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CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN BIODIVERSITY

STOKE PARK FARM SANG

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Prepared by:	Jenni Reid CEnv MCIEEM	Director	01364 701150 Jenni.reid@burtonreid.co.uk	November 2024
Checked by:	Chrissy Mason MCIEEM	Lead Planning & Technical Ecologist	01364 701151 chrissy.mason@burtonreid.co.uk	November 2024
Approved by:	Jenni Reid CEnv MCIEEM	Director	01364 701150 Jenni.reid@burtonreid.co.uk	November 2024

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DECLARATIONS OF COMPLIANCE

The report which we have prepared and provided is in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

This report has been produced in accordance with British Standard 42020:2013 "Biodiversity, Code of practice for planning and development". It has been prepared by Jenni Reid, a Chartered Environmentalist, with the Society for the Environment who has prepared numerous Construction Environmental Management Plans (biodiversity) during her career as a consultant.

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Nothing in this report constitutes legal advice or opinion. If legal opinion is required a qualified legal professional should be contacted for advice.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This document has been produced by Burton Reid Associates on behalf of Eastleigh Borough Council (the Applicant) in relation to the creation of a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) at Stoke Park Farm on the outskirts of Eastleigh near Southampton (central OS grid reference: SU 478199) (planning ref: F/23/95844).

The work was commissioned in order to discharge Conditions 9 and 10 which state:

9. Site clearance and construction works that could result in harm or disturbance to species listed on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017 (as amended) or their breeding sites or resting places, shall not in any circumstances commence unless the local planning authority has been provided with either: i. a licence issued by [the relevant licensing body] pursuant to Regulation 55 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 authorising the specified activity/development to go ahead; ii. written confirmation from Natural England or accredited ecologist that the operation does not require such a licence. iii. The works must be undertaken strictly in accordance with the methods, conditions and limitations of the licence granted.

Reason: to protect biodiversity and comply with Policy DM11 of the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan.

10. No vegetation clearance shall occur on site during the bird nesting season [between 1st March & 31st August] unless supervised by an appropriately qualified ecologist.

Reason: To prevent harm to breeding birds.

For ease of reference and to avoid confusion, we commonly refer to this document as a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP) as it sits alongside an overarching Construction Environmental management Plan produced by Eastleigh Borough Council.

1.2 Development Description

The project was granted full planning permission on 25th July 2024 (planning ref: F/23/95844) for works to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) to help mitigate recreational impacts on the nearby New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) by providing recreational spaces closer to the residents of Eastleigh Borough.

The proposed development includes creation of circular walking routes (bound gravel pathways), installations including benches, picnic tables, interpretation boards and litter bins, as well as a bespoke landscape planting and enhancement strategy to enhance the value of the site to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain. There will be provision of car parking facilities at a nearby cemetery, utilising an existing car park which is easily accessible on foot from the SANG. The land subject to the full planning consent, is hereafter referred to as the 'Site' and the works associated with the consents will be referred to as 'the Development'.

The planning application was accompanied by an Ecological Impact Assessment, produced by Burton Reid Associates in March 2024 which detailed various surveys undertaken between June and July 2023, to supplement a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the wider farm site by ECUS Ltd in March 2023. Work by Burton Reid Associates included an updated site walkover survey (including UK Habitat Classification survey), breeding bird surveys and Great Crested Newt eDNA survey, in line with relevant best practice guidance. An updated site visit was instructed in February 2024 to assess areas within a new red line boundary not included in the original Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

Furthermore, a Bird Hazard Assessment and Management Plan (Burton Reid Associates, August 2023) and pre- and post-biodiversity net gain plans and a metric were produced (Burton Reid Associates, July 2023).

1.3 Site Description

The Site centre is located at National Grid Reference SU 478199 and is approximately 20ha in size. It is situated on the outskirts of Eastleigh near Southampton and comprises an area of agricultural land in use until November 2021 for dairy farming on rotational grazing/silage, an access road and an area of existing carpark. Immediately adjacent to the west and south lies Stoke Park Woods (Forestry Commission Woodland, mix of Ancient Replanted Woodland and Ancient Semi-natural Woodland). Bow Lake Fish Farm lies immediately to the north of the Site.

Despite intensive farming practices at the Site until recently, on review of the botanical species composition, it was determined that the habitat was more reflective of the "g3c other neutral grassland" categorisation than "g4 modified grassland" under UKHab criteria. An additional area surveyed in 2024 (following an update to the proposals) included a margin of grassland around the cemetery car which was reflective of "g4 modified grassland" under UKHab criteria.

