

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Homes by Honey Ltd  
Barnburgh Lane  
Goldthorpe  
Construction Environmental  
Management Plan (Biodiversity)

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Goldthorpe  
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Birmingham  
Livery Place, 35 Livery Street, Colmore Business District, Birmingham, B3 2PB  
T: 0121 233 3322

Cambridge  
14-16 High Street, Histon, Cambridge  
CB24 9JD  
T: 01223 235 173

**Leeds**  
**Whitehall Waterfront, 2 Riverside Way, Leeds**  
**LS1 4EH**  
**T: 0113 233 8000**

London  
11 Borough High Street  
London, SE1 9SE  
T: 0207 407 3879

Manchester  
11 Portland Street, Manchester, M1 3HU  
0161 233 4260

Market Harborough  
12a Woodcock House, Compass Point Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9HW  
T: 01858 455020

Nottingham  
Waterfront House, Station Street, Nottingham NG2 3DQ  
T: 0115 924 1100

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P01	08/10/2023	S2	Ben McLean BSc (Hons) MCIEEM	Ben McLean BSc (Hons) MCIEEM	Jim MacQueen BA (Hons)

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Background

- 1.1 This Construction Environmental Management Plan (Biodiversity) (CEMP(B)) 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 CEMP has been produced to address planning condition 28 associated with the planning application Ref: 2023/0195 for the development proposals as described above. The Condition 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:*

- o Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities;
- o Identification of 'biodiversity protection zones';
- o 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);
- o 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);
- o Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs, including advanced installation and maintenance during the construction period;
- o The times during construction when specialists ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works;
- o Responsible persons and lines of communication;
- o 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".*

## The Project

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

## Location

- 1.4 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).
- 1.5 The location of the Site can be found in **Figure 1.1**.



**Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan**

## Previous Ecology Reports and Surveys

- 1.6 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

- 1.7 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**

- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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).

## **Designated Sites**

- 1.11 Impacts to Designated sites are considered unlikely due to the nature of the works, distance between designated sites and the application Site and the presence of intervening habitats. In conjunction, the nature of the application is considered unlikely to result in increased pollution such as noise or dust. No further consideration for designated sites was considered necessary as part of the assessment undertaken within the EcIA (BWB,2023) therefore designated sites have been scoped out of this CEMP.

## **Impacts Summary**

- 1.12 It is considered that the Site clearance, including vegetation clearance works and construction works at the Site, could potentially impact the following species without further surveys or survey information to fully assess the impacts of the proposed development:
- Retained habitats;
  - Amphibians;
  - Foraging and commuting bats;
  - Nesting birds;
  - Badgers;
  - Hedgehogs; and,
  - Other mammals.

## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 **Table 2.1** shows the potential risks during the construction phase and the proposed control measures. Control measures will be discussed in greater detail further into the report.

**Table 2.1: Risk Assessment and Mitigation**

Significant Hazard	Pre-control Likelihood	Pre-control Severity	Control Measures	Post-control Likelihood	Post-control Severity	Risk
<b>Retained Habitats</b>						
Risk of pollutants impacting the retained habitats during the Site clearance and construction phases	5	5	Good practice measures during the Site clearance and construction works	2	3	3
Damage to retained habitats e.g., movement of plant, storage of materials, pollution etc	5	5	Installation of fencing. Best practice guidelines and pollution prevention techniques to be followed.	1	3	3
<b>Amphibians</b>						
Risk of harm or killing of amphibians including during vegetation and Site clearance works	4	6	Clearing of habitats by hand. Checks of vegetation bases prior to removal	2	3	3
Risk of amphibians becoming trapped in open excavations	4	5	Follow best practice guidelines / appropriate mitigation requirements	1	3	3
<b>Foraging and Commuting Bats</b>						
Risk of foraging and commuting bats disturbed during night works	6	6	Avoidance of any lightworks on the Biodiversity Protection Zones	1	3	3
<b>Nesting Birds</b>						
Risk to breeding birds during any vegetation clearance including ground clearance	5	5	Conduct all vegetation clearance works outside of main breeding season (March to August)	1	4	4



