

ENVIRONMENT

Homes by Honey Ltd
Barnburgh Lane
Goldthorpe
Precautionary Working Method
Statement

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Precautionary Working Method Statement

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October 2023

DOCUMENT ISSUE RECORD

Document Number:	BLG-BWB-ZZ-XX-RP-LE-0005_PWMS
BWB Reference:	XXXXX_ Precautionary Working Method Statement

Revision	Date of Issue	Status	Author:	Checked:	Approved:
P01	08/10/2023	S1	Ben McLean BSc (Hons) MCIEEM	Ben McLean BSc (Hons) MCIEEM	Jim MacQueen BA (Hons)

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Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan

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Table 4.1: Timeline of Works

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 This Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been produced on behalf of Homes by Honey (the 'Client') in respect of a proposed residential development for a 'Residential development of 95no. dwellings (Amended Plans).'
- 1.2 This PWMS has been produced to address planning condition 25 associated with the planning application Ref: 2023/0195 for the development proposals as described above. The Condition states:
- 1.3 *"No development shall take place (including vegetation/site clearance) until a Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) for amphibians, bats (including details regarding the soft felling of trees with bat roost potential) and small mammals has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The PWMS will be completed by a suitably qualified ecologist and the approved PWMS shall be implemented in full according to the specified timescales, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

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".

The Project

- 1.4 Current proposals are for a full planning application for residential development of the Site including the development of 95 dwellings.

Aims & Objectives

- 1.5 The primary purpose of this report is to outline a working methodology and timings for Site clearance works to protect amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals. The document also provides protection measures to be undertaken both during the Site clearance works and construction phase.

Location

- 1.6 The Site is located at Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. The Site itself comprises an arable field, with a small area of scrub within the eastern corner of the Site. The Site is approximately 3.1 hectares (ha) in extent and is centred on grid reference SE 46905 03975. The land is generally flat with a slight upward incline to the west and situated approximately between 39 and 33 metres above ordnance datum (m AOD).
- 1.7 The location of the Site can be found in **Figure 1.1**.



Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan

Previous Ecology Reports and Surveys

1.8 The following previous reports for the Site were reviewed to identify the ecological constraints at the Site in order to inform this document:

- BWB (2023) Ecological Impact Assessment: Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe. Report Ref: BLG-BWB-ZZ-XX-RP-LE-0001_Ecological Impact Assessment.

Existing Site - Habitats

1.9 The Site habitats comprise an arable field, with marginal modified grassland, a small area of scrub, ditches (which were mostly dry and considered to be dry throughout spring and summer), and short sections of managed hedgerow. The arable land, modified grassland, scrub and section of dry ditch will be lost due to the development.

Existing Site - Species

1.10 The Site was considered to provide some limited suitability for badgers, bats, birds, common and widespread species of invertebrates, hedgehogs, fox and rabbit, with other species potentially present within the wider areas including otter and common reptiles.

1.11 The development proposals were considered to have the potential to impact foraging and commuting bats as well as potential injury to badgers, birds, hedgehogs and other mammals during the Site clearance and construction phases of the development.

-
- 1.12 Mitigation measures recommended included good working practices during construction, a sensitive lighting scheme, a pre-works check for badger setts and a development specific Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) to detail all mitigation and enhancement measures (BWB, 2023).
- 1.13 No suitability for roosting bats was identified within the trees on-Site and therefore it is not considered necessary for measures regarding roosting bats to be provided within this method statement.
- 1.14 A Construction Environmental Management Plan (Biodiversity) (CEMP-B) has been produced for the Site which details mitigation measures for the Site clearance and construction works for the following:
- Retained Habitats;
 - Badgers;
 - Foraging and Commuting bats; and,
 - Nesting birds.
- 1.15 The CEMP-B should be read in conjunction with this Precautionary Working Method Statement.

2. MEASURES TO AVOID OR REDUCE IMPACTS DURING SITE CLEARANCE WORKS

- 2.1 The following impacts and associated mitigation measures are relevant for amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals which could be impacted by the Site clearance and vegetation clearance works.