Woodland at the Site comprised a wooded belt dividing the northern portion of the grassland fields. This was situated along a drainage ditch (damp at the time of survey but likely to hold water during periods of high rainfall) and included a pond. The woodland included a mix of native and non-native introduced species. An outgrown hedgebank was situated along the northern boundary of the field parcel, adjacent to Sewall Drive, containing a small number of semi-mature trees.

Urban type habitats at the Site were limited to the hardstanding of the access road along Sewall Drive, the cemetery car park and compacted aggregate field access tracks within the field itself.

A single pond was located within the woodland belt along the drainage ditch. The pond banks were largely overgrown, with limited access available for survey. The western bank of the pond was reinforced with a small concrete retaining wall, but other banks appeared natural in structure.

1.4 Scope of Report

This document has been prepared to provide sufficient information to satisfy Conditions 9 and 10 of the above consent and relates to the Site. The CEcMP shall accord with the specification in BS42020: Biodiversity and shall include the following:

- a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities.
- b) Identification of biodiversity protection zones.
- c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements)
- d) The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features. This includes the use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.
- e) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to monitor works to ensure compliance with the CEMP, Biodiversity, and the actions that will be undertaken.
- f) Responsible persons and lines of communication
- g) The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person.

The approved CEcMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details. However, it should be noted that a CEcMP is a live document and may require updates periodically.

The CEcMP shall follow the mitigation measures and management requirements as set out within the submitted supporting documents. The CEcMP has been prepared with reference to:

- Ecological Impact Assessment (Burton Reid Associates, 2024)
- Bird Hazard Assessment and Management Plan
- Pre- and post-biodiversity net gain plans and a metric (Burton Reid Associates, 2023).

The Applicant will appoint a Main Contractor who will be responsible for the construction of the Development. The Main Contractor will ensure that all measures and mitigation identified within this CEcMP are taken into account and implemented during the construction. In addition, the CEcMP will be monitored regularly throughout the duration of the construction phase to ensure best practice is implemented and any required

changes implemented. Once a Main Contractor has been appointed it is recommended that a review is completed of the CEcMP to ensure all planning condition obligations are met.

A Site Manager will be appointed and will be in charge of activities on site, including personnel. They will ensure that all personnel on site follow and adhere to the procedures outlined within the CEcMP.

An Ecological Clerk of Works will be appointed by the Main Contractor. The Ecological Clerk of Works will report to the Applicant.

The Main Contractor will keep a copy of this document on site at all times and ensure that the workforce is aware of its contents.

1.5 Wildlife Legislation and Planning Policy

This report has been written with reference to the following wildlife legislation:

- Environment Act 2021;
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000;
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

1.6 Guidance

UK Pollution Prevention Guidelines have also been considered in the production of this Chapter. Pollution Prevention Guidelines were officially withdrawn on the 17th of December 2015, however, these documents provide sound advice. It is considered that the PPGs which are most relevant to the Development include:

- PPG1 'General Guide to the Prevention of Pollution'
- GPP2 'Above Ground Oil Storage'
- GPP 5 'Works and Maintenance in or Near Water'
- PPG6 'Working at Construction and Demolition sites'
- PPG 7 'Safe Storage – The Safe Operation of Refuelling Facilities'

1.7 Health and Safety Management

A Site specific Health and Safety Plan should be implemented and followed during construction. All works shall be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Key Contacts & Roles

The table below provides a list of the key contacts, roles and contact details. Please note, the CEcMP is a live document and this table may need to be updated periodically.

	Name	Role	Contact Details
Applicant	Eastleigh Borough Council	Responsible for overseeing the development.	Nicola Treeby 023 8068 8042 07796997499
Main Contractor	Not appointed at this time	Responsible for monitoring and keeping records of actions taken to protect biodiversity during the construction process and ensuring all planning conditions are met.	TBC
Site Manager	Not appointed at this time	Responsible for the implementation of the CEcMP with all site personnel	TBC
Ecological Clerk of Works	Burton Reid Associates	To provide ecological expertise, to include advice, supervision and to act as Named Ecologist on protected species licences. Ecological Clerk of Works will be appointed by the Main Contractor. The Ecological Clerk of Works will report to the Applicant.	Jenni Reid 07866114700 jenni.reid@burtonreid.co.uk