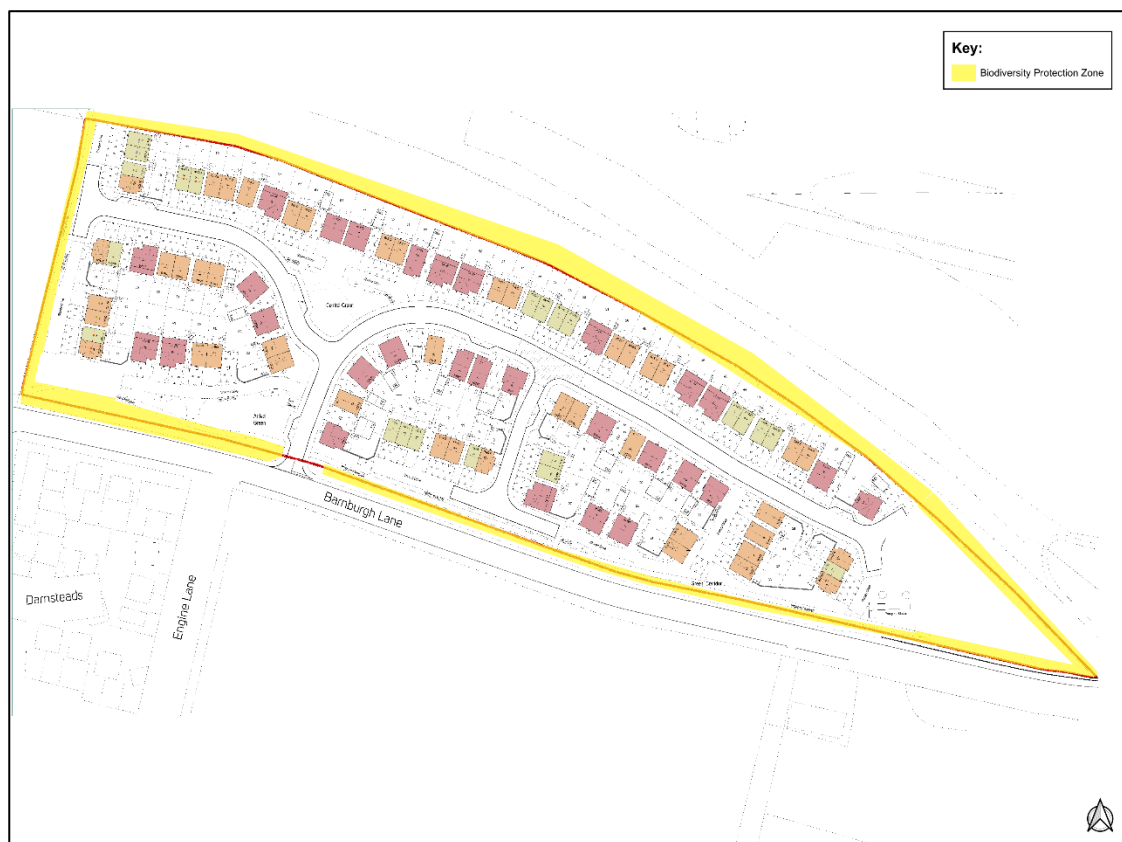
Significant Hazard	Pre-control Likelihood	Pre-control Severity	Control Measures	Post-control Likelihood	Post-control Severity	Risk
<b>Badgers</b>						
Risk of damaging an active badger sett	6	7	Update badger survey to identify the presence and location of badger setts which will inform mitigation measures	1	4	4
Risk of badgers becoming trapped in open excavations/ harmed during Site clearance	3	2	Follow best practice guidelines	1	3	3
<b>Hedgehogs and Other Mammals</b>						
Risk of mammals becoming trapped in open excavations/harmed during Site clearance	5	5	Follow best practice guidelines	1	2	2
<b>Key:</b>						
Low Risk (1-4)		Moderate Risk (5-7)		High Risk (8-10)		

### 3. MEASURES TO AVOID OR REDUCE IMPACTS DURING SITE CLEARANCE WORKS

- 3.1 The following impacts and associated mitigation measures are relevant to the habitats and protected or notable species identified to be present at the Site or potentially present at the Site which could be impacted by the Site clearance and vegetation clearance works.

#### Retained Habitats

- 3.2 The habitats to be retained within the Site include the boundary habitats (hedgerows, ditches and trees). Habitats outside of the Site of value to biodiversity are present along the northern boundary.
- 3.3 These habitats will be protected during the Site clearance works through the installation of Heras fencing or similar and will be known as a Biodiversity Protection Zone.
- 3.4 The habitats to be retained and protected are provided as Biodiversity Protection Zones and are provided in **Figure 3.1** below. An example of the fencing to be installed is shown in **Figure 4.1**, within **Section 4** of this report with more details relating to appropriate signage and procedures relating to the BPZ.



**Figure 3.1: Biodiversity Protection Zones**

## **Amphibians**

- 3.5 A separate Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been produced for amphibians and should be read in conjunction with this CEMP(B) and followed during the Site clearance phase of the development.

