

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

**LAND EAST AT HOLLINCROSS LANE, GLOSSOP,
DERBYSHIRE**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Rachel Hacking Ecology Limited was instructed by WSP Planning to produce an Ecological Management Plan for land at Hollincross Lane, Glossop, Derbyshire. The site will be the location of a new residential development with associated parking, access, and landscaping.
- 1.2 The site supports ecologically valuable habitats which are to be retained by the development. As well as the creation of new habitats within the gardens and soft landscaping of the wider site. The purpose of the management plan is to set out how these habitats will be managed during and after the development to protect them from potentially damaging activities during construction.

2.0 DESCRIPTION & EVALUATION OF EXISTING & NEW HABITATS TO BE MANAGED

- 2.1 The site is located off Hollincross Lane in Glossop, Derbyshire (O.S. grid reference: SK 03110 93579). The site is situated within a residential area and bordered to the south by Long Clough Brook.



Figure 1 showing the location of the site

- 2.2 The site currently comprises grounds of a former care facility. Three buildings exist on the site. The existing habitats on site are described as follows:
 - Hardstanding and Buildings
 - Semi-natural Broad-leaved woodland
 - Introduced Shrub and Trees
 - Neutral Grassland

- Amenity Grassland
- Continuous and Scattered Scrub
- Watercourse – Long Clough Brook

- 2.3 The development will cause the loss of one of the buildings, the hardstanding, neutral grassland, amenity grassland, introduced shrub and trees and the scrub. These habitats are considered to offer low ecological value and will be mitigated for within the landscaping design. A small amount of the woodland will also be lost, this is considered to be a habitat of greater ecological importance, only a small number of trees are proposed to be removed and the future management of the woodland proposed with the development will benefit the habitat.
- 2.4 Amenity grassland and introduced shrub planting is proposed within the gardens of the properties.

3.0 ECOLOGICAL TRENDS AND CONSTRAINTS ON SITE THAT MAY INFLUENCE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 The site has been the subject of a series of ecological surveys, looking for protected/notable species and habitats of ecological importance. Table 1 lists any such habitats and species that occur on the site, and therefore have been considered within the management plan for the site.

Table 1 showing species/habitats to be considered within the development	
Species/Habitat	Recommended actions
Nesting Birds	Time the removal of any suitable nesting habitat to occur outside the nesting bird season.
Bats	The river and woodland edges provide suitable foraging habitat and are to be protected with a sensitive lighting scheme.
Long Clough Brook	A buffer zone will be implemented along the edges of the Brook to protect it during the construction phase.

4.0 EXISTING AND PROPOSED HABITATS

Existing Semi-natural Broad-leaved Woodland

- 4.1 The south-western part of the site is dominated by semi-natural broad-leaved woodland. A small number of trees will be felled on the woodland edge, this habitat will otherwise be retained and be subject to future management (see *Management Plan (Woodland and Open Space)* - tba landscape Architects).

Ecological Constraints and recommendations

- 4.2 The woodland provides suitable habitat for nesting birds it is recommended that any work to the vegetation occurs outside the nesting bird season (March-September) or a nesting bird survey may be required immediately prior to the works.

- 4.3 The edges of the woodland also provide a suitable foraging corridor for bats. This habitat should be subject of a sensitive lighting scheme. Any artificial lighting will be aimed away from this habitat to avoid illuminating ecologically valuable habitat. Where lights are required, the lights will be of suitable lumens (<2500 Kelvin) and will be fitted with cowls. Night-time working will be avoided, with work undertaken in daylight hours.

Proposed Management

- 4.4 The woodland should be subject to periodic management when required to keep the trees in good condition and the footpath clear. Any non-native invasive species should be removed from the woodland as soon as possible using a suitable eradication methodology for the species. Details of the proposed management for the next 10 years are contained within the Woodland and Open Space management Plan (tba Landscape Architects).

Existing Long Clough Brook

- 4.5 Long Clough Brook flows along the southern boundary of the site. No works are proposed near to the watercourse.

Ecological Constraints and recommendations

- 4.6 The watercourse is considered an ecologically valuable habitat and should be protected during the development. A 1.8m high protective/exclusion fence will be erected at least 5m from the bank of the Brook. The fence will be erected prior to any site clearance work commencing and will remain intact throughout the construction phase. The fence material can be metal or wood and must be robust to remain intact. A sign will be erected on the fence, detailing the reason for the fence and stating that the fence must not be broken or affected by any construction activities. The fence will be regularly inspected by construction personnel i.e. weekly, and any breaches to the fence fixed as soon as possible.
- 4.7 Potential run-off from site clearance and construction activities must be managed and run-off prevented from entering the SAC & Ramsar site. The exclusion fence will prevent this to a degree. Any swelling of the site should be avoided. Waste must be collected and removed from site.
- 4.8 The watercourse provides suitable foraging habitat for bats, the sensitive lighting scheme for the edge of the woodland will also protect the watercourse.

Proposed Management

- 4.9 No specific management is required for Long Clough Brook. However, should any invasive species be discovered within the watercourse it should be removed as soon as possible. Specifications of invasive species management on the site, is contained within the woodland and open space management plan (tba Landscape Architects).

