



Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS)

Protected Species

Development: Additional Plot 9 Oak Lodge.

Site Address: Bridge Road, Bursledon, Southampton, SO31 8AL

Planning Application Reference: DC/26/101638

Prepared by: Capital Homes (in consultation with appointed Ecology and Arboricultural Consultants)

1. Purpose

This Precautionary Working Method Statement has been prepared to discharge the planning condition requiring precautionary working methods for badgers, hedgehogs, nesting birds, reptiles and stag beetles prior to commencement of development above damp-proof course level. Whilst the condition states these measures restrict work continuing above damp-proof course level, this in our opinion is incorrectly worded as all precautionary measure below have been taken from commencement of development.

An Ecological Appraisal by Aluco Ecology Ltd dated January 2025 and Arboricultural Impact Assessment Ref: ArbEI/CH/OLB/VTA/V prepared by Matthew Rowden of Arb Elite Tree Care Ltd was submitted and approved under the original planning submission ref. no. F/25/98800.

The purpose of this document is to ensure that construction activities are undertaken in a manner that avoids unnecessary harm to protected and notable species that may be present on or adjacent to the site.

All contractors working on the site shall be made aware of the contents of this document before works commence.

2. General Site Measures

Prior to commencement of construction:

- A copy of this Method Statement shall be kept on site at all times.
 - All contractors shall receive a toolbox talk outlining the ecological sensitivities of the site.
 - Should any protected species be encountered unexpectedly, works shall cease immediately within the affected area and an appropriately qualified ecologist shall be consulted before works recommence.
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3. Badgers

The Ecological Appraisal by Aluco Ecology Ltd states, no evidence of Badgers was noted on site or immediately adjacent to the site. Although no badger setts are known within the development area, badgers may forage across the site.

The following precautions shall be adopted:

- Any open excavations or trenches left overnight shall include a means of escape such as a timber plank positioned at an angle not exceeding 45 degrees.
 - Excavations shall be inspected each morning before works recommence.
 - Building materials shall be stored neatly to avoid creating shelter opportunities.
 - Food waste shall be securely stored and removed regularly.
 - If evidence of a badger sett is discovered, works shall cease within the vicinity and ecological advice shall be sought immediately.
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4. Hedgehogs

To avoid injury to hedgehogs:

- Vegetation shall be removed progressively rather than in a single operation.
 - Long grass shall first be strimmed to approximately 150 mm before being cut to ground level after at least 24 hours.
 - Any piles of vegetation or debris shall be carefully inspected before removal.
 - Trenches shall either be covered overnight or fitted with escape ramps.
 - Materials shall be stored clear of dense vegetation wherever practicable.
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5. Nesting Birds (To be read in conjunction with Arb Elite Tree Care Ltd supplementary Precautionary Working Method Statement)

All wild birds, their nests and eggs receive legal protection whilst nesting.

Accordingly:

- Vegetation clearance shall, wherever possible, be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive).
 - Where vegetation removal is required during this period, a suitably qualified ecologist shall inspect the vegetation no more than 48 hours before clearance.
 - If an active nest is identified, an exclusion zone shall be established and retained until the young have fledged naturally.
 - No works shall occur within the exclusion zone.
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6. Reptiles

The Ecological Appraisal by Aluco Ecology Ltd and previous surveys carried out by Ecosupport Ltd did not record any evidence of reptile use of the wider Oak Lodge site, Although reptiles are not expected to occur in significant numbers, precautionary measures shall include:

- Gradual removal of suitable habitat.
- Initial strimming of vegetation to approximately 150 mm followed by cutting to ground level after at least 24 hours.
- Vegetation clearance shall progress in one direction towards retained habitat to allow reptiles to disperse naturally.
- Construction materials shall not be stored on unmanaged grassland for extended periods before use.

If reptiles are encountered during works, operations shall stop locally and ecological advice shall be obtained.

7. Stag Beetles

Stag beetles utilise decaying timber.

Accordingly:

- Any dead wood suitable for stag beetles shall, where practicable, be retained on site.
- Where removal is unavoidable, logs shall be relocated to a suitable undisturbed area within the site.

- Tree stumps and buried timber shall be inspected carefully before removal.
 - If stag beetle larvae are encountered, they shall be carefully relocated into retained decaying timber under ecological supervision where appropriate.
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8. Lighting

Construction lighting shall be kept to the minimum necessary for safe working.

Temporary lighting shall:

- be directed away from retained vegetation;
 - be angled downward;
 - avoid unnecessary illumination of site boundaries.
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9. Pollution Prevention

The following measures shall be implemented:

- Refuelling shall take place on an impermeable surface.
 - Spill kits shall be available at all times.
 - Cement washings shall not be discharged onto surrounding ground.
 - Surface water drains shall be protected from contamination.
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10. Unexpected Ecological Discoveries

If any protected species are encountered during construction:

- works shall cease immediately within the affected area;
 - the area shall be secured;
 - an appropriately qualified ecologist shall be contacted;
 - works shall only recommence following written ecological advice.
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11. Compliance

The Site Manager shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this Method Statement. This document shall remain available on site throughout construction and all contractors shall comply with its requirements.

Declaration

The Developer confirms that all construction works will be undertaken in accordance with this Precautionary Working Method Statement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Brown', written over a horizontal line.

Signed:

Name: Kurt Brown

Position: Director