## **Badger**

- 3.6 Prior to the works commencing at the Site, an updated badger survey will be conducted to identify the presence of any active setts at the Site and within 50m of the Site boundaries. If badger setts are identified within 50m of the Site then mitigation to protect the badger sett during Site clearance will be required. Dependant on the type of badger sett identified and location will depend on the type of mitigation required. In the unlikely event that a new badger sett is located and will be impacted by the development, then additional surveys and a licence from Natural England will be required to close the sett.
- 3.7 Should a suspected badger sett be encountered at any point in the works (any holes measuring at least 30cm in diameter), all works within 30m of the suspected sett should cease and the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) contacted for further advice. Details relating to the ECOW have been provided in Section 5 of this document.

## **Bats**

- 3.8 Any lighting utilised during the Site clearance phase of the development should follow best practice guidelines outlined in Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK (2023) to maintain suitable foraging and commuting routes along the Biodiversity Protection Zones. These zones should remain as dark corridors at all times and if any works are required within close proximity, then floodlights should be directed away from these areas and no nightworks should take place within close proximity.
- 3.9 Any lighting within close proximity to the Biodiversity Protection Zone or within this zone should not measure any more than 0.5lux and should only be used when absolutely necessary.

## **Nesting birds**

- 3.10 To avoid disturbance to nesting birds, vegetation removal, including ground clearance will be undertaken outside the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive), unless preceded by a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified Ecologist or EcOW. Works outside of this period should still be preceded by a nesting birds check conducted by the contractors, as some species can nest year-round.

## **Hedgehogs and Other Mammals**

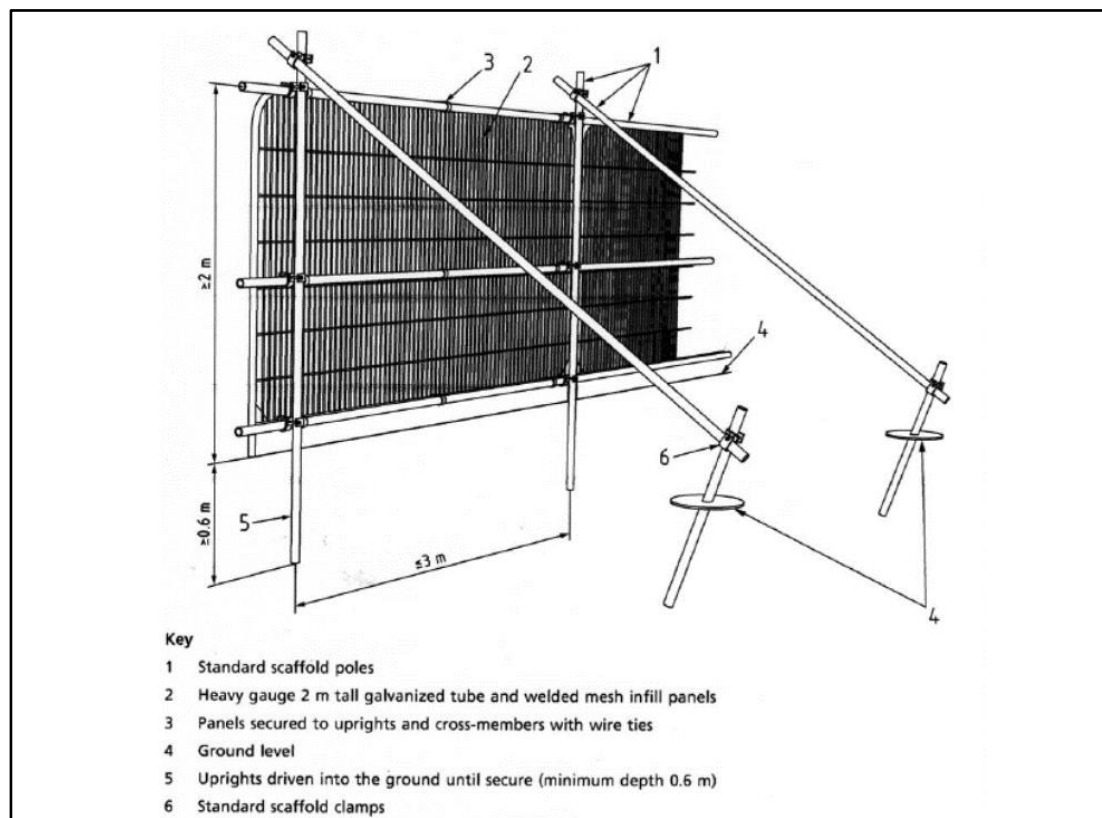
- 3.11 A separate Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been produced for hedgehogs and other mammals and should be read in conjunction with this CEMP(B), with the methodology outlined within this document followed during the Site clearance phase of the development.

## 4. MEASURES TO AVOID OR REDUCE IMPACTS DURING CONSTRUCTION

- 4.1 The following impacts and associated mitigation measures are relevant to the habitats and protected or notable species identified to be present at the Site or potentially present at the Site which may be impacted by the construction works. During the Site induction, all Site personnel will be made aware of the following ecological features.

