Buxton 2

Construction Environmental Management Plan

Sterling Power Utilities Ltd

1 May 2017

Quality information

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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position

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1. Introduction

CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (BIODIVERSITY) TO DISCHARGE CONDITION 14 ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION (Reference HPK/2017/0084)

Planning permission for the construction of eleven gas generators and associated electrical switchgear was awarded by High Peak Borough Council in April 2017. Condition 14 of the permission states that:

"Prior to commencement of development (including demolition, ground works or vegetation clearance), a construction environmental management plan (CEMP: Biodiversity) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority".

The condition also details what the CEMP should cover:

- Risk assessment of potentially damaging operations;
- Identification of "biodiversity protection/buffer zones" to include ponds, hedgerows, woodland, trees and other habitat as required;
- Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts on habitats and species during construction, including great crested newts;
- The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to habitats and species;
- The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on Site to oversee works;
- Responsible persons and lines of communication;
- The role and responsibilities on Site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person (as required)
- 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 with the local planning authority.

2. Background

In 2016, a walkover and assessment of the then proposed Buxton 2 development Site was undertaken by AECOM; the following points were made in the subsequent report[1].

The Site itself, as presented below in Figure 1, contains no permanent or temporary waterbodies. The most extensive habitat within the Site is concrete bases and foundations with small patches of developing vegetation and the area is surrounded by tips and other disturbed land variously vegetated. The access track to the Site from the gate on Waterswallows Road passes initially through a small grassed area before running south through areas of bare and sparsely vegetated ground. The track is to be upgraded as part of the development.

There are three waterbodies within 500m of the development. The flooded Waterswallows Quarry to the south west comprises a very large area of open and deep water. It is separated from the Site by a high vertical cliff face. A smaller flooded quarry void and a much smaller pond associated with the void lie to the south approximately 100m from the Site.

A desk-based study, which involved purchasing historical data of great crested newts from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) identified four records within 500m. Of these, two records were excluded due to age (>20 years). Of the records from within the last 20 years, one was from what appears to have been a small concrete lagoon located at SK 08335 75095, approximately 50m to the west; this lagoon is no longer present. The other record at SK 08495 74930 was from what appears to be the smaller quarry void approximately 100m to the south.

As part of the work undertaken for the Buxton 2 Site, a water sample was taken from the pond associated with but separate to the smaller quarry void. This sample was sent to an approved laboratory for analysis for the

[1] AECOM (2016) Buxton 2: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Unpublished report by AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd, Nottingham for Ocktcom Ltd, Long Marston

presence of latent great crested newt DNA. The result came back negative. The void was not sampled as it is too big for sampling and it was considered that as the pond was suitable for great crested newts, there was no reason why if they are present in the area they would not use the pond.

The walkover found that badgers were crossing the area to the east of the Site; there was a breach in a fence alongside Hardybarn Lane approximately 250 m to east of the Site. There were however no signs of a sett within 50 m of the Site.

The data search returned no reptile records within 1 km of the search boundary.

No bird records were provided by the desk study. The wider landscape provides habitat for a range of species and gulls were noted on the flooded quarry; however, the Site itself is small and contains limited nesting and foraging opportunities, although species such as little ringed plover do use bare ground but usually closer to water.

The data search did not provide any records but given the habitat in the immediate wider area, it is likely that several Section 41 and LBAP butterfly species will be present. These species are found extensively on similar brownfield and abandoned quarries in the area. The Site itself however has limited suitable habitat for such species but the immediate wider area to the east and south west has habitat used by these species.

There are historical records of the nationally threatened frog orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*) and the locally scarce early marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*). There is no suitable habitat for either species within or immediately adjacent to the Site but the wider area does have suitable habitat.

The data search returned no invasive species records within 1 km of the Site and none were recorded during the walkover.

The conclusion from the ecological assessment that accompanied the planning application was that save for the very low risk to great crested newts, the construction of the Buxton 2 Site represented virtually no risk to nature conservation receptors identified. However, whilst, this was the conclusion, this CEMP will set out several simple, standard measures to ensure that the potential for any effects are avoided, reduced or mitigated.

3. Construction Environmental Management Plan

3.1 Access Track

3.1.1 Description

The access track from entry into the area off Waterswallows Road follows an existing track south to the Site.

