

COTEFIELD FARM BODICOTE

CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



Ecology
Archaeology
Arboriculture
Landscape Architecture



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2017, ACD Environmental Ltd was commissioned to complete a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP): Biodiversity for a parcel of land at Cotefield Farm, Bodicote hereafter referred to as 'the Application Site'.
- 1.2 The Application Site is (Ref No: 17/01225/F) is known as Land South Of Blackwood Place And Molyneux Drive And North West Of Cotefield Farm, Oxford Road, Bodicote.
- 1.3 In relation to a proposed ditch and reedbed, Cherwell District Council have requested a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP), which is worded as follows:

Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, including any demolition and any works of site clearance, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which shall include details of the measures to be taken to ensure that construction works do not adversely affect biodiversity, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved CEMP.

- 1.4 An updated ecological walkover of the site in July 2017 by ACD Environmental found that none of the existing trees proposed to be removed in the proposed reed bed easement area have bat roosting potential, however there were two birds' nests. No further surveys for bats are required, however the trees and shrubs in this area must either be removed outside of the bird nesting season (approx. March to August), or a pre-commencement survey must be undertaken by an ecologist.
- 1.5 In light of the suitable habitat present, in particular in the area of the proposed reedbed, there is also potential for the works to impact on reptiles and amphibians, as such precautionary measures to avoid killing or injury of these species has been recommended.

- 1.6 As such, Cherwell District Council recommend that all methods of working (to include protected species safeguards and tree protection measures) are provided within a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) and please see condition below. The CEMP should also include measures to prevent the existing watercourse and ditches from pollution or silt run off during construction.

2.0 OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the CEMP and how these relate to the planning condition are as follows:

- Detail the responsibilities for carrying out the tasks to avoid harm to protected species;
- Detail the pre-construction methodology, which includes installation of protective fencing/anti-erosion devices; and
- Detail the construction methodology, which includes
 - Pollution as a potentially damaging construction activity
 - Safe working practices with respect to protected species; and
 - Timing of works and supervision by the ecologists.

Responsibilities

2.2 The responsibilities for carrying out the tasks contained within this report will vary as follows:

- Pre-construction - responsibility of the principal contractor commissioned by the developer for sign-off by the developer prior to construction.
- During construction:
 - Overall responsibility of the developer until the development has been completed;
 - The ecologists will work with the principal contractor and developer to ensure safe working practices with respect to protected species; and

- Post-construction - responsibility of a private management company commissioned by the developer to maintain habitats.

3.0 CONSTRUCTION METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Construction tasks with respect to ecology are addressed according to phases of work and include timing restrictions where appropriate.

Pre-construction

Protective Fencing

3.2 Root Protection Zones (RPZs) will be established around existing trees (and hedgerows where required) prior to the start of works, and they will be fenced off during construction to protect them from machinery in accordance with BS 5837:2012¹.

3.3 Fencing will comprise interlocking weld-mesh panels (e.g. Heras), well braced to resist impacts by attachment to a scaffold framework that is set firmly into the ground, or close board solid fencing. The fencing will contain vehicle movements and prevent disturbance impacts from noise or lighting. An example of this fencing is shown in Figure 3.1 and the location is shown in in **Appendix 3**.

