

Construction and Environmental Management plan (CEMP)

Housing Development at:

**Hart Road
Thundersley
Essex**

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Open Spaces
Landscape Architects
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE – TREES – ECOLOGY

Arboricultural Statement
For the
Housing Development at
Hart Road, Thundersley, Essex

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- i) This report provides a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for Biodiversity for works associated with proposals to develop land at Hart Road, Thundersley. The CEMP: Biodiversity was commissioned by Legal and General Affordable Homes.
- ii) A Preliminary Ecological Assessment of the site at Hart Road carried out in 2021 by Brooks Ecological included a recommendation to produce a CEMP for the site. The report recommended that the CEMP included recommendations for pre/during clearance checks and for management of residual construction risks of harm to:
 - Retained habitat
 - Functionally linked designated sites
 - Nesting birds
 - Reptiles
 - Badgers

Also, to include recommendations to remove and prevent possible spread of invasive species during works.

This Construction and Environmental Management Plan has been prepared as per the recommendation in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. It gives details of checks to be made during or before site clearance. It also provides an overview of working practices to be implemented during the works and clearance to avoid or minimise risk of adverse effects on the Site's ecological features and protected species.

1.2 Copyright

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1.3 Author

- i) The author of this CEMP is Dan Sullivan MCIEEM, Ecological Consultant.

1.4 Location

- i) The applicant site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ7970388595 and has an area of approximately 1.6 Ha. The proposal site consists of horse paddocks,

with hedges around the boundary, stables, a house and garden. The site is in Thundersley, Essex. Figure 1 below shows the location:

Figure 1 – Location of Proposal Site in Hart Road, Thundersley, Essex



Map Data from Google Earth

2.0 WORKS PROPOSALS AND IDENTIFICATION OF ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

2.1 Proposals

- i) The proposal involves construction of affordable housing on site, with associated roadways, car parking areas, garden areas, amenity areas including a children's play space, Tiny Forest and landscaping.

Figure 2: Proposed Site Layout



2.2 Identification of Important Ecological features and Populations on Site

- i) A Preliminary Ecological Assessment of the site was carried out in March 2021 by Brooks Ecological. This identified any important protected sites, priority

habitats and protected or otherwise important fauna that might be impacted by the development.

- ii) An Invasive Non-Native Species survey was also carried out on site in 2020 by Ebsford Environmental Ltd.
- iii) Table 1 below gives details of ecological features and populations of value which might be impacted by the proposed works, as well as invasive species on site which could be potentially spread because of the work.

Figure 3: Existing Habitats on site (Extracted from Brookes Ecological report)



Table 1: Features, populations of value and invasive species

Feature or Population	Importance and potential impacts
Local Wildlife Site (LWS) CPT23 (Southern part of the site is part of this site) and boundary habitats on site (ditches and hedgerows).	<p>This LWS has not been reviewed since 2012, and areas of this LWS within the site boundary are currently of low ecological value.</p> <p>The site contains some habitats of value, the most valuable habitats are boundary hedges and a ditch along the southern site boundary, which is within the LWS. Works could damage these areas in the absence of suitable working methods and precautions.</p>
Nesting birds	Nesting birds, eggs and chicks protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). Potential destruction of nests, eggs, chicks and/or nesting adults during site clearance.
Reptiles	Reptiles protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). Potential killing of injuring of protected reptiles during site clearance.
Badgers	Badgers and their setts are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. If setts are dug on site or nearby prior to works commencing, then works and clearance could damage or destroy setts. During works they could become trapped in trenches and holes.
Hedgehogs	Hedgehogs are a NERC Section 41 Species of Principal Importance. Site clearance could kill or injure them and during works they could become trapped in trenches and holes.
Invasive Species	Legal Status and potential impacts
Himalayan balsam	This species is listed as is listed under schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to plant this species or to cause it to grow in the wild. Site works could cause spread of this species to areas offsite if seeds were spread through soil movements or transport of cleared vegetation

Figure 4: Showing the areas on site currently part of a Local Wildlife Site



3.0 MANAGEMENT OF IMPACTS

3.1 Pre-clearance checks

- i) Pre-commencement survey should be carried out before site clearance begins. These should include:
 - A check for badger setts on-site and within 30m of the Site that may have been dug since previous survey work. Any badger setts holes found would be noted and a 30m exclusion zone (buffer) established around any sett holes. All work will remain outside of the 30m buffer. A Natural England (NE) licence application will be required then for works required within 30 m of the sett holes.
 - A check for nesting birds is required immediately prior to any vegetation clearance between 1st March and 30th September. If nesting birds are found, a 5m buffer zone will be established around the nest. No works can be carried out inside the buffer zone until an ecologist has confirmed that chicks have fledged and left the nest.

