Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

WEST STREET, WORSBROUGH.

OS REF: SE 35870 03651.

CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Ref No: **230863/CEMP.**

Date: **1st September 2024.**

Unit 34, The Business Village, Cudworth, Barnsley. S72 8RP.
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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Planning consent has been granted for a residential development on land at West Street, Worsbrough.

1.2. Draft Condition 21 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',
- An invasive non-native species protocol to ensure Japanese knotweed is not spread in the wild,
- 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 may 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).

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

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2. CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ISSUES.

2.1. Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities

2.1.1. The tree line alongside the Trans-Pennine trail provides a potentially good value bat foraging habitat.

2.1.2. The vegetation on site provides some opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to September each year.

2.1.3. The site has very limited potential for amphibians, reptiles, hedgehogs, small mammals and invertebrates to be present on the site. Nevertheless, they may be present in low number.

2.1.4. Two alien, invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) were found growing within the survey area and therefore, there will potentially be a high negative impact on the spread of Schedule 9 plants in the wild.

2.1.4.1. Japanese knotweed clumps were found down the western site boundary, along the southern site boundary with one clump on the eastern site boundary. It looks as though the plant has been spread across the site during previous site clearance works and this has resulted in new clumps of small plants appearing.

2.1.4.2. There is a Virginia creeper growing on the mesh fence between the site and the Tran-Pennine trail.

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2.2. Identification of "biodiversity protection zones"

2.2.1. 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.

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

2.2.3. The native hedgerow Along the southern site boundary of the site is a Priority Habitat under the NERC Act 2006. This will be retained unaffected by the works. This hedgerow and its root protection zone will be fenced off to prevent unnecessary entry and potential damage to the habitat, therefore retaining the biodiversity value of the habitat.

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2.3. An invasive non-native species protocol to ensure Japanese knotweed is not spread in the wild.

2.3.1. All areas of Japanese knotweed will be marked out by an ecologist early in the growing season.

2.3.2. All clumps of the plant will be securely fenced off with Heras fencing at a distance of 7m from each plant. The fences will be labelled with signs showing the areas to contain Japanese knotweed plants and allowing no unauthorised entry.

2.3.3. Prior to any other works commencing on site, a specialist contractor will be appointed to eradicate the plants. The contractor will provide a method of working outlining how they will eradicate the plant without allowing it to spread.

2.3.4. Documentary evidence of completion of these works will be provided and a copy forwarded to the Local Authority.

2.4. 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)

2.4.1. 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.

2.4.2. 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 hedgehogs and to encourage them to vacate the area before the area is then cleared down to ground level.

2.4.3. After twenty-four hours have elapsed, the vegetation can be carefully cleared down to ground level.

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2.5. 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)

2.5.1. 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.

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

2.5.3. 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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2.6. Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs, including advanced installation and maintenance during the construction period

2.6.1. All areas of Japanese knotweed and Virginia creeper will be marked out by an ecologist early in the growing season. All clumps of the plant will then be securely fenced off with Heras fencing at a distance of 7m from each plant. The fences will be labelled with signs showing the areas to contain Japanese knotweed, and/or Virginia creeper plants and allowing no unauthorised entry.

2.6.2. Heras fencing with warning signs against unauthorised entry into the areas of retained habitat will prevent unnecessary entry and potential damage to the root zone of the adjacent vegetation along the southern site boundary. To ensure the retention of that habitat.

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

2.7.1. An ecologist will carefully mark out all clumps of Japanese knotweed prior to fencing the clumps to prevent unauthorised entry around the plants.

2.7.2. 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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2.8. Responsible persons and lines of communication.

2.8.1. A Site Manager and deputy will be appointed by Hoober Homes Ltd to be responsible for all issues on the site during the development.

2.8.2. The site Manager, his deputy or any other member of the development team will be able to contact the ECoW on 07778 660065 at any time when they wish to discuss any ecological issue on the site.

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2.9. The role and responsibilities on site of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) or similarly competent person(s)

2.9.1. The Ecological Clerk of Works will be Derek Whitcher, BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI, of Whitcher Wildlife Ltd. Telephone number 07778 660065. At any time that Derek is unavailable and advice is required urgently, Whitcher Wildlife Ltd can also be contacted on 07947 828137 or info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk, where another ecologist can provide the relevant advice. This information will be displayed in the site office.

2.9.2. The Ecological Clerk of the Works will be available on 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.

2.9.3. 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:	
Derek Whitcher, BSC, MCIEEM MCMI	Date: 1st September 2024

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou. BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 8th September 2024

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Toolbox Talk: Japanese Knotweed

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

Japanese Knotweed is a large hollow stemmed herbaceous perennial plant that is native to eastern Asia. The plant was originally imported into the UK as an ornamental plant and has since been included onto the list of Schedule 9 invasive non-native plants due to its highly invasive growth.

Identification: Japanese Knotweed.

Japanese Knotweed is a hollow stemmed plant that is very changeable throughout the seasons with new shoots in the spring, full grown flowering plants in during late summer and dead stems during the winter.


