
Avoidance of Harm to Bats,
Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians
and Badger During
Construction

Halewood LUF

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**Avoidance of Harm to Bats, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians and Badger
During Construction**

For

Halewood LUF

Knowsley Council

September 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to identify the impact to bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians and badger 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 species.

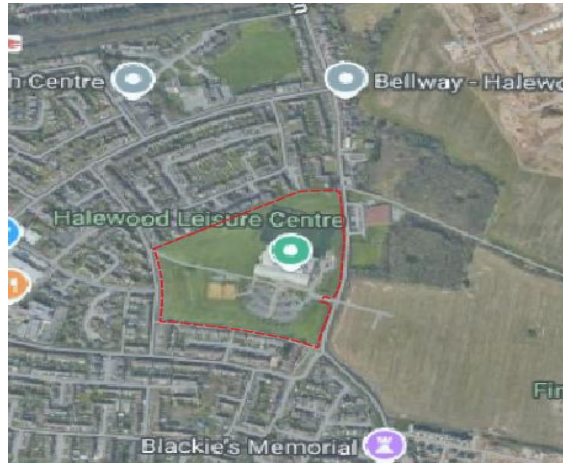
Based on the findings following the site visits, Reasonable Avoidance Measures have been prepared to ensure no harm to the above species. These include the following:

1. Vegetation clearance 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 the cutting of the vegetation the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will check the areas of vegetation for birds, reptiles, amphibians and badger;
2. The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site;
3. Following the cutting of the vegetation, a hand search of the area will be undertaken. If any or hedgehogs, reptiles or amphibians are found, they will be removed to a predetermined receptor area by the ECoW;
4. The cut vegetation should be remain at the mown length;
5. Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible;
6. Any hedgehogs, reptiles or amphibians 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. Throughout the works all trenches must be covered at night or ramps provided to prevent hedgehog from getting stuck. Large pipes must also be covered to prevent badger access and risk of these species getting stuck;
8. Construction material will be stored on pallets to avoid creating habitat for species;
9. To comply with legislation protecting nesting birds, clearance of any vegetation or the demolition of buildings should ideally be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season that is considered to run between 01 March to 30 August inclusive, unless it is established that nesting birds are not present via an appropriately timed ecological nesting bird check; and
10. As bats can roost opportunistically it is recommended that all construction workers are briefed that bats may be present within the area and if a bat is found during the demolition works to the buildings, or tree works all works must cease immediately at Ascerta (0845 463 4404) or the Bat Conservation Trust (0345 1300 228) contacted.

Provided that the above measures are secured, it is considered that bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians and badger will not be harmed by the proposals.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Ascerta has been instructed by Knowsley Council to produce a Reasonable Avoidance Method Statement for bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians and badger at Halewood LUF (hereafter referred to as the site). The OS grid reference is SJ 45275 85177 and the what3words reference is crowns.tiredness.rally. The extent of the site is displayed in photograph 1.1 below.



Photograph 1.1: Extent of site

The information contained in this Method Statement is based on data gathered during the site visit on 29th August 2024 by Liz Kenyon, following a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal that was undertaken in August 2023 (WSP report 70112144, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, September 2023).

The site lies to the south of Halewood and is divided into two land parcels. The eastern parcel comprises Halewood Leisure Centre with car parking and outdoor amenity space including all weather sports facilities.

The site is surrounded by residential dwellings, retail premises and infrastructure with pockets of open space.

2.0 Precautionary Working Methods

Prior to the start of works, all site operatives working within the site will receive a Tool Box Talk (TBT) by the Ecological Clerk of Work (ECoW). The TBT will include information on the ecology, identification and legislation, where relevant, related to bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians and badger. 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 bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians and badger during the works:

1. The vegetation clearance will be undertaken at a slow walking pace and using directional clearance from the centre of the site to the boundaries. The clearance method will encourage any active birds, reptiles and amphibians to move towards connecting and retained habitat surrounding the working area. 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.
2. 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.
3. Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible. Where new vehicle routes or tracks are required, the ECoW will recommend on appropriate measures to be undertaken prior to vegetation clearance for track construction.
4. Any 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 NEGCN licence holder to attend site.
5. Throughout the works all trenches and holes will be covered at night or ramps provided to prevent hedgehog, amphibians and badger from getting stuck.
6. Construction material will be stored on pallets to avoid harm to the above species; and

To comply with legislation protecting nesting birds, clearance of any vegetation or the demolition of buildings should ideally be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season which is considered to run between March to August inclusive. Should this not be feasible, all areas of suitable nesting bird habitat will be inspected by the ECoW to determine the presence / absence of any nesting birds (including ground nesting species) prior to any clearance. In the event of an active nest being identified, a temporary exclusion zone would need to be placed around the nest in which works would be put on hold until the nesting attempt has finished, which may be several weeks. Safe working distances will be determined by the ECoW and the distances will be dependent upon the bird species present.

As bats can roost opportunistically it is recommended that all construction workers are briefed that bats may be present within the area and if a bat is found during the demolition works to the buildings, or tree works all works must cease immediately at Ascerta (0845 463 4404) or the Bat Conservation Trust (0345 1300 228) contacted.

3.0 Post Development

To enable hedgehog continued use of the site gaps of at least 13cm by 13cm will be installed within any fence panels to create a hedgehog highway to interlink gardens and provide connectivity to the surrounding habitats. If concrete bases are required to secure any fences or boundary treatments a base panel/ gravel board with hedgehog holes will be installed.

Appendix 1

Precautionary Method of Works (PMoW)

Actions to be taken prior to the commencement of works

Prior to works commencing on the site, the following small mammal, amphibians and hedgehog Reasonable Avoidance Measures will be implemented. If works have not commenced on site by August 2026, an updated survey is advised to confirm the details of the PMW are still appropriate.

	Works	Methods	Timing	Person Responsible	Person Required to carry out the work	Completed (Name, Company and Signature)
1	Ecological Toolbox Talk	Talk to site operatives and contractors explaining bat, bird, reptile, amphibian 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	

	Works	Methods	Timing	Person Responsible	Person Required to carry out the work	Completed (Name, Company and Signature)
2	Vegetation clearance	The vegetation clearance will be undertaken at a slow walking pace and using directional clearance from the centre of the site to the boundaries. 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	Ecologist	

	Works	Methods	Timing	Person Responsible	Person Required to carry out the work	Completed (Name, Company and Signature)
3	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 as instructed by the Ecologist.	Prior to works	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
4	Utilise existing tracks to access the site.	Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible. Where new vehicle routes or tracks are required, the Ecologist will recommend on appropriate measures to be undertaken prior to vegetation clearance for track construction.	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 the 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 ECoW.	Throughout construction/ weekly	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Excavation of Trenches	All steep-sided excavations will be covered overnight or fitted with ramps to prevent the above species from getting trapped within them; 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	
Pipe work	Any exposed open pipe systems will be capped to prevent the above species 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	
Water Sources	Water sources will always be safeguarded.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Fires and Chemicals	Fires and chemicals will not be used within 20 metres of suitable hibernacula features.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Pile driving, Loud Noise and Vibration	No pile driving will take place within 100m of suitable hibernacula features. Disturbances, such as loud noise or vibrations, that might agitate hibernating species	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Consideration to wildlife	Staff will remain vigilant throughout works. Should any protected species be encountered during the works, works will cease and advice will be sought immediately from the appointed Ecologist.	Throughout construction	All site staff	All staff	

Appendix 2

Ecological Compliance Register

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

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