Proposed Amenity Planting

- 4.10 Ornamental planting is proposed across the site composed of shrubs and trees. It is recommended these are a mix of flowering native species which will attract wildlife and bring biodiversity to the site.
- 4.11 The native tree and shrub planting proposed within the Landscape Structure Plan (Dawning Number: 6004.03 Rev 3 - tba landscape Architects) includes a good mix of both native and non-native shrubs, trees and hedgerows. Some species included are:
- Field Maple
 - Pedunculate Oak
 - Lime
 - Silver Birch
 - Hebe species
 - Viburnum Species
 - Holly
 - Dogwood
 - Rose species
- 4.12 The native planting should be planted as bare rooted standards. The planting hole will be larger than the root ball. Once planted and backfilled, the tree and shrubs will be well-watered, and all weeds removed around them. Newly planted trees will be fitted with staked rabbit guards of height 600mm. A full specification can be found within the Landscaping and Structure Plan.

Proposed Management

- 4.13 The trees and shrubs should be pruned and managed as required and specified within the Woodland and Open Space Management plan. Any management should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season to protect nesting birds. The soft landscaping should undergo frequent management to remove complete species.

Proposed Amenity Grassland

- 4.14 Amenity grassland will be created within the gardens and amenity spaces across the main residential site.
- 4.15 The existing vegetation will be removed, and the topsoil will be lightly scraped (approx. 200-300mm) and the arisings will be removed off-site. This is to prevent competitive plant species from establishing. The topsoil will then be scarified prior to sowing the seed. Recommended seed mixes include EG22 – Strong Lawn Grass Mixture supplied by Emorsgate or wildflower-rich seed mixture will be procured, such as WFG20 – Eco Species-rich Lawn supplied by Germinal. This will be undertaken in late summer and the grassland areas kept well-watered.

Proposed Management

- 4.16 The amenity grassland will need to be managed regularly to keep the grassland at the required length. The arising should be removed from the site to prevent smothering the growing layer.

5.0 BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

- 5.1 It is not necessary to provide landscaping on site. Bird and bat boxes will be erected onto trees surrounding the new development.

Bird Boxes

- 5.2 **Ten** bird nest boxes will be placed on the site, to maximise usage by a range of bird species. The boxes will include 10 bird boxes, all with different sized entrance holes designed for a variety of different species. General bird boxes should be used as well as species specific boxes for Tree Creeper, Nuthatch, and Owls. Recommended bird boxes are, Schwegler 1B (or similar), Schwegler 2B (or similar), and Owl Boxes. The bird nesting boxes are to be positioned on the retained trees, with all nesting bird boxes positioned facing north-west or north-east. This allows for a suitable temperature during the bird nesting season. The nest boxes should be fixed over 3m above ground level (see Appendix 1 at the back of this document for indicative locations).

Bat Boxes

- 5.3 **Seven** bat boxes will be erected onto retained trees, with a variety of box types used to provide roosting opportunities for a range of bat species.
- 5.4 The boxes to be erected will be Schwegler 1FF and 2F Woodcrete boxes (or similar). These bat boxes should be installed at varying heights (between 3m and 6m) on the southern, south-eastern and south-western aspects of the trees (see Appendix 1 at the back of this document for indicative locations).
- 5.5 The bat boxes will be located adjacent to suitable bat commuting/foraging habitat. The bat boxes must not be placed close to new light sources.

6.0 MONITORING PROPOSALS

- 6.1 The ecologically important habitats on the site will be subject to a monitoring scheme for a minimum of 10 years. The purpose of the monitoring is to assess if the habitats are being negatively impacted on by the development and to provide recommendations on changes to the management plan to increase the quality of these habitats if required. The biodiversity enhancement measures will also be subject to annual monitoring for a minimum of 10 years to ensure the measures are in place and undamaged.

7.0 PERSONNEL

- 7.1 The habitat creation work must be undertaken by a landscaping team (appointed by the client) with experience of creating the desired habitats.
- 7.2 A suitably experienced ecologist will be appointed prior to work commencing and communication details will be provided to the site foreman and other site personnel.

7.3 The ecologist will be on site during the following times:

- undertake the nesting bird survey if timings dictate it,
- to deliver the toolbox talk prior to work commencing,
- to inspect the exclusion fence following the erection of the fence, and,
- as and when needed if a protected species, or other wildlife, is found on site.

7.4 The future management of the site after the completion of the construction of the site should be undertaken by a management team (appointed by the client), with the private gardens managed by the resident/end-user.

8.0 CONTINGENCIES

8.1 The work will be managed and monitored using the on-site personnel with supervision from the ecologist.

8.2 If an active bird nest is found during the works, work will stop, and the ecologist will be contacted. A 4metre buffer zone will be implemented around the active nest and no disturbance will take place to the nest. Once the nest is deemed inactive (i.e. once the chicks have fledged) then work can commence.

8.3 If any protected species is discovered during the works, work will stop, and the ecologist will be contacted for advice. Further survey may then be required prior to work commencing.

8.4 If any part of the landscaping fails or is inadvertently damaged, then the habitat will be re-created immediately.

8.5 If any of the biodiversity enhancement measures become damaged, they will be replaced immediately.

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