

Construction Environmental Management Plan

Heath House Lane, Hedge End

For:

Kode Architecture

June 2024

This report is the responsibility of Abbas Ecology,

It should be noted, that whilst every effort is made to meet the client's brief,

no site investigation can ensure complete assessment

or prediction of the natural environment

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Contents

1	Background	4
1.1	Proposal	4
1.2	Legislation	4
1.3	Site.....	4
2	Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Activities During Development and Location of Biodiversity Protection Zones.....	6
3	Roles and Responsibilities	10
3.1	Responsible Persons	10
4	Method Statement of Sensitive Works (High to Low-risk Activities).....	11
4.1	Site Clearance.....	11
4.2	Construction.....	12

I Background

I.1 Proposal

The proposal involves the change of use of land to Agricultural with associated works including, engineering works to land to raise ground levels to allow erection of 1 poly-tunnels and 1 outbuildings. No other proposals of a similar nature were discovered during a planning search.

I.2 Legislation

Protected species interest legislation can be found in Appendix 1 of this report. Under NPPF (updated February 2019) new developments must improve biodiversity. Details of section 15 is also found in appendix 1.

I.3 Site

The habitats on site as surveyed on 08/03/2024 are shown in Map 1. As surveyed in the Submitted Ecological Impact Assessment Report (5690 Abbas Ecology, April 2024). Up until 2020 the main habitat type on site was classified as broadleaved woodland (W1) with evidence of large log piles, brash and wood chippings across the site, with the site still showing as deciduous woodland priority habitat on Magic.gov, and as a woodland on google earth. However, the habitat within the site was reclassified by HBIC sometime in 2020 as neutral grassland, and the site survey recorded ephemeral species and grassland colonising the bare ground, with dense areas of scrub recorded along the east and west margins and some smaller patches along the southern part of the site. Scattered trees are present along the northern boundary, whilst some broadleaved woodland remains in the northeastern corner.

The site is immediately adjacent to the SINC Pilands Copse and therefore there is some potential for accidental damage to the habitats supported in these sites, and for habitat degradation from accidental pollution incidents and dust deposition. Mitigation will be put in place to address these potential impacts to any habitats during construction.