3.2 Contractors Induction

- i) Contractors on site induction should be made aware of the potential for reptiles, badgers, hedgehogs and nesting birds on site. They should also be made aware of the presence of Himalayan balsam.

3.3 Construction lighting

- i) In order to minimise the need for lighting which may disturb birds, bats and nocturnal invertebrates no night works should be carried out. In the event that use of lighting is unavoidable, for instance in winter months, the lighting will be low level, directional and positioned to avoid light spill on to surrounding habitats.

3.4 Dust management

- i) Vehicle movements should be controlled and kept to established tracks and roads.

3.5 Pollution

- i) There is a ditch along the southern boundary of the Site, therefore works involving chemicals should remain as far from the ditch as practicable. The Environment Agency (Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG), PPG1 and PPG5 should be adhered to during any works that occur within ~10m of the ditch as these give details of good practice in pollution prevention

- ii) All equipment will be regularly serviced to reduce emissions and reduce the chance of oil leaks on site. Appropriate controls in place to contain hydrocarbon leaks should they occur whilst servicing. Controls may include use of drip trays when changing oil and transporting waste oils in bunded containers. Only qualified personnel are to carry out services on plant, equipment, and vessels.
- iii) Spill will be contained and cleaned-up immediately. Resultant wastes (soils, rags and absorbent material) appropriately stored and disposed of by an appropriately licenced waste contractor as controlled waste.
- iv) All spills reported and investigated as required.

3.6 Vegetation clearance of scrub and rough grass

- i) To avoid potential risk to reptiles and hedgehogs, scrub, rough grass and ruderal vegetation should only be cleared as below:
 - All clearance works should be undertaken when common reptiles are likely to be fully active, i.e. during the April to September period. Or if outside this period only in periods when reptiles and hedgehogs may be more active and less impacted by disturbance, when temperatures are over 10 C and temperature at night is not forecast to be at or below 0 C.
 - Clearance of logs, brash, stones, rocks or piles of similar debris should be undertaken carefully and by hand.
 - Clearance of tall vegetation/rough grass/scrub/ruderal should be supervised by an ecologist. It should be undertaken using strimmers or brush cutters. Cutting should only be undertaken in a phased way and should involve:

Cutting vegetation to a height of 30mm to deter reptiles and hedgehogs and raking off cuttings if the cut vegetation left is dense.

On the following day or within a week, cut vegetation to ground level.

- Any reptiles, hedgehogs or other small animals found should be moved out of works areas into suitable habitat nearby.

3.7 Protection of hedgerows and ditch area

- i) To protect existing hedgerows and ditch areas, these should be fenced off with Heras fencing or similar to prevent works damaging them. No materials should be stored under hedgerows or in or on the banks of the ditch. Root protection

areas should be put in place around any trees and hedges as specified within a tree survey report for the area.

3.8 Himalayan balsam

- i) Himalayan balsam on site is primarily located around the ditch area in the south of the site. As recommended in the Invasive Non-native Species survey report (Ebsford, 2020), where works will be taking place in areas contained Himalayan Balsam, a watching brief should be carried out by a specialist contractor dealing with invasive plant species; this would also include a toolbox talk covering key biosecurity measures to prevent the further spread of the seedbank. Any soils moved from this area should be dealt with as advised by the specialist contractor and as recommended in the Ebsford report.

3.9 Excavation works

- i) Any trenches left overnight should be covered or provided with ramps, such as planks or sloping ends to trenches to prevent common reptiles, hedgehogs or badgers from becoming trapped.

3.10 Storage of Materials

- i) Any building materials such as bricks, stone etc. should be stored on pallets to discourage reptiles from using them as shelter. Any demolition materials should be stored in skips or similar containers rather than in piles on ground

3.11 Contingencies/emergencies

- i) Should unexpected protected species be found on site then site workers should contact either of the two contacts below for further advice:

Graeme Drummond – 01277 356511

Dan Sullivan – 07776 484947

4.0 REFERENCES

Brooks Ecological (2021) – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report – Hart Road, Thundersley

Ebsford Environmental Ltd. (2020) – Invasive Species Management Plan – Hart Road, Thundersley