

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

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Report	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
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Client	Hampshire Homes Limited
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

Ecosupport Ltd were commissioned by Hampshire Homes to produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the development of the site known as 'Former Rushfield Nurseries'. The CEMP has been produced to ensure appropriate mitigation measures to protect the ecological features on site. This was required to discharge Condition 9 of the planning approval for the site with Ref DC/26/0912), which states:

"No development shall commence until a construction environmental management plan (CEMP: Biodiversity) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The CEMP (Biodiversity) 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.
e) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works.
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.
h) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.

The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To conserve protected and Priority species and allow the Local Planning Authority to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended) and Policy 31 of the Horsham Development Framework (2015).

The baseline assessments relevant to this report were undertaken by WYG in 2018 and 2020 and updated by Tetra Tech in 2024.

1.2 Aim

The aim of the CEMP is to protect the ecological interests on the site during the construction period. This includes habitats of importance to be retained and various protected species such as Great Crested Newt (GCN), bats, reptiles, [redacted] birds, and Hazel Dormice. This report details the approach which construction workers will adopt in dealing with the potential ecological impacts associated with various construction activities, including:

- Details of construction activities which have potential to impact on biodiversity interests of the site;
- Details of sensitive biodiversity zones that require specific protection;

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- Method statements to avoid and mitigate impacts on protected species from construction works;
- Details of locations and timing of works to avoid impacts on protected species;
- Outline works which require supervision by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW); and
- Outline the roles and responsibilities and lines of communication of the involved parties including the developer, site manager, ECoW and any other contractors/subcontractors.

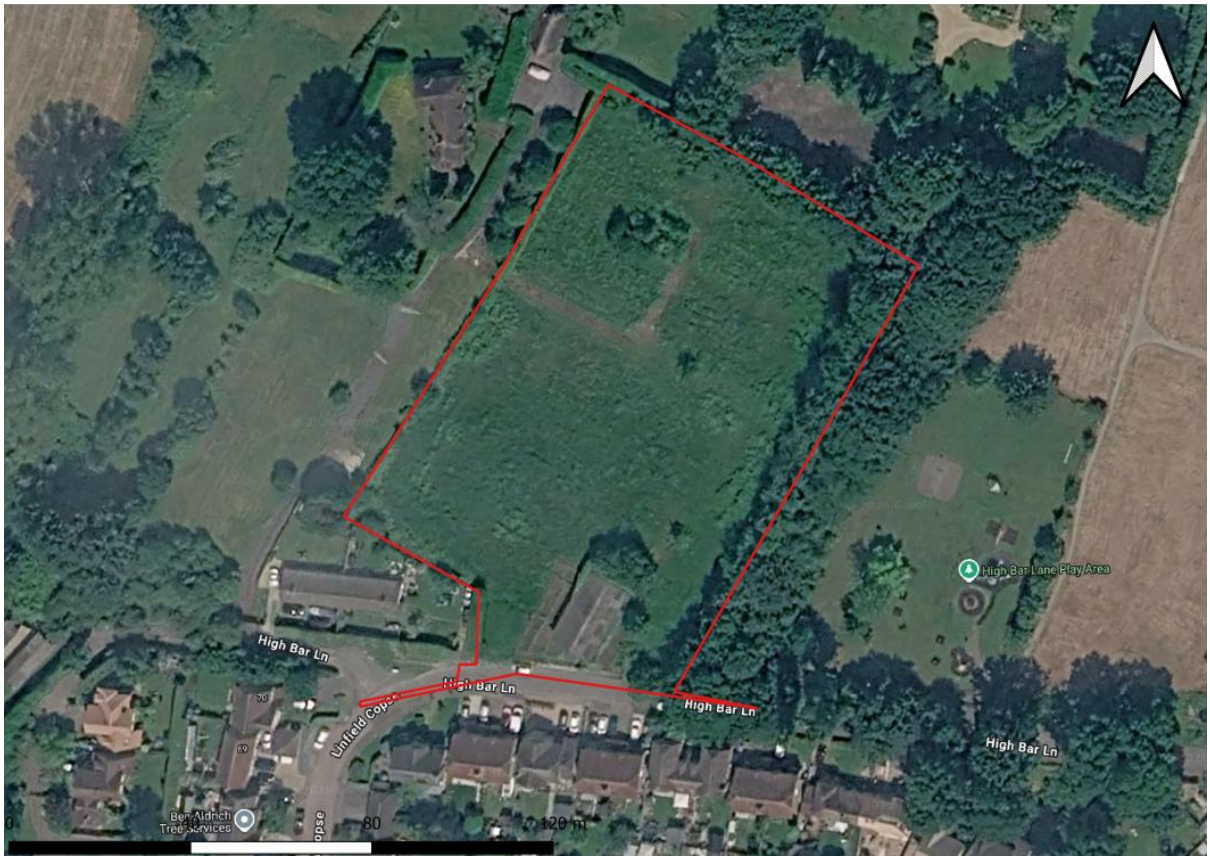
The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local Planning Authority and/or Natural England.

This report will meet the requirement of Condition 9 of the planning approval for the site with Ref: DC/26/0912.

1.3 Site Description

The site is located at the Former Rushfield Nurseries, Thakeham (centred on OS grid reference: TQ 09936 16970) (**Fig 1**). The land within the side comprises scrub, grassland, buildings and hard standing, along with an area of woodland to the east, bordering the site. The site is situated to the north of Abingworth village, bound by High Bar Lane to the south, and a mosaic of woodland and grassland habitats within the wider site to the north, east and west.

Figure 1. Approximate redline boundary of the site (Google Satellite, 2026)



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1.4 Development Proposals

The proposals entail a full planning application Ref: DC/26/0912 in respect of the demolition of existing buildings and the 25 residential dwellings, including affordable housing, vehicular access, landscaping, parking and other related works (**Fig 2**).

Figure 2. Proposed Site Plan (Ground Floor Level) (OSP, 2022. Drawing No. P101 (S)).



1.5 Structure of this Report

The following sections are included within this report:

- Ecological Baseline;
- Biodiversity Protection Zones;
- Construction Mitigation Measures;
- Method Statements for Habitats and Protected Species;
- Timing of Sensitive Works; and
- Responsible Persons and Lines of Communication.

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2.0 ECOLOGICAL BASELINE

A review of all ecological survey work to date, by WYG (2018 & 2020) and Tetra Tech (2024) has been undertaken to help inform the ecological baseline on site in combination with an updated walkover undertaken by Ecosupport Ltd in August 2026.

2.1 Habitats

2.1.1. On-site Habitats

The habitat assessment which forms the basis of the findings of this report was carried out by WYG (2020). An updated walkover by Ecosupport Ltd was conducted in August 2026 to assess whether habitats on site differed significantly from previous site assessments. Overall, the habitats on site were relatively similar to those identified during previous surveys, with the only slight difference being an overgrowth of bramble scrub (*Rubus fruticosus*), bracken (*Pteridum aquilinum*) and various Willow (*Salix cinerea*) and Oak (*Quercus robur*) saplings. Additionally, due to annual vegetation management conducted on the site, the area of bramble scrub along the eastern boundary is no longer present.

Habitats on site pre-development were identified in accordance with the categories specified for a UK Habitats survey, using Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd., 2023). Where appropriate primary habitat codes were used although for some habitat types, the use of secondary habitat codes was necessary as well.

The following habitats were identified on site:

- Other Neutral Grassland (g3c) (secondary habitat code 10: scattered scrub and 32: scattered trees) (**Fig 3**);
- Mixed Scrub (h3h) (**Fig 4**);
- Bramble Scrub (h3d);
- Developed Land; Sealed Surface (u1b);
- Buildings (u1b5) (**Fig 4 & 5**);
- Non-native and Ornamental Hedgerow (h2b) (**Fig 6**); and
- Other Woodland; Broadleaved (w1g) (secondary habitat code 33: Line of Trees) (**Fig 7**)

NB. Whilst the grassland species currently present on site are not representative of the other neutral grassland classification, the recent dry weather conditions make it difficult to determine whether these indicator species are still present on site. Considering this, the grassland has been kept as g3c, in line with the previous assessments.

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Figure 3. View of the grassland on site, with an overgrowth of bramble scrub (August 2026).



Figure 4. View of the mixed scrub covering the second building on site (August 2026).



Figure 5. View of the main building present to the south of the site (August 2026).



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Figure 6. View of the non-native and ornamental hedgerow present along the western site boundary (August 2026).



Figure 7. View of the line of trees present along the eastern boundary (August 2026).



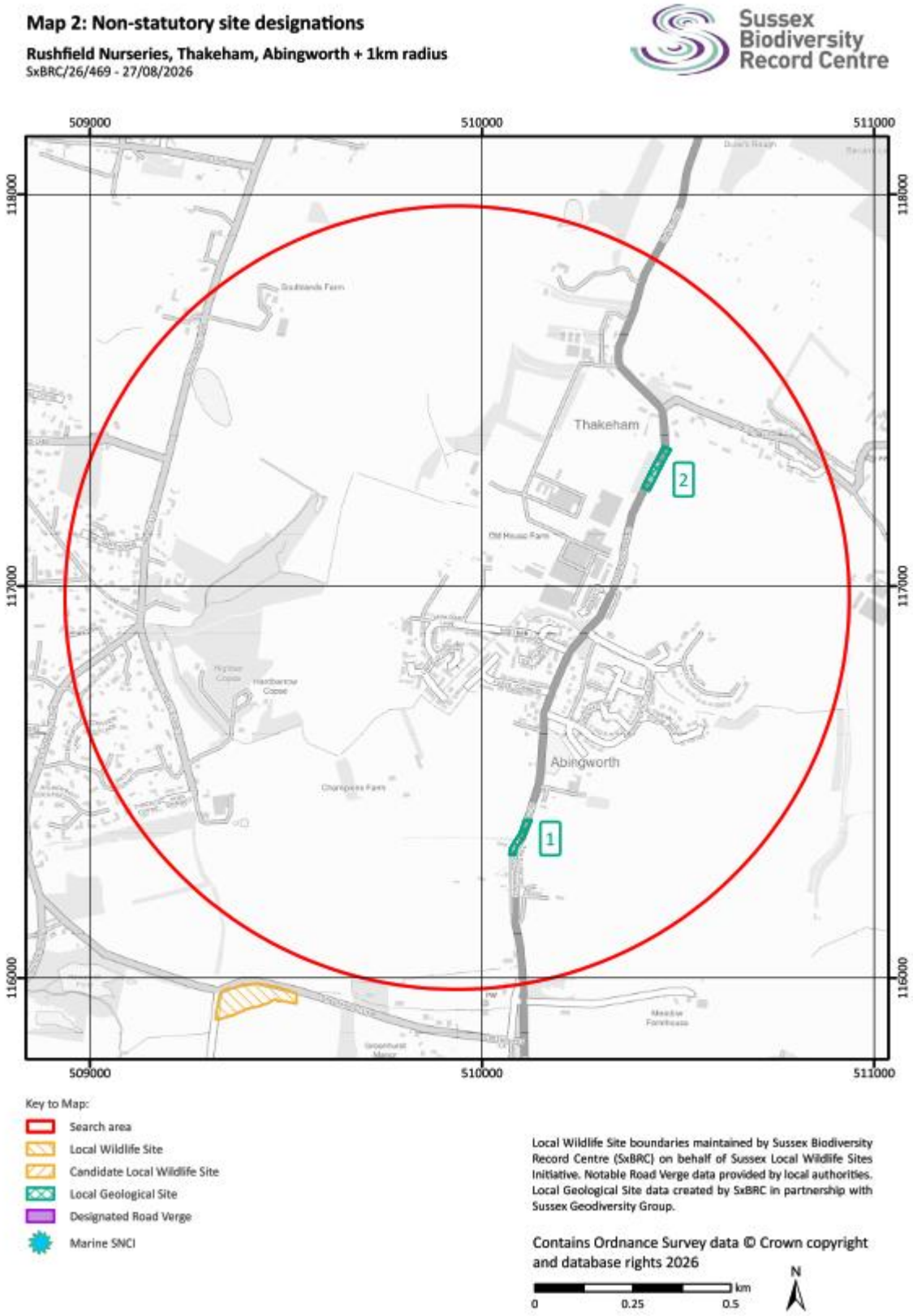
2.1.2 Designated Sites

An updated 1km data request was submitted to Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) to ascertain areas of statutory and non-statutory designated sites and priority habitats. SxBRC identified no statutory designated sites within 1km of the site. However, two Local Geological Sites were identified within 1km of the site boundaries, comprising Jacket's Hill, Abingworth (Map ref: 1), and B2139 Road Cutting, Thakeham (Map ref: 2) (**Fig 8**).

Additionally, SxBRC identified no Section 41 (Priority Habitats) on or within 1km of the site.

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Figure 8. Map of the non-statutory designated sites situated within 1km of the site, as identified by SxBRC.



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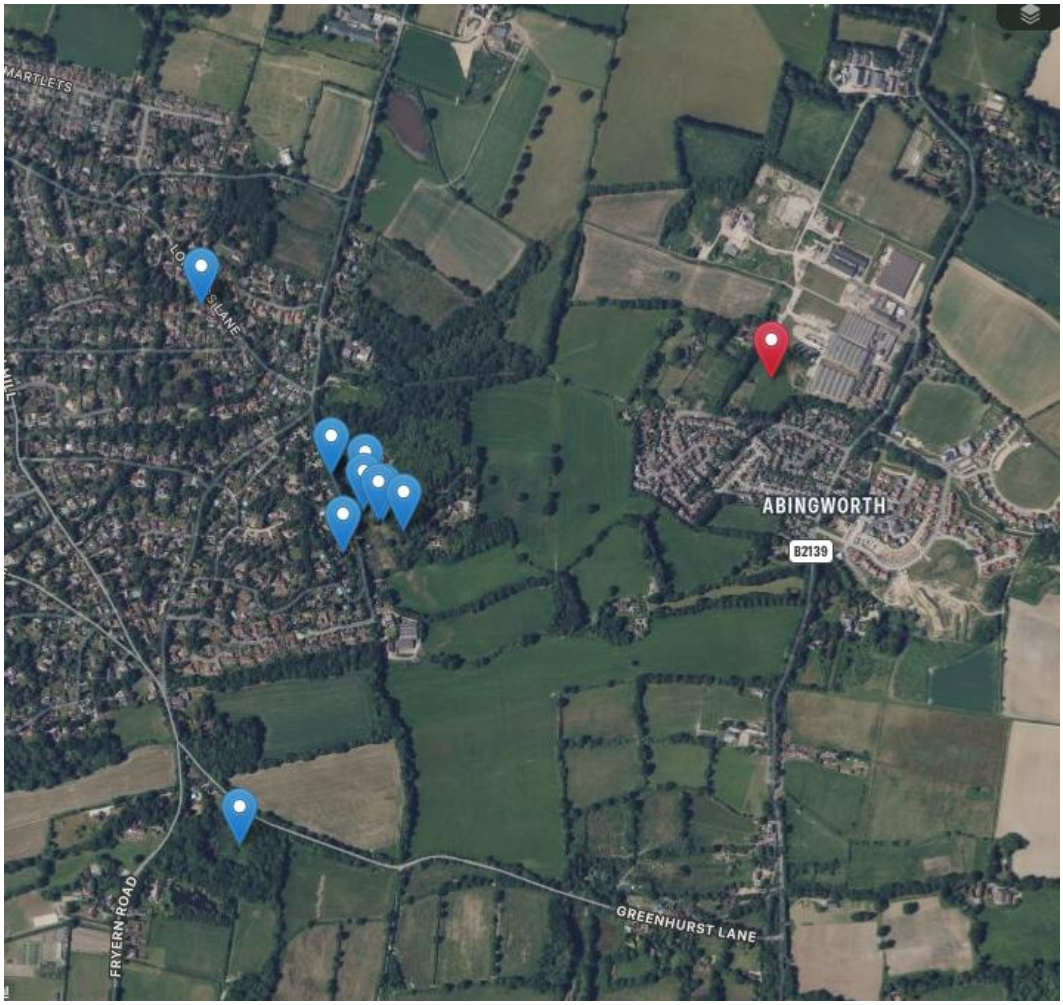
2.2 Protected or Notable Species

Full details of the relevant survey results can be found within the Protected Species Report (WYG, 2020) submitted as part of the application; however, the findings have been summarised in the sections below.

2.2.1 Hazel Dormice

During previous assessment, the site was deemed to be of negligible potential for Hazel Dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) due to the distance from the closest records and lack of suitable habitat on site. Whilst the habitats on site remain largely the same as identified in previous surveys, the updated data request from SxBRC identified 9 records of Hazel Dormice within 1km of the site, the majority of which appear to be in an area of woodland that is connected to the habitats on site (**Fig 9**). As such, due to the proximity of the records and the connectivity of the habitats, there is potential for dormice on site. However, as no works are proposed to the boundary habitats, precautionary measures will be implemented to ensure that suitable dormouse habitat is protected from damage during the works (as outlined in **Section 5.7**).

Figure 9. Location of the records of Hazel Dormice (blue pins) in relation to the site (red pin) as returned by SxBRC.



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2.2.2 Great Crested Newt

The recent data search from SxBRC identified no records of Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) from within 1km of the site boundaries.

WYG identified several ponds and ditches situated within 500m of the site during the initial site assessment in 2020 (**Fig 10**). Further survey work on these waterbodies has been recommended as per the updated Ecological Appraisal (Tetra Tech, 2024), due to the previous inaccessibility to the waterbodies. However, more recent assessments of suitable waterbodies within 500m of an adjacent application (Ref: DC/23/2152) by The Ecology Partnership (2022) identified only two ponds (labelled as 1 and 7 in **Figure 9** below) as having a 'good' Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score and no further survey work has been recommended or conducted for the site, with precautionary working methods in place within the CEMP (Aae Environmental Ltd, 2026) (Ref: DISC/26/0222).

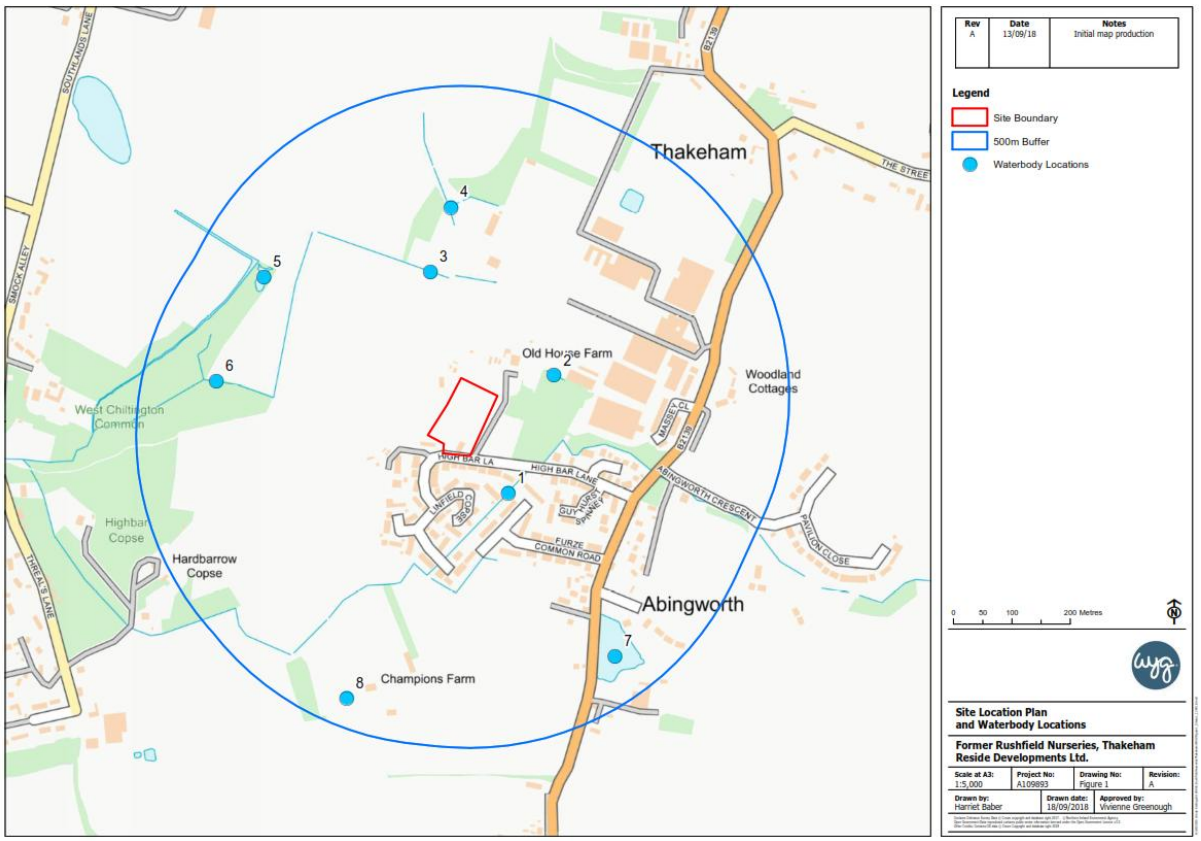
Additionally, consultation from Place Services on behalf of Horsham District Council (dated 12th August 2026) for this adjacent site states that following the implemented precautionary methods outlined within the CEMP, include the details required by the condition.

A GCN non-licensed precautionary statement (Tetra Tech, 2021) has also been provided as part of the application. This highlights that should the precautionary methods outlined within this statement be followed, works to be conducted on site will result in 'No effect' to GCN (as shown using the Rapid Risk Assessment tool by Natural England (2020)).

Considering the combined evidence from WYG (2020), Tetra Tech (2021) and the assessment of the adjacent site (The Ecology Partnership (2022) along with subsequent consultation from Place Services (2026), the above demonstrates a consistent and robust understanding of the GCN context surrounding the site. As such, it is considered that additional survey work is not considered necessary and the precautionary measures outlined within the GCN mitigation strategy (reinstated within this report and the reptile mitigation strategy (condition 11) are deemed sufficient to ensure that the proposed works proceed with no adverse effects to GCN.

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Figure 10. Location of the waterbodies identified within 500m of the site during the initial survey effort by WYG (2020)



2.2.3 Bats

Previous assessment of the buildings and suitable trees identified on site identified negligible potential for roosting bats, which was deemed a suitable assessment during the most recent walkover survey in August 2026. Due to the suitability of commuting and foraging habitat present on site, phase II surveys in the form of walked transects and static deployment were conducted during the 2019 survey period. During the previous survey effort (WYG, 2020), commuting and foraging Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), Serotine (*Cnephaeus serotinus*), Brown Long-Eared Bats (*Plecotus auritus*) and *Myotis* species, were recorded on site.

The updated walkover identified minimal change in habitats and their conditions, and as such, it is considered that the site is likely still in use by commuting and foraging bats.

2.2.4 Reptiles

WYG (2020) identified the habitats on site as having suitability to support common reptile species, and as such a suite of presence / likely absence surveys were conducted on site in 2020. The surveys identified no reptiles, and they were deemed likely absent from the site. Additionally, records from the most recent data request to SxBRC, identified just three records of grass snake within 1km of the site, all dated between 1987 and 1999.

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As the habitats have remained largely the same as previously, further survey work is not considered necessary; however, as the surveys are outdated, precautionary measures will be implemented to ensure the protection of reptiles should they now be present on site.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

2.2.6 Breeding and Nesting Birds

Previous assessment of the habitats on site by WYG (2020) and Tetra Tech (2024) identified a number of habitats (i.e. scrub, trees and buildings) as being suitable for a wide range of common birds.

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Considering the habitats on site are largely the same as previously identified, the site is still considered to offer potential for a range of common breeding and nesting birds.

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3.0 BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION ZONES

One Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ) will be established around the boundaries of the site to ensure the protection of any retained boundary habitats and the protected or priority species which may be using them, including the treeline connecting to further woodland areas to the east of the site (which also contains valuable commuting and foraging habitat for bats and birds.

3.1 Protection of Retained Habitats

All existing habitats that will be retained will be protected from damage during the works. A buffer of up to 10m will be provided from any retained mature trees and hedgerows where possible, which will be fenced using Heras fencing or similar to prevent access by machinery or contractors. This buffer will ensure that all retained trees and hedgerows along the boundaries are appropriately protected. No vehicles will enter the protective ring fencing and no materials will be stored within their circumference. All protective fencing must be in place prior to any construction machinery arriving on site, before any works on site get underway, and will remain in place until all work is completed. This will minimise the level of disturbance within the retained habitats during the works and ensure the habitats and any wildlife species that may be using them are protected.

Details and the location of the relevant Biodiversity Protection Zone are provided in **Section 5.2**.

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4.0 CONSTRUCTION MITIGATION MEASURES

4.1 Risk Assessment

A summary of the risk assessment of potential impacts and reference to relevant method statements has been provided in **Table 1.**

Table 1. Summary of risk assessment and mitigation.

Ecological Feature	Risk Assessment of Potential Impacts	Summary of Mitigation Required & Relevant Method Statements
Retained habitats	Damage from machinery or from storage of materials, soil compaction. Accidental killing, harm or disturbance to species using retained habitats.	**Before construction** • Protective fencing and BPZs established (**Section 5.2**) • Toolbox talk (**Section 5.1**) **During construction** • Regular monitoring of fencing and fencing repairs as needed (**Section 5.9**)
	Damage from pollution such as atmospheric pollution (e.g. dust) coating vegetation or aquatic pollution from runoff leading to deposition of soil, silt or chemicals in sensitive habitats, which could lead to degradation of habitat.	**Before construction** • General good practice measures are detailed in **Section 4.2** below. **During construction** • Ecological monitoring (**Section 5.9**)
Roosting bats	Killing, injury and/or disturbance of bats and destruction or damage to roosts within trees, if present.	**During construction** Any new additional trees to be removed will be subject to an updated Ground Level Tree Assessment prior to remedial works or removal with the potential for further survey work (**Section 5.3**).
Foraging and commuting bats and nocturnal wildlife	Lighting may impact bat foraging and commuting activity, along with foraging behaviour of any nocturnal mammals on site.	**During construction** Sensitive lighting (**Section 5.8**).
Great Crested Newts	Accidental killing or injury of Great Crested Newts and common amphibians, if present.	**Before construction** • Toolbox Talk (**Section 5.4**) **During construction** • Sensitive habitat removal / passive dispersal (**Section 5.4**) • Destructive search (**Section 5.4**).
Reptiles	Accidental killing or harm to reptiles, if present.	**Before construction** • Toolbox Talk (**Section 5.5**) **During construction** • Sensitive habitat removal / passive dispersal (**Section 5.5**). • Destructive search (**Section 5.5**).

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[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Nesting Birds	Nesting birds in habitats such as buildings and may be impacted by vegetation clearance, resulting in death, injury or disturbance.	**During construction** • Timing of vegetation clearance and buildings will take place in September to February if possible. • If not possible, a nesting bird check will be carried out within 48 hours prior to works and any nests retained (**Section 5.7**).

4.2 General Good Practice Construction Measures

The below sections outline general good practices to adopt to ensure protection of ecological features. This will ensure that any adverse impacts during the construction phase towards the adjacent ancient woodland are mitigated and minimised.

4.2.1 Dust generation

Generation of dust will be mitigated by wetting down and/or using screening as needed. Particular care will be taken around the BPZs or valuable retained habitats such as trees.

4.2.2 Excavations and trenches

Any excavations or trenches will be covered at night and/or escape ramps will be provided to prevent nocturnal species such as [redacted] and hedgehog from becoming trapped. These areas will be inspected each morning to ensure no wildlife has been trapped.

4.2.3 Open pipework

Any open pipework larger than 15cm diameter will be covered at the end of each day to avoid nocturnal mammals such as [redacted] or Hedgehogs from entering pipes and potentially becoming trapped.

4.2.4 Hazardous materials and waste

Any chemicals or hazardous materials and waste will be stored in secure areas according to best practice and will be well-labelled. No construction materials will be stored within BPZs, and any hazardous materials will be stored away from the BPZs.

4.2.5 Storage of materials

Materials will be stored to avoid creating potential refuges for wildlife. This includes avoiding stacked or piled materials on the ground. The site should be kept tidy with storage of materials off the ground such as on pallets or in skips. Materials will be stored away from valuable retained vegetation where possible (e.g. treeline and hedgerows) to avoid impacts from dust generation or disturbance of wildlife species.

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Storage of stockpiles or soils should be smoothed as much as possible to prevent opportunities for cavities or burrows being created. If an animal is found within the site, it should be moved gently to a habitat away from the working area, or an ecologist consulted if required.

4.2.6 Noise and Vibration Management

The surrounding area is largely residential and may be disturbed by excessive noise and vibration associated with the construction period. Accordingly, construction activities will therefore:

- Follow restricted working hours.
- Use well-maintained, quieter plant where practicable.
- Position any static equipment away from sensitive boundaries.
- Use temporary acoustic barriers when high-noise operations are required.
- Schedule inherently noisy works to minimise community disturbance.
- Monitor vibration where activities involve heavy demolition or compaction.

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5.0 METHOD STATEMEMENTS FOR HABITATS AND PROTECTED SPECIES

The following method statements have been produced to ensure the protection of retained habitats and protected species within the site:

1. Toolbox talk;
2. Biodiversity Protection Zones;
3. Great Crested Newts;
4. Reptiles;
5. [redacted]
6. Hazel Dormice
7. Nesting birds;
8. Lighting during construction; and
9. Ecological Monitoring during construction.

5.1 Toolbox Talk

5.1.1 Summary

- **Description:** A Toolbox Talk provided to all site personnel to cover all ecological constraints and method statements.
- **Purpose:** To ensure site personnel are aware of ecological obligations and will carry out construction works as per method statements for the protection of habitats and species
- **Dates:** Prior to construction commencing, and throughout the construction period for any new site personnel or if there are any significant changes in status of ecological features requiring a change in practice.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and Site Manager.

5.1.2 Method Statement

A Toolbox Talk will be provided prior to the commencement of construction. This will be provided by the ECoW to all site personnel. Following this, it will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to provide all information within the toolbox talk to any new site workers as part of their site induction. The information provided to site personnel will include all method statements included within this report to sufficient detail necessary for site personnel to understand ecological constraints and obligations.

5.1.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

A record of the Toolbox Talk will be kept of details including location, date and participants. Participants will sign or initial the record to confirm they have understood the constraints and method statements. Following the initial talk, all new site workers will be provided the toolbox talk as part of their site induction and they will sign to confirm they have understood.

If the Site Manager changes, a Toolbox Talk will be provided by the ECoW to the new Site Manager.

5.1.4 Stop-works Protocol

In the unlikely event that any incidents occur on site, the following protocol will be implemented:

- **Trigger:** Discovery of a protected species, injured animal, or damage to BPZ/fencing.

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- **Action:** Stop relevant works, inform Site Manager, Site Manager contacts ECoW, ECoW advises and records.

5.2 Biodiversity Protection Zones

5.2.1 Summary

- **Description:** Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) will be established and protected.
- **Purpose:** To protect retained habitats and protected species.
- **Dates:** Established prior to construction and maintained in place until all construction completed.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), Fencing Contractor and Site Manager.

5.2.2 Method Statement

One Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ) will be established on site prior to the commencement of construction. This zone will be protected by protective fencing, installed around the edges of the BPZ, which will prevent entry to the retained boundary habitats and wider environment. See Appendices for plans showing the BPZs and protective fencing.

No site personnel or machinery will enter the BPZs at any time and materials will not be stored in these areas. The fencing will remain in place until all construction works have been completed.

The fencing installation will be checked by the ECoW, who will ensure it has been correctly installed.

5.2.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

The fence will be inspected monthly (see **Section 5.9**) by the Site Manager. It will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to ensure the fencing is maintained and any repairs are carried out immediately as necessary.

5.3 Reptiles

5.3.1 Summary

- **Description:** Any reptiles present will be translocated from works area towards the site boundaries under a Precautionary Working Method Statement.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to reptiles.
- **Dates:** Prior to the start of construction.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and Site Manager.

5.3.2 Mitigation Strategy

5.3.2.1 Overview

Due to the legal protection relating to reptiles, it is necessary to implement mitigation to ensure these animals are not harmed as a result of the impending construction works and to ensure that there is no net reduction in the conservation status of reptiles in the local area. Therefore, this mitigation strategy has been produced in accordance with best practice guidelines relating to reptiles and development, published by Gent & Gibson (1998) and the HGBI (1998). The desirable approach is to

avoid development within the areas used by reptiles. If this is not possible, reptiles should be moved to areas within the site that are to be retained, enhanced and managed to provide suitable habitat (relocation).

The Herpetofauna Workers Manual (Gent & Gibson 2003) recommends that *in situ* relocations are always preferable and as such, the proposals have sought to retain as much of the existing habitat as possible. Due to the absence of reptiles identified during the updated survey work, in combination with the retained site boundaries, it is not considered that a dedicated reptile receptor is necessary. Instead, a Precautionary Working Method Statement as described in greater detail below.

5.3.2.2 Sensitive Habitat Removal and Passive Dispersal

Given the size of the site and no reptiles identified during the previous survey effort (WYG, 2020), it is considered that passive dispersal is the most appropriate method of relocating any common reptiles and common amphibians which may be present on site.

Any suitable reptile / terrestrial amphibian habitat (such as low-lying scrub / grassland) requiring removal will be reduced in height gradually in a **two-stage** directional clearance under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). The first cut will be down to a height no lower than 15cm, solely using hand tools, which will encourage any sheltering reptiles to move out of the area. A second cut (undertaken the following day) will take the vegetation down to ground level.

Where taller areas of scrub or trees require removal, these will be subject to a **three-stage** cut, where the shrubs are reduced in height gradually (50cm then 15cm the following day) to encourage any sheltering reptiles to move out of the area, before a final cut to ground level is undertaken following a period of 24-48 hours. An ecologist will undertake a fingertip search prior to each cut. If there is a delay in commencement of works, vegetation will be retained at ground level to prevent the site potentially becoming suitable. These works will be directional (i.e. towards retained boundary habitats) (**Fig 14**). These works will be done immediately before any ground works, if possible, to prevent the habitats regrowing and will be undertaken during the active reptile period (March - October) when temperatures are above 12°C with sunshine.

If there is a delay in commencement of works, vegetation will be retained at ground level to prevent the site potentially becoming suitable. Any reptiles or common amphibians encountered during the works will be relocated by the supervising ecologist to the understory of the retained northern and eastern site boundaries.

5.3.2.3 Destructive Search

Following the conclusion of the passive dispersal, a destructive search of the site may be necessary. This would entail the sensitive stripping of vegetation on site using a toothed bucket where habitat is suitable for reptiles.

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Figure 14. Location and direction of the proposed passive dispersal approach (Google Satellite, 2026).



5.3.2.4 Post-completion Monitoring

Given the lack of reptiles identified on-site it is not considered post development population monitoring will be needed.

5.3.2.5 Supervision

The ECoW will oversee the implementation of this method statement. They will supervise the passive dispersal and destructive search vegetation management works.

5.3.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

The ECoW will keep records of a Mitigation Work Log, which will be provided to the Site Manager. No additional monitoring is required.

5.4 Great Crested Newts (GCN)

5.4.1 Summary

- **Description:** Any common amphibians present on site will be translocated from the works area towards the site boundaries under a Precautionary Working Method Statement.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to GCN.
- **Dates:** Prior to the start of construction.
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and Site Manager.

5.4.2 Method Statement

5.4.2.1 Overview

The proposed mitigation strategy, as originally outlined by Tetra Tech (2021), has been designed to ensure that the favourable conservation status of Great Crested Newt is maintained at the local level. These methods have been amended slightly in line with the above PWMS for reptiles to ensure that the proposed sensitive habitat removal and passive dispersal methodology accounts for both reptiles and common amphibians. The following methods can also be found within the precautionary working method statement (PWMS) for reptiles (Ecosupport, 2026).

5.4.2.2 Toolbox Talk

An ecologist holding a GCN license must brief all site operatives, providing a Toolbox Talk. This briefing must include details of the legal protection of GCN, all precautionary steps that must be taken during the proposed works, an annotated key detailing the appearance, characteristics and optimal habitat of GCN, as well as what actions need to be taken if a GCN is found on site.

5.4.2.3 Sensitive Habitat Removal and Passive Dispersal

Any suitable reptile / terrestrial amphibian habitat (such as low-lying scrub / grassland) requiring removal will be reduced in height gradually in a **two-stage** directional clearance under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). The first cut will be down to a height no lower than 15cm, solely using hand tools, which will encourage any sheltering reptiles to move out of the area. A second cut (undertaken the following day) will take the vegetation down to ground level.

Where taller areas of scrub or trees require removal, these will be subject to a **three-stage** cut, where the shrubs are reduced in height gradually (50cm then 15cm the following day) to encourage any sheltering reptiles to move out of the area, before a final cut to ground level is undertaken following a period of 24-48 hours. An ecologist will undertake a fingertip search prior to each cut. If there is a delay in commencement of works, vegetation will be retained at ground level to prevent the site potentially becoming suitable. These works will be directional (i.e. towards retained boundary habitats) (**Fig 14**). These works will be done immediately before any ground works, if possible, to prevent the habitats regrowing and will be undertaken during the active reptile period (March – October) when temperatures are above 12°C with sunshine.

If there is a delay in commencement of works, vegetation will be retained at ground level to prevent the site potentially becoming suitable. Any reptiles or common amphibians encountered during the works will be relocated by the supervising ecologist to the understory of the retained northern and eastern site boundaries.

5.4.2.7 Destructive Search

Following the sensitive habitat removal, the remaining ground vegetation can be gradually removed (to a depth of 1-2 inches) by a digger with a toothed bucked, which will allow any amphibians on site to be removed if discovered. This work must be supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist searching each bucket of removed vegetation and must be undertaken during the GCN / reptile active period (between March - October) when temperatures are above 12°C with sunshine.

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NB. If any GCN are found during the works, all works must immediately stop and the project ecologist must be informed with Nature Space or Natural England contacted in order to obtain a European Protected Species development license, or get the site registered to the DLL scheme.

5.4.2.8 Supervision

The ECoW, who shall hold an appropriate GCN licence, will oversee the implementation of this method statement. They will supervise the capture and translocation under licence, destructive search and vegetation management works.

5.4.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

The ECoW will keep records of a GCN Mitigation Work Log, which will be provided to the Site Manager. Post development population monitoring is not required.

[redacted]

[redacted]

5.6 Hazel Dormice

5.6.1 Summary

- **Description:** Boundary vegetation will be subject to preventative measures to ensure that it remains protected from damage for the duration of the works.
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to hazel dormice.
- **Dates:** Prior to construction until completion of construction
- **Relevant Personnel:** Site Manager and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

5.6.2 Method Statement

5.6.2.1 Protection of Suitable Habitats

Whilst the site has been deemed to be of negligible potential for hazel dormice during all previous assessments, the most recent data request to SxBRC identified a number of records within an area of woodland to the east of the site, which appears to be relatively well connected. However, no development is proposed along the boundaries of the site with all boundary habitats to be retained. As such, during construction, the retained hedgerows and tree line will be fenced off following the methods outlined in **Section 3.2** above, to ensure that all suitable Dormouse habitat is protected from damage and disturbance during the works. Should any areas of suitable boundary vegetation require clearance, precautionary working methodology will be adhered to and any clearance to these habitats will be supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist.

NB. If any dormice are identified on site during the works, all works must stop immediately, with the project ecologist and Natural England consulted to determine whether a European Protected Species License is required.

[redacted]

5.6.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional reporting beyond the monthly ecological monitoring and Ecological Inspection Forms (see **Section 5.10**) is required.

5.7 Nesting Birds

5.7.1 Summary

- **Description:** Vegetation and buildings which could support nesting birds will have preventative measures and/or nesting bird checks
- **Purpose:** To prevent accidental death or injury to birds or disturbance (and abandonment) of nests
- **Dates:** Prior to construction until completion of construction
- **Relevant Personnel:** Site Manager and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

5.7.2 Method Statement

5.7.2.1 Vegetation clearance and demolition

Vegetation clearance and demolition of buildings will be carried out between September and February where possible to avoid bird nesting season.

Where this is not possible, the following measures will be carried out as relevant:

- Any vegetation to be cleared will be checked by the ECoW for nesting birds within 48 hours prior to clearance. If any active nests are present, they will be retained in situ with a minimum c.5m exclusion zone until the birds have fledged. The exclusion zone will be marked with barrier tape with notices placed stating this area will not be disturbed due to nesting birds.
- Any buildings to be demolished will be checked by the ECoW for nesting birds within 48 hours prior to clearance. If any active nests are present, they will be retained in situ and demolition of the building will be delayed until chicks have fledged with an exclusion zone as decided by the ECoW. The exclusion zone will be marked with barrier tape with notices placed stating this area will not be disturbed due to nesting birds.

If any birds begin to nest in new buildings being constructed, works will cease and the ECoW will be contacted. An exclusion zone marked with barrier tape and a notice will be put in place as above and works will not proceed until the chicks have fledged.

5.7.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional reporting beyond the monthly ecological monitoring and Ecological Inspection Forms (see **Section 5.10**) is required. However, if nesting activity is identified, active nests may be monitored more regularly to determine when nesting activity is completed for any delayed works to proceed.

5.8 Lighting During Construction

5.8.1 Summary

- **Description:** Artificial lighting will be avoided or minimised
- **Purpose:** To reduce impacts on bats and other nocturnal wildlife

- **Dates:** During construction period
- **Relevant Personnel:** Site Manager

5.8.2 Method Statement

The following avoidance measures will be carried out during construction to minimise impacts from lighting on bats and nocturnal wildlife:

- Works will be limited to daylight hours and no artificial lighting will be employed unless necessary and agreed with the ECoW
- No lighting will be used outside daytime working hours, for any construction lighting within 10m of any linear vegetation (hedgerows and tree lines). If required for security, this will be on a motion sensor with a time limit.
- Where lighting is necessary, it will be directed away from retained habitats, site boundaries or Biodiversity Protection Zones.

5.8.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

No additional monitoring beyond the monthly ecological (see **Section 5.9**) is required. Any changes to lighting will be reported to the ECoW by the Site Manager.

5.9 Ecological Monitoring During Construction

5.9.1 Summary

- **Description:** Monthly monitoring will be carried out
- **Purpose:** To ensure protection of retained habitats and protected species
- **Dates:** Beginning at least one month prior to construction and until the completion of construction works
- **Relevant Personnel:** Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

5.9.2 Method Statement

Monthly inspections will be carried out of the following to ensure compliance with the CEMP:

- Fencing is correctly installed and remains in good repair;
- Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) are protected and in good condition;
- Condition of all retained habitats;
- Implementation of all previous method statements, with the following specific actions as relevant:
    - Erection and inspection of tree protection fencing around the retained site boundaries;
    - Inspection of any new additional trees to be impacted for evidence of bats prior to removal;
    - Supervision of habitat clearance works to passively disperse reptiles and amphibians towards the site boundaries;
    - Identification of any signs of mammal activity;
    - Identification of any nesting bird activity that may be impacted by works; and
    - Adherence to the lighting strategy.

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5.9.3 Reporting & Further Requirements

An Ecological Inspection Form will be completed monthly where applicable (i.e reptile and GCN sensitive vegetation removal), which will summarise the findings of the monthly inspection. The form will be provided to the Site Manager and Client. If any immediate action is required, the Site Manager and Client will be informed immediately, with necessary remedial actions to be carried out as soon as possible.

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6.0 TIMING OF SENSITIVE WORKS

6.1 Construction Programme

The construction period is expected to commence in 2027 following the discharge of conditions and approval of the Application.

6.2 Timing of Sensitive Works

Timings for sensitive works are required. The above method statements detail where specific timings are required. A summary of timings of sensitive works can be seen in **Table 3.**

Table 3. Timing of Sensitive Works.

Species & Relevant Method Statement	**Dates / Weather Conditions**	**Details**
Retained habitats (**Section 5.2**)	Any time prior to construction	Erection of tree protection fencing along the site boundaries, trees and hedgerows.
Roosting bats (**Section 5.3**)	Spring or Autumn (optimal)	Updated assessment of any new additional trees to be removed.
Foraging and commuting bats and nocturnal wildlife (**Section 5.8**)	Throughout the construction period	Avoidance of artificial lighting at night.
Reptiles (**Section 5.3**)	March - October in suitable weather >12ºC	Precautionary working methods and vegetation clearance for reptiles and common amphibians can be carried out.
Great Crested Newts (**Section 5.4**)	March - October in suitable weather >12ºC	Precautionary working methods and vegetation clearance for reptiles and common amphibians can be carried out.
[redacted]	One month prior to construction	[redacted]
	Throughout the construction period	[redacted]
Hazel Dormice (**Section 5.6**)	Throughout the construction period	Protection of suitable dormice habitat using the methods outlined in **Section 5.2.**
Nesting Birds (**Section 5.7**)	September - February	Vegetation clearance and demolition works should be carried out outside bird nesting season. If not possible, a nesting check will be required between March-Aug, with any nests suitably protected.

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7.0 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION

7.1 Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

A suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed for the development. This person will have suitable qualifications, training, experience and licences to carry out the works on site. The ECoW will be responsible for providing advice to the Client and Site Manager appointed and overseeing sensitive works as needed.

The ECoW will have the following specific responsibilities for the duration of the project:

- Implementation of method statements to ensure all ecological features are protected with mitigation, compensation and enhancements carried out as needed;
- Provision of training and informative updates such as through toolbox talks;
- Completion of monthly monitoring and reporting as per **Section 5.9**;
- Completion of all specific Mitigation Work Log Reports including for Bats, Great Crested Newts, Reptiles, [redacted], nocturnal mammals, and nesting birds;
- Supervision of all sensitive works, as per the method statements;
- Investigation and reporting of any incidents which may affect ecological features (e.g. spills, pollution, damage to retained habitats, protected species in works site, etc.)
- Completion of regular records and reporting to Site Manager, Client, Contractors, Natural England, LPA, etc. as needed;
- Provision of advice to the Client on any ecological constraints or features as needed; and
- Monitoring post-construction to ensure a compliance check of all compensation / enhancement features, management of habitats and implementation of any additional mitigation needed.

7.2 Roles

The CEMP will be distributed to all responsible parties to ensure that the environmental requirements are communicated effectively. **Table 4** below describes the roles and responsibilities to ensure the implementation of this CEMP. It is the overall responsibility of the Client to ensure roles are appointed prior to works commencing and that the Contractors are suitably trained to be carrying out the work.

Table 4. Key roles and responsibility.