3.1.2 Identified Risks

There will be some loss of the secondary grassland to gain access through from Waterswallows Road. The rest of the route is essentially bare compacted ground along an existing track.

3.1.3 Measures

The route will be walked by a suitably experienced ecologist along with the Site foreman, and together they will identify the route and its extent and mark-up any areas to be avoided or checked prior to construction of the track. The limits of the route will be marked using road pins and hazard tape, as will any sensitive areas along but immediately outside of the route to avoid accidental incursion by construction vehicles. Where an area/feature is particularly sensitive, this will be given added protection using herras fencing.

Prior to start of construction the defined route will be examined by an experienced ecologist to check there are no ground nesting birds present and a check made of any areas with cover suitable for great crested newts.

During construction and once the track has been constructed, measures will be taken to avoid surface water run-off finding its way into the ponds and smaller quarry void. A cut-off ditch will be constructed on the south side of the Site to intercept any water that may run down slope to the waterbodies.

Once constructed the track should not pose any further risk to habitats or species; work is to be undertaken during the day and so there is extremely low risk that anything that may cross the track would come to harm, as most animals, badgers; great crested newts are active at night.

3.2 Construction Site

3.2.1 Description

The construction Site is located in an area of hard standing and foundations with small piles of debris and sparsely vegetated ground (Photograph 1). Immediately to the east of the construction Site are vegetated spoil mounds (Photograph 2) and to the west further areas of hardstanding used to store bricks and blocks (Photograph 3). The proposed laydown, welfare facilities area near the Site entrance is sparsely vegetated.

3.2.2 Identified Risks

Construction at this location affords little risk to any sensitive ecological receptors.

Currently there is a very small potential for ground nesting birds.

There are small areas of vegetation and piles of materials that great crested newts could use for shelter, foraging and hibernation and once construction commences, the risk will increase somewhat as stockpiles of materials etc. will provide shelter for great crested newts that they could use if they were to wander across the area.

Whilst no badger setts have been identified that could be affected, there is evidence that badgers pass through the wider area.

3.2.3 Measures

Prior to commencement of construction, the Site and immediate wider area will be walked by a suitably experienced ecologist along with the Site foreman, and together they will identify any areas outside the Site to be avoided or checked prior to construction. The limits of the Site will be temporarily marked using road pins and hazard tape, as will any sensitive areas along but immediately outside of the route to avoid accidental incursion by construction vehicles. Once construction commences, the Site will be fenced securely providing a well-defined limit. Until this happens, where an area/feature adjacent to the Site is particularly sensitive, this will be given added protection using herras fencing.

Prior to start of construction the construction Site and immediate wider area will be examined by an experienced ecologist to check there are no ground nesting birds present and a check made of any areas with cover suitable for great crested newts. Areas that provide cover for great crested newts such as small piles of material are to be searched by hand and removed to the Site boundary (see Great Crested Newt Method Statement document prepared to discharge Planning Condition 14 for details).

Once the area has been cleared, during construction, measures will be taken to minimise the risk that any great crested newts could be harmed through stockpiling of materials and construction waste. These measures are provided in the separate Great Crested Newt Method Statement that has been prepared to discharge Planning Condition 14. Measures include use of skips for waste; placing materials on plastic sheeting/terram that can be folded over overnight and storage of materials on wooden blocks to raise them off the ground.

Because badgers may be wandering around the area during the night, all excavations that must remain open overnight will be provided with a means of egress (plank of wood or similar) that animals will be able to use to get out of the trench. Additionally, any excavation will be checked each morning prior to work commencing.

3.3 Ecological Clerk of Works

As noted above an experienced ecologist (the Clerk of Works) will undertake checks and walkovers prior to and as required during construction of the access track and the Site.