3 SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL RECEPTORS

3.1 Biodiversity

Ecological information was collated by Burton Reid Associates for the Site between June and July 2023, to supplement a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the wider farm site by ECUS Ltd in March 2023. Work by Burton Reid Associates included an updated site walkover survey (including UK Habitat Classification survey), breeding bird surveys and Great Crested Newt eDNA survey, in line with relevant best practice guidance. An updated site visit was instructed in February 2024 to assess areas within a new red line boundary not included in the original Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

The results of the surveys are summarised as follows:

Habitats: The Site comprised g3c Other neutral grassland habitat ("poor" condition), subject to intensive farming practices as part of the former dairy farm until November 2021. Total habitat area: 19.7ha. Wooded belt of 0.55ha of "w1g Other woodland; broadleaved" ("poor condition") along a seasonally wet ditch running north/south from northern boundary of the Site. A pond situated within wooded belt in the north of Site and native species-rich hedgerows along the northern boundary and Sewall Drive (both pond and hedgerows are Priority Habitat under the NERC Act 2006).

- **Designated sites:** The River Itchen Special Area of Conservation is situated approximately 830m from the Site boundary at its closest point.
- **Roosting bats:** No targeted surveys undertaken, however presence of trees containing suitable features within wooded belt on Site or within woodland adjacent to Site is considered possible.
- **Bats (commuting/ foraging):** No targeted surveys undertaken, however Moderate suitability for foraging bats is present.
- **Hazel Dormouse:** Low risk of presence in hedgerow and woodland habitats. Surveys undertaken as part of nearby housing development in 2013 did not record the species.
- **Badger:** Known presence at the Site. Precise location withheld for reasons of confidentiality due to persecution of this species. To be made available to Main Contractor once appointed.
- **Birds:** Targeted breeding bird surveys undertaken during 2023 nesting season. No ground nesting activity recorded. Nesting behaviour associated solely with woodland habitats on and adjacent to the Site. Site may be of value as a foraging resource to woodland / hedgerow nesting species.
- **Reptiles:** Low risk of presence of species such as Common Lizard, Slow-worm and Barred Grass Snake in small numbers. Grassland habitat considered largely sub-optimal due to limited or absent litter layer within the grass sward and recent intensive farming practices.
- **Great Crested Newts:** No evidence of Great Crested Newt presence recorded in on-site pond or other waterbodies nearby.

The Ecological Impact Assessment concluded that with proposed avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures in place, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects or adverse impacts on the

biodiversity at the Site. This was supported by the ecology officer consultation comments received in September 2023.

The following table provides additional details for the ecological receptors that are associated with the Development.

Receptor	Details	Distance
Habitats	The main body of the Site was comprised of grassland fields formerly in use for cattle grazing on rotation as part of the former dairy farming operations at Stoke Park Farm. Despite intensive farming practices at the Site until recently, on review of the botanical species composition, it was determined that the habitat was more reflective of the "g3c other neutral grassland" categorisation rather than "g4 modified grassland" under UKHab criteria.	Site
	The additional area surveyed in 2024 (following an update to the proposals) included a margin of grassland around the cemetery car which was reflective of "g4 modified grassland" under UKHab criteria.	
	Woodland at the Site comprised a wooded belt dividing the northern portion of the grassland fields which was reflective of "w1g Other woodland; broadleaved" under UKHab criteria. This was situated along a drainage ditch (damp at the time of survey but likely to hold water during periods of high rainfall) and included a pond. The woodland included a mix of native and non-native introduced species.	Site
	Outgrown hedgebank along the northern boundary of the field parcel, adjacent Sewall Drive, containing a small number of semi-mature trees which was reflective of "h2a Hedgerow (Priority Habitat)" under UKHab criteria.	
	Urban type habitats at the Site were limited to the hardstanding of the access road along Sewall Drive, the cemetery car park and compacted aggregate field access tracks within the field itself which was reflective of "u1c Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface" and u1b Developed land; sealed surface under UKHab criteria.	
	A single pond was located within the woodland belt along the drainage ditch. The pond banks were largely overgrown, with	