The shoots of the plant are speckled purple and it forms large dense stands to 3 metres in height with creamy white flowers in the late summer.


Identification: Giant Knotweed and Hybrid Knotweed.

Giant Knotweed and Hybrid Knotweed are very similar plants to Japanese Knotweed with the predominant difference being leaf shape and the size of the plant. Giant Knotweed can grow to 4 or 5m in height

Legislation

Under section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence for it to be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild.

Habitat and Spreading

Japanese Knotweed is diverse and will grow in most situations eventually shutting out the light and killing off the surrounding species of plant.

The plant is a highly invasive fast-growing plant species that can grow up to 10cm per day. It can grow from any part of the crown, stem or rhizomes (underground shoots) spread to another area with a new plant potentially growing in within 10 days although rhizome segments can lay dormant for up to twenty years before developing into a plant.

The rhizomes and roots systems of the plant can spread for up to 7m from the plant to a depth of 2m.

Japanese Knotweed re-growth can cause damage with new shoots being capable of growing through tarmac or concrete and the potential for the plant to cause extensive damage to structures.


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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Toolbox Talk: Amphibians

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Identification: Smooth Newts.

Smooth newts can grow to around 10cm in length. They are usually brown in colour, often with visible black spots on the upper body. Their belly is pale orange with black spots fading away to the sides. The males have a wavy crest running from head to tail, although this can sometimes only be visible in water.

Identification: Palmate Newts.

Palmate newts are very similar to smooth newts but are usually smaller, to around 9cm. Their throat is usually pink and unspotted. The males often have webbed back feet and a fine filament at the end of the tail during the breeding season.

Identification: Common Frogs.

Common frogs are one of the more common amphibians in the UK. They have smooth skin with a distinctive patch behind their eyes. They are predominantly green or brown with black patches although their colour can vary through orange, red or black.

Identification: Common Toads.

Common toads are a Species of Principal Importance in the UK.

Common toads have rough warty skin with two distinctive lumps behind the eyes. When disturbed they have a tendency to remain still, when moving they crawl rather than hopping.

Other Amphibians.

In addition to the common amphibians listed adjacent there are also three other species present in the UK, those being great crested newts, natterjack toads and pool frogs. These species are less common.

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

Habitat.

Amphibians predominantly live on land but breed in ponds. The aquatic requirements for each species vary slightly although the presence of one species does not rule out the potential presence of the other species.

When not in their ponds amphibians require a variety of refugia for shelter and can therefore be found under log piles, in rubble, under tree roots or within areas of scrub or rough grassland. Amphibians hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators.

Legislation.

The common amphibians listed above are protected only by Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This section prohibits sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale and advertising to sell or to buy. Collection and keeping of these amphibians is not an offence.

The common toad is also listed as a Species of Principal Importance in the UK.

If amphibians are identified during works, allow them to move away of their own accord.
If large numbers or amphibians (5+) are identified stop works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk

Toolbox Talk: Hedgehog

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The hedgehog was a common species once widespread throughout the country but suffered a major decline in the 20th Century due to loss of habitat. They are now found distributed across the UK, but the population increases to the south and east. Hedgehogs are therefore rare in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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Identification: Hedgehog

The hedgehog is a small, spiney mammal around 20cm long with a long snout. The hedgehog's back and sides are covered in 25 mm (1") long spines. These are absent from the face, chest, belly, throat and legs which are covered with a coarse, grey-brown fur. Hedgehogs roam the countryside at night and can walk one to two miles while foraging.

Habitat

The hedgehog got its name because of its peculiar foraging habits. They root through hedges and other undergrowth in search of their favourite food – small creatures such as insects, worms, centipedes, snails, mice, frogs, and snakes. As it moves through the hedges it emits pig-like grunts — thus, the name hedgehog.

Legislation

The hedgehog is considered an endangered species, but it benefits only from general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They are listed on schedule 6 of the Act which makes it illegal to kill or capture wild hedgehogs, with certain methods listed. They are also listed under the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996), which prohibits cruel treatment of hedgehogs and they are a species of 'principal importance' under the NERC Act, which is meant to confer a 'duty of responsibility to public bodies'.

However, none of these deal with the issues that are a threat to the hedgehog. The main threat is the increasing loss of habitat, the increasing traffic on our roads and the increasing use of herbicides, in particular those used to kill garden slugs.

Hedgehog Hibernation.

Hedgehogs hibernate from October/November through to March/April although exact timings are dependent on the weather. However, hedgehogs will still move from one place to another during hibernation and therefore can be seen out and about during the winter. Hedgehogs hibernate under dense dead leaves and vegetation and this can cause another threat to them, the results of disturbance to their hibernacula. Many will seek shelter beneath piles of garden debris and are killed when such piles are set fire to.

Hedgehog Help.

We can help hedgehogs by:

- Leaving wild corners in our gardens.
- Leaving access gaps under garden fences.
- Leaving water bowls out during dry periods.
- Leaving cat food or dog food out at night
- Being careful when starting fires to ensure no hedgehogs are sleeping

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

Toolbox Talk: Nesting Birds

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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 icubates 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