



BEMP (BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT MANAGEMNET PLAN)

METHOD STATEMENT

ROYD MOOR HOUSE FARM

SEPTEMBER 2025

APPLICATION NO. 2024/0292

As part of the BEMP, in condition no. 7 on the approved planning permission 2024/0292

*Condition no. 7*

*Prior to the commencement of works, above damp proof course level on any permitted building, a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (BEMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The BEMP should include the following;*

- Details on the type and location of integrated bat and bird boxes to be installed in the dwellings (minimum of one per dwelling as per the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD, in addition to the proposed bat mitigation measures);*
- Location of hedgehog highways (to be signposted to present residents blocking gaps);*
- Method statement for the sensitive removal of habitats to avoid impacts to small mammals; and*
- Sensitive lighting scheme to mitigate impacts to foraging, commuting and roosting bats.*

*Reason: In the interests of Biodiversity in accordance with Local Plan Policy BIO1.*

A method statement is requested for the sensitive removal of habitats on site if present and to help avoid impacts to small mammals. The following pages below provide t/he information required.

Small mammals and reptiles identified in the PEA suggest the following.

Birds, Bats, badgers, great crested newts, reptiles, Western European hedgehogs and Brown hare.

The following report and plan 2037-00-21C should be read in conjunction with each other and show the required bat & bird box locations, hedgehog highways and sensitive lighting scheme.

## **1. Badgers**

### **Recommendations are as follows**

Reasonable Avoidance Measures should be employed before and during construction works to prevent harm to this protected species.

- a) If works are not commencing within 12 months of the initial survey a follow-up survey will be required to ensure badgers are still absent from the site.
- b) Any exposed excavations to be left overnight are to be covered at the end of each working day or include a means of escape for any fallen animals (e.g., a scaffolding plank). Any temporarily exposed open pipes are to be capped to prevent badgers gaining access.
- c) Should badgers or any evidence of badgers be encountered during the construction phase, all works should cease, and the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist should be sought

TIMING - Pre and during development

## **2. Great Crested newts**

### **Recommendations are as follows**

The following reasonable avoidance measures should be implemented during the construction phase to prevent GCN colonising any potential habitat incidentally created by spoil, open trenches, or arisings.

- a) Clearance work should be conducted outside of hibernation period (October to February).
- b) Prework clearance of log and rubble piles should be conducted by hand to facilitate the escape of GCN from the area.
- c) All materials to be stored off the ground (for example on pallets) to minimise the likelihood of GCN accessing them for refugia.
- d) All spoil/waste materials to be removed from site at the end of each working day (or stored in a skip).
- e) If within the active season for GCN. Vegetation removal should be completed directionally, i.e., working from one side of the site to the other cut the vegetation in lengths down to 150mm until completed across the site. Once complete over the whole site to 150mm, vegetation can be cut to ground level, again directionally to facilitate the escape of GCN from the working area.

Once completed the area should be maintained until works commence on the site, to maintain unsuitability for GCN. If any evidence of GCN presence is

uncovered during development works, then works should cease and the advice of an ecologist sought.

TIMING – During construction.

### **3. Reptiles**

#### **Recommendations are as follows**

The site holds suitability for the species with, semi improved grassland and dry-stone walls present. It is also possible that small numbers could traverse through the site to better habitats present to the wider landscape. Therefore, reptiles could be impacted by the development during the construction phase. Works should seek to follow Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) during the active season (April to October) for reptiles such as;

- a) Dry stone walls present on the site should be dismantled (if applicable) by hand to facilitate the species to easily escape from the working area.
- b) Vegetation removal should be completed directionally, if cut within the active season for reptiles. i.e., working from one side of the site to the other cut the vegetation in lengths down to 150mm until completed across the site. Once complete over the whole site to 150mm, vegetation can be cut to ground level, again directionally to facilitate the escape of reptile species from the working area. Once completed the area should be maintained until works commence on the site, to maintain unsuitability for reptiles.
- c) If burning any cleared vegetation, carry out immediately after piling to prevent reptiles moving in prior to burning.
- d) If clearance works can be completed within the inactive season (November to March) then no reasonable avoidance measures are required to be followed for reptile species, as the site is unlikely to support species within hibernation period.

TIMING - During construction works phase during the active season – between April to October.

### **4. Western European hedgehog/brown hare**

Hedgehogs and brown hare may use the site for foraging or commuting purposes. The recommended reasonable avoidance measures should be followed:

- a) Any temporarily exposed open pipes are to be capped to prevent hedgehogs or brown hare gaining access.

- b) Undertake works during daylight hours.
- c) The vegetation should be checked prior to removal
- d) Search areas of deadwood, brash, and discarded items by hand before removing.
- e) If burning any cleared vegetation, carry out immediately after piling to prevent hedgehogs moving in prior to burning.
- f) Any exposed excavations to be left overnight are to be covered at the end of each working day or include a means of escape for any fallen animals (e.g., a scaffolding plank).

TIMING - During clearance and development

#### Enhancement Prescriptions

Use of native shrubs in soft landscaping proposals will provide benefits on site for native fauna post development. For hedgehogs, gaps approximately 20x20cm could be left in any new boundary fencing to enable any hedgehogs present to continue to use the site post construction. A single Schwegler Hedgehog Dome, or similar approved, should be incorporated into the design of the scheme to promote the conservation status of this mammal species.

TIMING - Post development

#### **Guidelines for Sensitive Lighting**

To mitigate the negative impacts of lighting on bats, the following guidelines should be considered when designing lighting schemes:

1. **Avoid Lighting Key Habitats:** Do not install lighting in areas known to be used by bats for roosting, commuting, or foraging. This includes avoiding light spill onto these habitats.
2. **Use Low Lux Level Lighting:** Implement lighting that maintains low illuminance levels (e.g., no greater than 3 lux average) to minimize disturbance.
3. **Select Appropriate Light Sources:** Use warm white LED lights or high-pressure sodium lamps, which are less attractive to insects and, consequently, to bats. Additionally, minimize UV emissions from lighting, as bats are particularly sensitive to UV light.

4. **Implement Shielding and Directional Lighting:** Use fixtures that direct light downward and shield light sources to reduce spill into bat habitats. This helps maintain dark corridors that bats rely on for navigation.
5. **Consult Expert Guidance:** Follow the latest guidance from organizations like the Bat Conservation Trust and the Institution of Lighting Professionals, which provide comprehensive recommendations for minimizing the impact of artificial lighting on bats.