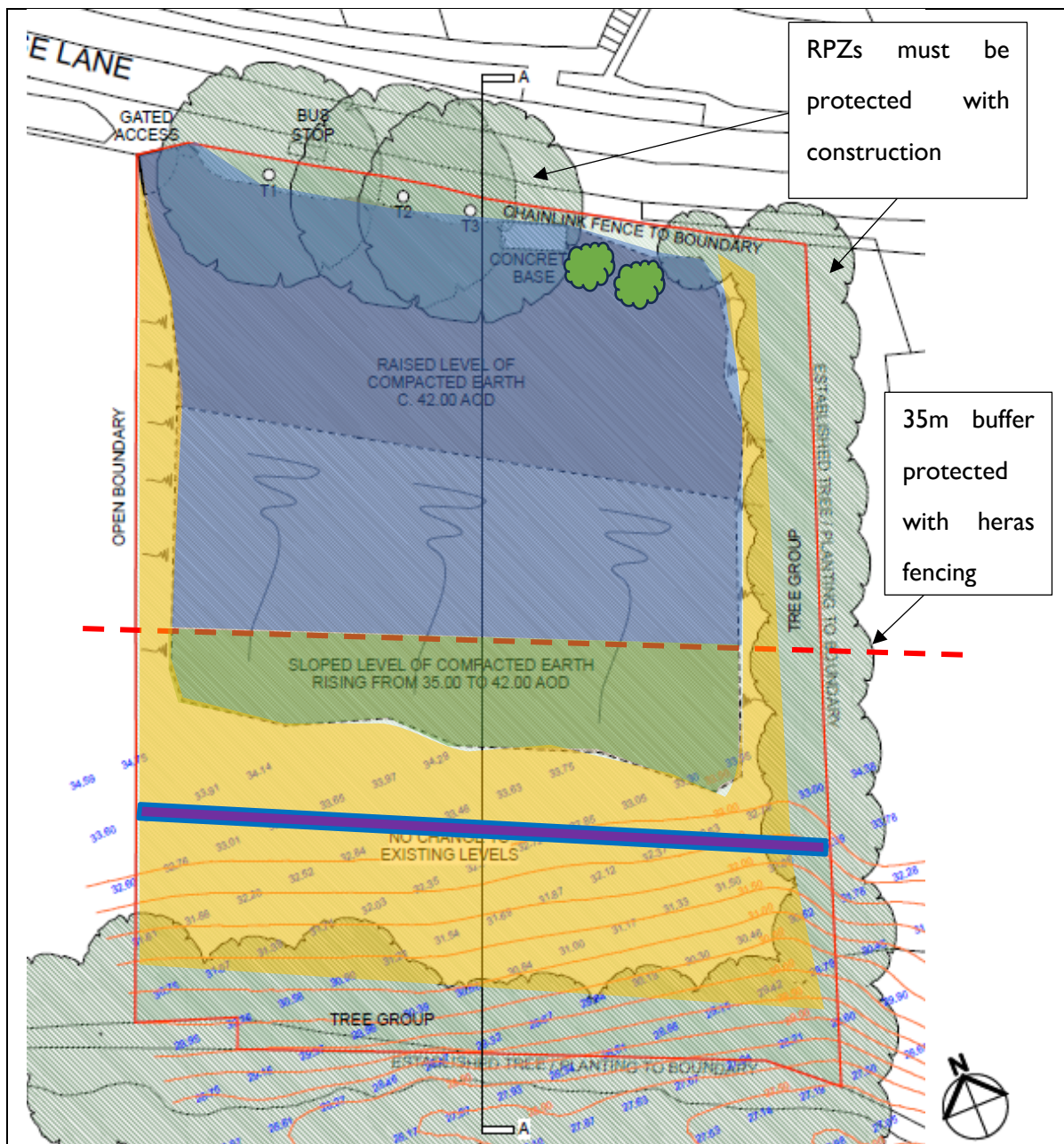
Map 1: UK Habitats Map, 08/03/2024

2 Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Activities During Development and Location of Biodiversity Protection Zones

Activity	Risk	Risk level	Mitigation
Site Clearance	Neighbouring Pilands copse SNCI at risk of damage through dumping of materials etc. during construction	High	35m buffer set up as shown in map 2. This will be separated from the rest of the site by heras fencing, put up before the start of construction. Contractors will be briefed not to enter the buffer zone, not to dump any materials there and not to drive over this area.
	Hoe Moor Creek is a tributary of the River Hamble is at risk from pollution from soil run-off and other potential pollution sources such as dust, fuel and other substances during the site clearance and construction phase.	High	The tributary is within the 35m buffer and as such will be protected from near-by activities that may cause physical damage. The tributary will be protected during and after construction with a hay bale bund. This must be constructed alongside site clearance so it can be in place before construction starts. Position of bund is shown in Map 2. The bund will be hay bales wrapped with Terram or similar landscaping fabric and pegged down into the soil. This is designed to trap sediment from run-off during the construction phase but will allow surface water to drain normally. The bund will be retained until all vegetation in the 35m buffer has established, approximately 1 year after construction is complete.
	Pollution of the Hoe Moor Creek during construction from materials to make concrete and other substances.	Med	Pollution control measures for water would be undertaken in accordance with Defra guidelines Pollution prevention for businesses - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Where appropriate, method statements would be produced for high-risk activities, such as the use of concrete. Work on site is subject to risk assessments and DEFRA guidance is followed. Contractors need to be made aware of the small tributary. Contractors to be briefed on the presence of the tributary and the measures required in the use of concrete etc. to protect it.
	Killing or Injury to Reptiles	Med	Habitat manipulation of grassland to be removed would be carried out in a directional manor towards the 35m buffer, supervised by an ecologist. This would be undertaken during the active period for reptiles, which is from April to mid-October.

