, all staff will be aware of the ecological features and associated issues on site. They will be conscious of the impacts of their actions not only on the retained areas on site but also on the locality of nationally and internationally designated sites nearby. They will also be mindful during the works of field signs of protected species and finally of the steps to take in the eventuality that an ecological situation arises. Therefore, as soon as an issue is uncovered/advice is needed, the Site Manager will be contacted immediately, who will inform the ECoW to visit the site if needed and to advise accordingly.

8.0 SUMMARY OF CEMP

Table 5 below provides a summary of the construction mitigation measures, species at risk, responsibilities, and the time of year that the works are to be undertaken.

Table 5. Summary of the CEMP (Biodiversity) detailing mitigation measures required, who is responsible for these measures, and when such measures must be carried out.

Ecological Feature	Mitigation Required	Responsible Party / Parties	Timing
Retained habitats	Protective fencing will be put in place to protect retained habitat and BPZs (Section 5.2)	Site manager	Any time prior to construction and will remain until works are complete
	Toolbox talk will be provided to all personnel accessing site to outline ecological features and risks (Section 5.1)	ECoW Site Manager	Any time prior to construction and continuing during construction for new staff
	Regular monitoring will be carried out on the fencing. Any damage to protective fencing will be reported to the site manager, who will organize repairs (Section 5.10)	ECoW Site Manager	Prior to and during construction
	A Construction Method Statement will be in place prior to the commencement of the works.	Client	Prior to the commencement of construction
	Ecological monitoring will be carried out, including the regular inspection of habitats (Section 5.10)	ECoW Site Manager	Monthly by site manager and bi-annually by ecologist throughout the entire construction period
Foraging and commuting bats	A sensitive lighting method statement will be in place and adhered to throughout the construction period (Section 5.9).	Site Manager	During construction
Badgers and nocturnal mammals	A walkover of the site and the zone of influence of the works will be undertaken (Section 5.4)	ECoW	Immediately prior to construction
	Precautionary measures will be employed during construction (Section 5.4)	Site Manager	Throughout the construction period
	Artificial lighting will be avoided or sensitive measures will be used (Section 5.9)	Site Manager	Throughout the construction period
Reptiles	Reptile/GCN receptor and two hibernacula to be created to the east.		Prior to reptile capture

			Scrub to be cut back between October and February
			Strimming to be undertaken in late summer
	HDPE exclusion fencing to be installed as per Appendix 2	Site Manager Fencing Contractor	Immediately prior to reptile capture
	Reptiles will be trapped out of the construction area and moved into the receptor site (Section 5.5).	ECOW	April to September, when temperatures are between 10 and 18°C with no wind, nor rain Prior to construction
	A destructive search will be conducted following completion of the trapping (Section 5.5).	ECOW	April to early October, when temperatures are between 10 and 20°C with no wind, nor rain
	Fencing to be regularly monitored to ensure it remains in good condition, with any damage to be repaired (Section 5.10).	ECOW Site Manager	Monthly throughout construction
	Avoidance measures including storage of machinery and materials on piles, skips used, excavations covered/escape ramps provided, drainage of water and using existing tracks/access roads.	Site Manager	Throughout the construction period
	All exclusion fencing will be removed after construction is complete and the receptor will be managed to benefit reptiles and amphibians. (Section 5.5).	Site Manager Fencing Contractor	After the completion of all construction
Great Crested Newts	A Natural England GCN mitigation licence will be obtained prior to the commencement of works to any suitable GCN habitat (Section 5.6).	Licenced Ecologist	EPSL in place prior to the removal of suitable GCN habitat
	TAF and HDPE exclusion fencing to be installed (Section 5.6). The grass within the fence line will be strimmed to 15cm under the ecologist's supervision.	Licenced Ecologist Fencing Contractor	Immediately prior to GCN capture

