



**PADDOCK ROAD, STAINCROSS.**

**OS REF: SE 33411 10311.**

**CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

**Ref No: 200748/CEMP.**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Planning consent has been granted for a residential development on the land of and adjacent to Woodview Farm on Paddock Lane in Staincross.

1.2. Condition 10 of that consent states -

“Notwithstanding the submitted details, no development shall take place (including demolition, ground works and vegetation clearance) until a Construction Environmental Management Plan - Biodiversity (CEMP-B) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The CEMP-B shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities
- Identification of ‘biodiversity protection zones’
- 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)
- The location 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 before sunset)
- Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs, including advanced installation and maintenance during the construction period
- The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works.
- Responsible persons and lines of communication
- The role and responsibilities on site of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) or similarly competent person(s)

Reason: To conserve and enhance biodiversity in accordance with Local Plan BIO1 Biodiversity and Geo Diversity and the SPD's Biodiversity and Geodiversity, and Trees and Hedgerows.”

1.3. This document has been prepared to satisfy that condition.

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## **2. CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ISSUES.**

### *a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities*

2.1. The main ecological risk highlighted in the Ecological Impact Assessment is the presence of potential nesting bird habitats throughout the site. Vegetation clearance within the nesting bird season, which extends from March to September each year, could potentially have a high negative impact on nesting birds at a site level.

2.2. It has been assessed that the site provides potential basking and refugia habitat for low numbers of common reptile species. Therefore, there is a low risk to reptiles during construction activities.

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*b) Identification of “biodiversity protection zones”*

3.1. There are no designated sites in the immediate area around the survey area and therefore, the proposed development of the site will have no impact on such sites.

3.2. No mitigation for the impact on designated sites is planned or necessary.

3.3. The native hedgerows around the boundaries of the site are Priority Habitats under the NERC Act 2006, and all but three will be retained. These hedgerows and their respective root protection zones will be fenced off to prevent unnecessary entry and potential damage to the habitats, therefore retaining the biodiversity value of the habitats.

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*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)*

4.1. In the event any vegetation clearance is necessary within the nesting season, it will be preceded by a nesting bird survey carried out by an experienced ecologist no more than two days before the works are carried out.

4.2. Any vegetation that needs to be cleared will be first cut to a minimum of 200mm to make the area less desirable to reptiles and to encourage them to vacate the area before the area is then cleared down to ground level.

4.3. A separate Precautionary Working Method Statement has been prepared by Whitcher Wildlife (March 2024) to satisfy condition 24 of this planning application. That document provides practical measures to avoid impacts during construction on bats, amphibians, and small mammals.

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*d) The location 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 before sunset)*

5.1. Where possible, all vegetation clearance and commencement of works to the buildings will be undertaken between September and March to avoid the nesting bird season. Where this is not possible, these works will be immediately preceded by a nesting bird survey. Any active nests found will need to be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

5.2. Work hours will be restricted to daylight hours only, starting one hour after sunrise and ceasing one hour before sunset.

5.3. Any vegetation to be cleared through the implementation of a two-stage cut process. It will be first cut to a minimum of 200mm to make the area less desirable to reptiles, hedgehogs and other small wildlife species and to encourage them to vacate the area before the area is then cleared down to ground level.

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*e) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs, including advanced installation and maintenance during the construction period*

6.1. Heras fencing with warning signs against unauthorised entry into the areas of retained habitat will prevent unnecessary entry and potential damage to the habitats, therefore retaining the biodiversity value of the habitats.

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*f) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works.*

7.1. In the event any vegetation clearance is necessary within the nesting season, an experienced ecologist will be present on site to carry out a nesting bird survey no more than two days before the works are carried out.

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*g) The role of a responsible person (Ecological Clerk of Works) and lines of communication*

8.1. The Ecological Clerk of Works will be Ruth Georgiou, Whitcher Wildlife Ltd. Telephone number 07947 828137. At any time the Ruth is unavailable and advice is required urgently, Whitcher Wildlife Ltd can also be contacted on 07954 015296 or [info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk](mailto:info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk), where another ecologist can provide the relevant advice. This information will be displayed in the site office.

8.2. The Ecological Clerk of the Works will be available on the a mobile phone at all times should the site manager encounter any ecology issues. They will either advise over the phone or, where necessary, will attend site to advise in person.

8.3. Should personnel on site have any ecological concerns at any point throughout the works, they will contact the Ecological Clerk of Works immediately.

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Prepared by:	
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### 3. REFERENCES.

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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](mailto:info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk)



## Toolbox Talk: Nesting Birds

The bird nesting season varies according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September.

A bird's nest is the place in which a bird lays and incubates its eggs. Some species build a nest structure while other species lay their eggs directly onto the ground or on a rocky ledge. Nests can be constructed from a variety of materials and are usually lined with feathers or fur.

### Identification.

Some birds construct nests in an area where it can be seen while others construct nests that are hidden from view and are more difficult to identify.

The photograph to the right shows a Moorhen nest which can easily be seen.



Nests can also be identified from field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself. The presence of a nest can be identified by seeing the adult birds leaving and returning to the nest regularly with food to feed the chicks.

The photograph to the left shows a Wren's nest in overhanging tree roots, which is almost impossible to see.



Care should be taken at any time during the nesting season particularly when regular bird activity is seen, or birds can be heard calling.



### Habitat.

Birds regularly nest in a variety of places with some species nesting in buildings or vegetation and others nesting on the ground or on water. However, birds may nest in any habitat or situation if they identify a suitable nest site.



### Legislation.

Part 1. -(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that:

If any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Kills, injures or takes any wild bird.
- Takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built, or
- Takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird.

He shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that:

If any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young, or
- Disturbs young of such a bird.

He shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

**If a nest or potential nesting activity is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at [info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk](mailto:info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk)**

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