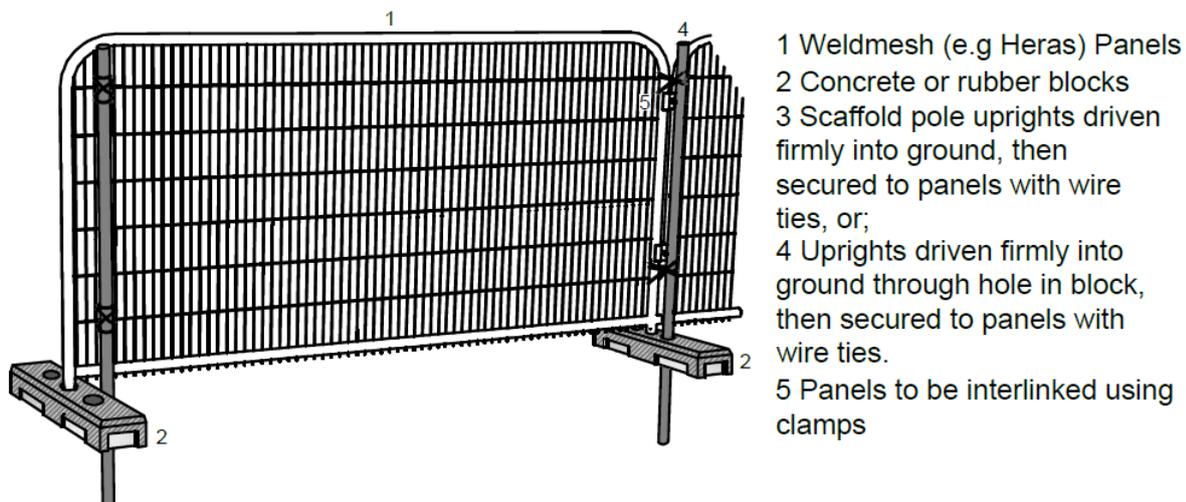


Figure 1: Example of suitable protection fencing for trees and hedgerows.

3.4 Once the trees and hedgerows have been protected by barriers,

¹ BSI Standards Publication (2012). *BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*. BSI Standards Limited.

construction work can commence.

- 3.5 The heras fencing will remain *in-situ* during construction and not be removed or altered without prior recommendation by the ecologist, arboriculturist and approval of the local planning authority.
- 3.6 There will be signage on tree protection fencing to alert contractors of the reason for the fencing and advise on restrictions in terms of access.

During Construction

Reptiles

- 3.7 Common reptiles are protected against intentional killing and injury under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 3.8 The reed bed creation works will involve the excavation of an existing ditch. Consequently, suitable features for common reptiles and amphibians (such as rough grassland and tall ruderal vegetation) are present, but are very limited in extent, and the risk of common reptiles being present and affected by development proposals is reasonably low but cannot be ruled out.
- 3.9 The site owner/site manager will ensure that anyone undertaking construction works on the site (including sub-contractors) is made aware of the potential for the site to support amphibians and reptiles, where to expect them, their protected status and the procedure to follow in the unlikely event that common reptiles are discovered during works.
- 3.10 Where applicable this advice will be given by an ecologist, through site inductions, tool box talks or similar.
- 3.11 A copy of this Precautionary Method of Working within the CEMP will be kept on site and available for inspection at all times.
- 3.12 Should great crested newts be found on site (although this is unlikely), all works must stop immediately whilst Natural England are contacted as a licence is then likely to be required.

3.13 Should any common reptiles be discovered during construction, which are likely to be effected by the development, works will cease immediately. The owner/site manager will then seek the advice of a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and works will only proceed in accordance with the advice they provide. Within the development's construction zone the following methods of working will be adopted:

- All tall vegetation clearance works will be undertaken when common reptiles are likely to be fully active i.e. during the April to September period.
- Clearance of tall vegetation will be undertaken using a strimmer or brush cutter with all cuttings raked and removed the same day. Cutting will only be undertaken in a phased way which will either include a) cutting vegetation to a height of no less than 30mm, clearing no more than one third of the site in anyone day or b) Cutting vegetation over three consecutive days to a height of no less than 150mm at the first cut, 75mm at the second cut and 30mm at the third cut.
- Following removal of tall vegetation using the methods outlined remaining vegetation will be maintained at a height of 30mm through regular mowing or strimming to discourage common reptiles from returning.