Receptor	Details	Distance
	limited access available for survey. The western bank of the pond was reinforced with a small concrete retaining wall, but other banks appeared natural in structure. This was reflective of "r1a Eutrophic standing water" under UK Hab criteria.	
Designated Sites	Two statutory designated sites are located within 2km of the Site, namely the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and River Itchen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The boundaries of these sites overlap, with the SSSI covering a greater area. The River Itchen site comprises chalk river habitats and associated fen meadow and flood pasture. It is designated as an SAC due to the presence of Annex I habitats ("3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation"), and Annex II species ("1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> " and "1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> ").	Approximately 830m from the Site boundary at its closest point. The SANG Site falls within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for the River Itchen SSSI/SAC.
Non-statutory designated sites	Stoke Park Wood, Judges Gully Copse and Poplar Plantation (Stoke Park Wood) are situated directly adjacent to the Site boundary. Stoke Park Woods, which borders the site to the west and south, contains areas listed on Natural England's Inventory of Ancient Woodlands as either Replanted Ancient Woodland or Ancient and Semi-natural Woodland.	Adjacent
Habitat Networks	The Site is located within 'Network Enhancement Zone 2' as per the National Habitat Network Maps (Edwards et al., 2020). These are areas identified as having the potential to be suitable for creation of priority habitats and for the expansion of habitats to improve habitat connectivity to contribute towards landscape conservation objectives.	Site
Roosting bats	The walkover habitat survey noted a small number of mature and veteran trees within the central woodland belt and adjacent Stoke Park Wood habitats which may have some low to moderate potential for supporting bat roosts. However detailed assessments were not undertaken as no significant impacts on these are anticipated under the proposed scheme.	Site

Receptor	Details	Distance
Bats (commuting/ foraging)	The grassland habitats are likely to support a moderate range of invertebrate prey species for bats such as moths, flies, midges and beetles. Whilst the upper reaches of the fields are open and exposed to prevailing weather (and therefore unlikely to attract bats for foraging purposes regularly), the lower reaches and woodland treelines are considered likely to offer good opportunities for foraging and commuting by a range of bat species.	Site.
Hazel Dormouse	The woodland both within and bordering the Site, along with the hedgebanks along Sewall Drive, are considered to offer good quality habitat for Hazel Dormouse. However, absence of the species during 2013 surveys adjacent to the Site indicates that the likelihood of encountering Hazel Dormouse at the Site is reasonably low.	Site
Badger	Badgers' setts were identified within the main proposed SANG boundary during the May 2023 walkover by Burton Reid Associates. Due to the risk of persecution the precise location of these setts is not included within this document. Setts identified included a possible remnant main sett (4-5no. entrance holes identified, only 2no. of which showed signs of recent use), and an additional partially-used single entrance outlier sett approximately 160m away.	Site
Birds	During surveys it was noted that the vast majority of bird activity recorded was associated with the off-Site woodland habitats to the south and west of the Site (Stoke Park Woods), hedgerows bordering the Site and farm buildings to the north-east. Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>, was the only bird recorded which is listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and was a probable breeder, likely nesting within woodland off-site to the south-west of the Site and frequently using the Site for foraging. No ground nesting species associated with farmland habitats, such as Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>, were recorded during the surveys. This may be due to the nature of past management	Immediately off-Site woodland and hedgerows bordering the Site.

Receptor	Details	Distance
	through intensive grazing, but this species may begin to use the Site under improved management.	
Reptiles	The grassland habitats at the Site are largely considered to be of low to moderate suitability for supporting reptile populations due to the historical regular disturbance of the land through farming practices, regular management of the grass area adjacent to the cemetery car park, and the distinct lack of a litter layer in the sward to provide opportunities for cover / refuge. Nevertheless, reptiles may occupy the denser / less disturbed woodland edge habitats.	Site
Great Crested Newt	Due to the pond present within the Site offering potentially suitable aquatic habitat for Great Crested Newt, along with adjacent suitable terrestrial habitats in the form of woodland and grassland, water samples were collected from this waterbody for analysis for Great Crested Newt eDNA by an accredited laboratory (SureScreen Scientific Ltd). These returned a negative result (0 positive replicates).	Site
Other species	The grassland habitats and bordering woodland habitats appear to be of low to moderate value for invertebrates and are likely to support a good diversity of invertebrate species, but scarce and threatened species are considered unlikely to be present here based on the intensive farming practices in use at the Site until November 2021. The tall grassland and woodland edge habitats offer suitable foraging habitat for Hedgehog. Multiple records of Hedgehog in the Bishopstoke area were returned within the HBIC data search and they are therefore known to be present in the locality.	Site

