

PRIMARY ROUTE
ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN STATEMENT

COUPRO-CLAFAR-1839-ECMPS

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One	20 March 2009	KH	HM



INTRODUCTION

This Ecological Conservation Management Plan Statement has been prepared by *ecosulis ltd* on behalf of Countryside Properties and will be applied to the Clay Farm site, Cambridge. This Plan addresses Condition 43 which is to be attached to the outline planning permission for Clay Farm, which states:

‘Any reserved matters application shall include an Ecological Conservation Management Plan Statement that demonstrates how it accords with the aims and objectives of the Ecological Conservation Management Plan. It shall detail which specific ecological measures are proposed and the timing for their delivery. No development shall commence within the site for which reserved matters approval is being sought until such time as the Ecological Conservation Management Plan Statement has been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The ecological measures shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and timing of delivery’.

This Ecological Conservation Management Plan Statement (ECMPS) accompanies a full planning application for Phase I of the development, the construction of the Spine Road or ‘primary route’. It outlines specific measures relating to the works under this application and should be read in conjunction with the Site Wide Ecological Conservation Management Plan (reference COUPRO-CLAFAR-1839-ECMP).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STATEMENT

Aims

The principal aim of the ECMPS is to demonstrate how the application for the Spine Road accords with and contributes to the aims and objectives of the site wide ECMP, which in summary aims to secure the adoption of a coherent, strategic and integrated approach to management and maintenance, which protects and enhances nature conservation interests within the management site, taking into account local planning policy and biodiversity targets.

Objectives

The principal objectives of the ECMPS are to summarise the specific ecological measures proposed in relation to this phase of the development, and to detail the proposed timing of the delivery of these measures.

SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL MEASURES

Capital Works

Capital Works	Description	Paragraph reference (site wide ECMP) where appropriate	Timing
Protection measures	Erection of chestnut paling fencing around all features in the vicinity of the works. Where works fall near to plantations (namely Plantation 3 (Trumpington Dismantled Railway) and Long Road Plantation) and hedgerows, fencing will be in accordance with BS5837: 2005 Trees in Relation to Construction	47, 51, 69, 110, 113, 150, 152, 156, 163 and 249	Unrestricted but prior to commencement of works on site
Protected species surveys	Bat assessment of trees for felling/ivy removal within Plantation 3 and Long Road Plantation	43 and 46	Unrestricted
	Nesting bird survey of trees for felling/ivy removal (should felling be undertaken during the nesting season)	43 and 46	March to August
	Further bat surveys, if required	43 and 46	May to September
	Badger survey of area surrounding proposed tree works	43	Unrestricted
Habitat destruction	Tree felling (no constraints in relation to bats)		November to February (or checks for nesting birds by an ecologist if works undertaken during nesting season)
	Tree felling (bats present or likely to be present)	43	Late August to early October

Habitat destruction	Loss of arable habitat		November to February (or checks for ground nesting birds by an ecologist if works undertaken during nesting season)
Habitat creation	Tree planting along the Spine Road and plantations	44, 87, 92	November to February (where possible) following completion of the Spine Road

Annual Works

The annual works detailed below are applicable for the duration of the construction phase of the Spine Road. For full details of all annual works, including those that are not specific to the construction of the Spine Road, and for works beyond this phase, reference must be made to the site wide ECMP.

Annual Works	Description	Paragraph reference (site wide ECMP) where appropriate	Timing
Protection measures	Maintenance of protective fencing		Four times annually throughout the construction phase
	Habitats monitoring	63, 107, 124, 144, 146, 153, 178	Four times annually throughout the construction phase
	Species monitoring	144, 145, 146, 147	Annually throughout the construction phase

RESPONSIBILITIES

Implementation of the site wide ECMP (including those works outlined within this ECMP) is the responsibility of Countryside Properties, or their successors in title, through a management company and will be undertaken by suitably qualified approved contractors and site staff. Works will be implemented by site staff, suitably qualified contractors and ecologists.

Contractor Responsibilities

All materials, workmanship, quality and operations will be in accordance with current British Standards, Codes of Practice and legislation.

An Ecological Clerk of Works will be appointed by the contractor during the following capital works:

- Destruction of arable habitat, if undertaken outside the recommended timescale (i.e. if works are unavoidable during the bird nesting season (March to September))
- Arboricultural removal or maintenance procedure to monitor for nesting birds and bats, and to advise as appropriate
- Hedgerow removal or maintenance procedure to monitor for nesting birds and other wildlife, and to advise as appropriate

Monitoring Responsibilities

Construction Phase

An Ecological Clerk of Works will be appointed to carry out monitoring during the construction phase including:

- Quarterly checks of component habitats to ensure maintenance of favourable condition during the construction phase
- Quarterly checks of protective measures around retained and new features (woodland/plantation, hedgerows and Hobson's Brook)

An Ecologist will be appointed to undertake the following tasks:

- Specific species surveys prior to works commencing (namely bat, nesting birds and badger surveys)
- Annual monitoring of species populations, where appropriate, during the construction phase

- Annual monitoring of habitats (woodland/plantation, hedgerows, new trees and Hobson's Brook) to monitor management and ensure favourable status of habitats during the construction phase

Annual reviews of the site wide ECMP will be undertaken following annual monitoring and surveys. The site wide ECMP will be revised accordingly in consultation with involved parties.

SUMMARY

This ECMPS accords with the principles detailed in the site wide ECMP and sets out the specific ecological measures (both capital and annual) that relate to the Spine Road. For full details of all measures reference must be made to the site wide ECMP.

The measures outlined in this ECMPS (and detailed in full in the site wide ECMP) accord with the following principles:

- To retain, enhance and ensure establishment of hedgerows, tree belts, and water bodies, and to ensure the establishment of new woodland/plantation and grassland
- To ensure provision within new and existing habitats for wildlife
- To protect identified habitat elements of the management site during construction
- To ensure long-term management of retained and created habitats to maintain quality and offer suitable habitat for wildlife
- To maximise the longevity and quality of vegetation retained/created within the management site
- To protect and enhance the nature conservation value of existing and new habitats on the management site and, where appropriate, within the locality generally
- To fulfil all the legal requirements in relation to the protection, management and enhancement of the ecological features within the management site, in particular, those that relate to nature conservation
- To ensure provision for target species/groups, including birds, bats, badgers, reptiles and invertebrates
- To contribute to Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan targets and strategies, by increasing net biodiversity within the management site
- To provide a mechanism for monitoring and reviewing the ECMP and the operations contained therein