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Hinchley Road, Blackley

Avoidance of Harm to Badgers, Amphibians, Reptiles and Hedgehogs During Construction

Miller Homes Ltd.

P.2167.25
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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to identify the impact to badgers, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs in regard to any works within the site and to provide avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures to ensure completion of these works without the risk of disturbing these protected species.

Based on the findings following the site visit (Ascerta reference P.2167.25 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Hinchley Road, Blackley), Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) have been prepared to ensure no harm to the above species. These include the following:

1. Vegetation clearance applies to all areas of suitable badger, amphibians, reptile and/or hedgehog habitat.
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. Any cut material or vegetation is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site.
4. Habitat will be removed in a two-stage process (top-down and directional cutting) to allow protected species to disperse safely into retained habitat. Following the cutting of the vegetation, a hand search of the area will be undertaken for any amphibians, reptiles or hedgehogs. If any of the above species are found, they will be allowed to move of their own accord; or will be relocated to a suitable receptor area by an appointed ecologist if necessary.
5. Site staff will remain vigilant for any signs of protected species activity during the works. If any further evidence of badger activity (such as footprints, latrines, or a newly formed sett), amphibian presence (direct sightings or individuals sheltering in damp areas), hedgehog activity (nests or day-time resting individuals) or reptile activity (shed skins or direct sightings) are found during works, all activity in that area must cease and advice will be sought immediately from the appointed ecologist as to an appropriate way forward.
6. Any badgers, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs within the works area will be captured and moved to a predetermined receptor area by the ECoW. If GCN are found, all works must stop immediately and Ascerta (0845 463 4404) contacted.
7. All open trenches or excavations must be covered overnight or fitted with a suitable secured escape ramp (45° scaffold board or equivalent).
8. Pipes and ducts with a diameter >150mm must be capped at the end of each working day to prevent accidental entry.
9. Night working is to be avoided, reducing potential disturbance from lighting and noise.
10. Immediately prior to works commencing, it is recommended that an updated check of the construction zone is undertaken to check for any new signs of badger activity.
11. Any potential refuge areas for hedgehogs must be thoroughly checked prior to moving to avoid harm to any sheltering hedgehog within.
12. Any materials stored overnight (timber, pipes, spoil) must be raised off the ground to prevent use as temporary shelters.
13. Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible.

Provided that the above measures are secured, it is considered that badgers, amphibians, hedgehogs and reptiles will not be harmed by the proposed works.

1. Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by **Miller Homes Ltd.**to produce a RAMS statement for badgers, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs at Moss Lane, Madeley, Crewe, CW3 9NQ (hereafter referred to as **the site**). The site OS grid reference is SD 87835 03150 and the What3Words reference is toys.limbs.event. The extent of the site is displayed in Figure 1.1 below.

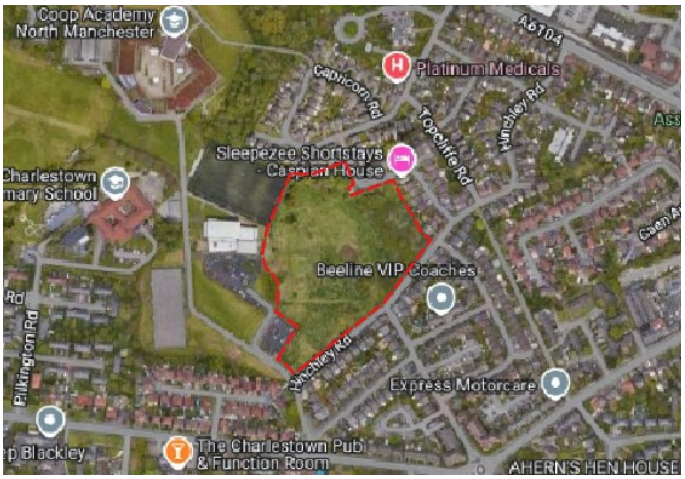


Figure 1.1: Extent of the site

The information contained in this Method Statement is based on the results of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) that was conducted on 23 October 2025 by Liz Kenyon BSc (Hons), Senior Ecologist (suitably qualified ecologist) (P.2167.25A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Hinchley Road, Blackley).

The site lies to the northeast of Manchester City Centre and is bound by Hinchley Road to the northeast with Charlestown Primary School and COOP Academy North Manchester to the north. Within the immediate surrounding areas lies residential dwellings, retail premises, pockets of open space and areas of broad-leaved woodlands.