4 POTENTIALLY DAMAGING CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

The main impacts during the construction phase include the direct loss of habitat within the Development footprint including permanent loss of up to 0.07ha of grassland as a result of creation of the new footpaths, and temporary loss of up to 1.43ha during ground works to create attenuation features and paths (edges). There is a risk to the Badger sett located on Site via disturbance to Badgers occupying a sett during the works phase due to noise and vibration and/or accidental sett destruction. Although no reptile or dormouse specific surveys were completed it is assumed that these species could be present on Site and therefore vegetation clearance and groundworks in suitable habitats could result in impacts to these species. Indirect loss of habitat and impacts to other protected species due to noise and vibration disturbance, and dust and water pollution is also possible.

The table below identifies the construction activities that have potential to impact biodiversity on and off site, in the absence of specific mitigation measures, and assesses the severity/ likelihood of the risk.

ACTIVITY	RECEPTOR	RISK	ASSESSMENT OF RISK
Site set up/creation of compound	Grassland, woodland and hedgerows.	Risk of direct physical damage to grassland, hedgerow and trees by the movement of vehicles or materials.	High risk – in particular adjacent to woodland and hedgerow habitats.
	Adjacent Stoke Park Wood and Judges Gully Copse SINC.	Damage to root systems of hedgerows and trees through compression by vehicles or storage of materials.	
	Badger.	Location of fencing blocking Badger commuting routes.	High risk.
	Reptiles.	Risk of killing/injury to reptiles, if present, in grass sward and hedgerow boundaries during site set up/creation of compound.	Moderate risk – in suitable habitat.
	Other wildlife.	Entrapment of animals in fencing/materials/wire.	Moderate risk – in particular related to small mammals.
Vegetation clearance	Breeding birds.	Accidental damage to birds' nests. Loss of nesting habitat during vegetation removal, creation of new site pathways and access points.	High risk – in particular during breeding bird season (March-October inclusive).
	Dormouse.	Low risk of death/injury to dormice as a result of removal of hedgerow habitat during creation of new access point.	Moderate risk – in suitable habitat.
	Reptiles.	Risk of killing/injury to reptiles, if present, in grass sward and hedgerow boundaries	High risk – in suitable habitat if species present.

ACTIVITY	RECEPTOR	RISK	ASSESSMENT OF RISK
		during vegetation removal, creation of new site pathways and access points.	
Ground works/construction	River Itchen SAC.	Risk of increased sediment or pollution incidents entering local drainage network during catchment.	High risk – in absence of pollution prevention measures.
	Adjacent Stoke Park Wood and Judges Gully Copse SINC.	Dust deposition on retained habitats.	Moderate risk - increases during dry and windy weather.
	Grassland, woodland, pond and hedgerows.	Permanent loss of up to 0.07ha of grassland as a result of creation of the new footpaths, and temporary loss of up to 1.43ha during ground works to create attenuation features and paths (edges). Risk of direct physical damage to grassland, trees and hedgerows by the movement of vehicles or materials. Damage to root systems of trees and hedgerows through compression by the movement of vehicles or materials. Risk of sediment entering the pond. Construction-related dust impacting on health of vegetation by coating of leaves.	High risk – particularly during excavations and due to inappropriate stock piling of spoil/soil within tree/shrub root protection zone or vicinity of pond.
	Badger.	Known setts may fall within 30m of the construction zone where groundworks/construction activities are proposed. Risk of new setts forming close to ground works area prior to commencement of works.	High risk – if construction zone within 30m of known sett or any newly identified setts.
		Risk of Badgers becoming trapped in excavations/pipes.	Moderate risk.
	Reptiles.	Risk of killing/injury to reptiles, if present, in grass sward and hedgerow boundaries during groundworks/construction activities if not preceded by vegetation removal.	High risk - in suitable habitats if species present.
Lighting	Wildlife	Fragmentation of wildlife corridors by causing animals to avoid lit areas, particularly hedgerows or foraging areas.	Moderate risk – particularly in areas adjacent to linear features (hedgerows/woodland

ACTIVITY	RECEPTOR	RISK	ASSESSMENT OF RISK
		Possible risks from light to roosting bats (assumed on a precautionary basis).	edges or areas of rough grassland) or trees.
Waste disposal	Habitats and water courses.	Inappropriate disposal of waste, causing environmental damage, compaction of roots, impacts to water bodies, spreading of invasive species.	High risk – particularly adjacent to woodland and water courses.