The Clerk of Works will be responsible for:

- Walkovers prior to commencement of any works to clearly mark out with the Site foreman the access track and Site and to define any sensitive areas required to be protected during construction;

- Checking that the route and Site have been delineated and sensitive areas protected sufficiently to avoid accidental incursion of vehicles and machinery.
- Providing a toolbox talk to all personnel prior to commencement and to see that appropriate signage and notices are in place;
- Undertake a fingertip search for great crested newts;
- Checking that best practices are in place to minimise dust, noise and vibration;
- Site visits without prior notice to check that on-Site procedures are being adhered to and provide an audit of the measures; and
- Being the first point of contact should anything occur or be found that requires checking before work can recommence

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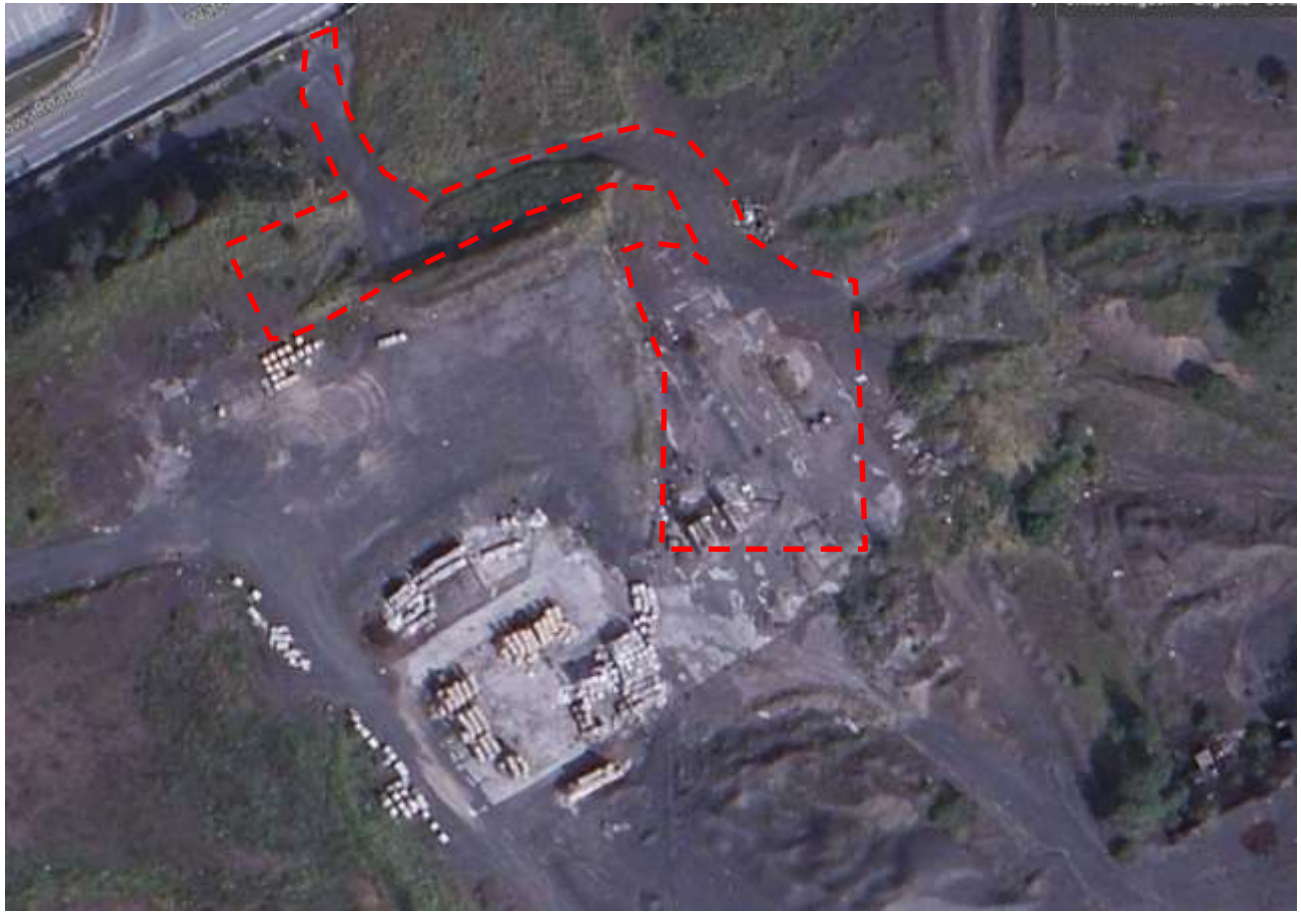
Table 1 below summarises the measures to be in place.