### Retained Habitats

- 4.2 The retained habitats identified within the Biodiversity Protection Zones, as shown above in **Figure 3.1** will be fenced where reasonably practicable using Heras fencing or similar which will remain in place for the duration of the construction works at the Site. An example of the fencing to be installed is shown in **Figure 4.1** below.
- 4.3 No works will take place within these zones, and they will not be entered at any time by personnel, plant, or equipment. There will be no vegetation clearance within these zones without the supervision of an Ecologist and no storage of any materials.
- 4.4 Additionally, best practice guidelines will be followed to ensure pollution prevention measures are adhered to. This should include the provision of dedicated plant and equipment refuelling areas on hard standings and a dust management plan provided by the contractor.



**Figure 4.1: Example Protection Fencing**

- 4.5 The BPZ will contain suitable warning signs to inform any Site personnel of their purpose. The warning signs should state the following or similar:

- Biodiversity and Tree Protection Area – Do not enter in any circumstance

### **Amphibians**

- 4.6 A separate Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been produced for amphibians and should be read in conjunction with this CEMP(B) and followed during the construction phase of the development.

### **Badgers**

- 4.7 Specific good working practices for badgers in line with BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development include:
- All construction staff will be made aware of the potential presence of badgers, hedgehogs and other mammals within the Site during the pre-start toolbox talk which should be provided on-Site as part of the Site induction;
  - All chemicals and machinery should be stored securely to prevent accidental harm to mammals;
  - As a matter of good practice, any trenches dug as part of construction work should be covered over at night, or left with a ramp or sloping end, to prevent mammals from falling in and becoming trapped. Similarly, any pipes over 200mm in diameter should be capped off at night;
  - Should a suspected badger sett be encountered at any point in the works (any holes measuring at least 30cm in diameter), all works within 30m of the suspected sett should cease and a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) contacted for further advice.
- 4.8 The measures outlined within the PWMS for other mammals, hedgehogs and amphibians will also protect badgers during the construction phase of the development.

### **Bats**

- 4.9 Any lighting utilised during the construction phase of the development should follow best practice guidelines outlined in Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK (2023) to maintain suitable foraging and commuting routes along the Biodiversity Protection Zones. These zones should remain a dark corridor at all times and if any works are required within close proximity then floodlights should be directed away from this area and no nightworks should take place within close proximity.
- 4.10 Any lighting within close proximity to the Biodiversity Protection Zone or within this zone should not measure any more than 0.5lux and should only be used when absolutely necessary.

### **Nesting Birds**

- 4.11 Those features of potential value to nesting birds (woodland and trees) within the Site which are to be retained will be protected during the works phase by the Tree Protection

Fencing which will be installed in accordance with BS5837:2012. If any works are required to vegetated habitats within the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive), during the construction phase of the development then they must be preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified Ecologist.

### **Hedgehogs and Other Mammals**

- 4.12 A separate Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been produced for hedgehogs and other mammals and should be read in conjunction with this CEMP(B) and followed during the construction phase of the development.

## **5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ECOLOGICAL CLERK OF WORKS**

- 5.1 An Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoW) will comprise of a suitability qualified and experienced Ecologist (and appropriately licenced, where required) and only be required to attend Site for the following activities;
- To undertake a pre-commencement badger survey of the Site;
  - A nesting bird check within 48 hours of scheduled vegetation removal, if any vegetation works are to be undertaken within the bird nesting season (from March to end of August);
  - During vegetation clearance works as specified within the Precautionary Working Method Statement for amphibians, hedgehogs and other mammals;
  - Be a nominated contact prior to any works required in the Biodiversity Protection Zone to advise on type of works and if any mitigation measures are required;
  - To be a nominated contact for ad-hoc advice as required for any ecological query.

## **6. OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION**

- 6.1 The principal contractor will nominate an environmental ambassador whose role it will be to oversee the implementation of environmental protection measures including ecological measures outlined within this document and the Precautionary Working Method Statement.
- 6.2 Prior to the commencement of works on-Site the Site manager should contact BWB to obtain an ECoW. BWB will provide a suitably qualified and experienced Ecologist to attend Site when required.
- 6.3 The Site manager and nominated environmental ambassador should obtain the direct contact details of an ECoW at BWB. This nominated BWB Ecologist should also have the direct contact details of the Site manager and nominated environmental ambassador.

## 7. REFERENCES

- Bat Conservation Trust (2023) Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK – Guidance Note 08/18.
- British Standards Institution (2013) BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – code of practice for planning and development. BSI Standards Ltd, London.
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