5 METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 Phasing

Works expected to commence on 31st January 2025.

5.2 Impact Avoidance and Mitigation

The table below provides details of the impacts and associated avoidance and mitigation measures. The ECOP in Appendix II provides the locations of ecologically sensitive areas.

IMPACT	AVOIDANCE/MITIGATION
Site set up/compound	- Pre-commencement checks/surveys for protected species (nesting birds, etc.) shall be undertaken by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) as required for time of year if habitats will be impacted. ECoW to advise. - Retained hedgerows, trees and shrubs within and bordering the Site shall be protected in accordance with BS 5837:2012 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction) or the recommendations of an appropriately qualified arboriculturist.
Vegetation clearance	- Precautionary approach to vegetation clearance to avoid harm to reptiles shall be implemented, to include: Phased clearance of any suitable reptile habitats (tussocky grassland, hedgerow bases, piles of vegetation/logs/rubble). Initial cut to 20cm followed by second cut to ground level 48 hours later. Cut shall be directional, towards areas of retained suitable habitat. To be supervised by the ECoW. Please note: grubbing up of hedgerows should be avoided during the period November to March when reptiles and/or dormice could be hibernating at ground level. - Grass sward to be kept closely mown in areas proposed for groundworks in the lead up to construction activities to ensure reptiles do not colonise the habitats ahead of works. - Clearance of low-level scrub and hedgerow bases shall be carried out sympathetically to protect any hedgehogs that may be present, outside hibernation period where possible (hibernation period typically October to March inclusive). To be supervised by the ECoW. - Licensed ECoW shall complete a finger-tip search of any suitable Hazel Dormouse habitat (hedgerows and scrub) prior to any minor clearance. If individuals or nests are encountered, then a licence from Natural England shall be required. Please note: if clearance works commence in the period November to end February, then hedgerows should be cut to 30cm initially and left in situ until beginning of March before being grubbed up. If this is not possible then a Licensed ECoW will need to work alongside contractors using a digger with a toothed bucket to carefully grub up hedgerow bases. - Any proposed clearance of woodland, scrub or hedgerow habitats should be undertaken outside of the nesting period (i.e. between September and February inclusive). Should this work be required to be undertaken between March and August inclusive, it should be preceded by a nesting check by an experienced ecologist no more than 24hrs prior to removal.
Groundworks/construction	Precautionary approach to groundworks to avoid harm to reptiles shall be implemented, to include: ECoW to supervise initial phase of groundworks within any identified suitable habitat. Please note: grubbing up of hedgerows should be avoided during the period November to March when reptiles and/or dormice could be hibernating at ground level.

IMPACT	AVOIDANCE/MITIGATION
	• Ecologist to undertake pre-commencement survey for formation of Badger setts within any areas proposed for mechanical ground works, and (where accessible) and additional 30m buffer zone. • Badger and other wildlife shall be protected during works by covering steep-sided excavations overnight or providing a means of escape (a ramp). • Contractors to be made aware of the presence of Badgers at the Site and potential for formation of new setts. Project ecologist to be contacted immediately on discovery of new mammal holes for further inspection and advice. • As the Development involves groundworks, any topsoil and subsoil extracted shall be kept separately to ensure contamination does not occur and to avoid damage to soil quality and structure. Any excavated material shall be kept a minimum of 20m from any watercourse. • Although unlikely, if any contaminated earth is uncovered, this shall be stored separately and disposed of accordingly once the contaminant has been identified. • The amount of exposed ground and soil stockpiles shall be kept to a minimum and any stockpiles in place for an extended period of time shall be allowed to re-vegetate naturally. • Earthworks shall not occur during unsuitable weather conditions, including when soils are waterlogged or very dry. • Standard pollution prevention measures will be implemented during the construction phase to mitigate any impacts due to spillages etc.
Lighting	• The use of lighting shall be minimised and restricted during the construction period to avoid impacts on bats between dusk and dawn, particularly during the bat active season (March-November).
Noise	• Noise shall be controlled during operation of plant, including fitting and proper maintenance of silencers and/or enclosures, avoiding excessive and unnecessary revving of engines and parking of equipment in locations which avoid possible effects on ecological receptors.
Dust	• During windy conditions, any dust generating activities shall be avoided or minimised, where practical. • Any soil stockpiles shall be covered or left to naturally revegetate when left for extended periods of time.
Waste disposal	• The Contractor shall ensure that all waste shall be disposed of responsibly from the Site. • All chemicals shall be stored in a secure area with an accompanying COSHH Datasheet. • Spill kits shall be readily available to all personnel. The spill kits shall be of an appropriate size and type for the materials held on Site. • Mobile plant shall be refuelled in a designated area, on an impermeable surface well away from any drains or watercourses. Drip trays shall be located under all static plant vehicles.