Site Clearance Phase Working Methodology

- 2.2 A working methodology including measures to protect amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals during the vegetation and Site clearance phase of the development has been provided below.
- 2.3 Works within the arable field can proceed at any time of the year as the risk associated with this habitat are negligible for amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals. However, as all species receive legal protection during nesting, it is advised to conduct vegetation clearance outside of the breeding bird season of March to August (inclusive). Work outside of this period should still be preceded by a nesting bird survey carried out by contractors, as some species can nest all year round. If it is necessary to conduct Site clearance within this period, it should be preceded by a nesting bird check conducted by an ecologist. Active nests found at any time will remain unaffected until all chicks have fledged.
- 2.4 The other habitats within the Site, namely marginal modified grassland, a small area of scrub, ditches (which were mostly dry and considered to be dry throughout spring and summer), and short sections of managed hedgerow, should follow the below methods:
- Works on these habitats must be undertaken outside of the hibernation period for hedgehogs (March to October inclusive), and within suitable temperatures and suitable weather conditions (temperatures between 5°C and 18°C, with no prolonged periods of dry weather).
 - Prior to removal, dense areas of vegetation will be hand searched for the presence of amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE). Where amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals are encountered, they will be removed from the working area and placed in the a suitable location outside of the Site (in a suitable location to the north of the Site).
 - Following the inspection by the SQE, the vegetation within these habitats will be cut to approximately 20cm in height. This will then be left for a period of 24 hours to allow amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals present to disperse.
 - Once a period of 24 hours has elapsed, the area will be checked again by the SQE then the vegetation will be removed.
 - Where works are delayed, vegetation should be maintained at a height of less than 15cm to retain unsuitability for amphibians and reptiles.
 - The vegetation should be cleared in a directional manner, from south to north in order to allow amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals into the suitable habitats adjacent to the Site to the north.

- During the Site clearance works, all cuttings should be removed from Site in order to prevent the creation of suitable refugia for amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals. Where accumulation of vegetation does occur, the vegetation should be hand searched by an SQE prior to removal from Site.
- Arisings from vegetation clearance can be used to create suitable refugia for the brash piles. Where these are created prior to the completion of construction, the area and a suitable buffer should be fenced off to prevent accidental interference by site personnel or disturbance by machinery.
- Under no circumstances should amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals be chased or handled by inexperienced persons unless the animal is in immediate danger. Any instances of emergency handling or injury/fatalities should be reported to BWB immediately.
- Where an amphibian, hedgehog or other small mammal is encountered or becomes entrapped, BWB should be contacted in the first instance to provide advice. If a hedgehog is found during works they should be left in situ and recovered with vegetation as dependant on the times of year care advice may differ. This is due to the risks associated with disturbance of hedgehogs during hibernation or when they have young as disturbance during these periods can lead to mortality. If BWB is uncontactable for any reason the British Hedgehog Preservation Society should be contacted for further advice Tel: 01584 890 801.

3. MEASURES TO AVOID OR REDUCE IMPACTS DURING CONSTRUCTION

- 3.1 The following impacts and associated mitigation measures are relevant to of amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals which may be impacted by the construction works.
- 3.2 Construction workers will be made aware of the potential presence of amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals within the Site during the pre-start toolbox talk delivered during the Site induction. At this time, they should be asked to sign a register to show that they have attended and understood the methods to be deployed on-Site regarding amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals.
- 3.3 Good practice measures during construction should be implemented at the Site to prevent amphibians and reptiles becoming trapped within open excavations or injured as a result of the proposed works:
- mammal ladders (such as a wooden plank) or earth ramps to be placed in any open excavations at the end of each day;
 - any open pipework to be capped overnight to prevent mammals from accessing the pipe work and becoming stuck;
 - excavations should be checked each morning and evening for the presence of trapped animals;
 - materials should be stored off the ground on pallets to prevent reptiles and amphibians utilising any materials as refuge;
 - night work should be avoided where possible, and any flood lighting should face away from the designated wildlife corridor; and,
 - any chemicals or machinery are to be stored in a secure compound.
- 3.4 Where any amphibians, hedgehogs and other small mammals are encountered or become entrapped, BWB should be contacted in the first instance to provide advice.

4.1 A timeline of implementation for the site clearance mitigation measures outlined within this document (where applicable) has been provided in **Table 4.1** below:

[illegible]

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Works in arable land	Anytime of the year											
Other vegetation clearance			In suitable weather conditions									
Hand searches of vegetation by SQE			In suitable weather conditions only prior to vegetation clearance.									
1 st cut to 20cm			In suitable weather conditions only									
Cut to ground level			In suitable weather conditions only									
Maintenance of sward at 15cm	Anytime of the year											
Creation of log and brash piles	Anytime of the year											

5. REFERENCES

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