



WE KNOW SERVICES

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

Altbridge School

Wellcroft Road

Huyton

Knowsley

L36 7TA

Prepared For: Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

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1. Introduction

Author and qualifications

This report is compiled and written by James Towers.

Objectives and Scope

This construction environmental management plan (CEMP) has been produced for the proposed development at Albridge School, Huyton.

The proposed development is for the extension of the existing car park to create additional spaces for drop off and pick up within the existing school boundary including the widening of vehicular gates to allow two-way traffic. Landscaping measures include proposed tree planting and woodland creation within the school boundary.

The requirement for a CEMP is to ensure the satisfactory development of the site in the interests of protecting the amenity of neighbouring occupiers and site ecology/biodiversity and to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework; Policies CS2, CS8 and CS19 of the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy adopted January 2016 and saved Policies H5 and ENV2 of the Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan adopted June 2006.

This CEMP should be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

Structure of the Report

This report assesses the risks to biodiversity from the proposed construction activities, before outlining the relevant measures to reduce the potential risks during the development. It also outlines the roles of responsible persons and lines of communication to ensure that the development works do not compromise biodiversity.

2. Construction and Operational Impacts

The application is seeking planning permission for the extension of car parking within the school boundary which will include the widening of vehicular gates to allow two-way traffic. This will enable pressure from vehicles dropping off and picking up to be lessened on the surrounding neighbourhood.

The broad construction activities within the development have the potential to impact the amenity of neighbouring occupiers and site biodiversity. An assessment of the potential risks to biodiversity have been details in the sections below.

2.1 Vegetation and Site Clearance

There are two hedgerows onsite, which vary in species composition and quality, along with a number of trees. Site clearance and setting out may involve the direct loss of trees and hedgerows on site as an ecological resource or may result in damage to any trees which are to be retained. Construction activities too close to the RPAs of retained trees or hedgerows could cause permanent damage.

Any proposed tree felling, or removal of vegetation, rubble piles, discarded materials, log piles and other debris prior to and during construction has the potential to disturb and harm wildlife sheltering, roosting, nesting or otherwise using those areas. More specifically, birds may be nesting in trees, scrub or shrubs. Furthermore, common amphibians or small mammals such as hedgehogs could be sheltering in vegetation such as the areas of grassland and scrub, in piles of rubble, logs or beneath discarded materials / debris. Inappropriate management of the habitats on site could degrade them and render them useless, and there is the potential for direct harm, injury and / or death to individuals without the appropriate mitigation measures in place.

All trees and habitats on site were assessed for their suitability to support bat roosting features. The trees were assessed to provide no suitability for roosting bats.

2.2 Ground Works

Existing vegetation on the site will be gradually cut and removed under ecological supervision to encourage any amphibians present to move away from the affected areas.

Any open excavations (e.g. foundations / footings / service trenches etc) will be covered with plywood sheeting (or similar) at the end of each working day and a means of escape (e.g. a ramp) should be provided for terrestrial mammals. The edges of these sheets will be covered with a thick layer of topsoil or similar) to prevent amphibians from seeking shelter beneath them.

Any excavation must be in filled and made good to ground level with compacted stone or similar at the earliest opportunity, so as to remove any hazard to amphibians.

Any exposed open pipe systems should be capped to prevent mammals gaining access.

2.3 Storage of materials

Inappropriate storage of harmful materials, including chemicals, could result in the harm of any wildlife which comes into contact with such materials.

The working area, together with any storage areas, will be kept clear of debris, and any stored materials will be kept off the ground on pallets so as to prevent amphibians or mammals from seeking shelter or protection within them.

2.4 General Construction works including the use of concrete and storage and removal of waste materials

General construction work associated with the development has the potential to cause visual, noise and physical (vibration) disturbance to the site and surrounding areas.

Dust, spillages and emissions may degrade the surrounding habitats and their suitability to support the associated biodiversity.

2.5 Vegetation and Site Clearance

No tree felling, scrub clearance, hedgerow removal, vegetation management, ground clearance and/or building works is to take place during the period 1 March to 31 August inclusive. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all buildings, trees, scrub, hedgerows and vegetation are to be checked first by an appropriately experienced ecologist to ensure no breeding birds are present. If nesting birds are found within the areas scheduled for clearance, a 5m exclusion zone will be set up around the nest sensitively and left until the young have fledged the nest and breeding is completed. No works will take place within this exclusion zone until the young have fledged the nest and breeding is completed, as confirmed by a suitably experienced ecologist.

In order to protect retained trees and hedgerows during the construction phase of the development, root protection areas will be implemented. These areas should be adequately protected by appropriately designed protective barriers and ground protection throughout the entire development process.

The vegetation scheduled for removal within the working areas onsite will be mown or otherwise managed to maintain a sward height of less than 100mm. The mown / cleared area will then be maintained with a short sward until the works on site have been completed. This reduction in sward height will be undertaken in two stages, first to a height of 150mm then to less than 100mm after a period of at least 48 hours. This will ensure that amphibians and other wildlife have sufficient time to disperse from the working areas of their own accord.