6 MONITORING

Monitoring will be required to ensure that the recommendations within this CEcMP are being adhered to. Monitoring will be completed by the Site Manager and the Ecological Clerk of Works.

6.1 General Site Maintenance

The Site Manager is responsible for ensuring that a general Environmental Monitoring Programme is implemented, this is summarised in the table below and will consist of daily checks.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT	MONITORING LOCATION	FREQUENCY	TYPE
Site housekeeping	Entire Site	Daily check.	Visual inspection.
Fencing	Entire Site	Daily check to ensure that fencing is correctly installed and no-go zones are fully implemented.	Visual inspection.
Retained habitats	Entire Site	Daily check to ensure retained habitats are being protected.	Visual inspection.
Lighting	Dark zones	Daily check to ensure that dark zones are being implemented.	Visual inspection.
Fuels and chemicals – appropriate storage	Entire Site	Daily check to ensure no incidents.	Visual inspection.

6.2 Ecological Clerk of Works

Due to the ecological receptors at the Site an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be required to undertake specialist monitoring. The roles and responsibilities of the ECoW are:

- Understanding of ecological features and constraints, including sensitive timings
- Knowledge of construction risks and proposed biodiversity protection zones
- Understanding of ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancements proposed and knowledge of methods to achieve them
- On site practical undertaking of clerk of works to avoid/ reduce ecological impacts and provision of ecological advice
- Regular reporting to client, Site Manager and Contractor
- Monitoring and reporting on unplanned incidents and compliance with legal, planning and contract requirements, including a report to certify that the required mitigation and/or compensation measures identified in the CEMP have been completed. This shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval within 3 months of the date of substantial completion of the development or at the end of the next available planting season, whichever is the sooner.

The Ecological Clerk of Works shall be appointed by the Main Contractor. The Ecological Clerk of Works shall report to the Applicant.

The table below summarises the monitoring and the ECOP in Appendix II provides the locations of ecologically sensitive areas.

ECOLOGICAL RECEPTOR	MONITORING LOCATION	COMMENTS	TYPE
Badger	Within any areas proposed for mechanical ground works, and (where accessible) and additional 30m buffer zone.	Ecologist to undertake pre-commencement survey for formation of Badger setts	Visual inspection.
Breeding birds	Hedgerow and scrub.	Pre-commencement checks/surveys for protected species (nesting birds, etc.) shall be undertaken by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) as required for time of year if habitats will be impacted. ECoW to advise.	Visual inspection and ecological supervision.
Reptiles	Rough grassland, hedgerow understorey.	Supervision by ECoW of clearance of suitable habitats.	Visual inspection and ecological supervision.
Hazel Dormouse	Rough grassland, hedgerow understorey.	Finger-tip search by ECoW (with suitable licence) of any hedgerow areas prior to clearance.	Visual inspection and ecological supervision.

7 APPENDICES

Appendix I: Example Monitoring sheet

Site / Contract	Stoke Park Farm SANG	Responsibility	Site Manager
Client / Customer	Eastleigh Borough Council		
Receptor	<i>All – daily checks</i>		
Date		Time	