Badgers

3.14 Any trenches left overnight will be covered or provided with ramps to prevent animals from becoming trapped.

3.15 If mammal holes are discovered an ecologist should be contacted immediately.

Pollution Prevention and Erosion Control to Watercourse

3.16 Although HM Government's Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPGs) have currently been withdrawn, they still represent good practice guidance. The works will be carried out in accordance with this guidance to prevent pollutants from entering habitats and to appropriately deal with any pollution incidents should they arise. This will ensure there is no disposal of construction materials, littering or releasing of pollutants within habitats.

3.17 Following the vegetation removal methods outlined above, the reed bed will be excavated. The following measures will be put in place to prevent/reduce sediment deposition downstream in the ditch:

- Prior to ditch excavation, a suitably experienced, reputable Environmental Contractor such as Salix² or Brushdale Environmental³ will be appointed to specify, confirm and deliver the erosion control measures outlined in this CEMP;
- Ditch excavation will be carried out on dry days where possible with no forecasted heavy rainfall;
- Salix Silt Mats or Floc Mats will be positioned in strategic locations in the ditch bed immediately downstream of the earthworks disturbances, to prevent displacement of sediment;
- The fibre matrix of the natural material that makes up each silt/floc mat improves water quality by preventing the captured silt from re-entering the channel, even when the water flow is higher;
- Silt and Floc Mats are a natural and effective soft engineering solution for managing sediment pollution in the channel. The mats will be either weighted down with local material excavated from the site, or staked straight into the ditch bed. In order to be most beneficial in terms of desilting, the mats will be positioned based on the specific channel

² <https://www.salixrw.com/>

³ <https://brushdale.co.uk/>

dimensions and rate of flow. Crucially, the mat will be situated in areas of the ditch where the flow is slower and there is a natural deposition of silt;

- Following excavation of the reed bed, the proposed reed bed will be lined with Salix coir pallets, pre-established with mature native wetland plants including reeds.
- Depending on the advice provided by the appointed environmental contractor, Salix Tensar Bionet biodegradable erosion control blankets
- This will ensure that the reed bed begins to put on new growth within a matter of days, which in the event of heavy rainfall will provide the watercourse with instant channel vegetation and protection to the toe of the banks.



Image 1: Silt mat positioned in watercourse



Image 2: Floc mat positioned in ditch



Image 3: Coir pallets

All Protected Species

3.18 Care must be taken during clearance/groundworks to ensure wildlife is not harmed and in the unlikely event any protected species are found, works must stop, they must not be handled and ACD Environmental contacted in

the first instance.

Birds

3.19 Given the protection afforded to all nesting birds, any removal to trees, and hedgerows will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season, ie undertaken during September to February (inclusive). If any active bird's nests are found then works should stop in the area and the advice of an ecologist must be sought.

4.0 REED BED MAINTENANCE

4.1 Landscape maintenance⁴ will ensure that the reed bed continues to drain the development effectively and that the reed bed is attractive to wildlife.

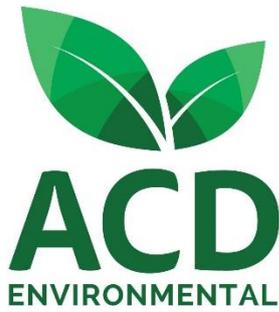
4.2 Reed bed maintenance will comprise:

- Only cut aquatic vegetation after flowering (September onwards);
- Inspect quarterly during first two years for nuisance vegetation;
- Inspect outlet quarterly or after large storms for evidence of clogging and accumulation of debris/litter;
- Reeds will be cut annually after the second year's growth and all the dead plant material will be removed completely from the surface of the reed bed;
- Do not carry out vegetation work during sensitive ecological periods i.e. spring and summer (newts, aquatic spawning etc);
- If water voles or suspected water vole burrows are found seek the advice of an ecologist.
- Regular site attendance for litter collection; and
- Carry out remedial work when required due to damage or vandalism.

4.3 Reed bed maintenance will be carried out in perpetuity and secured by a Management Agreement.

4.4 The environmental contractor appointed to install the reed bed should be contacted for advice regarding the exact maintenance requirements.

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