Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP)

Churnet Way, Leek

Version 1 | March 2022

On Behalf of McDonald's Restaurants

This document does not purport to provide legal advice. This document forms part of the works package for the site and should be issued and adhered to by all contractors and site personnel. Deviation from the methods and control measures as set out in this document could result in a breach of wildlife or environmental legislation and violation of planning legislation.

Document Control

Version	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by
V1	10th March 2022	Mischa Gibbons BSc (Hons) Graduate Ecologist	Cyrise Weaire BSc (Hons) MCIEEM Principal Ecologist and Director

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1. Preface

1.1 Project Background

Practical Ecology Ltd were commissioned by McDonald's Restaurants to produce a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP) for Churnet Way, Leek, herein referred to as the 'Site'.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) concluded that appropriate mitigation would be required in relation to the following potential impacts of development:

- Possible impacts to the River Churnet from any pollution incidents onsite;
- Impact on riparian species such as water vole and otter as a result of the above;
- Possible threat to the retained area of priority habitat during pre-construction and construction phase;
- Impacts upon nesting birds (ie. damage to nests);&
- Inclusion of a bat friendly lighting scheme, to avoid lighting impacts on foraging habitat and the River Churnet.

This CEcMP provides mitigation measures relating to all of the above potential effects.

In addition to this mitigation the PEA report for the site included a list of suggested biodiversity enhancement measures for the development including:

- Tree planting and habitat creation including flowering plants and a species rich turf within the managed area. Alongside a "Biodiversity Area" including invertebrate habitat, pollen and nectar planting, and SuDS creation; &
- Installation of three solitary bee hotels or posts, and three raised planters with pollinator friendly planting.

Given that the development design is still in the concept stage at the time of preparation of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and this document, further specific detail of the biodiversity enhancement measures that will be included in the final design of the project cannot be provided.

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1.2 The Site

The proposed development site is around 0.48ha (central OS grid reference SJ97701 57091, postcode ST13 8YG) and is located in the town of Leek. The Site lies south of an existing superstore carpark, to the west lies Churnet Way and to the east and south lies a continuation of the onsite habitats. The River Churnet lies beyond this to the south.

The Site itself comprises neutral grassland with scattered immature scrub and tall herb growth, along with an area of neutral grassland dominated by hard rush and standing water.

A red line boundary is shown in Figure 1, below.



Figure 1: Site Boundary

1.3 Proposals

The proposals include clearance of the Site and the development of a McDonald's Restaurant and Drive-thru with associated landscaping. A proposal plan has been included in Appendix 1 (Drawing number: 12385_AEW_8622_F002 D).

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1.4 Document Purpose

The purpose of this document is to preserve the existing biodiversity value of the site, prior to and during construction, and to minimize any disturbance effects caused by the development. This document outlines control measures and procedures with regards to the ecological aspects of the site. Relevant legislation and guidance underpinning this document can be found in:

- *Planning Act 2008*
- *Water Resources Act 1991*
- *Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981*
- *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*
- *Environment Agency and National Groundwater and Contaminated Land Centre (2001)*
- *British Standard (2012) BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations*
- *Control of Pollution Act 1974*
- *DCLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework*

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1.5 Contact Information

Contact	Name	Email	Phone
Client	TBC	TBC	
Ecological Clerk of Works	TBC	info@practical-ecology.co.uk	01370 740098
Planning Authority Case Officer	TBC	TBC	
Contractor	TBC	TBC	

1.6 Environmental Incidents and Reporting

In the event of a pollution incident, the Contractor shall take remedial action immediately when they become aware of it. The incident shall be reported to the Site Personnel in the immediate vicinity, the Site Foreman, and Senior Project Manager at the earliest opportunity. A record of all environmental incidents including 'near misses' shall be kept on site and updated by the Site Foreman under review of the Senior Project Manager.

