



LIZARD

Landscape Design and Ecology

HENLEY ROAD LIMITED

209 – 219 HENLEY ROAD CAVERSHAM, READING

Construction Environmental Management Plan

Prepared by	ML
Checked by	JJ
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FIGURE NO.1 - MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY - NON-DOMESTIC AREAS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan for the proposed development at 209 – 219 Henley Road in the suburb of Caversham located in the borough of Reading in Berkshire, England (Grid Reference: SU 730 752 – hereafter referred to as ‘the site’). The report has been prepared by Mary Lannia – Assistant Landscape Architect - Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology, Worthing and has been reviewed by Joe Jackson; Principal Landscape Architect - Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology, Worthing.
- 1.2 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was undertaken of the site on 1st May 2018, to appraise the existing ecological resource within the site and the surrounding area and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey and Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment was produced on 1st June 2018.

The Site

- 1.3 The site is situated on Henley Road in Caversham, located to the north east of urban Reading at some 40m above Ordinance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The site area falls within the private back gardens of several plots of land which are approximately 80x10m (1ha area). The plots together contain a total of 6 residential dwellings (which comprise two semi-detached properties both divided into two dwellings and two detached properties).
- 1.5 The private gardens of the dwellings are predominantly laid to lawn with shrub lined boundaries, and comprise small sheds or outbuildings and a small artificial pond.

Surrounding Site

- 1.6 The site is located off of Henley Road (A4155) and is bordered on the north by residential dwellings and their private gardens which have direct access from Henley Road. The east and west of the site similarly abut private gardens of residential properties. To the south of the site is a strip of vegetation along Berry Brook that is fed by the River Thames.

Surrounding Landscape

- 1.7 The site being located on the eastern edge of the residential suburb of Caversham which has a fine-grained residential fabric to the north and west whilst the surrounding land to the south and east is dominated by farmland.
- 1.8 The wider landscape is characterised predominantly by a residential setting to the north and the west beyond which are arable and agricultural land with several golf courses along the edge of the settlement. Some 400m to the east of the site are large water bodies encompassing the Caversham Lakes, Redgrave Pinsent Rowing Lake and the Marinas. Further south of the site location is the urban town centre of Reading located beyond the River Thames which shapes its northern edge.
- 1.9 Some 1.7km to the north of the site is Clayfield Copse, a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Ancient Woodland. Within 2.0 km of the site there are Priority Habitats of Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Fens, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Good Quality Semi-Improved Grassland, Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Ancient Re-planted Woodland and Wood Pasture & Parkland.

Existing Site Vegetation

- 1.10 The private gardens of dwellings are generally laid to lawn which are regularly maintained and have an assemblage of vegetation common in amenity grassland habitat. Trees, shrubs and hedgerows across the gardens and along the boundaries are composed of common ornamental and native species.
- 1.11 Some tall ruderal vegetation can be found concentrated in the far end of the gardens of the centrally located plots.

Proposed Development

- 1.12 The development proposals comprise the erection of 9 dwellings (three semi-detached houses and one terraced house) as well as the associated hard standing and soft landscape garden areas to the rear of each residential property.
- 1.13 Vehicular and pedestrian access to the site will be gained via a sub-road leading off Henley Road.

- 1.14 The proposed soft landscape scheme includes incorporating species-rich hedgerows, ornamental shrub planting and, native and ornamental tree planting along the driveways, to the northern boundary treatment, the frontages and in between buildings.
- 1.15 The hard landscape scheme comprises surfacing for the circulation scheme and wildlife friendly boundary treatments along private garden boundaries.
- 1.16 The scheme provides a buffer zone to the south of the site and habitat features across the site, to deliver mitigation measures and habitat enhancement for the benefit of wildlife.

Proposed Ecological Elements for Reptiles

- 1.17 A Landscape and Ecology Buffer Strip comprising mature trees and rough grassland will be maintained to the rear of the site forming part of the mitigation and ecological enhancements as recommended within the PEA. Enhancements will also include implementation of reptile hibernacula and log piles.

Objectives of the Construction Environmental Management Plan

- 1.18 The Management Plan sets out long-term objectives for the habitat maintenance and management. The long-term design and management objectives include:
- Addressing reptile habitat management objectives set out in Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (*LLD1441-ECO-REP-001-00*);
 - Maintaining the ecological functions of the habitat enhancements;
 - Ensuring safety for people and property.

Purpose of the Construction Environmental Management Plan

- 1.19 The reptile hibernacula proposed to the landscape and ecology buffer zone will comprise soft landscape elements which will require active management to ensure they deliver genuine landscape and biodiversity gains.
- 1.20 The purpose of the CEMP is to provide detailed management prescriptions for the proposed habitat features within the scheme in terms of the works to be carried out; when specific tasks are to be undertaken; and the method of undertaking the prescribed tasks.

- 1.21 The CEMP will additionally specify subsequent management and monitoring for the habitat areas. It is intended that the CEMP functions as a 'living document', with a process for continually reviewing, monitoring, revising, editing and updating.

Management Responsibility

- 1.22 The CEMP (together with *Hard and Soft General Arrangement Drawing* and *Habitat Enhancement and Mitigation Plan*) has also been produced to inform the Clients Managing Agent and aid the preparation of an annual management budget for the long-term landscape management of the scheme.

Habitat Features

- 1.23 The long-term management and maintenance of the habitat features in the Landscape and Ecology Buffer Zone shall be undertaken by the Client appointed, fully insured landscape management contractor, with the skills, knowledge, experience and capability to do so. The management of these habitat features shall be undertaken as set out and prescribed. Habitat features are shown at **Figure No.1** on the following page.

- 1.24 Figure No.1 below indicates the habitat features, as described above. The location of habitat features where the long-term management and maintenance will be undertaken by the landscape contractor are shown in light blue.



Figure No.1 - Management Responsibility – Habitat Features

Report Structure

- 1.25 **Section 2** will introduce the habitat elements / prescriptions. **Section 3** will provide the method of implementation to each habitat element / prescription. **Section 4** will provide the long-term management for each habitat element / prescription. **Section 5** will provide information for monitoring existing and recently implemented habitat elements. **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** comprise Management Schedules.

Drawings and Reports

- 1.26 The Construction Environmental Management Plan is accompanied by, and shall be read alongside, the following documentation:
- *LLD1986-LAN-DWG-100 – Hard and Soft Landscape General Arrangement Drawing;*
 - *LLD1986-ECO-DWG-001 – Habitat Enhancement and Mitigation Plan;*
 - *LLD1986-ECO-DWG-001 – Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.*

2.0 ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENTS / PRESCRIPTIONS

2.1 Each ecological element has been given a 'Prescription' (*P1*), addressing elements individually. Ecological management elements incorporated within the scheme are addressed within the following management prescriptions:

- P1 – Reptile Habitat.

2.2 For the location of proposed habitat elements (*prescriptions P1*); refer to the following drawing:

- *LLD1986-LAN-DWG-100 – Hard and Soft Landscape General Arrangement Drawing;*
- *LLD1986-ECO-DWG-001 – Habitat Enhancement and Mitigation Plan.*

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOLOGICAL ELEMENTS

3.1 Within this section, the method by which the habitat features shall be implemented is described through prescriptions.

Generic Information on Soil Preparation

3.2 Soil shall be tested and certified by a Soil Scientist, and advice sought on how the soil onsite may best be improved prior to and during planting.

P1 – REPTILE HABITAT

Site Clearance and reptile translocation

3.3 The landscape and ecology buffer zone will act as receptor area for the translocation of any reptiles found within the site prior to construction.

3.4 The receptor area will measure c. 715m² and will be fenced and allowed to grow to form a tussocky sward. The area will be enhanced with a hibernaculum and log piles, to provide reptiles with increased areas for basking, shelter and hibernation.

3.5 Any reptiles found during the destructive search while removing areas of tall ruderal vegetation shall be moved to the receptor area.

- 3.6 Vegetation from sections of the site will be removed in stages with an initial trim reducing vegetation to no less than 15.0 cm. A subsequent cut will then reduce vegetation to a height of < 5.0 cm rendering the area unsuitable for reptiles.
- 3.7 All arisings will be removed from the construction zone to prevent the creation of compost piles which are attractive to reptiles.

Reptile Habitat – Hibernation, Basking and Refuge Sites.

- 3.8 Arisings from tree felling, removal of dead branches or pruning, as well as non-toxic debris and rubble can be retained on site to contribute to reptile habitat creation. Two hibernacula and two log piles have been proposed to enhance reptile habitat. For proposed location refer to drawing LLD1986-ECO-DWG-001 – Habitat Enhancement and Mitigation Plan.
- 3.9 The creation of a hibernaculum and log piles is proposed within the landscape and ecology buffer zone. It is recommended that hibernaculum comprises subterranean portion to the depth of c. 0.5 m and the overground portion in the form of a mound or pile, c. 1 m in height. The pit is to be loosely filled with small amounts of soil in between layers during construction to just above ground level and then capped with a layer (50-100mm thick) of turf or moss. Reptile access gaps to be left at ground level.
- 3.10 A log pile can be of any size and constructed from piling logs up horizontally. Log piles can be created using any type of wood, although it will be advantageous to utilise any pruning matter on an ongoing basis. Compost heaps can also be of any size and constructed from organic matter including grass cuttings.

4.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

- 4.1 A range of management prescriptions are to be employed within the site aimed at successfully delivering the ecology scheme, as set out in the previous section. Management prescriptions include all measures required for the management and aftercare period of 1-5 years with respect to landscape planting, newly created habitats and management, aimed at maximising the landscape and biodiversity value of the scheme.

- 4.2 Monitoring of the ecological elements will be undertaken once in 5 years by a suitably qualified ecologist to ensure that the habitat features throughout the areas of the scheme are in good state. The results of the annual monitoring will be used to inform any necessary changes to the management which will be incorporated into subsequent versions of the CEMP.

P1 – REPTILE HABITAT

Reptile Habitat – Hibernation, Basking and Refuge Sites.

- 4.1 Once established, these can be maintained using cuttings from the native site.

5.0 MONITORING

- 5.1 Monitoring shall be undertaken once in 5 years by a professional ecologist to ensure that the new habitats are in a state of good condition and have successfully established.
- 5.2 The results of monitoring will be used to adjust and adapt the management and aftercare as required and will be incorporated fully into subsequent versions of the CEMP.

Appendix B - Management for aftercare period 1 - 5 year period

Operation	Frequency	Year 1												Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec				
P1 – REPTILE HABITAT – Management																	
Checking integrity of hibernaculum and log piles	2 x year			X							X			X	X	X	X
Restocking (if required)	1-2 x year			X							X			X	X	X	X
Grassland cutting	If required	X	X									X	X				



L I Z A R D

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