



Proposed Barn at Winuwuk Cottage, Heathfield,
Alkington, Berkeley, GL13 9PN

Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)



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All Ecology Ltd



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The flora and fauna detailed within this report are those noted during the field survey and from anecdotal evidence. It should not be viewed as a complete list of flora and fauna species that may frequent or exist on site at other times of the year.

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Reference to sections or particular paragraphs of this document taken out of context may lead to misrepresentation.

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1.0 Introduction

Background

- 1.1 All Ecology was commissioned to produce this document in respect of a proposed development at a site known as Proposed Barn at Winuwuk Cottage, Heathfield, Alkington, Berkeley, GL13 9PN
- 1.2 The proposals for the site are for a new equestrian and storage barn which will be positioned in the northeast corner of the existing grass field with the existing access utilised.
- 1.3 The following conditions were attached to the planning permission (23/00103/FUL) for which the present report is intended to discharge:

Condition 4

No works shall take place (including demolition, ground works, vegetation clearance) until a construction ecological management plan (CEMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The CEMP shall include, but not limited to the following:

- a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities*
- b) Details of deep excavations to be infilled or ramped access provided to prevent pitfall danger to mammals.*
- c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements)*
- d) The locations and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features (e.g. daylight working hours only starting one hour after sunrise and ceasing one hour after sunset)*
- e) Measures that will be taken to protect trees and hedgerows which are due to be retained*
- f) The timing during construction when an ecologist needs to be present on site to oversee works*
- g) Responsible persons and lines of communication*
- h) Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for common species reported within the PEA*
- i) Compliance checks by a competent person(s) during construction and immediately post-completion of construction works*

The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details.

Reason:

To protect and enhance the site for biodiversity in accordance with paragraph 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework, Policy ES6 of the Stroud District Local Plan 2015 and in order for the

Council to comply with Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. This is required prior to the commencement of development to manage the impact of construction.

- 1.4 The following condition was also attached to the planning permission (23/00103/FUL) which will be covered within this report:

Condition 6

No development, site clearance, removal of habitat material shall take place until a Hazel Dormouse Precautionary Mitigation Strategy has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved strategy shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details.

Reason:

To ensure that protected species are safeguarded in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the National Planning Policy Framework, and Policy ES6 of the Stroud District Local Plan 2015, and in order for the Council to comply with Part 3 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. This is required prior to the commencement of development to avoid any adverse impact on protected species.

Objectives and Aim

- 1.5 The aims of this CEMP are as follows:

To cover the management of all construction activities by defining the requirements and standards that need to be met.

Ensure that the works are carried out and site managed in accordance with planning approval and wildlife legislation, and ensure the delivery of the proposed ecological enhancements in order to maximise the potential for gains on site.

Ecological objectives are set out for which management proposals are specified for the construction phase and the operational phase of the development, which is expected to continue in perpetuity.

Scope

- 1.6 The CEMP will address ecology and biodiversity. Other items typically included in a CEMP e.g. Noise, Water Pollution, Safety and Security, Air Quality and Construction Traffic Management, are not included.

Key Ecological Features

- 1.7 Key features of ecological value have been identified as follows:

The adjacent boundary hedge and trees provide habitat for roosting, foraging and commuting bats, nesting birds and Hazel Dormice.

Site Location



Figure 1: Site location plan.

2.0 Survey and Site Assessment

Survey and Site Assessment

- 2.1 An Ecological Appraisal of the site carried out by All Ecology Ltd established the following with regard to habitats and their potential for protected species either on site or in the surrounding area .
- 2.2 The barn will be positioned on an area of bare ground within the northeast corner of an improved grassland field accessed by an existing hard standing track. There is a wet ditch and species-rich hedge and trees adjacent to the northeast corner of the site.
- 2.3 The improved grassland on site is common and does not qualify as NERC Priority Habitat. The adjacent hedge and trees qualify as NERC Priority Habitat and although some tree branches will be pruned back, the length of hedge and trees will be retained.
- 2.4 All the higher plants recorded within the study area and widespread are common, none are legally protected, nationally or county notable. No invasive plant species were recorded.
- 2.5 The boundary hedge and trees are likely to provide foraging habitat for bats, while also providing commuting routes for bats flying between foraging habitat. Two Crack Willow trees within the hedge and trees were found to have potential roosting features for bats that were inspected by endoscope and concluded to provide low roosting potential.
- 2.6 No badger setts were found on-site or identified adjacent to the study area. No other signs of badger were found (e.g. no latrines, no badger foraging, no well-worn badger paths, no prints, hairs or other signs). The site provides potential Dormouse habitat within boundary hedge and trees which forms part of a network of field boundary vegetation. Therefore, Dormice may utilise this habitat. The potential for other species of protected or notable mammals to use the site is deemed to be low.
- 2.7 There are no watercourses on-site to support water vole or otter, and are not an issue for this proposal.
- 2.8 The site provides potential foraging and nesting habitat for birds within the boundary hedge and trees with the bare ground and improved grassland providing a limited foraging resource.
- 2.9 The wet ditch along the edge of the site was not found to provide any potential for Great Crested Newts and there are no other ponds within 250 m of the site. Therefore, it is likely this species is absent from the site. Whilst the boundary hedge and trees may provide small areas of cover for reptiles, the majority of the site consists of bare ground, hard standing and short improved grassland and the site is not surrounded by optimal reptile habitat. Therefore, reptiles are also likely to be absent here.

