Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

HALL GARDENS, BRIERLEY.

OS REF: SE 41116 11236.

ECOLOGICAL MITIGATION PLAN.

Ref No: **191104/EMP.**

Date: **14th June 2021.**

Cliff Edge, Cliff Road, Darfield, Barnsley, S73 9HR.
Tel. 01226 753271. Fax. 01226 270993.
info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk
Company No. 4401613.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Page Number

1. INTRODUCTION. **3**

2. SITE DESCRIPTION. **4**

3. MITIGATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MAINTENANCE. **5**

- **Habitats/Landscaping.** **5**
- **Bats.** **6**
- **Birds.** **7**
- **Reptiles.** **8**
- **Hedgehogs.** **8**
- **Mammals.** **8**

Appendix I. DEVELOPMENT PLAN. **11**

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to develop an area of land at Hall Gardens in Brierley. The development will be the construction of thirty six dwellings.

1.2. Condition 27 of the planning permission relates to ecology and states:

Prior to commencement of development, full details of the Ecological Mitigation proposed on site, including a timetable for their implementation and details securing the long term management, shall be submitted to an approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This shall include retentiaon and enhancement of the existing hedgerow along the northern and north eastern boundary of the site. The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

1.3. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd were therefore commissioned to prepare an Ecological Mitigation Plan document to satisfy that condition.

1.4. Appendix I includes the development plan for the site.

****

2. SITE DESCRIPTION.

The survey area is a grazing field off Hall Gardens in Brierley and an area of land joined to the southeast of the field. The aerial photograph below shows the survey area.

****

3. MITIGATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MAINTENANCE.

3.1. The following includes detailed designs for the mitigation and enhancement measures recommended for the site. The purpose is to retain the ecological value of the site and to provide ecological enhancements in line with chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

3.2. The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been split to cover each area separately for ease of reading.

3.3. Habitats/Landscaping.

3.3.1. Existing vegetation to be retained on the site, including all retained trees and the hedgerows along the north and northeast boundaries, will be protected during works by a tree protective barrier, secured to a scaffold tubing framework with fluorescent tape to the top rail. Laminated, waterproof A4 signs will be fixed to the fence posts at 10m intervals bearing the works 'PROTECTED TREE ZONE – NO STORAGE OR OPERATIONS WITHIN FENCED AREA'.

3.3.2. Tracking of machinery, storage of chemicals and building materials will not be permitted within the protected areas. Leaks or spills will be removed immediately, and the contaminated soil replaced. No bonfires shall be lit within 5m of any tree canopies or hedgerows. Any excavations beneath the tree canopies shall be carried out by hand. All works affecting trees within the development will be subject to BS 5837:2012.

3.3.3. The landscaping on the site will include use of native shrub and tree species suitable for use on a small urban site of this kind and to provide a food source and shelter for a variety of species.

3.3.4. The native hedgerow along the northern and northeast boundaries will be retained and protected during the works. Any gaps within the hedge will be 'Gapped Up' with hedging plants at 5 plants per linear meter in a double staggered row. New native species hedging will also be planted along the southern boundary. The proposed species will be a mix to match the existing.

3.3.5. Trees will be planted in selected front gardens. Trees will also be planted along the site boundaries where possible to retain and enhance the ‘Green Edge’ to the development. Trees will be planted with an emphasis on planting suitable for wildlife.

3.3.6. Trees will be planted as Heavy and Extra Heavy Standards, Small to medium sized trees will be planted in front gardens and where space allows also in rear gardens across the site and will include native species.

3.4. Bats.

3.4.1. A sensitive lighting plan will be developed for the site with minimal lighting throughout the site and no lights directed towards the site boundaries or adjacent habitats.

3.4.2. Integrated bat boxes will be incorporated into the walls of the new dwellings built on the site. Four of these will be provided. The Habibat Bat Box will be used with a custom facing to match the wall construction of the houses. As shown below, these can be purchased with a brick, stone or unsurfaced (for rendering) facing.

3.4.3. The approximate locations of these are indicated by the red dots in the proposed site plan below.

3.4.4. The bat boxes will be installed in the external walls of the gable end, at least 5m above the ground, not directly above any windows or doors and away from any direct external lighting.