Activity	Risk	Risk level	Mitigation
Site clearance (cont.)	Potential damage during construction to retained trees within the site.	Low	Retained mature oaks along Heath House Lane and on the east of the site to be protected with construction hoarding, to be in place before the start of construction.
	Removal of scrub at the western boundary, at the widened access and some scattered scrub has potential to kill/harm: Breeding birds Dormice Hedgehogs	Med. Low Low	Scrub will be removed in a manner that is sensitive to breeding birds and as a precautionary measure for dormice. This must be undertaken between July to October with a suitably qualified ecologist present between July-August. If any dormice or breeding birds are found work will stop immediately and appropriate precautions taken (5m buffer zone round nest for birds/work stops and a license applied for dormice). A finger-tip search must also happen in areas of bramble and other features to check for hedgehogs, if these are found they will be moved to the 35m boundary.
	Spread of rhododendron and cherry laurel on site and into neighbouring SNCI	High	Rhododendron and cherry laurel must be removed from the planting scheme area and areas around the perimeter of the site. Guidance for rhododendron removal can be found here managing_and_controlling_rhododendron.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk) Cherry laurel can be removed in a similar way or both can be removed by a professional contractor. Cut material must be removed off-site, should not be used in the creation of log piles or other features.
	Loss of deadwood	High	There are various logpiles present on the site, these should be moved to the eastern boundary or near the SINC within the 35m boundary. They should be partially buried and must not utilise wood from rhododendron or cherry laural.
Construction	Lighting used for construction has the potential to disrupt bat foraging and commuting.	Med.	No lighting would be left on during the night during the construction period. Any security lighting would be low-level, and motion activated on short timers. No lighting at night supervised by contractors.
	Potential harm to badgers	Low	Construction management measures would be put in place to ensure no adverse impacts to any badger entering the site during construction. Excavations and piping (>200mm in diameter)

Activity	Risk	Risk level	Mitigation
			would be fenced/capped overnight to deter badgers from entering; excavations that could not be covered would have a means of escape for any animals that may fall in (e.g. sloping sides/ramps a maximum of 1:2 gradients).
Landscaping of the site	Hedgehogs will be restricted in their movement, potentially cutting them off from foraging areas.	Med.	Hedgehog-friendly gravel boards with holes of 10 x 10 centimetres will be included within any new fencing. The buffer between the SNCI and the proposal will ensure foraging and commuting habitat for both species is maintained.
	Wildlife features to be included in the landscaping of the site.	Med.	The BMEP, Abbas, 2024 must be followed as well as the recommended guidelines for establishment of native planting as specified by suppliers.



	Construction Area All grass to be progressively strimed re. reptile mitigation. Any scrub in this area must be remove re. dormice and breeding bird mitigation. Any grassland that can be allowed to re-grow/recollonise between the buildings after construction will be allowed to do so.
	Planting Area Mix of native tussocky grassland and scattered scrub to be planted. All cherry laurel and rhodydendron to be removed.
	Collonisation Area All existing grassland will be retained and left to recolonise and set-seed naturally. However, cherry laurel and rhodydendron to be removed.
	Two Planted Oak trees
	Position of Hay Bale Bund to be retained untill vegetation is established, approximately one year after construction is complete.

Map 2: Biodiversity Protection Zones

3 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Responsible Persons

Project Manager will be the site owner. It will be their responsibility to contact the Ecologist when they are required on site, ensure that contractors observe the construction zones and timings for sensitive works. Method statements for high-risk activities that have potential to pollute the stream such as use of concrete, must be written or initiated by the project manager.

Ecologists Bronwen Bruce, CIEEM has written this CEMP. An appropriately trained ecologist under the supervision of Bronwen will be used to supervise ecological works on site.

Contractors must ensure that their work happens within the construction zone and within the stated times so that there is no risk to protected species. This report must be kept on site and followed.

Local Planning Authority is Eastleigh Borough Council, they have the final responsibility to ensure that relevant conditions have been met.

