

## ROCKLEY DENE, WORSBOROUGH, BARNSELY

### CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: Biodiversity (CEMP:Biodiversity)

July 2025

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

This report provides construction guidance for the proposed development at Rockley Dene for an application of the conversion of existing buildings including change of use from C2 Residential Institution to C3 Residential, consisting of 24No. Apartments with associated amenity and parking.

This CEMP is prepared to discharge Condition 5 of the Decision Notice (Decision Notice PP-2024/1007), which 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:*

- a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities.*
- b) Identification of 'biodiversity protection zones.*
- c) An Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) protocol to ensure INNS are not spread in the wild.*
- d) 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);*
- e) 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);*
- f) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs, including advanced installation and maintenance during the construction period.*
- g) Responsible persons and lines of communication.*
- h) 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 Policy BIO1.”***

## 1.2 Site Description

The redline application area (known as 'the Site') is approximately 0.42ha in extent. The Site, formerly known as Rockley Dene Nursing Home, is located on land at Park Lane, Worsborough, Barnsley. The central Ordnance Survey Grid Reference is SE 35255 03833.

The Site comprises two complex buildings and associated hardstanding; amenity grassland and a small, ornamental pond; perimeter ornamental planting and mature nature trees border the site along its eastern, southern and southwestern perimeters. Additionally, there are scattered trees planted through the centre of the site, forming a connective green corridor. The A61 (Park Road) runs along the tree-lined eastern perimeter of the Site, across the road, beyond a wall, runs a small, culverted stream; further trees and suburban housing are also present. The Site is surrounded by suburban housing and gardens to its immediate western and northern boundaries, and an allotment and small tree-bordered grassland area lie immediately adjacent to the north-northwest.



Figure 1: OS Map showing site location within the wider geographic context (OS online 2024).

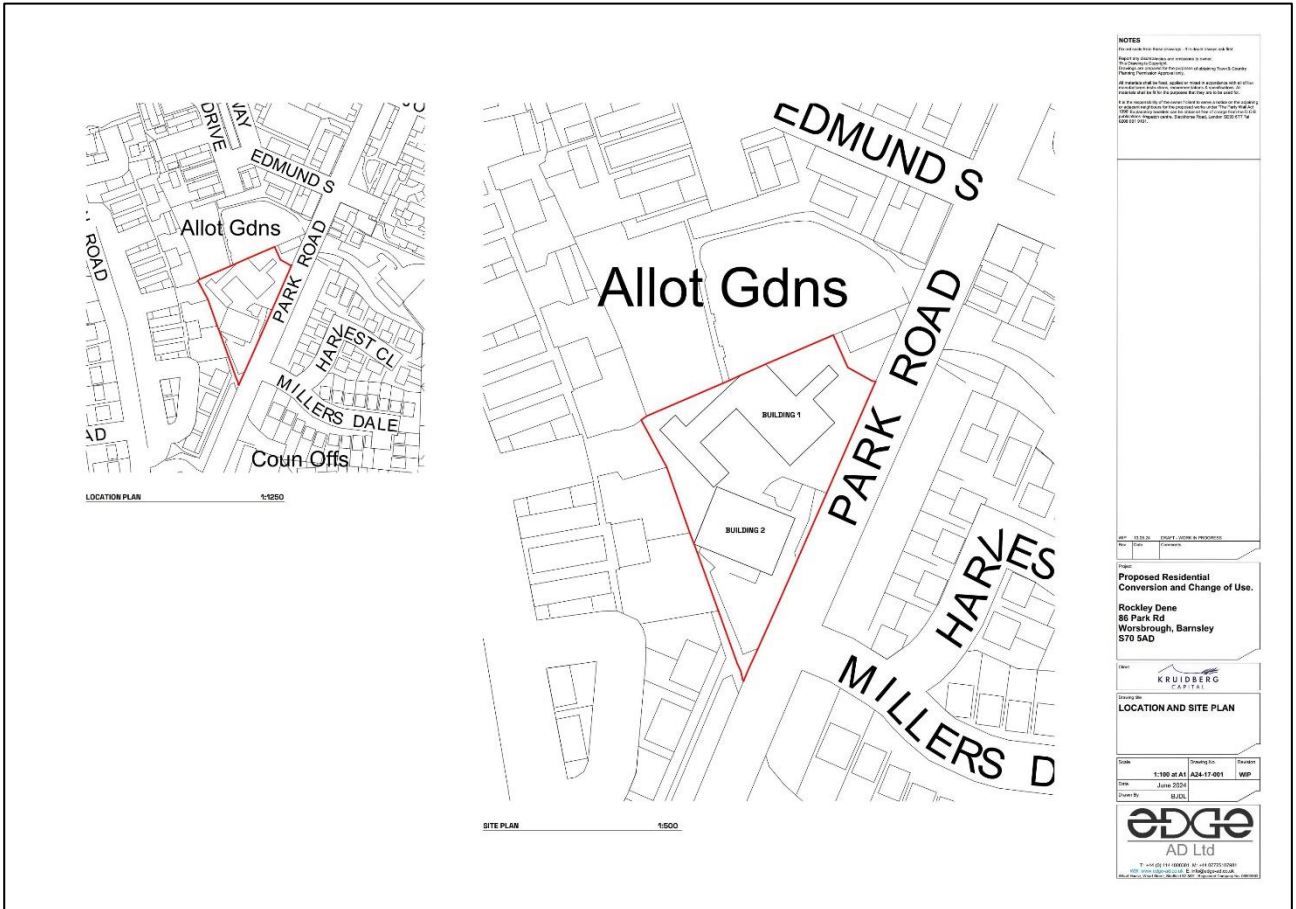


Figure 2: Red line boundary of application area

## WEDDLES

Rockley Dene, Worsbrough, Barnsley  
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### 1.3 The Proposals

The proposed development is for the conversion of existing buildings including change of use from C2 Residential Institution to C3 Residential consisting of 24No. Apartments with associated amenity and parking. The following ecological enhancements are provisioned as part of the development proposals;

- Enhancement of existing grassland areas
- Occasional planting of trees in the western area of the site
- Retention of some existing trees including T5, T6 and T15 and neighbouring trees.
- Three bat boxes installed on B1
- Woodpile habitats for overwintering amphibians

A previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Protected Species Report (PSR) has been undertaken for the site by Weddles, authored by Amy Wardle BA (Hons.) MA, in August.

Overall, the initial assessment found potential impacts to:

- Badgers
- Bats
- Birds
- Common amphibians and reptiles
- Other terrestrial mammals/ hedgehogs

The protected species report concluded that no bats were roosting within identified PRF's as determined by the Bat Presence / Likely Absence Surveys.

## 2 ECOLOGICAL MITIGATION MEASURES

### 2.1 Badger

There were no setts identified during the site survey, however there is still the likelihood that badgers from the surrounding area will occasionally forage on the site. Therefore, the following precautionary measures will be taken:

- A check for badgers (for evidence including snuffle holes, setts and latrines) will be undertaken alongside any boundary scrub or hedge clearance.
- Excavations or trenches left overnight will be covered or have an escape route such as a shallow gradient at one or both ends.
- Excavations or trenches will be inspected each morning and evening to ensure no badgers have become trapped.
- Open pipework with a diameter of more than 120mm will be properly covered or capped at the end of the working day to prevent badgers from entering and becoming trapped.
- During the work, the storage of any chemicals will be contained in such a way that they cannot be accessed or knocked over by any roaming badgers.
- The storage of topsoil or other “soft” building materials within the site will be given careful consideration. Badgers will readily adopt such mounds and dig setts which would then be afforded the same protection as established setts. To avoid the adoption of such mounds, they will be subject to daily inspections before work commences or alternative measures put in place, such as being fenced off (for higher-risk areas).
- Litter, tools and potentially dangerous materials on site will be cleared at the end of the working day. Care should be taken that there are no sharp metal objects or pointed protrusions on the ground which could seriously injure a badger due to their poor eyesight.

### 2.2 Bats

- Minimise the spread of light to at, or near horizontal and ensure that only the task area is lit. Flat cut-off lanterns or accessories should be used to shield or direct light to where it is required.
- Use narrow spectrum light sources to lower the range of species affected by lighting.
- Use light sources that emit minimal ultra-violet light
- Lights should peak higher than 550nm
- Avoid white and blue wavelengths of the light spectrum to reduce insect attraction and where white light sources are required in order to manage the blue short wavelength content they should be of a warm / neutral colour temperature <4,200 kelvin.

### 2.3 Birds

To avoid potential disturbance of known nests onsite Reasonable Avoidance Methods (RAMs) should be taken. The development will be carefully timed to avoid any direct or indirect impacts to nesting birds within the site:

- In compliance with Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, no construction work which will disturb nesting birds (such as on the south-western elevation of B1, where House Sparrows were noted as nesting) will take place during the recognised breeding season (March to September) and occur after swallow migration. Please refer to Section 5.1.4 of the PEA report for further information on nesting locations.
- Should vegetation removal or building renovation works be carried out during nesting season, a nesting bird check will be undertaken by suitable trained ecologist no more than two days prior to works
- If an active birds nest is located during the clearance works, the site and a (minimum) 5m radius will be left *in situ* and undisturbed. Once a 2-week period has elapsed, the

nest should be checked again for bird activity. Works may commence only once it has been confirmed that the young have fledged.

## 2.4 Other Terrestrial Mammals

To minimise the risk of killing or injuring terrestrial mammals including hedgehog, a precautionary site clearance method will be implemented.

- Any suitable habitat such as brash or log piles will be carefully searched by hand. Any mammals (hedgehogs) found during the search will be relocated to an area of retained habitat.
- Trenches or excavations left uncovered overnight will have a suitable means of escape (such as a wooden plank).

## 2.5 Trees

As highlighted in the PEA and PSR, mature trees will be retained and enhanced as part of the development: in particular, T5, T6 and T15 and neighbouring trees. Retained trees will be protected in line with BS5837:2012 '*Trees in relation to Design, Construction and Demolition -recommendations*', and as provided within 1793-003 Tree Protection Plan.

## 2.6 Amphibians and Reptiles

As highlighted in the PEA, no evidence of amphibians, including GCN, was observed onsite at the time of survey. To minimise the risk of killing or injury to individuals that may be present, a precautionary site clearance method will be implemented and impacts avoided during works.

- The onsite ornamental pond will remain protected and undisturbed for the duration of the ground preparation and construction phase of the development, by the implementation of a 5m buffer with Heras fencing erected with appropriate signage which will protect the water condition from pollutants such as dust and litter (and similar).
- Any suitable habitat – such as grass cuttings and leaf litter – will be carefully searched by hand. Any amphibians found during the search will be relocated to an area of retained habitat (such as the onsite ornamental pond as discussed above).
- Trenches or excavations left uncovered overnight will have a suitable means of escape (such as wooden plank).
- **If any GCN are recorded within the application site, at any point, works should cease and the advice of a licenced ecologist sought.**

### **3 CONSTRUCTION METHOD STATEMENT**

#### **3.1 Construction Programme**

This Method Statement should be followed for all construction works within the whole 'construction area'. The programme will be made available to view in the Site Managers office with all key dates and timescales clearly stated. The following measures will be adopted throughout the construction period of the proposed development:

- An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed and be available, as and when required throughout the construction period should protected species be encountered. This may be utilised to aid erection of bat or bird mitigation or to consult.
- A copy of this Method Statement will be circulated to key site staff and other site operatives so that they are fully aware of the sensitivity of the works.

#### **3.2 Equipment and Plant**

The contractor will identify the equipment, machinery and plant to be used, including specification and quantities. The plant machinery used is expected to be conventional earthworks and construction plant. No plant or machinery should be moved beyond the site boundary.

Plant and machinery will be stored overnight in a site compound. At the end of every day, a check will be made for leaks.

#### **3.3 Environmental Control – Noise**

Noise levels will be controlled as reasonably as possible to ensure that the development occurs in way that is not detrimental to the amenities of neighbouring properties. Should there be any noise risk then the "best practice recommendations of noise control" as outlined in BS5228-1: 2009 will be followed.

#### **3.4 Environmental Control – Vibration**

It is considered that vibration impacts will be minimal during the construction of the development. In the event that a complaint is received regarding vibration during the works and is established then remedial measures will be proposed, agreed and implemented.

#### **3.5 Environmental Control – Air Quality**

All construction activity will be carried out in a way to limit carbon emissions, air pollutants and particulates by employing the best practical means available, for example, banning idling engines, cover dusty stockpiles or top soil with sheeting, ban on fires or burning, operating machinery only to meet the specified task.

#### **3.6 Environmental Control – Waste Disposal**

Arisings, topsoil, cuttings, any other such biomass or construction related waste materials will be collected and removed from the site at the earliest convenience.

#### **3.7 Roles and Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the contractor Site Manager to ensure the working methods identified are strictly implemented and adhered to until the termination of their contract. Where ECoW will be required to attend site, it will be the responsibility of the appointed ecologist that each species is afforded proper care and due attention to protect the client against infringements of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.