TABLE 1: Best Practice Measures

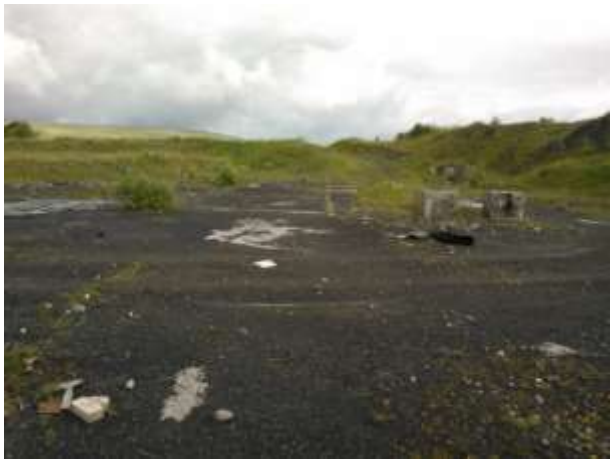
Measures	Details
Tool box talk for Site staff	All Site staff to be briefed on any ecological issues affecting the Site, the mitigation to be implemented and methods of working adopted as part of best practice.
Adoption of best practices to avoid pollution and dust	Measures to be employed to ensure that dust is minimised during the construction works. This could be achieved by 'damping down' dust generated during Site clearance and construction
Adoption of best practices to avoid excessive noise and vibration	Noise and vibration levels to be minimised and reasonable steps taken to reduce any adverse effects of noise and vibration generated by the development works.
Minimise working areas, Site compounds and access tracks	These are to be of the minimum size required for safe working. Fencing to be utilised to prevent encroachment of machinery and materials onto adjacent habitats, which occur on the periphery of the Site.
Removal of waste materials	Waste materials are to be removed from the Site, disposed of at the earliest opportunity, and not stockpiled.
Correct storage of pollutants	Fuel, oil and other potential pollutants to be stored in bunded tanks in a designated Site compound area. Store oil absorbent material on Site and clear up spillages immediately. No materials intended for the works or arisings from the works to be stored or disposed of in a watercourse/waterbody or in a position that a watercourse/waterbody could be affected
Refuelling and servicing of vehicles/machinery	This is to be done within a designated Site compound area with an impermeable base. Use trigger delivery nozzle to refuel. All machinery must be maintained in good working order and checked regularly
Avoidance of effects on great crested newts	Refer to specific Great Crested Newt Method Statement
Provision of escape routes	Where excavations are to be left open overnight, a means of egress is to be provided

FIGURE 1

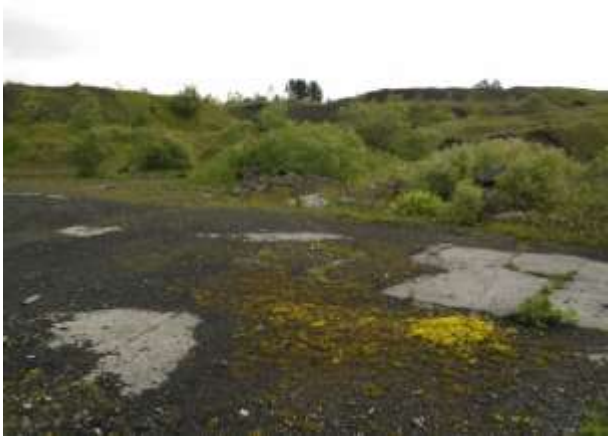


Site boundary

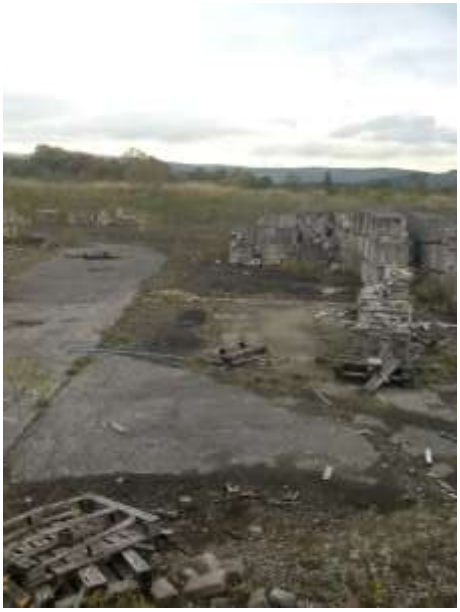
Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3



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