Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

UPPER HOYLAND ROAD, BARNSLEY.

OS REF: SE 36398 01082.

CONSTRUCTION ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Ref No: **250753 / CEcMP.**

Date: **23rd July 2025.**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page Number
1. INTRODUCTION.	**3**
2. PRE-COMMENCEMENT AND SITE PREPARATION MEASURES.	**4**
3. CONSTRUCTION PHASE MEASURES.	**5**
4. POST DEVELOPMENT MEASURES.	**8**
5. REFERENCES.	**9**
6. TOOLBOX TALKS.	**11**

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Outline planning consent has been issued for the development of a site off Upper Hoyland Road in Barnsley.

1.2. The original Extended Phase I Habitat Survey (now known as Preliminary Ecological Appraisals; PEA) of the site was carried out by the ecological consultancy Envirotech in 2021. For the baseline survey results refer to the '20211519' PEA and badger report by Sian Comlay (2021).

1.3. As part of a reserved matters application, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council have requested the following:

The development hereby approved shall be carried out in strict accordance with the mitigations/recommendations set out in section 7 of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Envirotech dated 17/09/2021. Prior to the commencement of development, precise details of the required mitigation measures shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter development shall be constructed in accordance with the approved details.

1.4. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to prepare a document to satisfy the above requirement. A Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP) has therefore been prepared to demonstrate what mitigation measures will be implemented and is a useable document for personnel managing the development.

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2. PRE-COMMENCEMENT AND SITE PREPARATION MEASURES.

2.1. Protective fencing will be erected to demarcate the root protection zones of the adjacent woodland habitat and retained hedgerows.

2.2. Where feasible, initial vegetation clearance and site clearance works will be carried out between September and February (inclusive) to avoid the nesting bird season. If it is necessary to undertake these works within the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August each year, then the clearance works will be immediately preceded by a nesting bird survey, carried out by a competent person. If any active nests are found, then a suitable buffer around them will be demarcated and will be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

2.3. Two disused badger holes were identified within the adjacent woodland to the east of the site (refer to PEA for locations). A further check will be undertaken prior to works commencing on site, to confirm if the sett is still disused. If the sett is found to be in use, a 30m buffer from the sett will be demarcated on the site, with no permitted entry without first discussing with an ecologist. An assessment will then be made if there will be a requirement to apply for a Natural England Licence to either disturb or exclude the badgers from the sett prior to works commencing. Appropriate recommendations will be provided by the ecologist dependant on the status of the badgers in the sett at that time.

2.4. Any trees to be felled will first be inspected by an ecologist for bats to confirm the findings from the initial survey remain the same and that there is no potential for roosting bats.

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3. CONSTRUCTION PHASE MEASURES.

3.1. *Terrestrial Mammals.*

3.1.1. All works will take place during daylight hours.

3.1.2. Any boundary fences or walls will incorporate gaps at their base to facilitate the passage of badgers and other mammals across the site. These will be provided in the form of 13cm x 13cm gaps for other small fauna such as hedgehogs, and badgers are natural diggers so will expand on these if they want to utilise them.

3.1.3 Any open excavations will either be securely covered overnight or an escape route will be implemented. Ramps will be provided for this purpose and when implemented will be at an angle no greater than 45 degrees to be functional.

3.1.4. All excavations that are left open overnight will be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling.

3.1.5. If any signs of brown hare are found, all site works will cease. Further ecological advice will be sought in order to provide further recommendations.

3.2. *Bats.*

3.2.1. A sensitive lighting scheme will be implemented to minimise light spill onto boundary vegetation.

3.2.2. Integrated bat boxes such as Habibat Bat Box, similar to that shown below, will be incorporated into at least five housing plots. The integrated bat box will be fitted so that the entrance is at the bottom, these will be positioned at least 3m above ground level, away from any regular disturbance and not above windows or doors to prevent a build-up of droppings on the sills.

3.2.3. Bats are very unlikely to use these if fitted horizontally or upside down and they will have to refitted should this happen.

3.3. *Amphibians and Reptiles.*

3.3.1. The Toolbox Talks provided at the end of this report will be incorporated into the site induction pack. All personnel will be instructed that if any amphibians are found, they will be carefully moved by hand out of harm's way, to boundary vegetation, before proceeding with the works. It should be noted that if amphibians are found on land, they should be released back onto land, not in water.

3.3.2. All personal will be instructed that if any reptiles are found, they will be allowed to move away from the area on their own accord. If multiple or hibernating reptiles are found, works will cease, and advice will be sought from an ecologist.

3.3.3. During the development, the creation of any piles of earth, materials and rubble will be avoided where possible. Any spoil or rubble will be removed immediately to skips, or on hard standing or short grass. These measures will discourage amphibians and reptiles from using the development area, as this will avoid the creation of refugia. Additionally, the storage of all loose materials will be palletised or similar, so they are off the ground whenever possible.

3.4. *Nesting Birds.*

3.4.1. If any birds take advantage of the site during the construction phase and bird behaviour is noted that suggests that they could be nesting, no works will be carried out in the vicinity and advice shall be sought immediately from an ecologist.

3.4.2. Five pairs of universal integrated swift boxes, similar to that shown below, will be incorporated into new builds in the gable end walls. These will be positioned at least 3m above

ground level, away from any regular disturbance and not above windows or doors to prevent a build-up of droppings on the sills.

3.4.3. Birds are very unlikely to use these boxes if installed incorrectly, and they will have to be refitted if this happens.

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4. POST DEVELOPMENT MEASURES.

4.1. The approved planting scheme will be implemented. This will include the planting of native wildflowers with pollinators in mind.

4.2. Where possible, flowering lawn mixtures will be used on grass verges and areas of well used public space, such as the communal grassed areas in the proposed layout.

4.3. The trees/shrubs plotted on the proposed layout will be planted to mitigate for the loss of the defunct hedgerow which is identified in the PEA.

4.4. The proposed layout which includes the creation of open grassed areas close to the protected woodland will be adhered to secure basking opportunities for reptiles.

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Checked by:	
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Badgers – Upper Hoyland Road, Barnsley (Ref No. 20211519) 2021, Sian Comlay.

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: 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