4 Method Statement of Sensitive Works (High to Low-risk Activities)

4.1 Site Clearance

Ecologist must attend the site at the start of the site clearance, after the erection of Heras fencing and tree protection hoarding. After the cut of grassland to 30cm (ankle height). **Timing:** July- October

They will carry out the following checks and supervisory works, which should be undertaken in 1 day:

- Take photographic evidence of Heras fencing and hoarding to send to the LPA
- Brief contractors on the method for the removal of grassland and scrub to safeguard protected species (breeding birds, hedgehogs, reptiles).
- All log piles and other debris piles will be removed/moved to an appropriate location to retain deadwood under the supervision of the ecologist. Any reptiles found will be moved to the 35m buffer area. No rhododendron or cherry laurel material to be retained.
- The second cut of grassland as short as possible, directionally towards the SINC will be supervised by the ecologist.
- Scrub must be checked through fingertip search for hedgehogs and any signs of dormouse nests. If any signs of dormice are found work will stop and a license applied for from Natural England.
- If scrub is to be removed between July/August, it must be supervised by an ecologist. If any active nests are found the nests must be protected from disturbance by a 5 m buffer until after the young have fledged and left the nest. All root balls should also be removed as reptiles and dormice can occupy these.
- Photographic evidence of the cleared features will be taken to send onto the LPA.

If any of the above can't be checked off in their visit the ecologist must return to supervise any outstanding works.

If dormice are discovered, then the works will stop immediately, and Natural England will be contacted for further advice, and this may result in a European Protected Species licence application being obtained. The root balls of the cut scrub must be removed by November of the same year. If the scrub removal happens during the bird breeding season an ecologist must be present.

The site manager will ensure that all cherry laurel and rhododendron is removed with material taken off-site. A written record/photographs will need to be taken and sent to the ecologist to forward to the LPA.

The site manager will ensure that no works or dumping of material will happen within the 35m buffer zone.

The construction of the terram wrapped hay bale bund will be prioritised immediately after or during the site clearance. Post construction the site manager will take photographs and send to the ecologist to forward to the LPA.

4.2 Construction

The site manager will have responsibility to ensure:

- All pollution control measures are followed, and relevant risk assessments produced.
- Contractors are made aware of the tributary on site and all the pollution control measures to be implemented to protect it.
- The 35m buffer zone is maintained with Heras fencing kept intact and only removed at the end of construction.
- The hay bale bund is maintained and retained for one year after construction.
- The BMEP is implemented fully including access holes for hedgehogs, bird and bat boxes and the completion of the native planting scheme.
- Photographic evidence as detailed in the BMEP is taken and sent to the ecologist to be compiled and forwarded to the LPA.

Appendix I: Legislation (summary)

In England, all bats, dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), otters (*Lutra lutra*), great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*), smooth snakes (*Coronella austriaca*) and sand lizards (*Lacerta agilis*) are legally protected under Annex IV of the EC Habitats and Species Directive (1992), which is transposed into domestic law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017). Nightjars (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) are protected under the above Regulations under Annex I (as originated from the EC Birds Directive).

Badgers (*Meles meles*) are protected under The Protection of Badgers (1992).

Some species are also listed under Annex II of the EC Habitats and Species Directive (1992), including barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), greater horseshoe (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*), lesser horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), great crested newt, stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) and otter.

The above-named species and adders (*Vipera berus*), slow worms (*Anguis fragilis*), grass snakes (*Natrix natrix*), common lizards (*Zootoca vivipara*), water voles (*Arvicola amphibius*) and several invertebrate species are also protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981) (as amended); hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) are partially protected under Schedule 6 of the WCA (1981). Barn owls (*Tyto alba*) and other breeding birds are protected under Schedule 1 of the WCA (1981).

Schedule 9 of the WCA (1981) includes non-native, invasive species including (but not limited to) Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

Some sites that have been designated for nature conservation are legally protected due to being of European importance. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) (protected under the EC Habitats and Species Directive (1992), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds (protected under the EC Birds Directive) and Ramsar (Ramsar Convention, 1975). Other protected sites include Sites of

Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Protected Road Verges.

Hedgerows that qualify as 'important' under The Hedgerows Regulations (1997) are legally protected under the Regulations.

The National Planning Framework has been revised in July 2021. Section 15, paragraphs 174 to 188 can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/15-conserving-and-enhancing-the-natural-environment> Conserving and enhancing the Natural Environment. Section 15, NPPF July 2021 states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment.