Land West of Ashington, Pulborough

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

(to address the stated requirements of Condition 6 of Planning Permission DC/23/0406)

October 2026

Quality Management	
Client:	Bellway Homes Ltd. (South East)
Project:	Land West of Ashington, Pulborough
Report Title:	Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP)
Project Number:	1006455
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Contact Details

Aspect Ecology Ltd
Hardwick Business Park | Noral Way | Banbury | Oxfordshire OX16 2AF
t 01295 279721 e info@aspect-ecology.com
w www.aspect-ecology.com

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Permitted Development

i) Aspect Ecology has been commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd to produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) in respect of land west of Ashington, Pulborough (see Plan 6455/CEMP1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.1.1 Full planning permission was granted in August 2026 (Ref: DC/23/0406) for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of 152 dwellings, an all-weather sport pitch, sports pavilion and allotments, with associated access, landscaping, open space and infrastructure.

1.1.2 The planning permission is subject to a number of conditions, of which Condition 6 relates to the submission and approval of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

1.2 Planning Condition 6

1.2.1 Planning Condition 6 states:

'Pre-Commencement Condition: The development hereby approved shall not commence until a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP: Biodiversity) has been 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) Containment, control and removal of any Invasive non-native species present on site in particular New Zealand Pygmyweed in Pond P1

f) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works.

g) Responsible persons and lines of communication.

h) The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person.

i) 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 species and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and s17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998, and in in accordance with Policy 31 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).'

1.3 Purpose of the Report

1.3.1 This report has been informed by the Ecological Appraisal prepared by Aspect Ecology (Ref: 6455 EcoAp vf1, dated February 2023), which accompanied the original planning application. In addition, an update site survey was completed by Aspect Ecology in September 2026 to confirm that the habitats on site remained as described within the Ecological Appraisal.

1.3.2 The purpose of this report is to provide details relating to the required Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP), in order to address the stated requirements of planning Condition 6 of the granted planning permission. Information set out includes protection and mitigation strategies in respect of retained habitats and notable / protected faunal species, with associated responsibilities set out in order to fully safeguard these habitats and species during site clearance, ground works and the construction phase of the development, with reference to the previously submitted information and specific requirements set out in the planning condition where appropriate.

2 Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Construction Activities

2.1 Overview of Ecological Features

2.1.1 The survey work undertaken at the site to date has identified the presence or potential presence of a number of ecological features requiring protection during construction, including:

- Retained Woodland, Trees, Hedgerows and ponds;
- Reptiles and Amphibians;
- Bats;
- Dormice and other small mammals; and
- Nesting Birds.

2.2 Potentially Damaging Construction Activities

2.2.1 The consented development works will require a range of construction activities which, in the absence of appropriate safeguarding measures, have the potential to be ecologically damaging. Such potentially damaging activities include:

- Vegetation clearance works;
- Site levelling works; and
- Ongoing construction activities (including excavation and storage of materials).

2.2.2 As such, protection measures are to be implemented to fully safeguard these habitats and species / groups.

2.2.3 Prior to works commencing and throughout the duration of works, existing ecological features will be appropriately safeguarded, as set out in Section 4 below. The approach for the implementation of these measures will be flexible and responsive to progress and conditions on site during the works. The protection measures will be incorporated into construction risk registers and, as such, will be implemented as appropriate when particular activities are carried out. Aspect Ecology (or another suitably qualified ecological consultancy) will be retained as the Ecological Clerk of Works, kept informed of progress during construction by the Site Manager, and provide advice or make recommendations for additional protection measures, if requested/required.

2.2.4 With the measures contained within this document implemented, it is anticipated that all ecological features will be fully safeguarded prior to and during construction.

3 Ecological Protection Measures

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 Provided below are details of the site-specific ecological safeguards required during site preparation and construction with respect to relevant habitats and species, encompassing both physical measures and sensitive working practices.

3.1.2 Where required, location and timing of sensitive works is provided.

3.1.3 Biodiversity protection zones associated with these ecological features are detailed on Plan 6925/CEMP2, where necessary.

3.1.4 Where an Ecological Clerk of works is required, this clearly stipulated.

3.1.5 All of the below measures are summarised within a schedule of works, detailed within section 4.

3.2 Habitats

Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows

3.2.1 The retained on-site woodland, trees, hedgerows, scrub and woodland located along site boundaries will be protected throughout the construction period by protective fencing. The protection fencing shall be erected prior to construction activities commencing, in accordance with arboricultural advice, the Arboricultural Method Statement[1] and the Tree Protection Plan[2]. The protection fencing will be to the standard stipulated under arboricultural best practice guidance British Standard 5837:2012.

3.2.2 The site manager will be responsible for inspections of the protective barriers on a daily basis, with a record kept by the site manager of fence inspections and any remedial action that has been taken to ensure fencing remains in place and functional to safeguard trees/hedgerows.

3.2.3 In instances where it is necessary for specific works to be undertaken within the construction exclusion zones, such as hedge strimming and canopy raising, erection of scaffolding, installation of services and other relevant ancillary operations, these activities will be undertaken following the methodologies stipulated below for Dormice and nesting birds. In addition, such activities will only take place following the submission of method statements to be prior approved by the arboricultural consultant. Each method statement will include an agreed method of works, extent of direct supervision by the arboricultural consultant, and frequency of site visits to be made for the duration of the works.

Ponds

3.2.4 To ensure the safeguarding of waterbodies, the following measures will be observed throughout the construction period;

- Storage of chemicals and hazardous materials in line with best practice guidelines, ensuring that they are secure and cannot be accessed or knocked over by roaming animals;

[1] Keen Consultants (March 2025) Land West of Ashington CE Primary School – Arboricultural Method Statement
[2] Keen Consultants (December 2022) Land West of Ashington CE Primary School – Tree Protection Plan

- Where possible, and with prior agreement of the sewage undertaker, silty water will be disposed of to the foul sewer;
- Potential contaminates such as oil, vehicle washings and concrete mixes will not be stored or discharged within 50m of retained trees, hedgerows or site boundaries;
- Engineering safeguards such as the use of a temporary silt trap will be utilised across the site during construction works in order to form a site wide intercept for silt and other potential pollutants; and
- Refuelling of plant will take place in a designated area, and on an impermeable surface.

Invasive Species - **ECoW required (only if contractors need confirmation of species)**

3.2.5 New Zealand Pygmyweed is listed under Schedule 9 Part II of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence to cause to grow in the wild any plant listed on the schedule.

3.2.6 As such, all relevant precautions should be taken when carrying out actions that could potentially spread these plants. The government has set out guidance on what can be considered 'causing to grow in the wild' within a response to the Schedule 9 review which states:

"We would expect that where plants listed in Schedule 9 are grown in private gardens, amenity areas etc., reasonable measures will be taken to confine them to the cultivated area so as to prevent their spreading to the wider environment and beyond the landowner's control. It is our view that any failure to do so, which in turn results in the plant spreading to the wild, could be considered as 'causing to grow in the wild' and as such would constitute an offence…Additionally, negligent or reckless behaviour such as inappropriate disposal of garden waste, where this results in Schedule 9 species becoming established in the wild would also constitute an offence."

3.2.7 Part 'e' of Condition 6 requires the: *'Containment, control and removal of any Invasive non-native species present on site in particular New Zealand Pygmyweed in Pond P1'.*

3.2.8 On this basis, appropriate safeguards will be put in place to contain, control and remove any New Zealand Pygmyweed present at the site and to prevent spread during the proposed development works.

3.2.9 Prior to any works commencing around pond P1, contractors will familiarise themselves with the key identification features of New Zealand Pygmyweed. An ID guide is provided at Appendix 1, and where required an ecologist can attend site to assist with identifying any New Zealand Pygmyweed on site.

3.2.10 Removal works will take place between April and August, when the species is visible. Any New Zealand Pygmyweed present within pond P1 will be excavated and removed, either by hand or through use of a small machine. Care will be taken to ensure that no fragments of plant material remain (which can lead to regrowth). All New Zealand Pygmyweed will be contained within a sealed bag or container, until such time as the material is removed from site for disposal.

3.2.11 Any tools / equipment used during pond excavation works will adhere to standard government 'Check, Clean, Dry' biosecurity measures.

3.2.12 **Throughout the construction period, the construction manager should review pond P1, and review if the removal activities have been successful, or if a further round of management is required.**

3.3 Fauna

[redacted]Other small mammals

3.3.1 [redacted]

3.3.2 [redacted]

3.3.3 [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- A watching brief should be maintained for Hedgehog and other small mammals throughout any clearance works;
- Any piles of material already present on site, particularly vegetation/leaves, etc. and any areas of dense scrub or hedgerows, shall be dismantled/removed by hand and checked for Hedgehog prior to the use of any machinery/disposal;
- Any material to be disposed of by burning, particularly waste from vegetation clearance and tree works, should not be left piled on site for more than 24 hours in order to minimise the risk of Hedgehogs occupying the pile. If this cannot be avoided, material should be stored within a container such as a skip to prevent animals from gaining access. Any material which has been stored on the ground overnight should be moved prior to burning to allow a thorough check for any animals which may have been occupying the pile; and
- In the event that an injured Hedgehog is found, the animal should be wrapped carefully in a towel, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) phoned (01584 890 801) and the Hedgehog taken to a local vet immediately.

Bats

3.3.4 All British bats are classed as European Protected Species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and are also listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As such, both bats and their roosts (breeding sites and resting places) receive full protection under the legislation. If proposed development work is likely to result in an offence a licence may need to be obtained from Natural England which would be subject to appropriate measures to safeguard bats. Given all bats are protected species, they are considered to represent important ecological features. A number of bat species are also S41 Priority Species.

Safeguards with respect to roosting bats

3.3.5 Survey work to date has identified several trees within the site that possess potential suitable roosting features for bats, all of which are to be retained. Of these, two trees are scheduled for crown lifting works to 3m above the site, comprising T5 (arb. reference no.19) and T4 (arb. reference no. 69). Recent survey work in September 2026 identified no potential suitable roosting features for bats within the limbs for removal, and suitable roosting features are outside the scope of works. As such, no adverse impact is anticipated with respect to roosting bats; however, should the scope of works change, or should any further limbs require removal (e.g. for health and safety purposes), these trees will be subject to an update Ground Level Tree Assessment and/or climbed inspection surveys.

Safeguards with respect to foraging bats

3.3.6 The retained boundary features at the site, including hedgerows, trees and scrub provide suitable foraging / commuting habitat for bats. As such, construction lighting onto these features will be minimised to reduce potential impacts on light sensitive bats. This will be achieved through:

- **Reduced Light zones** – All construction lighting will be inward facing and not illuminating retained boundary features to ensure bats can move around the site;

- **Dimming and non-night lighting** – lighting control management systems will be utilised to switch off lighting during periods when the site is not in use, particularly overnight.
- **Luminaire specifications** – Consideration should be given to the type of luminaires used, in particular luminaries should lack UV elements and metal halide and fluorescent sources should be avoided in preference for LED luminaries. A warm white spectrum (ideally <2,700K) should be adopted to reduce the blue light component.

Reptiles and Amphibians

3.3.7 All reptile species receive protection under legislation in the UK. Due to their relatively common and widespread status, Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*, Common Lizard *Lacerta vivipara* and Adder *Vipera berus* receive only partial protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) being protected from deliberate killing or injury, their habitat receiving no statutory protection. These species are also listed as UK Priority Species.

3.3.8 Given the presence of habitats that provide suitability for reptiles and amphibians and results of survey work, which identified a low population of Slow Worm and Common Lizard within the site, a precautionary approach to site clearance will be implemented, whereby a habitat manipulation exercise of suitable habitat will be conducted during the active season where practicable (generally March / April to September / October, depending on prevailing weather). The exercise will be designed to encourage any reptiles within the construction zone to move to suitable areas of retained / nearby habitat, prior to construction activities commencing, and will be undertaken in the following manner:

Toolbox Talk

3.3.9 A toolbox talk shall be delivered by the supervising ecologist to all contractors prior to relevant site works. The toolbox talk will outline the legislation protecting reptiles and amphibians, alongside a brief methodology of works to be undertaken to safeguard species, including species identification.

Precautionary Safeguards

- No point features (such as log or rubble piles, brash piles or other refugia) have been noted within the areas of vegetation scheduled for clearance, however, should any be found to be present when works commenced, the controlled removal of any point features will be supervised by an experienced ecologist. Any reptiles and amphibians located will be removed by the supervising ecologist and relocated to suitable nearby retained habitat;

- The site is currently under management by the tenant farmer, and a sward height of ~15cm is currently maintained across the arable fields, which offers sub-optimal habitat for reptiles and amphibians, with few shelter or foraging opportunities, and as such, it is advised that this management continues until development commences. If this management is maintained, no further safeguards are required with respect to reptiles/amphibians.

- Should management of these habitats cease and more suitable habitat for reptiles and amphibians develop, following the removal of any point features, a flail mower (driven by a small machine with low pressure tyres) or hand operated strimmer will be utilised to reduce the height of grassland and ruderal vegetation. Should it be

required, the flail mower or strimmer will be set to cut at an initial height of 15-20cm, thereby removing the majority of vegetation, though leaving sufficient sward that any remaining wildlife will not be accidentally injured or killed. A suitably qualified ecologist will walk ahead of the flail mower, providing a visual check for any remaining reptiles and amphibians within the upper areas of the grassland sward, and either capturing these animals or encouraging them to move to ground level / retained areas;

- The initial cut is designed to make the habitat sub-optimal for reptiles and amphibians by removing the structure of the grassland (and thereby removing shelter and foraging opportunities). As such, it is anticipated that following this cut any remaining animals will be easier to identify for capture. Following the initial cut, the flail mower or strimmer will then be set to ground height, in order to remove all habitat. Again, a suitably qualified ecologist will walk ahead of the flail-mower / strimmer, visually checking for and capturing any remaining animals. Where the supervising ecologist considers that certain areas of the site would benefit from a more precautionary approach, strimmers only may be used to assist with this final clearance.

Dormouse - **ECoW required**

3.3.10 Dormouse is fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and is a European Protected Species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Such legislation affords protection to individuals of the species and their breeding sites and places of rest. Dormouse is also a S41 Priority Species. On this basis, Dormouse is considered to form an important ecological feature.

3.3.11 The boundary hedgerows, scrub, woodland and treelines provide suitable habitat for Dormouse, and survey work undertaken has confirmed that Dormouse utilise these habitats. Due to the proposed development within site, it will be necessary to remove sections of hedgerow and scrub, which has the potential to disturb, injure or kill any Dormice present at the time of works. To avoid an offence under the relevant legislation, it will be necessary for the vegetation clearance to be carried out under a European Protected Species (EPS) development licence, obtained from Natural England.

3.3.12 The Works Schedule and Method Statement within the Dormouse License will set out the approach to vegetation removal for Dormouse. Habitats to be subject to licensed mitigation are detailed on Plan 6925/CEMP2.

3.3.13 The EPS Work Schedule will set out that all removal of suitable habitat will first be searched by hand by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately-prior to clearance to check for any evidence of Dormouse, with above ground vegetation cut back in a directional/phased way under ecological supervision using hand tools in order to ensure reasonable safeguarding measures are in place to avoid any potential offence.

3.3.14 Clearance will take place outside of the peak hibernation or breeding periods, or as a two-stage cut (removal of above ground vegetation during the winter months, followed by removal of stumps and ground works the following late spring).

3.3.15 In order to satisfy condition 5, the full EPS Dormouse licence (when received from Natural England) will be provided to Horsham District Council.

Nesting Birds

3.3.16 All wild birds and their nests receive protection under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect of killing and injury, and their nests, whilst being built or in use, cannot be taken, damaged or destroyed. Species included on Schedule 1 of the Act receive greater protection and are subject to special penalties.

3.3.17 No clearance of suitable (woody) vegetation should therefore be undertaken during the bird-nesting season (**1st March to 31st August inclusive**). Vegetation clearance activities include any removals of trees and/or hedgerows. If this is not practicable, any potential nesting habitat to be removed should first be checked by the ECoW in order to determine the location of any active nests. Any active nests identified would then need to be cordoned off (minimum 5m buffer) and protected until the end of the nesting season or until the birds have fledged. These checking surveys would need to be carried out no more than three days in advance of vegetation clearance works.

3.3.18 A specific methodology for nesting bird safeguards is set out at Appendix 6455/CEMP2.

3.4 General Procedures and Measures

3.4.1 Provided below are more general measures relevant to overall ecological protection.

Access and Movement

3.4.2 The site will be accessed at designated access and egress points. These will be sited outside of any tree protection fencing and will minimise crossing areas of land which are not subject to the development proposals in order to avoid soil compaction and damage to retained vegetation.

Air Quality (dust prevention measures)

3.4.3 In order to safeguard the retained trees, hedgerows and scrub, dust control and abatement measures will be implemented during construction:

- Machinery, fuel and chemical storage and dust generating activities should not be located close to retained trees, hedgerows and scrub;
- Should this not be possible then retained trees and hedgerows should be protected by the use of dust barriers / screens where practicable;
- Surfaces and dusty activities will be damped down as required by the use of agreed wet cleaning methods or mechanical road sweepers during periods of dry weather;
- All relevant loads entering and leaving the site should be covered; and
- Stockpiles of materials should exist for the shortest possible period of time and be kept away from retained trees and hedgerows.

Environmental Incidents and Accidents

3.4.4 A plan of action for all environmental incidences and emergencies will be prepared for the construction works, including procedures, contact numbers and a chain of command. Site staff will be made aware of the procedures as part of the induction process and again with 'toolbox talks' as necessary before starting a new phase of work or process. Specific pollution prevention kits will be maintained on site, with site staff trained in how to operate such equipment.

3.4.5 All incidences and emergencies will be recorded. This information will be used to improve future environmental protection measures. In the event of an ecological incident or emergency Aspect Ecology should be contacted for further advice.

Training

3.4.6 Site staff will be given inductions before being allowed to work at the site. The inductions will include relevant environmental information such as the occurrence of and protection requirements for the ecological resources listed above.

3.4.7 If a suitably qualified ecologist is required on-site to supervise any ecologically sensitive works, the ecologist may choose to provide their own specific 'toolbox talk' prior to the commencement of the works.

3.4.8 The roles and responsibilities as detailed in Section 5 of this CEMP will ensure that the above environmental control measures are implemented and adhered to.

4 Schedule of Works

4.1.1 A schedule of works has been produced, as detailed below, detailing the location and timing of sensitive works, the works that require a specialist ecologist present and the responsible persons.

Table 4.1. Timetable for Implementation

Activity	Frequency / Timing	Responsibility	ECoW Required?	Notes
Protection of retained on-site trees and hedgerows	Tree Protection Fencing in place prior to construction commencing and ongoing throughout construction	Bellway Homes Ltd / Site Manager.	Presence is not required	All trees and hedgerows to be retained and shall be protected in line with standard arboriculturalist best practice (BS5837:2012).
Removal of New Zealand Pygmyweed	**April – August** (in active growing season). To be undertaken once, and reviewed annually to ensure success with no regrowth	Bellway Homes Ltd / Site Manager.	Only required where ID of plants is required	
Dormouse habitat **(only to take place when EPS licence is received)**	Above ground clearance late-November – February / March, followed by stump removal May	Bellway Homes Ltd / Appointed groundworks contractor will work under ecological supervision.	Yes, during vegetation removal of hedgerows, scrub and trees	All works to strictly follow any licence issued by Natural England
Sensitive habitat manipulation for reptiles and amphibians	**March – October** (active season	Bellway Homes Ltd / Appointed groundworks contractor will work under ecological supervision.	Yes, where cuts of the grassland fields are required	Where fields are maintained at current vegetation cover, no further mitigation measures are required.
Nesting Bird checks to be carried out prior to any clearance works of suitable nesting bird habitat	The nesting bird season extends between **March – August inclusive.** Only required if vegetation clearance is carried out during the nesting season	Bellway Homes Ltd / appointed groundworks contractor inform Aspect Ecology when checks are required.	Required if clearance of trees/hedgerows within the nesting season.	Ecologist to carry out checking survey no more than three days before any vegetation clearance works commence.
General Procedures and Measures	Ongoing throughout construction	Bellway Homes Ltd / Site Manager.	Presence is not required	-

5 Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 Site Manager

5.1.1 The Site Manager will act on behalf of the developer, with responsibility for managing the development within the agreed environmental constraints, in conjunction with all other necessary construction processes. The Site Manager will also be responsible for coordinating and managing all the environmental activities during the construction phase on a day-to-day basis. In addition, the Site Manager will provide a key point of contact for the Ecological Clerk of Works.

5.1.2 The duties of the Site Manager will include:

- Ensure ecological protection measures are implemented on site through direct liaison with the Project Manager and the Ecological Clerk of Works;
- Supervise and co-ordinate the site workforce, including subcontractors, material suppliers and utility providers as necessary to ensure compliance with ecological protection measures; and
- Report any ecological issues encountered during the construction process to the Project Manager and the Ecological Clerk of Works.

5.2 Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

5.2.1 The Ecological Clerk of Works role will be provided by Aspect Ecology (or other suitably qualified ecological consultancy), and ECoW attendance will be provided when requested by the Site Manager. Where necessary and as requested by the Site Manager, the ECoW will oversee implementation of ecological safeguards and mitigation measures throughout the construction period. The ECoW will also provide feedback to the Project Manager and Site Manager to aid with the review of the CEMP and specialist procedures. Where relevant, contractors and sub-contractors on site will be made aware of ecological matters during the site inductions, with a 'sign in' sheet required to be completed to agree their understanding of the specific site requirements.

5.2.2 The duties of the ECoW will include:

- Supervise mitigation measures during construction and provide pre-works checks, as necessary, to ensure compliance with the CEMP;
- Identify ecological competence requirements for all staff working on the development and ensure delivery of ecological training to relevant personnel;
- Keep up to date records of ecological protection measures undertaken and record any relevant ecological events which occur at the site;
- Act as a main point of contact between the regulatory authorities and the developer on ecological issues; and
- Identify and address any species-specific contingency measures as necessary.

6 Summary and Conclusions

6.1 This report and accompanying plan set out a Construction Environmental Management Plan to ensure that best practice guidance is adhered to with regards to Ecology for the site (ref: DC/23/0406) for the erection of 152 dwellings, all-weather sport pitch, sports pavilion and allotments; with associated access, landscaping, open space and infrastructure (amended plans to the community / sports provision to provide 1 full-size all weather pitch and a larger pavilion).

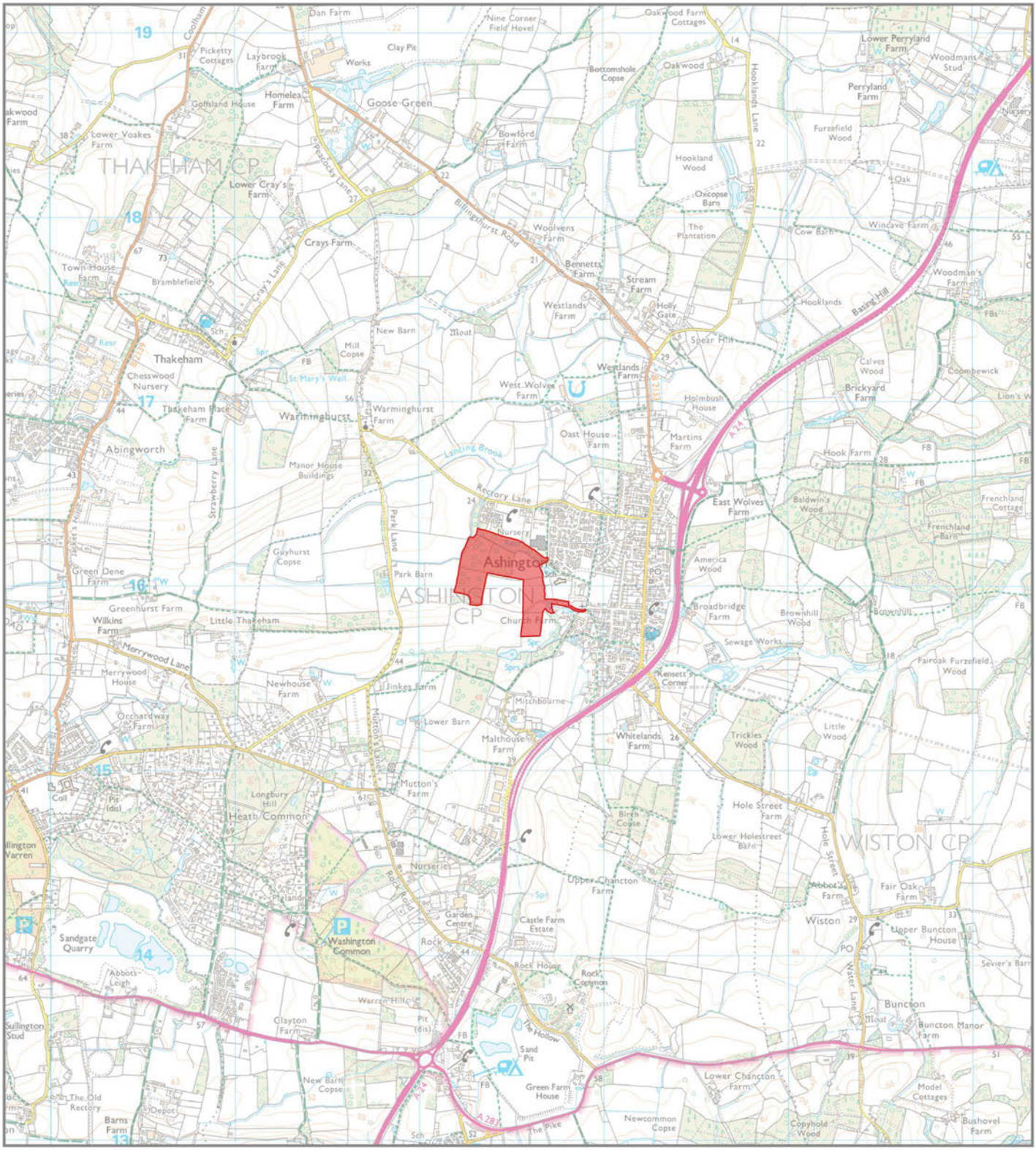
6.2 This CEMP provides an overview of the measures to be employed to ensure habitats of value and protected fauna are fully safeguarded throughout the construction phase.

6.3 Following the completion of construction, in order to fully satisfy the CEMP requirements a statement of good practice by a suitably qualified ecologist will be submitted to the council.

6.4 It is considered that, subject to the implementation of the CEMP, retained habitats and fauna present within the site will be fully safeguarded throughout construction.

Plan 6455/CEMP1:

Site Location



Key:

Site Location

aspect ecology

Aspect Ecology Limited · West Court · Hardwick Business Park
Noral Way · Banbury · Oxfordshire · OX16 2AF
01295 279721 · info@aspect ecology.com · www.aspect ecology.com

Land West of Ashington, Pulborough	PROJECT
Site Location	TITLE
6455/CEMP1	DRAWING NO.
A/BG	REV
October 2026	DATE

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Plan 6455/CEMP2:

Biodiversity Protection Zones and Ecological Protection Measures



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Aspect Ecology Limited - West Court - Hardwick Business Park
Noral Way - Banbury - Oxfordshire - OX16 2AF
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Land West of Ashington, Pulborough	PROJECT
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6455/CEMP2	DRAWING NO.
A/AM	REV
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Appendix 6455/1:

New Zealand Pygmyweed Identification

Produced by Olaf Booy, Max Wade and Vicky White of RPS

New Zealand Pigmyweed

Species Description

Scientific name: *Crassula helmsii*
AKA: *Tillaea aquatica*, Australian Swamp-stonecrop, Briweg Seland Newydd (Welsh), *Tillaea recurva*
Native to: Australia and New Zealand
Habitat: Aquatic up to 3m deep in still or slow flowing water bodies or terrestrial around pond or lake margins



Can be submerged, emergent and terrestrial. Readily recognisable when growing at the edges of water bodies by its fleshy leaves. Submerged leaves are less easy to see and recognise. Reproduces from very small stem fragments but does not produce viable seed in the UK.

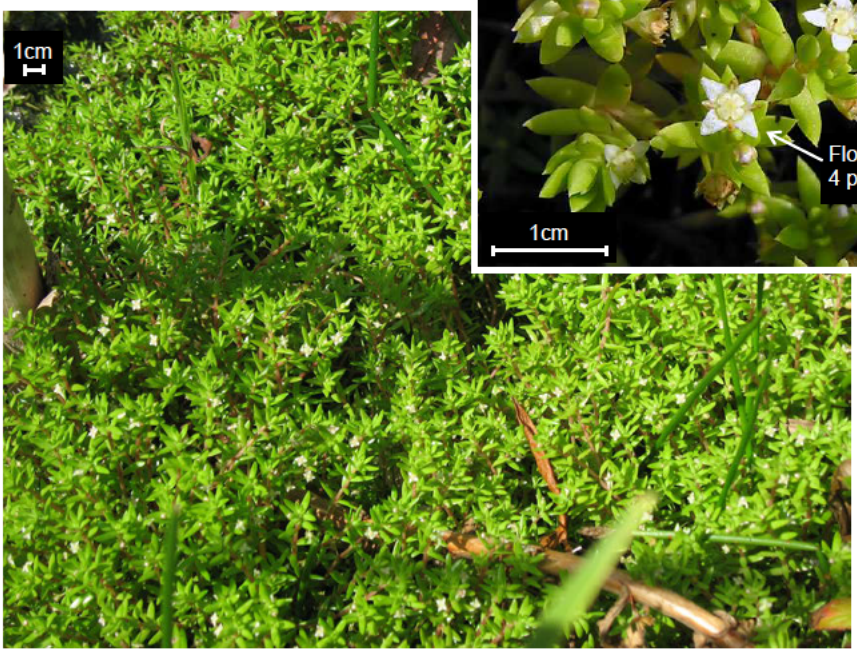
Introduced in 1911 as an oxygenating plant for ponds and, since the 1970s, has spread rapidly. Forms dense mats and can impede drainage, causing flooding. Displaces other aquatic plant species and reduces amenity use of the waterbody.

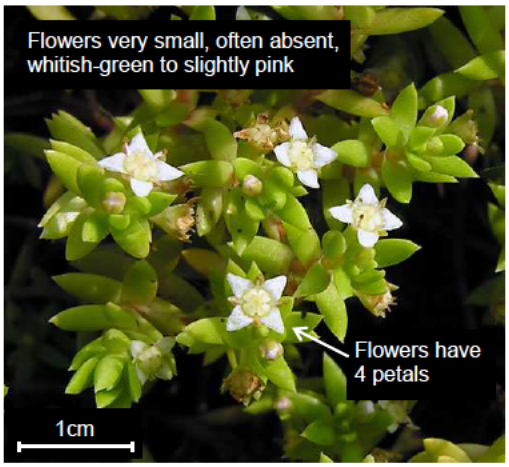
New Zealand Pigmyweed is listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England, Wales and Scotland. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause this species to grow in the wild.

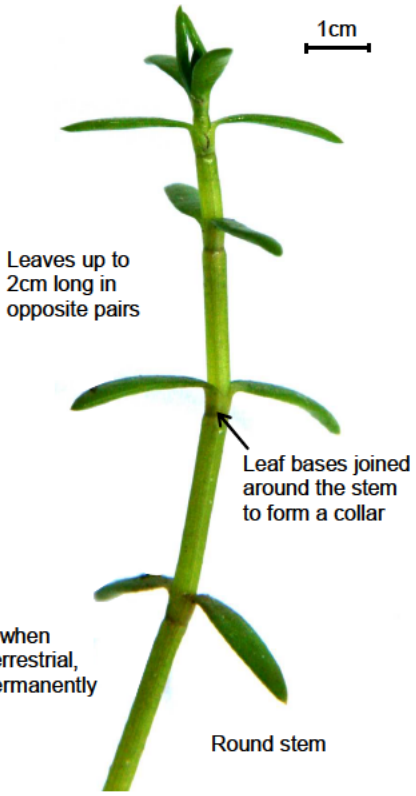
For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.

Key ID Features

Forms dense mats within the water body







Identification of terrestrial, emergent and submerged forms

Terrestrial: Growing away from the water's edge or left stranded as water level falls, creeping stems and aerial, fleshy leaves.



Emergent: Densely packed leaves in water, intermediate between terrestrial and submerged form (occurs in water <0.6m deep).



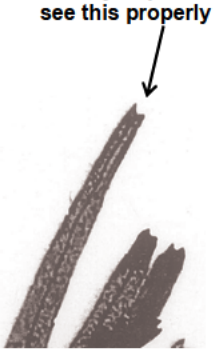
Submerged: Elongated stems with leaves sparse and flat, able to form extensive mats on bed of the water body.



Similar Species

A group of species known as water-starworts are most likely to be confused with New Zealand pigmyweed. Water-starworts are distinguished from New Zealand pigmyweed by their non-fleshy leaves, which are usually notched at the tip (hold up to light or use hand lens), and lack of collar at leaf base.





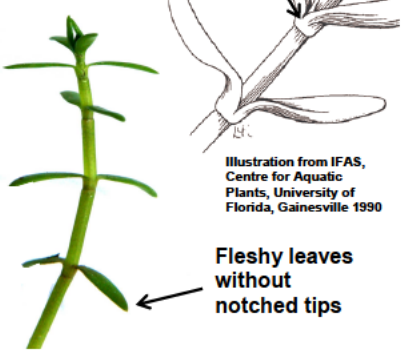
Distribution

Widespread in England and Wales. Spreading northwards, though much less common in Scotland. Very common in the south-east of England.

Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution.







References and further reading:

Blamey, M, Fitter, R and Fitter, A (2003) *"The Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland. The Complete Guide to the British and Irish Flora."* A & C Black

Preston, C D and Croft, J M (1997) *"Aquatic plants in Britain and Ireland"*. Harley Books

Preston, C D, Pearman, D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) *"New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora"*. Oxford University Press

Stace, C (1999) *"Field Flora of the British Isles"*. Cambridge University Press

Photos from: Olaf Booy, Richard Lansdown (RL), Peter Llewellyn, Max Wade

Appendix 6455/2:

Nesting Bird Safeguards

Ecological Method Statement

Clearance of vegetation within the nesting bird season

1 **Legislation**

1.1 All wild birds and their nests receive protection under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect of killing and injury, and their nests, whilst being built or in use, cannot be taken, damaged or destroyed. Species listed in Schedule 1 of the Act receive greater protection and are subject to special penalties.

2 **Method Statement for Vegetation Clearance in Respect of Nesting Birds**

2.1 To avoid any potential offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), any clearance of woody vegetation (including Bramble scrub) or tree surgery should be undertaken outside of the bird-nesting season (generally taken to be March to August inclusive).

2.2 If this is not practicable, any vegetation to be removed should first be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist in order to determine the location of any nests prior to removal. Depending on the nature of the vegetation as determined by the suitably qualified ecologist, this may need to include a check survey undertaken immediately following dawn, with a surveyor typically viewing the vegetation over the course of 30 to 60 minutes[1]. In determining the breeding status of birds present within suitable areas of vegetation, the suitably qualified ecologist will apply the following criteria, based on the `Atlas` surveys of 1988-1991 (Gibbons et al, 1993). This accepts the following activities as denoting breeding:

- Adult visiting probable nest site;
- Nest-building (including excavating nest-hole);
- Distraction display or feigning injury;
- Adult carrying faecal sac or food;
- Adult entering or leaving the nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest;
- Nest with eggs found, or bird sitting but not disturbed, or eggshells found near nest;
- Nest with young; or downy young of ducks, game-birds, waders and other nidifugous species.

2.3 Where a suitably qualified ecologist concludes that no nesting birds are present within the site, clearance work should be completed within 3 days of the completion of the nesting bird survey. By undertaking vegetation clearance works within 3 days of the completion of a check survey, the risk of birds creating nests prior to clearance works commencing is minimised.

2.4 In the event that any nests, or birds exhibiting any of the above nesting behaviour, be identified as part of this check survey, any such nests will be cordoned off and protected until the end of the nesting season or until the birds have fledged. This cordon will provide a buffer zone

[1] Buisson, R. S. K., Wade, P. M., Cathcart, R. L., Hemmings, S. M., Manning, C. J. & Mayer, L. (2008). *The Drainage Channel Biodiversity Manual: Integrating Wildlife and Flood Risk Management.* Association of Drainage Authorities and Natural England, Peterborough.

extending to at least 5m around the nest, in order to prevent on going site works disturbing the nesting birds.

2.5 Site staff will be notified of the presence of birds' nests within the vegetation, and the site manager given a tool box talk to ensure that site staff explicitly understand that no further site works can be undertaken within the cordoned off area until all nesting behaviour is complete. The completion of nesting behaviour will only be confirmed through undertaking further nesting bird survey(s); only when a suitably qualified ecologist has confirmed that nesting birds are no longer present within the area of vegetation in question may clearance works proceed within the previously cordoned off area during the nesting period.

2.6 It should be noted that nesting birds receive protection all year round should they be nesting, albeit the likelihood of birds nesting outside of the nesting season is sufficiently low that clearance works are unlikely to encounter nests, and need not employ formal checks. Nonetheless, site staff should maintain a watching brief at all times of the year and should any nesting birds be encountered at other times of the year, works should immediately cease and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted for further advice.

METHOD STATEMENT SUMMARY

Timings: Any clearance of woody vegetation or tree surgery should ideally be undertaken outside of the bird-nesting season (i.e. outside of March to August inclusive), under a watching brief.

Nesting Bird Safeguards: Should vegetation clearance work be required between March and August (inclusive) then the following formal safeguards need to be employed;

- Any vegetation to be removed should first be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist in order to determine the location of any nests prior to removal;
- Where a suitably qualified ecologist concludes that no nesting birds are present within suitable areas of vegetation, clearance work should be completed within 3 days of the completion of the nesting bird survey;
- In the event that any nests are identified as part of this check survey, any such nests will be cordoned off and protected until the end of the nesting season or until the birds have fledged (as confirmed by a suitably qualified ecologist).

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aspect ecology APEM Group

Aspect Ecology Ltd
West Court
Hardwick Business Park
Noral Way
Banbury
Oxfordshire OX16 2AF

T: 01295 279721
E: info@aspect-ecology.com
W: www.aspect-ecology.com