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Uldale View, Egremont, CA22 2LE

Reasonable Avoidance Measures for Terrestrial
Mammals and Amphibians

Gleeson Homes

P.1723.22
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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to identify the impact to terrestrial mammals and amphibians in regard to any works within the site and to provide avoidance and mitigation measures to ensure completion of these works without the risk of disturbing these protected species.

Based on the findings following the site visits, Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) have been prepared to ensure no harm to hedgehog, badger and other terrestrial mammals, and amphibians. These include the following:

1. Vegetation clearance applies to all areas of suitable habitat for badger, hedgehog and other terrestrial mammals.
2. Works must be undertaken during daylight hours and as temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C.
3. Vegetation must be chipped and removed from the site.
4. Any materials stored overnight (timber, pipes, spoil) must be raised off the ground to prevent use as temporary shelters.
5. All open trenches or excavations must be covered overnight or fitted with a suitable escape ramp (45° scaffold board or equivalent).
6. Pipes and ducts with a diameter >150mm must be capped at the end of each working day to prevent accidental entry.
7. Night working is to be avoided, reducing potential disturbance from lighting and noise.
8. Immediately prior to installation of the temporary fencing, an updated badger check of the construction zone, together with all habitats within 30m of the zone, will be undertaken.
9. Any potential refuge areas for hedgehogs, other small mammals and amphibians must be thoroughly checked prior to moving, to avoid harm to any sheltering hedgehog within.
10. Staged cutting of suitable vegetation for amphibians and small mammals will be implemented, to avoid harm to these species.
11. Site staff will remain vigilant for any signs of badger activity during the works. If any further evidence of badger activity (such as footprints, latrines, or a newly formed sett) is found during works, activity should cease within 30m of the area, works will cease and advice will be sought immediately from the appointed ecologist.

Provided that the above measures are secured, it is considered that badgers, hedgehogs, other small mammals and amphibians will not be harmed by the proposals.

1. Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by **Gleeson Homes** to produce a RAMS statement for badgers, hedgehogs, other small mammals and amphibians at Uldale View, Egremont, CA22 2LE (hereafter referred to as **the site**). NY007100 and the What3Words reference is prove.spreading.fines. The extent of the site is displayed in photograph 1.1 below.



Photograph 1.1: Extent of the site

The site was visited on 25 August 2022 and 21 June 2023 by Liz Kenyon when Preliminary Ecological Appraisals of the site, which includes an assessment of the potential for protected species to be using the site or surroundings, was carried out in accordance with the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: a Technique for Environmental Audit (JNCC, 2010). The report was prepared following methods detailed in the CIEEM 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland' (2018) and 'Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing' (2017) (*report reference P.1723.22B Ascerta (Preliminary) Ecological Appraisal, Uldale View*). The site was revisited in June 2025 by Liz Kenyon, and it was confirmed that the habitats remained the same (*letter reference P.1723.22 Update Site Visit Letter - Uldale View, Egremont, CA22 2LE*).

The site was found to comprise of agricultural fields that are planted with agricultural crops. The full site is bound by species poor hedgerows with tall ruderal vegetation present to the field margins. A ditch lines the northern boundary of the site and scattered trees and tall ruderal vegetation is present within the bank areas.

The following report presents Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) to ensure the safety of these species during construction.

2. Precautionary Working Methods

Prior to the start of works, all site operatives working within the site will receive a Toolbox Talk (TBT) by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW). The TBT will include information on the ecology, identification and legislation, where relevant, related to badgers, hedgehogs, small mammals and amphibians. All operatives must sign a register to confirm they have received the TBT and understand the legal protection of these species once the TBT has been given.

The following will be undertaken to ensure the safety of badgers and hedgehogs during the works:

1. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken at a slow walking pace, allowing any commuting mammals or amphibians adequate time to move away from a working area.
2. All works must be undertaken during daylight hours to avoid disturbance to any individuals that may occasionally move through the wider landscape at night.
3. Open trenches and excavations must be covered overnight or provided with a suitable escape ramp (45° scaffold board or equivalent) to prevent any accidental entry.
4. Pipes and ducts with a diameter greater than 150mm must be capped at the end of each working day to prevent accidental entry.
5. Stored materials (timber, pipes, spoil, etc.) must be raised off the ground where possible to prevent use as temporary shelters.
6. Site staff must remain vigilant for any signs of badger activity throughout works (such as latrines, tracks, snuffle holes or hairs). If any evidence of a newly formed sett or active badger use is identified within 30m of the works, operations must cease immediately, and advice will be sought from the appointed ecologist.
7. Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible.
8. Potential refuge areas such as log piles, brash piles and leaf piles should be checked by an ecologist prior to removal or disturbance, for any signs of sheltering hedgehog, small mammals or amphibians. Should any be found, they should be allowed to leave safely before any works continue. If any are found by site personnel, an ecologist should be contacted.
9. All materials, site equipment and fuels should be stored on bunded areas, with spill kits located in proximity, to avoid release of any pollutants into the wider environment that may have a detrimental effect on any protected species using the site.