3.0 Development Description and Objectives

Development Description

- 3.1 The proposals for the site are for a new equestrian and storage barn which will be positioned in the northeast corner of the existing grass field with the existing access utilised.

Objectives

- 3.2 The objectives of this CEMP are therefore as follows:

- Maintain and protect the boundary hedge and trees with appropriate management.
- Avoid injury or death of mammals through appropriate methods of working.
- Ensure compliance with the legal protection of breeding birds.
- Ensure compliance with the legal protection of bats.
- Ensure compliance with the legal protection of dormice.

4.0 CEMP

Tool Box Talk

- 4.1 The proposed works have the potential to negatively impact on a number of ecological receptors. An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed to undertake the following:

Tool Box Talk to be provided prior to the start of works outlining the purpose of the CEMP and details of works to be supervised.

Carry out nesting bird survey of any nesting habitats (vegetation) to be removed during nesting season in the event that this is required.

Management Responsibilities

- 4.2 The implementation of this management plan will be the responsibility of the site owner, Mrs R Birch, who will instruct the strict adherence to this plan, with the available resources, as well as with assistance from area specialists where necessary to ensure that all measures are executed using best possible practice. All appointed sub-contractors will be approved as competent and knowledgeable in their position.

Responsible Persons and Lines of Communication

- 4.3 The ECoW will be an experienced ecologist from All Ecology Ltd. They will be responsible for delivering the pre-commencement toolbox talk, which will highlight the constraints on site, details of exclusion/protection zones, identification of species, and what to do in the event of any discoveries during the works, and the purpose of the CEMP. The ECoW will also carry out nesting bird surveys and supervision works as required.
- 4.4 All other responsibilities during the construction process will be those of the Site Manager. These include compliance with planning conditions, wildlife legislation, installation of protection measures including maintenance checks and implementation of this CEMP.

Local Community Responsibility

- 4.5 The Site Manager will be responsible for briefing the CEMP to construction staff; fulfilling environmental obligations on site; attending to any on-site environmental incidents or concerns.

Mechanism for Ensuring Delivery

- 4.6 Upon completion of the works a report will be produced and sent to the Council Ecologist detailing and confirming that the works were carried out in accordance with this CEMP.

Risk Assessment

4.7 The following potentially damaging activities and their associated risk have been identified:

Table 1: Risk Assessment.

| Activity | Risk |
|--|---|
| Pruning and removal of overhanging limbs of two crack Willow trees found to have low roosting potential for bats | Risk of injury or death of bats |
| Pruning of hedge and trees and removal of overhanging limbs of two crack Willow trees | Risk of injury or death of Hazel Dormice |
| Pruning of hedge and trees and removal of overhanging limbs of two crack Willow trees | Risk of disturbance to nesting birds |
| Open excavations | Trapping of wildlife |
| Use of machinery and general construction works, storage of materials etc | Risk of damaging retained habitats and pollution of wet ditch |

Biodiversity Protection Zones

4.8 The boundary hedges and trees would be protected with tree protection fencing to BS 5837 standard where required. This fencing would be installed after the pruning of overhanging branches, where required.

4.9 Workers will be fully informed of the presence of the protection areas during the tool box talk.

Mammals

4.10 The following general measures would be implemented to protect mammals and other wildlife during the construction phase.

Any trenches and other excavations would be back-filled before nightfall or a ramp left to allow animals to easily exit.

Open pipes/ducts larger than 150 mm would be capped off overnight.

Bats

4.11 Two Crack Willow tree within the boundary hedge had potential roosting features which provide low potential for roosting bats. The overhanging limbs over the site did not provide any potential roosting features but should be removed using 'soft felling' techniques. This is a generic term used to describe more cautious felling approaches, using lowering and cushioning techniques

to reduce the impact of falling limbs, which could have bats within the cavities. Limbs with cavities should be left at the base of the tree for 24 hours before removal from the site, or left in-situ.