	GCN will be trapped out of the construction area and moved into the receptor site (under the granted GCN mitigation licence) (Section 5.6)	Licenced Ecologist	Optimal period March to May, can continue into October, when temperatures are not below 6°C and the ground is damp. Prior to construction.
	Destructive search of suitable habitat areas and hand searches of refugia under supervision of an ecologist (Section 5.6)	Licenced Ecologist	March to October , when it is >12°C with sunshine Prior to Construction
	Passive dispersal in other areas of the site	ECoW	March – October when temperatures are above 15°C
	Fencing to be regularly monitored to ensure it remains in good condition, with any damage to be repaired (Section 5.10).	Licenced Ecologist Site Manager	Monthly throughout construction
	Avoidance measures including storage of machinery and materials on piles, skips used, excavations covered/escape ramps provided, drainage of water and using existing tracks/access roads.	Site Manager	Throughout the construction period
	All exclusion fencing will be removed after construction is complete and the receptor will be managed to benefit reptiles and amphibians. (Section 5.5).	Site Manager Licenced Ecologist Fencing Contractor	After completion of all construction
Hazel Dormice	Installation of two mitigation Dormouse boxes (Section 5.7).	ECoW	Prior to vegetation clearance
	Toolbox talk and sensitive removal of suitable Dormouse habitat under supervision of an ecologist (Section 5.7).	ECoW	Late April – mid May or October Prior to construction
Nesting birds	Timing of vegetation clearance to avoid nesting season (Section 5.8).	Site Manager	October – February
	If it is not possible to avoid vegetation clearance outside of nesting season, a nesting bird check will be carried out. Any identified nests will be retained with a suitable exclusion zone (typically c.5m exclusion zone in vegetation) (Section 5.8).	ECoW	March – September, immediately prior to clearance

All features	Monthly monitoring inspections will be carried out by the site manager and bi-annual inspections by the ecologist to inspect all features and ensure compliance with CEMP.	ECoW Site Manager	Monthly by site manager and bi-annually by ecologist throughout entire construction period
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9.0 Conclusion

Ecosupport Ltd were commissioned by Redcliffe Homes to produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the development of the site known as 'Beaumont Business Park, Mere'. This was requested to satisfy the discharge of condition 18 of the planning approval (20/07469/OUT). This report outlines the measures to be undertaken prior to, during and post-construction, and at which time of year, in order to ecologically protect the habitats and species on-site.

10.0 REFERENCES

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Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2023). UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield.

UKHab Ltd. (2023). UK Habitat Classification – Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (July, 2023)

APPENDIX 1. Biodiversity Protection Zones



- Legend
- Site Boundary
 - Biodiversity Protection Zones (GCN/Reptile Receptor)
 - Newt Pond
 - Ponds to be created
 - Heras Fencing
 - HDPE Fencing
 - Native hedgerow (h2a) - with trees (32) to be retained
 - Line of trees (33) to be retained
 - Individual trees (32) to be retained