Provided that the above measures are implemented, it is considered that the works pose a low risk of disturbance or harm to badgers, hedgehogs, small mammals and amphibians.

3. Post-development

To ensure continued safe movement of badgers, hedgehogs, other small mammals and amphibians around the site post-development, boundary treatments should avoid creating barriers to natural commuting routes. Any new fencing within or adjacent to suitable badger habitat should either remain open at ground level or incorporate gaps of at least 30cm by 30cm, installed at regular intervals, to allow free passage of badgers across the landscape.

In addition to this, hedgehog highway gaps should be implemented at the base of any fence panels in order to ensure safe movement of individuals between plots and the wider area.

Allowing areas of grassland or shrubbery that links to the periphery of the site to grow longer in sward length would further increase connectivity to areas of suitable habitat off site for small mammals and amphibians.

Appendix 1

4. Precautionary Methods of Works (PMoW)

Actions to be taken prior to the commencement of works

Prior to works commencing on the site, the following RAMS will be implemented. If works have not commenced on-site by June 2027, an updated badger survey is advised to confirm the details of the PMoW are still appropriate.

No.	Measure	Methods	Timing	Person responsible	Person required to carry out work	Completed (name, company and signature)
1	Ecological Toolbox Talk	Talk to site operatives and contractors explaining amphibian, hedgehog, small mammal and badger ecology, responsibilities and work methods. The initial talk to be given by the ECoW / Ecologist and subsequent talks to be given by the Environmental Champion.	Prior to works	Main site contractor	ECoW/ Ecologist	
2	The vegetation clearance	The vegetation clearance will be undertaken in temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C. Arisings will be chipped and removed from the site.	Prior to works	Developer / main site contractor	Developer / main site contractor	
3	Hand search for the area for any small mammals or hedgehogs	Following the cutting of the vegetation a hand search of the area will be undertaken. If any common amphibians or small mammals are found, works will pause and individuals will be moved by a suitably qualified ecologist to a pre-defined suitable habitat within the local area. If a great crested newt is found at any point, works will cease and a Natural England Great Created Newt Licensed Ecologist must be contacted for advice.	Prior to works	ECoW/ Ecologist	ECoW/ Ecologist	
4	The cut material	All vegetation arisings will be chipped and removed from site in discrete piles to avoid creating temporary shelters for badgers or hedgehogs.	Prior to works	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
5	Utilise existing tracks to access the site	Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible when setting up the site.	Prior to works	Main site contractor	Main contractor	

Actions to be taken during the construction phase

The following measures will be implemented during the construction phase:

Works	Methods	Timing and frequency	Person responsible	Person required to carry out work	Completed (name, company and signature)
Monitoring / site inspections	All protective fencing and exclusion barriers will be checked weekly and repaired where necessary. The protective buffers will be walked weekly, and any signs of badger activity will be reported to the appointed ecologist.	Throughout construction / weekly	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Excavation of trenches	All open trenches, pits or excavations must be covered overnight or fitted with an escape ramp (45° scaffold board or equivalent). These must be checked each morning to ensure they are in place and functional.	Throughout construction / daily as appropriate	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Pipe and ducts	Pipes and ducts with a diameter greater than 150mm must be capped at the end of each working day to prevent accidental entry by individuals.	Throughout construction / daily as appropriate	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Storage of materials	Stored materials (timber, pipes, spoil) must be raised off the ground where possible to prevent use as temporary shelters for mammals or amphibians. Any piles of brash, leaves or similar should be checked prior to moving, for any signs of sheltering hedgehog, small mammals or amphibians.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor Appointed ecologist to check brash piles	Main contractor Appointed ecologist	
Storage of fuel and/or hazardous substances	Fuel and/or hazardous materials should be stored appropriately on bunded containers with spill kits located nearby to avoid release into the wider environment. Regular checks of these areas should be undertaken.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Water Sources	Water sources will always be safeguarded to avoid accidental trapping for badgers in particular.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Artificial lighting	Lighting will be directional, avoiding spill into boundary habitats that may be used by commuting badgers, hedgehogs, other mammals and amphibians at night.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Consideration to wildlife	Staff will remain vigilant for signs of badger activity (footprints, latrines, tracks, snuffle holes) or any sheltering/roaming hedgehog. If any evidence of a newly formed sett or active badger use is observed, works within 30m must cease and the appointed ecologist must be contacted.	Throughout construction	All site staff	All staff	

Appendix 2

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