- 4.12 When carrying out the work, the contractor should be advised that care and vigilance should be used. The following procedures should be employed in the unlikely event a bat or bats are discovered after the pre-works inspection has been carried out:
- i. If the roost is still on the tree and bats are not injured, seek advice from a licensed ecologist. If help is not available, allow bats to fly out of harm's way.
 - ii. If the timber is felled, the roost is not exposed and the bats are not injured, temporarily seal and isolate the roost and seek advice from a licensed ecologist. If advice is not readily available, position the roost off the ground, re-open it and allow bats to relocate of their own accord.
 - iii. If the roost has been exposed, and especially if bats have been injured, collect bats in a secure box or bag (using a glove) and contact a licensed ecologist.

Lighting

- 4.13 The use of security lighting during construction has the potential to disturb foraging and commuting bats as well as other wildlife. The intention is to avoid the use of security lighting but if becomes necessary then this will only be used when and where necessary and will avoid illuminating boundary hedges and trees to minimise disturbance to foraging and commuting bats. This will be achieved by utilising highly directional LED PIR lighting with the use of shielding and the hedge and trees must not be subject to direct lighting.
- 4.14 In line with best practice, new external lighting on the new barn will be kept to a minimum in order to minimise disturbance to foraging and commuting bats and reduce skyglow. Further details are provided in the Lighting Design Strategy.

Dormice

- 4.15 The boundary hedge and trees may be utilised by Dormice and whilst this is to be retained, some trees will be subject to pruning. The pruning of the hedge and trees will be undertaken in either September or October when Dormice are active and young have become independent prior to hibernation, or occur in May when Dormice are active prior to the birth of litters. Any tree limbs removed will be soft felled and lowered gently to the ground.
- 4.16 In the event any Dormice, or evidence of Dormice is discovered, works should be suspended in the relevant areas and the ECoW is contacted for advice. Works will only recommence in accordance with the advice they give.

Lighting

- 4.17 The use of security lighting during construction has the potential to Dormice. The intention is to avoid the use of security lighting but if becomes necessary then this will only be used when and where necessary and will avoid illuminating boundary hedges and trees to minimise disturbance Hazel Dormice. This will be achieved by utilising highly directional LED PIR lighting with the use of shielding and the hedge and trees must not be subject to direct lighting.

- 4.18 In line with best practice, new external lighting on the new barn will be kept to a minimum in order to minimise disturbance to Hazel Dormice. Further details are provided in the Lighting Design Strategy.

Birds

- 4.19 The boundary hedge and trees will be retained however, some overhanging limbs will be pruned back. In the case that limb removal of trees, pruning of hedgerows or similar works are required, this will avoid the bird nesting season of March to August inclusive. In the event works are to take place during nesting season, pre-works nesting bird surveys would be carried out by the ECoW within 24 hours prior to works. Any discovered nests will be left undisturbed until the young have fledged by implementing exclusion zones around nest, the size of which will be determined by the ECoW taking into account the species and nature of the surrounding habitats. The ECoW will determine when the young have fledged and the nest is no longer in use.

Water Pollution

- 4.20 There is a wet ditch along the edge of the site and although this was noted to already be affected by polluted run-off, measures need to be taken to ensure no further pollution occurs from construction activities.
- 4.21 The foundations will be formed by concrete. Provision will be made for containing and recycling water (using settlement tanks) for washing out concrete mixing trucks and plant. The construction of the foundations will be monitored to avoid washings and concrete contaminating the ground – activities involving the pouring of concrete would not take place during periods of heavy rainfall.
- 4.22 The Site Manager will be notified immediately if any concrete spillages or concrete washout are seen likely to cause pollution.
- 4.23 During the construction phase of the project on no account would any chemicals, including vehicle fuels or lubricants be left on site at night where they might be accessed by accident or deliberately (e.g. vandals) resulting in spillage to the wet ditch. Any contractors engaged in works on the site would have in place secure storage facilities and an agreed pollution prevention plan. Appropriate pollution control equipment would be available at the site to control spillages if they do occur, spill kits etc. Any spillages would be reported to the site manager and cleared up appropriately.

General

- 4.24 Works to be carried out during daylight hours only from March – October (one hour after sunrise and ceasing one hour before sunset) to prevent disturbance of fauna such as foraging bats and dormice.

Mechanism for Ensuring Delivery

- 4.25 Upon completion of the works a report will be produced and sent to the Council Ecologist detailing and confirming that the works were carried out in accordance with this CEMP.