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, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs.** 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 no harm to badgers, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs during the works:

1. The vegetation clearance will be undertaken at a slow walking pace from the centre of the site towards retained boundary habitats. It will be removed in a two-stage process (top-down and directional cutting) to allow amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs to disperse safely into retained habitat.
2. Potential refuge areas such as log piles, timber stacks, brash piles and leaf piles should be checked by an ecologist prior to removal or disturbance, for any signs of sheltering amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs. 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.
3. The cut material will be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site. Where this is not possible, cut vegetation is to be chipped and spread thinly across the site as instructed by the ECoW. In the event a GCN is found within the site all works must stop immediately and Ascerta (0845 463 4404) contacted, and a Natural England Great Crested Newt Licence Holder (NEGCN) must attend site prior to the works commencing to provide further measures/site supervision works.
4. As there is suitable habitat on site for use by badger, immediately prior to works commencing, it is recommended that an updated check of the construction zone is undertaken, to check for any new signs of badger activity.
5. All works must be undertaken during daylight hours to avoid disturbance to any individuals that may occasionally move through the wider landscape at night.
6. Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible to minimise disturbance to peripheral habitats regularly used by badgers, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs.
7. Any badgers, hedgehogs, reptiles or amphibians found within the works area will be captured and moved to a predetermined receptor area by the ECoW. If GCN are found all works must stopped immediately, and Ascerta (0845 463 4404) contacted for a Natural England GCN licence holder to attend site.
8. All trenches, excavations, pits and holes will be securely covered overnight or fitted with a suitable escape ramp (45° scaffold board or equivalent) to prevent hedgehogs, reptiles or badgers from becoming trapped.
9. All pipes or ducts greater than 150mm in diameter must be capped at the end of the each working day to prevent badgers entering or to avoid reptiles and hedgehogs becoming stuck.
10. Construction materials (timber, spoil, pipes) will be stored on pallets or raised off the ground to prevent their use as temporary refuges by badgers, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs.

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

3. Post-development

To ensure the continued safe movement of badgers, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs around the site post-development, boundary treatments should avoid creating barriers to natural commuting routes. Any new fences or boundary treatments will either be permeable at ground level or incorporate appropriate wildlife gaps to allow free passage of hedgehogs, amphibians and reptiles across the site. Hedgehog gaps measuring a minimum of 13 cm x 13 cm will be installed within any close-boarded fencing where practicable to maintain connectivity between retained habitats and wider landscape. Solid fencing or walls will be avoided at habitat boundaries used by terrestrial wildlife, and where concrete base panels are required, gravel boards or purpose-designed wildlife access gaps will be incorporated. Lighting levels will be kept to the minimum required for safety and will be directional, avoiding light-spill into retained boundary habitats that may be used by foraging or commuting the above species. These measures ensure that badgers, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs can move freely across the site and between adjacent areas once works are complete.

Appendix 1

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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 badgers, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs RAMS will be implemented. If works have not commenced on-site by May 2027, an updated survey is advised to confirm the details of the PMoW are still appropriate.

No.	Works	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 badger, amphibians, hedgehog and reptile 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	Updated Badger Check & Refuge Area Check	A check of the construction zone and habitats within 30m for badger activity (setts, latrines, footprints, new excavations) should be completed, along with a thorough inspection of potential refuge areas for amphibian presence (direct sightings or individuals sheltering in damp areas) and for hedgehogs or reptiles (such as log, brash and leaf piles). Any animals found will be allowed to disperse safely before works continue. Should signs of new badger activity be found, then an appropriate way forward will be determined by the ecologist.	Prior to works	Main site contractor Appointed ecologist	Main site contractor Appointed ecologist	
3	The vegetation clearance will be undertaken	The vegetation clearance of any longer sward grassland, scrub or other suitable habitats will be undertaken at a slow walking pace from the centre of the site towards retained boundary habitats. It will be removed in a two-stage process (top-down and directional cutting) to allow individuals to disperse safely into retained habitat. This directional cutting applies to all habitats cleared in daytime air temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C.	Prior to works	Developer / main site contractor	Developer / main site contractor	
4	The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles	The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site. Where this is not possible, cut vegetation is to be chipped and spread thinly across the site.	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.	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 protected species 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	Any exposed open pipe systems will be capped to prevent any badgers, hedgehogs and reptiles gaining access. These will be checked to make sure they are in place at the end of each day.	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 reptiles or hedgehogs. Any piles of brash, leaves or similar should be checked prior to moving, for any signs of sheltering amphibians, reptiles or hedgehogs.	Throughout construction / daily as appropriate	Main site contractor Appointed ecologist	Main contractor Appointed ecologist	
Artificial lighting	Lighting will be directional, avoiding spill into boundary habitats that may be used by commuting badgers and hedgehogs at night.	Throughout construction / daily as appropriate	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Water Sources	Water sources will always be safeguarded to avoid accidental trapping of badgers, hedgehogs or reptiles. Any open excavations, water-filled pits or containers must be covered or fitted with escape ramps.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Consideration to wildlife	Site staff will remain vigilant for any signs of protected species activity during the works. If any further evidence of badger activity (such as footprints, latrines, or a newly formed sett), amphibian presence (direct sightings or individuals sheltering in damp areas), hedgehog activity (nests or day-time resting individuals) or reptile activity (shed skins or direct sightings) are found during works, all activity in that area must cease and advice will be sought immediately from the appointed ecologist as to an appropriate way forward.	Throughout construction	All site staff	All staff	

Appendix 2

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5. Ecological Compliance Register

To be signed by all contractors to say they have read and understand the PMoW and TBT.

Name	Company	Date	Signature

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