

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.**



LESMOND CRESCENT, MIDDLECLIFFE

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to construct five residential dwellings with parking and gardens in an area of land off Lesmond Crescent, Middlecliffe

1.2. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council has requested a CEMP in support of that application, which is a condition of the planning application. Condition 19 is outlined below:

'No development (including construction, land raising and demolition if required) shall be carried out until a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP), detailing protection measures in accordance with the approved ECIA, is first submitted to and approved in writing by local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.'

Reason: To ensure measures are in place to protect species or habitats in accordance with Local Plan Policy BIO1 and the accompanying Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD.'

1.3. The purpose of a CEMP is to;

- Provide effective, site-specific procedures and mitigation measures to monitor and control environmental impacts throughout the construction phase of the project
- Ensure that construction activities, so far as is practical, do not adversely impact amenity, traffic or the environment in the surrounding area

1.4. A CEMP ensures that environmental impacts identified during previously performed environmental studies (e.g. an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)) or during the scoping phase, will be properly managed and that controls will be put in place to reduce the impacts of the development on the natural and human environment during construction.

2. BACKGROUND/POTENTIAL IMPACTS.

2.1. An Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) was undertaken by Whitcher Wildlife Ltd in September 2021.

2.2. This report outlined a number of ecological interests on or close to the site. These ecological risks include the following:

- There are hedgerows along the site boundary, which are a UKBAP Priority Habitat. These hedgerows will be retained.
- There is likely to be some impact on the Dearne Valley Green Heart 'Nature Improvement Area', within which the site lies, though BNG calculations have accounted for this.
- The post development biodiversity value of the sites 'area' habitats will decrease in line with the proposed works.
- There is a low potential for impact on foraging and commuting bats, though mitigation measures are in place to reduce the impact.
- There is a low potential for impact on great crested newts and reptiles due to the proposed works. Precautions have been recommended to reduce the impact.
- There is the potential for the works to impact nesting birds during the nesting season, which falls between March and September.

3. CEMP PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

Precautions specific to the ecological risks identified on site.

3.1. The client has confirmed that all hedgerows on site will be retained. This will ensure connectivity around the site is maintained, which will ensure no detriment to any foraging and commuting bats at a site level.

3.2. Increased lighting during construction could disturb foraging and commuting bats. Therefore, any permanent lighting associated with the development works will be down lit and directed away from the retained hedgerows. This will protect foraging and commuting corridors for bats.

3.3. Reptiles and Great Crested Newts.

3.3.1. There is low potential for reptiles and great crested newts being present on site, and therefore harmed / killed by the construction works. All personnel working on the site will be briefed on the potential presence of these species on the site and toolbox talks have been appended.

3.3.2. All the initial impacts on areas of grassland will be carried out with care with all site personnel being vigilant for reptiles and great crested newts.

3.3.3. In the unlikely event that any reptiles are identified, site personnel will allow the reptiles to move themselves before they proceed in that area. If multiple reptiles, or any hibernating individuals are identified, Whitcher Wildlife Ltd must be contacted for further advice. Photographic information and a record of the sighting must be kept on site.

3.3.4. In the unlikely event that any great crested newts are identified, works must cease, and Whitcher Wildlife must be contacted for advice.

3.4. Mammals.

To prevent any mammals from becoming trapped, all excavation will be profiled at the end of each shift in a way to allow mammals to escape. Alternatively, mammal ramps can be installed.

3.5. Nesting Birds.

Vegetation clearance will, as far as is feasible, be completed outside the nesting bird season, which extends from March to September. Any vegetation clearance within the nesting season will be immediately preceded by a nesting bird survey by a suitably experienced ecologist. Any active nests found will be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

General Precautions.

3.6. Protective fencing will be erected around the root protection zone for the retained hedgerows.

3.7. Existing access roads will be used by all traffic entering or leaving the site.

3.8. All materials that could potentially become pollutants will be stored away from any of the retained habitats.

3.9. All plant in use on the site will carry spill kits in case of any emergency leakages and there will be standard procedures in place to promptly deal with any issues that may arise without allowing contamination into the water table.

3.10. All plant brought onto the site will be cleaned prior to delivery to minimise the chances of contamination being brought onto the site, in particular materials contaminated with alien invasive plant species and their seeds.

3.11. Periodic walk over inspections will be undertaken to check for any additional alien invasive plant species. In the unlikely event that any are found, measures will be taken to ensure their immediate eradication. Where necessary, a procedure for that eradication will be agreed with the ecologists.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES.

4.1. The site manager will be appointed to take full responsibility for the procedures on the site. This will include the buffer zones around retained habitats on site and the timings of the works to ensure this document is complied with.

4.2. They will also be responsible for due diligence with respect to site cleanliness, avoidance of contamination and prompt detection of alien invasive plant species.

4.3. Whitcher Wildlife ecologists will provide further advice on the protected species and carry out further surveys and Ecological Clerk of Works roles, where required.

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Toolbox Talk: Reptiles

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Identification: Grass Snakes.

The grass snake can be up to 120cm long. It is generally dark green in colour but may occasionally appear grey with vertical black bars and spots that run along its sides. There is usually a yellow marking around the neck.



Other Reptiles.

In addition to the reptiles outlined on this document, there are also two other reptile species in Great Britain, the smooth snakes and the sand lizard. These reptiles are a lot less common than the four species covered with the smooth snake being predominantly found on heathland in southern England and the sand lizard found throughout Great Britain in coastal dune areas.

These species are also afforded a higher level of protection because they are European Protected Species.

Identification: Adders.

The adder is the only native species that is venomous, but it is rarely harmful to humans. Adult adders are generally up to 66cm long. Back ground colouration is a light shade of grey or brown with a black zigzag marking along the length of the back. As with all reptiles, colouration varies and becomes duller as sloughing (skin shedding) approaches.



Habitat.

Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies and then later they may move back into the shade so as not to overheat. Hence, reptiles require a habitat that provides a range of suitable refugia for shelter such as dense vegetation, rubble or log piles, or crevices and open areas for basking such as bare ground, rocks or railway ballast shoulders. During hot summers reptiles may be found in damper, cooler sites. Reptiles hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators.

Identification: Slow Worms.

Slow worms grow to around 45cm in length. The males and females display a marked difference in colour when fully grown. In general, the species displays colouring that varies from light brown, dark brown, grey, bronze or brick red with the females often displaying a dark vertebral stripe and both males and females displaying occasional markings on the flanks.



Identification: Common Lizards.

Common lizards grow to around 16cm. They are grey brown to dark brown, often with a darker streak that may run the entire length of the spine. A continuous dark band bordered by light yellow or white spots is often seen on either side of the body. The underside of the males is egg yolk yellow to orange spotted with black. Females are yellowish grey.



When disturbed in their natural habitat reptiles will usually move away quickly.

Legislation.

Reptiles are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

If reptiles are identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk

Identification: Great Crested Newts

If newts are identified during works the following document can be used to identify whether the newts are likely to be Great Crested Newts.

The newts should also be photographed and professional advice should be sought on the way forward.

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Great crested newts can grow up to 15cm in length. They are dark, nearly black in colour with a speckled belly which is distinctly orange in colour and with orange stripes across their toes.



Great crested newts and other amphibians will often be found underneath refugia such as logs, stones and other rubbish on the ground. They will also often be found in railway ballast and in cable troughs.



If great crested newts are identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 07947 828137 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk