

Construction Ecological Management Plan: Grey Court School, Richmond

Client Synergy

Reference S1214.001_CEMP

Issue 1

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1. Background

- 1.1. Crossman Associates has been commissioned produce a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) for the proposed development of land at;

Grey Court School
Ham House
Ham Street
Richmond
Surrey
TW10 7HN
Grid reference: TQ 17525 72500

- 1.2. This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Badger Method Statement (Crossman Associates, reference A1214.001).
- Ecological Appraisal (Arbtech, 22 September 2023)

Aims and objectives

- 1.3. The aim of this report is to guide the site preparation, construction works and long-term management of the site to comply with relevant UK wildlife legislation and with the abovementioned Condition.

- 1.4. The objectives of this report are:

- To protect nesting birds, bats, reptiles, and other non-recorded species from the injury or harm during the preparation and construction phase of the site;
- To protect boundary trees and hedgerow.

Habitats and Species

- 1.5. The ecological appraisal and protected species reports (Crossman Associates) details the habitats and species that will or are likely to be affected, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed works and provides a detailed discussion of the current ecology of the site.

1.6. In brief the relevant ecological considerations for the proposed development are as follows:

Species

- Reptiles and amphibians
- Nesting birds
- Badgers
- Bats
- Small mammals

2. Control of Works

2.1. A series of control measures will be utilised so that works can be undertaken in accordance with the CEMP. These measures include:

- The appointment of an ecological management team who will be available throughout the period of works to provide advice to the site preparation and construction team;
- Copies of the CEMP and related documents will be available on site at all times and all members of the site preparation and construction team will be made familiar with these documents.

2.2. The ecological management team will include the following posts:

- Site Manger (to be confirmed)
- Ecological Manager (Crossman Associates): Alex Crossman BSc MCIEEM (Contact telephone number 01761 233414);
- Ecological Clerk of Works (Crossman Associates): Miguel Canovas BSc (Contact telephone number 01761 233414)

2.3. The ecological management team will brief site personnel on the ecological issues within the site. This will be undertaken through inclusion of ecological briefings within the 'toolbox talk' given to all staff as part of the site induction process. The roles are detailed below:

Site Manager

- To ensure compliance of the site team with the terms of the CEMP;
- To ensure all site workers are familiar with the terms of the CEMP;
- To alert the Ecological Manager or Ecological Clerk or Works of any potential issues or breaches of the CEMP;
- To contact the Ecological Manager if there are any changes to the development or a requirement to alter the development area.

Ecological Manager

- Provide guidance for the site team including legal and statutory requirements affecting the works;
- Provide a letter statement confirming the completion of works.

Ecological Clerk of Works

- Undertake a single toolbox talk for the construction team at the start of works on obligations to protected species and habitats at the site and the content of the CEMP;
- Check protection measures are in place prior to the commencement of works;
- Alert the Site Manager and Ecological Manager regarding any non-compliance with the ecological protocols;
- Undertake site supervision during soil strip stage.

3. Species and Habitat Mitigation

Ecological Receptor	Risk Assessment	Mitigation (practical measures)
Species		
<p>Reptiles and amphibians</p>	<p>It is not known whether the site supports reptiles and amphibians; however, the ecological appraisal identified low suitability for these species.</p>	<p><u>Toolbox talk</u> A toolbox talk with key site operatives will cover basic reptile and amphibian behaviour.</p> <p><u>Site preparation</u> As part of the site induction process, all staff working on site will be made aware of the potential presence of reptiles and amphibians on site.</p> <p>For the initial stages of the development, vegetation clearance will be undertaken in a phased manner.</p> <p><u>First phase</u> Initially, any rubble, dead wood or other stored materials will be removed from the new fence alignment. Then vegetation within the corridor of the new fence alignment will be cut to a height of approximately 100 mm above ground level; this will open up the base of the vegetation and encourage any animals to move away from the development works. The site will be left for a minimum of five days to allow any animals to move away.</p> <p><u>Second phase</u></p>

Ecological Receptor	Risk Assessment	Mitigation (practical measures)
		<p>The Ecological Clerk of Works will hand search the locations of the new posts prior to soil stripping and excavation works. Soil stripping works will progress, and an ecologist will be present during soil stripping works to ensure the working procedure is adhered to and to relocate any reptiles or amphibians encountered during works.</p> <p><u>Unexpected finds</u></p> <p>In the unlikely event that any individual reptiles are found during development, then these will be moved to the peripheries of the site and away from the development area.</p>
Nesting birds	<p>The alignment of the new fence will require the removal of scrub and shrub vegetation and there is a requirement for tree pruning. Vegetation has the potential to provide nesting opportunities for birds.</p>	<p><u>Toolbox talk</u></p> <p>A toolbox talk with key site operatives will cover basic bird nesting behaviour and what to look out for.</p> <p><u>Avoidance measures</u></p> <p>Vegetation clearance will be undertaken under the supervision of the ecological clerk or works.</p> <p>In the event that an active bird nest is found within the development area, work must avoid this area until all young birds have fledged, and young birds have permanently left the nest. If there are any unexpected finds during works, advice will be sought from the Ecology Manager or Ecological Clerk or Works.</p>
Badgers	<p>The alignment of the new fence will cross an active main badger sett.</p>	<p>The alignment of the new proposed fencing will cross an existing badger sett, so under the above legislation will cause a direct impact on the sett in term of disturbance, damage to the sett and potential injury/death to</p>

Ecological Receptor	Risk Assessment	Mitigation (practical measures)
		<p>badgers. The work will therefore be undertaken under a Natural England Badger Licence, which will permit this work.</p> <p>To inform the licence application, this method statement along with an application form will be submitted to Natural England for review.</p> <p>The following paragraphs detail the requirements and conditions of the licence.</p> <p><i>Licence requirements</i></p> <p><u>Toolbox talk</u></p> <p>A toolbox talk will be provided to site operatives and key workers to explain their obligations in relation to badgers. A copy of this method statement and other licence documents will be provided with contact details of the Named Ecologist.</p> <p>The toolbox talk will cover the basics of badger biology and the requirement to undertake precautionary works in proximity to the badger sett.</p> <p><u>Licencing timetable</u></p> <p>Works that affect badger setts are only permitted between 1 July and 30 November of any given year, which will avoid any impacts on badgers during the breeding period and when there may be badger cubs underground.</p>

Ecological Receptor	Risk Assessment	Mitigation (practical measures)
		<p>The licence will need to be in place in advance of the start of new fencing works.</p> <p><u>Live dig methodology.</u></p> <p>A live dig will be undertaken under a Natural England badger mitigation licence. The live dig will allow for the new fence to be installed in close proximity and through the existing badger sett. The live dig will allow for the installation of new fence posts and fence panels and will cover the badger sett area and all works within 10 m of the badger sett.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of works the site will be visited by an ecologist or ecological clerk or works to mark out the impact zones on site (refer to figure for indicative impact zone). This will involve the installation of a temporary high visibility fence that will mark-out the extent of the licenced area to clearly show the area where no works can go ahead without direct supervision. The fence will be installed with warning signs explaining the reason for the exclusion fence (see appendix for example signs).</p> <p>All live dig activities will be directly overseen by an ecologist or an ecological clerk or works.</p> <p>Works within the impact zone will be undertaken using hand tools and light machinery (0.8 or 1 ton excavator) to prevent collapse of underground tunnels. The excavator will be used to excavate the foundations for new fence posts.</p>

Ecological Receptor	Risk Assessment	Mitigation (practical measures)
		<p>In the unlikely event that a badger is injured during works, the ecologist or ecological clerk or works will transport the animal to a known local animal hospital.</p> <p><u>Badger gates</u></p> <p>The proposals are to install a new security fence around the boundary of the site. The fence has the potential to prevent badgers from accessing their existing territory. It is therefore important that the new fence is installed with metal badger gates, that will be too small to allow public access through the fence but will be sufficient to allow badgers to move across the fence. The badger gates will be two-way and will allow badgers to move freely across the fenceline.</p> <p>In order to install the badger gates, sections of the new fence will need to be cut out with an angle grinder to provide a tight fit around the badger gate. The installation will be undertaken at ground level.</p> <p>Badger gates are usually purchased with a metal tab so that the gates only open one-way. This tab will be removed to ensure that the badger gates can open in both directions.</p> <p>Badger gates are available from www.nhbs.com.</p> <p>The indicative location of badger gates is show in the appended figure.</p>
Bats	The majority of trees to be pruned on site have negligible value for roosting bats due to a lack of potential roosting features.	Trees will low suitability for bats do not require any additional surveys by an ecologist. Tree pruning will be undertaken by a qualified arborist who has been provided with a copy of this report.

Ecological Receptor	Risk Assessment	Mitigation (practical measures)
	<p>Two trees that require pruning (T15 and T41) have low suitability for roosting bats due to ivy cover.</p>	
<p>Hedgehog</p>	<p>The site offers potential habitat for hedgehogs and other small mammals.</p>	<p>Excavated holes and trenches on building sites have the potential to trap wildlife including hedgehogs leading to the potential suffering and death of the animal (s) particularly if they become filled with water.</p> <p>If during the development excavated holes / trenches are likely to be left open, then timber builders' planks should be fitted as ramps to enable any wildlife including hedgehogs a means of escape.</p>

Notes