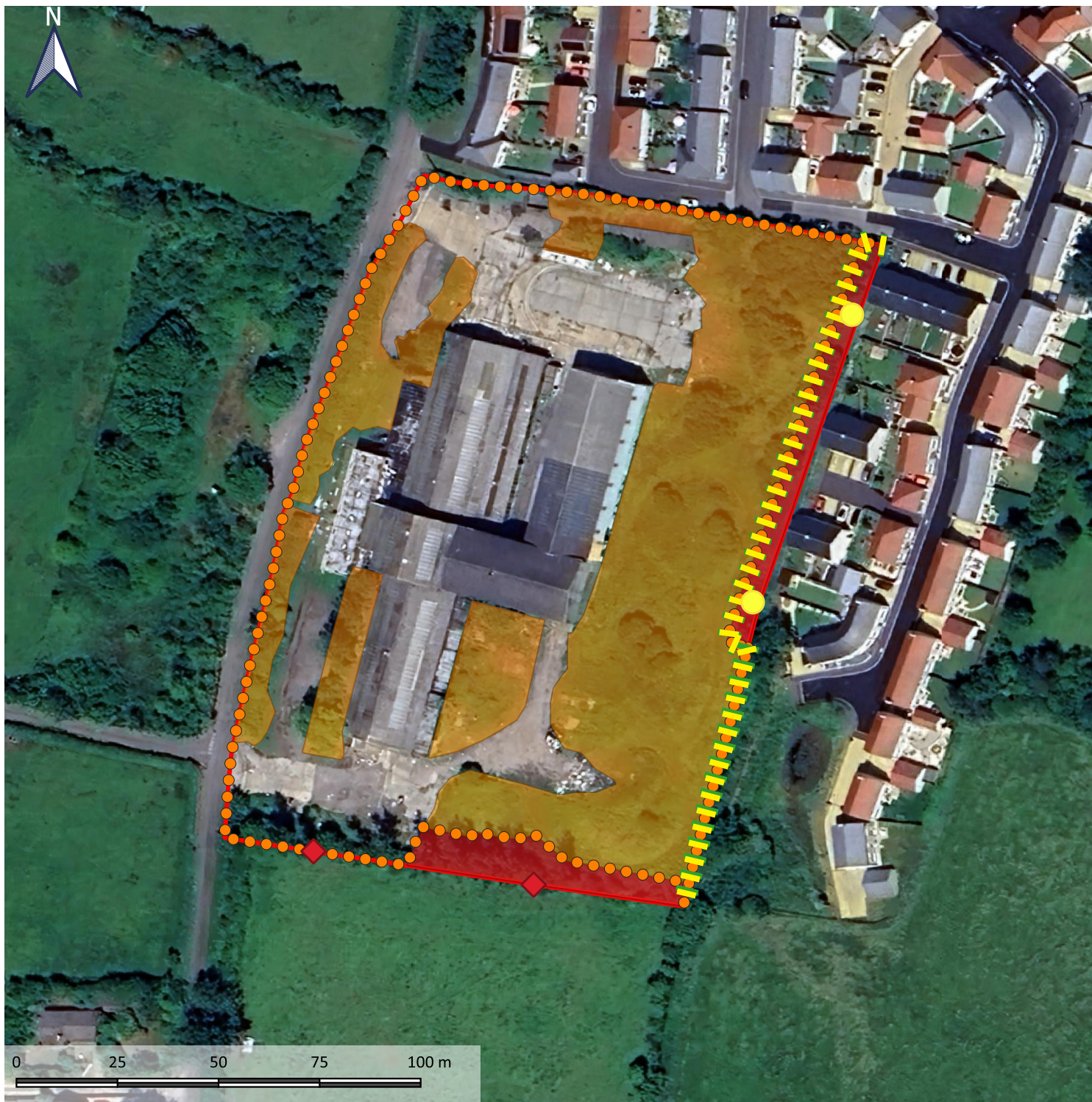


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Map	Biodiversity Protection Zone Plan
Site	Beaumont Business Park, Mere
Client	Redcliffe Homes
Date	23/07/2026

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APPENDIX 2. Reptile / GCN Fencing and Receptor Plan



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Reptile and GCN Capture Area
- Reptile & GCN Receptor Area
- ● ● HDPE Fencing
- ||| TAF Fencing
- ||| GCN Trapping
- ◆ Hazel Dormice Mitigation Boxes
- Reptile/GCN Hibernacula



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Map	GCN/Reptile Fencing & Receptor Plan
Site	Beaumont Business Park, Mere
Client	Redcliffe Homes
Date	15/01/2026

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APPENDIX 3. Ecological Inspection Form

Report no. _____ Date: _____	Ecological Inspection Form
Site Conditions	
Biodiversity Protection Zones & Retained Habitats	Is protective fencing in place?..... Condition..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed..... Additional Comments.....
Lighting strategy	Comments..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Proposed changes..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Avoidance Measures for Nocturnal Mammals	Comments..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Remedial action:..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Species specific method statements	
Bats	Works completed since previous inspection.....

	Works planned..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Reptiles	Works completed since previous inspection..... Works planned..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
GCN	Works completed since previous inspection..... Works planned..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....

Hazel Dormice	Works completed since previous inspection..... Works planned..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Nesting Birds	Description..... Restrictions on works..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Badgers	Any potential badger setts / holes..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....

Any other relevant works	Description..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Signed by ECoW	
Date	
Communicated to and copy has been provided to Site Manager	YES / NO (if no, state reason)

APPENDIX 4 – Tree Protection Plan