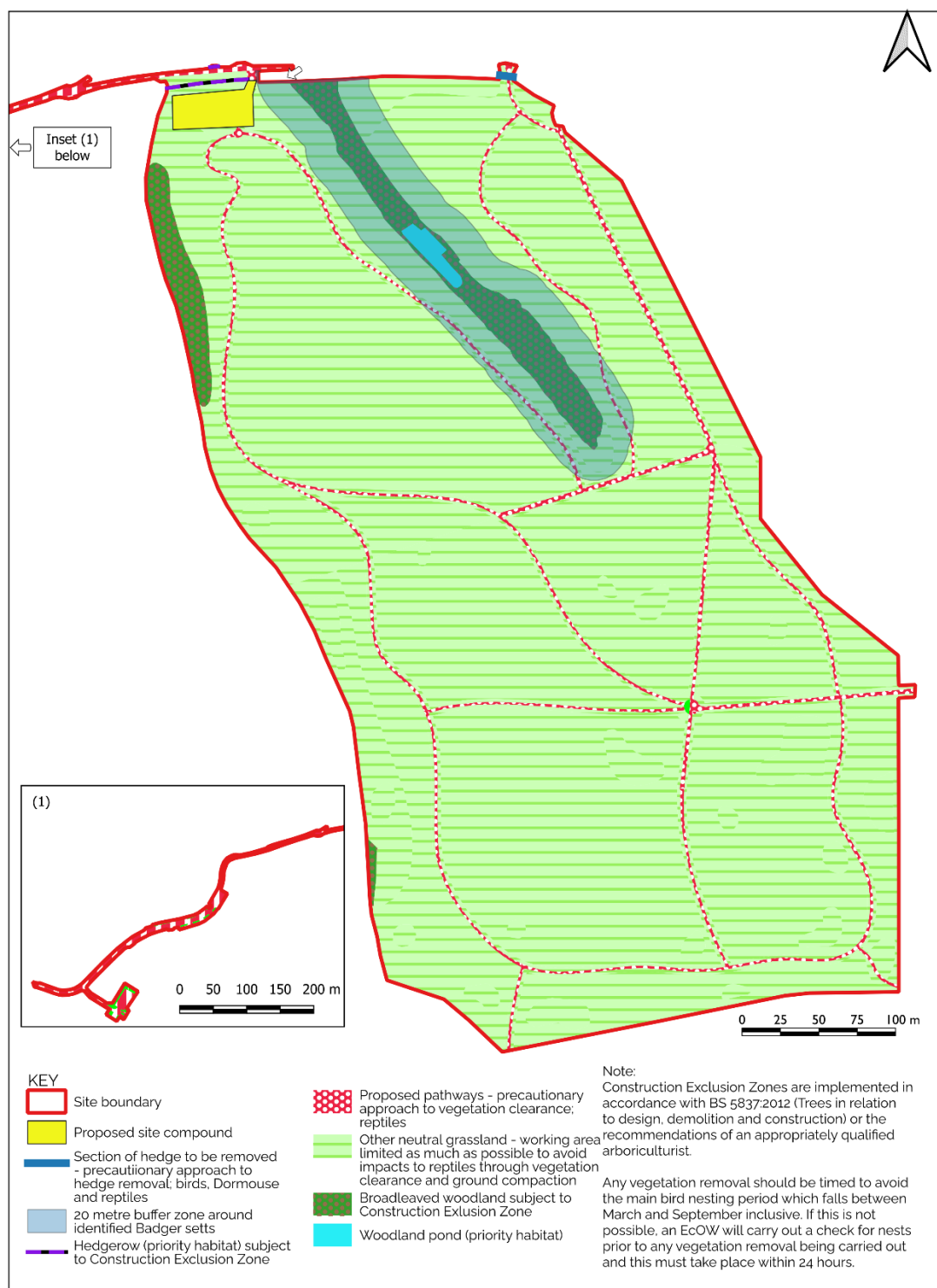
ITEM CHECK	Details/Findings	SIGNATURE & DATE (Site Manager)	SIGNATURE & DATE (Contractor)
Site housekeeping – check that the Site is clean and tidy at all times and that waste is properly disposed of.			
Check that all trenches are left with a sloping end or ramp at the end of each day.			
Check that any pipes over 200mm in diameter are capped off at night.			
Ensure lighting strategy is being adhered to at all times between the months of March to October			
Ensure that tree protection fencing is in place at the end of each day.			
Ensure that areas of retained habitat are free from plant and debris each day.			
Inspect any soil/spoil piles to ensure that they are secure and not unnecessarily			

compacted or producing dust or other nuisance.			
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Remarks / Comments

Copies to Client, Site File & Office

Appendix II: Ecological Constraints and Opportunities Plan (ECOP)



BURTON REID
ASSOCIATES

Site: Stoke Park Farm SANG, Eastleigh
Client: Eastleigh borough Council

Plan: Ecological Constraints and Opportunities Plan
Date November 2024

BY GY | DOC REF BR1113/CEcMP/A | REV. A

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CONTACT US

Registered Office
Suite 8, Buckfastleigh Business Centre
33 Chapel Street, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0AB



Registered Office 01364 701150



hello@burtonreid.co.uk
www.burtonreid.co.uk



BURTON REID
ASSOCIATES

