

2 CAMBRIDGE ROAD, COSBY, LEICESTER, LE9 1SH



2 Cambridge Road, Cosby, Leicester, LE9 1SH

Prepared for: Skubala Ltd

Construction Ecological Mitigation Plan: Biodiversity

December 2023

This plan should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- 22_0062_FUL-PROPOSED_SITE_PLAN-2481713
- 22_0062_FUL-PROPOSED_SITE_PLAN_WITH_RPAS-2481712
- Decision Document 22/0062/FUL
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal - 2 Cambridge Road, Cosby, Leicester, LE9 1SH
- Bat Presence Absence - 2 Cambridge Road, Cosby, Leicester, LE9 1SH

Introduction

As part of the Preliminary ecological report (Midland Ecology Ltd - June 2021), recommendations were made regarding both how to minimise the impact on wildlife and the wider habitat of the area during demolition. These were secured as condition 13 to the planning consent granted (Decision Document 22/0062/FUL).

That condition is summarised here:

- No development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until a Construction Environment Management Plan for biodiversity (CEMP: Biodiversity) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the District Planning Authority. The CEMP shall include the following details:
 - a) identification of potentially damaging construction activities
 - b) identification of biodiversity protection zones
 - c) practical measures and sensitive working practices to avoid or reduce impacts during construction
 - d) timing of works to avoid harm to nesting birds
 - e) responsible persons for overseeing sensitive works
 - f) use of protective fencing where required.
- 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 District Planning Authority.

Summary

The key points of this Construction Ecological Mitigation Plan are:

- Remove hibernation habitat (log piles/debris) to be dismantled by hand, in summer (April to October inclusive) when not in use by hedgehogs and other wildlife.
- Due to the potential for nesting birds to use buildings, trees and scrub during breeding season, checks (by a suitably qualified Ecologist) to be undertaken if works commence between March-August inclusive.
- A badger pre-mobilisation survey (by a suitably qualified Ecologist) will check that no new badger setts have been dug on site or adjacent.
- Any new external lighting is to be directional and/or on a short timer, in line with guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (BCT & ILP, 2023)
- Excavations are to either be covered overnight, or a plank placed within each trench so as to allow any animals (such as hedgehogs, badgers or foxes) that fall in to escape.
- Trees to be retained must be protected in accordance with British Standard "*BS 5873 2012. Trees in relation to construction*"
- Care must be taken throughout the development process, to prevent accidental import or spread of invasive species such as cotoneaster and variegated yellow archangel (both of which are known to occur on site). This is to include identification posters, toolbox talks, and vetting of contractors to ensure awareness of invasive plant issues.

Pre-demolition

Any new external lighting is to be directional and/or on a short timer, in line with guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (BCT & ILP, 2023). Confirmation of the lighting design is to be obtained by the Site Manager, prior to any works commencing on site.

Within the 24 hours preceding commencement, the retained Ecologist will walk the site and assess the current potential for wildlife to be using areas of high disruption. If works are to commence during the period March to September, then this will include checks for nesting birds. The Ecologist will clearly and physically mark out any areas that are not to be disturbed, with (at a minimum) safety tape attached to either wooden or metal poles. No works, access or storage of materials will take place within these areas until clearance to do so has been given by the retained Ecologist.

Areas of dense vegetation are recommended to be checked for debris at their bases, and cleared during the period April to October, by hand if debris is present. If hedgehogs are found, then they are to be allowed to move from the development naturally. If any other animals (such as amphibians) are found, then they are to be carefully moved, by hand, to a site boundary. The local wildlife rescue centre (Birmingham Animal Centre - 0300 123 8585) is to be contacted for advice if necessary.

All trees and other vegetation scheduled to be retained will be protected in line with BS 5837 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction). All necessary protection fencing/barriers will be installed prior to arrival of plant and/or materials on site, and remain in place until all works have been completed on site. See Appendix 2 for the Root Protection Zones to be fenced around.

Unless specified otherwise all mentions in this document of an 'Ecologist' or 'retained Ecologist' refer to a suitably qualified Ecologist, with experience of undertaking an Ecological Clerk of Works role for badger, nesting birds and other wildlife, who is a member of an appropriate professional body (e.g. CIEEM, RBS or similar).

During demolition/construction

The Site Manager will be responsible for ensuring the required mitigation measures are appropriately implemented and remain in force for the duration of works on site. The Site Manager is to read this document fully prior to works commencing, and sign the form in Appendix 1 confirming this.

All necessary Biodiversity Protection Zones (such as roost protection areas, as well as any active bird nests, badger setts or other ecology features identified by the Ecologist during their pre-commencement check) will have already been marked out with (at a minimum) wooden/metal poles and surveyors' tape (Heras fencing or similar is preferred) prior to any other works taking place on site. No works, movement of vehicles/plant/people, or storage of materials will be permitted within these areas without prior authorisation by the retained Ecologist.

A site-specific Ecology briefing will be added to the site induction, and then updated with toolbox talks as required throughout the process. This will be delivered by an appropriate member of the site team.

Excavations are to either be covered overnight, or a plank placed within each trench so as to allow any animals (such as badgers, hedgehogs or foxes) that fall in to escape.

[Gaps are left at the bottom of any fence](#) installed within the development, to allow the movement of hedgehogs through the site. These will measure 13cm x 13cm, which is the right size for a hedgehog to pass through but too small for most pets.

Care must be taken throughout the development process, to prevent accidental import or spread of invasive species such as cotoneaster and variegated yellow archangel (both of which are known to occur on site). This is to include identification posters, toolbox talks, and vetting of contractors to ensure awareness of invasive plant issues. Removal of materials (such as soil and rubble) from site will require the assistance of suitably qualified and licensed contractors for the removal and disposal of Schedule 9 invasive species.

Appendix 1: Site Manager Confirmation of Compliance

I the undersigned confirm that I have reviewed the contents of this Construction Method Statement: Biodiversity, and accept responsibility for its full implementation. By signing this statement, I confirm that I have sufficient authority to ensure compliance.

I confirm that I have already raised any issues concerning its practical implementation, and that these have been addressed through either amendments or addendums to this document. The measures specified within the document will therefore be implemented in full.

Signed: _____ .

Name: _____ .

Date: _____ .

Job Title: _____ .

Appendix 2: Known Biodiversity Protection Zones (Root Protection Areas)