Role	Responsible Party	Responsibilities
Client	Hampshire Homes Ltd	• Responsible for appointing Contractors and ensuring all contractors comply with environmental legislation • Responsible for appointing ECoW • Overall responsibility for the implementation of this CEMP
Lead Contractor	Hampshire Homes Ltd	• Responsible for appointing Site Manager • Prepare site specific Risk Assessment and Method Statements taking into account all environmental issues
Site Manager	Appointed employee by Hampshire Homes Ltdwhich is clearly	• Have a detailed understanding of ecological constraints on site • Provide toolbox talk for all new contractors/sub-contractors are part of site induction • Regular communication with ECoW

	indicated on site safety signage	• Ensure works on site conform to method statements
Contractor/Sub-Contractors	TBC	• Understand ecological constraints on site (i.e. through the toolbox talk as part of site induction) • Report any concerns to Site Manager • Take appropriate action to rectify any non-conformance
Ecological Clerk of Works	TBC	• As described in **Section 7.1** • Maintain regular communication and report to Site Manager all ecological constraints, findings or breaches of the CEMP within the site; • Provide monitoring reports to Client at regular intervals

7.3 Training Awareness and Competence

Site staff shall be competent to perform tasks that have the potential to cause a significant ecological impact. Competence is defined in terms of appropriate education, training and experience. Ecological awareness and training shall be achieved by:

- Site induction, including a talk given by the ECoW (or by the Site Manager after the initial Toolbox Talk), during which information on all ecological sensitivities, constraints and the method statements within this CEMP will be provided. The importance of leaving areas outside of the construction zone undisturbed once the protective fencing is installed will be emphasised.
- Information on protected species will be given including field signs to look out for during construction work.
- Environmental posters and site notices will be erected around the site.

7.4 Line of Communication Regarding Ecological Issues

Prior to works getting underway, all staff will be aware of the ecological features and associated issues on site. They will be conscious of the impacts of their actions not only on the retained areas on site but also the locality of nationally and internationally designated sites nearby. They will also be mindful during works of field signs of protected species and finally of the steps to take in the eventuality that an ecological situation arises. Therefore, as soon as an issue is uncovered/advice is needed, the Site Manager will be contacted immediately, who will inform the ECoW to visit site if needed and to advise accordingly.

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8.0 SUMMARY OF CEMP

Table 5 below provides a summary of the construction mitigation measures, species at risk, responsibilities and timing of year the works are to be undertaken.

Table 5. Summary of the CEMP.

Ecological Feature	Mitigation Required	Responsible Party / Parties	Timing
Retained habitats	Protective fencing will be put in place in line to protect retained habitat and BPZs (**Section 5.2**).	**Site Manager**	Any time prior to construction
	Toolbox talk will be provided to all personnel accessing site to outline ecological features and risks (**Section 5.1**).	**ECoW** **Site Manager**	Any time prior to construction and continuing during construction for new staff
	Regular monitoring will be carried out of fencing. Any damage to protective fencing will be reported to the site manager, who will organize repairs (**Section 5.2**).	**Site Manager**	Prior to and during construction
	A Construction Method Statement will be in place prior to commencement of works.	**Client**	Prior to commencement of construction
	Ecological monitoring will be carried out including inspection of habitats regularly (**Section 5.9**).	**ECoW**	Monthly throughout entire construction period
Foraging and commuting bats and nocturnal wildlife	A sensitive lighting method statement will be in place and adhered to throughout the construction period (**Section 5.8**).	**Site Manager**	During construction
Great Crested Newts	Passive dispersal methodology as avoidance measures (**Section 5.4**).	**ECoW**	March October in suitable weather Prior to Construction
	A destructive search to be carried out if required, under supervision of the ECoW (**Section 5.4**).	**ECoW**	March to October in suitable weather Prior to Construction

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	Avoidance measures including storage of machinery and materials on piles, skips used, excavations covered/escape ramps provided, drainage of water and using existing tracks/access roads.	**Site Manager**	Throughout construction period
Reptiles	Passive dispersal methodology as avoidance measures (**Section 5.3**).	**ECoW**	March to October in suitable weather Prior to Construction
	A destructive search to be carried out if required, under supervision of the ECoW (**Section 5.3**).	**ECoW**	March to October in suitable weather Prior to Construction
	Avoidance measures including storage of machinery and materials on piles, skips used, excavations covered/escape ramps provided, drainage of water and using existing tracks/access roads.	**Site Manager**	Throughout construction
[redacted] and Nocturnal Wildlife	An updating site walkover to search for new setts will be carried out prior to commencement of works (**Section 5.5**).	**ECoW**	At least 60 working days prior to groundworks
	Precautionary measures will be employed during construction (**Section 5.5**).	**Site Manager**	Throughout construction period
	Artificial lighting will be avoided or sensitive measures will be used (**Section 5.8**).	**Site Manager**	Throughout construction period
Hazel Dormice	Protection of suitable dormice habitat using the methods outlined in **Section 5.2.**	**ECoW**	Throughout construction period
Nesting birds	Timing of vegetation clearance and buildings to avoid nesting season.	**Site Manager**	September - February
	If not possible to avoid vegetation clearance and building demolition outside nesting season, a nesting bird check will be carried out. Any identified nests will be retained with a suitable exclusion zone (typically c.5m exclusion zone in vegetation) (**Section 5.7**).	**ECoW**	March – August, within 48 hours prior to works
All features	Monthly monitoring inspections will be carried out to inspect all features and ensure compliance with CEMP.	**ECoW**	Monthly, throughout construction period

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APPENDIX 1. Biodiversity Protection Zones and Protective Fencing



Legend

Site Boundary

Protective Fencing for Retained Boundary Habitats

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Map	Biodiversity Protection Zones and Fencing
Site	Former Rushfield Nurseries, Thakeham
Client	Hampshire Homes
Date	27/08/2026

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APPENDIX 2. Ecological Inspection Form

Report no._____ Date:_____	**Ecological Inspection Form**
Site Conditions	
Biodiversity Protection Zones & Retained habitats	Is protective fencing in place?..... Condition..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed..... Additional Comments.....
Lighting strategy	Comments..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Proposed changes..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Avoidance Measures for Nocturnal Mammals	Comments..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Remedial action:..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Species specific method statements	
Bats	Works completed since previous inspection.....

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	…… Works planned…… CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP…… Action required…… Responsibility…… Date must be completed……
GCN	Works completed since previous inspection…… …… Works planned…… CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP…… Action required…… Responsibility…… Date must be completed……
Reptiles	Works completed since previous inspection (i.e fencing erected, reptile capture commenced and no of reptiles captured)…… …… Works planned…… CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP…… Action required……

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	Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Nesting Birds	Description..... ..... Restrictions on works..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
[redacted]	[redacted]..... CEMP Compliance: YES / NO Departures from CEMP..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Any other relevant works	Description..... Action required..... Responsibility..... Date must be completed.....
Signed by ECoW	
Date	
Communicated to and copy has been provided to Site Manager	YES / NO (if no, state reason)

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