3.5. Birds.

3.5.1. Where possible all vegetation clearance and initial site clearance will be carried out between October and February inclusive to avoid the nesting bird season.

3.5.2. Where it is necessary to undertake such works within the nesting bird season, the ecologist will be commissioned to undertake a nesting bird survey a maximum of two days prior to the works being carried out of all areas to be affected.

3.5.3. In the event that any active nests are found during that survey, a buffer zone will be demarcated around the nest and a report will be written up clearly showing the

nest locations and buffer zones. This will be presented to the developer and personnel on site who will be instructed not to carry out any works of any nature within the buffer zones.

3.5.4. The active nests will be monitored until the ecologist confirms that the young have fledged and gives the go ahead for the area to be cleared.

3.5.5. Six Vivaro Seville nest boxes, three with a 28mm entrance and three with a 32mm entrance will be placed on suitable trees around the site to provide nesting opportunities for a range of bird species. These will be installed at least 3m above the ground.

3.5.6. The plan below shows the approximate locations for the six nest boxes.

3.6. Reptiles.

3.6.1. Limited potential for reptiles was identified as the site is a large grazing field with little in the way of refugia and is bordered by residential properties on three sides. The area to the southeast is well used by people and dog walkers, which will deter reptiles.

3.6.2. All personnel who will be involved in any site clearance works will be briefed on the potential presence of reptiles. A Toolbox talk document is provided at the end of this report. This will advise personnel how to identify reptiles and in the event that any are found during the works, they must be left to escape the area unharmed by their own means before the works proceed.

3.6.3. In the unlikely event that high numbers (5+) of reptiles are found during the works the ecologist will be contacted and they will undertake a further impact assessment and advise how to proceed.

3.7. Hedgehogs.

3.7.1. Gaps suitable for the passage of hedgehogs, 15cm x 15cm, will be created in the bottom of the fence every 10m along the site boundaries with the exception of the southern boundary, to prevent hedgehogs accessing the busy road to the south. Additionally, at least one gap suitable for the passage of hedgehogs, 15cm x 15cm, will be created in the bottom of each garden boundary fence to allow hedgehogs passage around the site and into the gardens.

3.7.2. All gates leading to residential gardens will also leave a minimum of a 15cm gap underneath to allow the passage of hedgehogs around the site.

3.8. Mammals.

3.8.1. For the duration of the development, all excavations open overnight will have a sloped side to allow animals that become trapped to escape. All pipe ends will be capped at the end of each shift to prevent animals from seeking refuge inside.

3.8.2. In the event that site personnel identify any species within the development site at any stage of the development, works in that area of the site will cease and the site manager will be informed. Where necessary the site manager will contact the

ecologist to seek additional advice. Works will not re-commence until authorised by the ecologist.

****

Prepared by:	
Jenny Whitcher Roebuck, MCIEEM.	Date: 14th June 2021.

Checked by:	
Derek Whitcher. BSc, MCIEM, MCMI	Date: 14th June 2021.

Appendix I. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

KEY

- Existing trees, hedges and vegetation to be retained.
- Existing trees, hedges and vegetation to be removed.
- Proposed Extra heavy standard (14-16cm girth) tree
- Proposed heavy standard (12-14cm girth) tree
- Proposed selected standard (10-12cm girth) tree
- Proposed Beech hedging
  Proposed evergreen flowering hedge (Escallonia)
- Proposed native hedge
- Proposed ornamental shrub planting
- Proposed turf
- Rear gardens
- Proposed amenity grass seed
- Proposed 1800mm high close boarded timber fencing (detailed by others)
- Root Barrier - 3m length required to either side of all proposed trees adjacent to the adoptable highways, as required by BMBC.
- Proposed 1200m high metal railing (detailed by others)
- Proposed 1800mm brick pier and timber panel fencing (detailed by others)

NOTES

PROTECTION OF EXISTING VEGETATION

Existing vegetation to be retained on site shall be protected where necessary during works by a tree protective barrier, secured to a scaffold tubing framework with fluorescent tape to the top rail. Protective fencing shall be erected on the canopy drip line wherever possible. Laminated, waterproof A4 signs shall be fixed to the fence posts at 10m intervals bearing the words 'PROTECTED TREE ZONE - NO STORAGE OR OPERATIONS WITHIN FENCED AREA'.

Tracking of machinery, storage of chemicals and building materials shall not be permitted within the protected area. Leaks or spills should be removed immediately and the contaminated soil replaced. No bonfires shall be lit within 5m of the canopy spread. Any excavation work beneath the canopy spread shall be carried out by hand.
All works affecting trees within the development shall be subject to BS 5837:2012.

TREE PLANTING

Tree planting to the front gardens of selected plots will break up the hard lines of the buildings and create focal points within the development. The tree species selected will maximise food and nectar sources for birds and invertebrates. Along the boundaries of the site trees will be planted where possible to retain and enhance the 'Green Edge' to the development. Trees will be planted as Select, Heavy and Extra Heavy Standards to provide a range of tree sizes across the site and provide instant impact to the site entrance and Public Greens. Trees will be planted in appropriate locations based on their eventual size, with smaller ornamental varieties planted within gardens and larger amenity trees planted within the Public Greens. Foundation design of new buildings shall accommodate proposed tree planting in accordance with NHBC guidelines.

Suggested species:

Acer campestre (Ac)	Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis Rosea' (PsAR)
Acer campestre 'Elsrijk' (AcE)	Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer' (PoC)
Acer platanoides 'Lacinatum' (ApL)	Sorbus aria (Sa)
Betula pendula (Bp)	Sorbus aucuparia (Sau)
Betula utilis var. jacquemontii (Buj)	Sorbus aucuparia 'Asplenifolia' (SaA)
Carpinus betulus 'Frans Fontaine' (CbFF)	Sorbus 'Golden Wonder' (SGW)
Prunus padus 'Albertii' (PpA)	Tilia cordata 'Green Spire' (TcGS)

SHRUB PLANTING

A mix of evergreen and deciduous shrubs will be planted in selected front gardens to soften the development and to provide a valuable food source for birds and invertebrates. A mix of medium/low shrubs will be planted to shrub beds with medium/large varieties used against high walls and hedges

Suggested species: ( ) density/m2

Berberis candidula 'Amstelveen' (5), Berberis thunbergii 'Atropurpurea Nana' (6), Ceanothus thyrsiflorus repens (5), Choisya ternata 'Sundance' (4), Cotoneaster conspicuus 'Decorus' (4), Cytisus praecox 'Albus' (4), Euonymus fortunei 'Emerald 'n' Gold' (6), Fuchsia 'Mrs Popple' (4), Hebe 'Red Edge' (5), Hebe 'Autumn Glory' (4), Hebe 'Mrs Winder' (4), Hypericum moserianum (5), Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote' (6), Lavandula angustifolia 'Munstead' (6), Lonicera pileata (5), Philadelphus 'Manteau d'hermine' (3), Prunus laurocerasus 'Low 'n' Green' (4), Rosa 'Swany' (4), Sarcococca confusa (5), Spiraea japonica 'Goldflame' (4), Viburnum davidii (5).

HEDGE PLANTING

Hedges will be planted in selected plots to strengthen boundaries and improve screening. Ornamental hedge planting will consist of Beech, which will contribute to all year round colour and texture. Beech hedges are to be planted as a double staggered row of 40-60cm high hedging plants.

NATIVE HEDGE PLANTING

The native hedgerow along the northern and eastern boundaries will be retained and protected during the works. The hedge will be cut back to the line shown on the drawing. Any gaps within the hedge will be 'Gapped Up' with hedging plants at 5 plants per linear metre in a double staggered row. New native species hedging will also be planted along the southern boundary. Proposed species mix to match existing.

PUBLIC GREENS

Two central public spaces will be provided on site. These areas contain existing mature trees as well as newly planted additional trees. The Greens will remain open to the highway sides, with beech hedge planting along the adjacent property boundaries to provide privacy and separation. Additional trees will be planted to the edge of these spaces, to provide screening and an attractive setting to the development.

Rev A: Amends to key, plot 27 and Bin collection point in PoS (SEL) Dec 20

fda landscape

client: Saul Homes

project: Residential Development

HALL GARDENS,
BRIERLEY,
BARNSLEY
PHASE 2

drawing title: LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

scale	date	drawn by	drawing no
1:500 @A1	Nov 20	SEL	R/2308/2