If the incident is of high severity, i.e. has an influence beyond the limits of the site, the Contractor shall also report the incident to the Environment Agency. **The Environment Agency incident hotline telephone number is 0800 80 70 60.**

Actions to be undertaken to deal with any spill of petrochemicals, shall seek primarily to protect people, the environment and machinery (in order of priority). If safe to do so, the following steps must be undertaken to contain a spill:

- Isolate the source of the leak;
- Report incident to Site Owner and Project Manager;
- Contain the spill with sandbags, foam booms or similar;
- Stop the spillage entering the drainage system wherever possible;
- Soak up and disperse spill using approved methods; and
- Dispose of contaminated materials appropriately.

[NB: an approved contractor may be required, depending on the scale of the incident]

The Senior Project Manager shall be ultimately responsible for ensuring that all works are carried out in accordance with all current, relevant environmental legislation.

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2. Ecological Management Plan

The measures set out in the 'Pre-Construction', 'Construction' and 'Post-Construction' Phases and must be executed in full. When each item has been successfully implemented, the measure should be signed off by the Principal Contractor/Contractor and checked by the Client.

2.1 Pre-Construction, Construction and Post-Construction Measures

	Protected feature and potential impact to be managed	Item no.	Details of measures and/or specification	Signed off (*Give name and date)*
Pre-construction Phase	**Nesting Bird Check** Mortality/ injury during immature scrub clearance	**1**	**Option 1: Site clearance undertaken outside nesting bird period (i.e. October to February inclusive).** **Option 2: If option one is not possible, Site clearance undertaken during nesting bird season (March – September) following pre-check by ecologist.** • To be undertaken 24-48 hours prior to clearance. • Any nests found to be left with a suitable buffer until any young have fledged. • Should nests be present, then further checks may be required should removal of remaining habitat take place during the nesting season.	
Pre-construction Phase	**Biodiversity Enhancement**	**2**	**Biodiversity enhancement suggested within the PEA Report should be included:** • A grass mowing regime designed to encourage flowering plants throughout the year • Inclusion of species rich grass with flowering species. • Include three planters with suitable planting to benefit invertebrates • Include three solitary bee hotels or bee posts within landscaping plans	

	Protected feature and potential impact to be managed	Item no.	Details of measures and/or specification	Signed off (*Give name and date)*
Pre-construction and Construction Phase	**Protection of Priority Habitat**	**3**	**Demarcation fencing to be installed to protect the retained area of priority habitat on Site.** The fencing should be impermeable to the public and construction materials. Galvanized block and panel temporary fencing is recommended to reduce the risk of the area being impacted by works traffic or used as an area of material storage, the location of this fencing can be seen in orange in Appendix 3. The printout in Appendix 4 should be attached to this fencing to bring awareness and avoid further placement of materials here.	
Pre-construction and Construction Phase	**Bats – Lighting Disturbance**	**4**	**Lighting to be tailored to ensure no overspill occurs onto the River Churnet or priority habitat retained onsite.** During the construction phase lighting should be directional to stop light spill onto sensitive areas such as the priority habitat to the south and east of the Site. Where lighting cannot be directed away from priority habitats, hording should be used to contain light and reduce light spill. Illuminating key foraging habitat such as the River Churnet and retained priority habitat area to the south and east can negatively affect available foraging habitat or bats. The impacts upon this can be considered as breach of Regulation 41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, under which bats, and their roosts are protected. To avoid this, any lighting on or along the River Churnet and retained priority habitat area to the south and east of the Site.	

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	Protected feature and potential impact to be managed	Item no.	Details of measures and/or specification	Signed off (*Give name and date)*
Construction	**Surface Water Run-off**	**5**	**During Works:** • Undertake daily visual inspections to ensure that surface water run-off is not contaminated with pollutants or sediments. • If surface water run-off is likely to occur, then the use of suitable barriers to ensure sediment does not enter the River Churnet should be in place. • Where appropriate, in order to collect and divert greenfield run-off from construction disturbed areas, interceptor ditches and other drainage diversion measures will be installed in advance of any excavation works. Separate silt and clean water drainage channels, as well as discharge points to avoid contamination. Discharge to vegetated areas shall be a minimum of 50m from watercourses to allow settlement of suspended solids and to reduce impacts on nearby priority habitats silt fencing, run off containment and silt busters should be used if necessary.	
Construction	**Pollution Control**	**6**	**During Works:** • Guidance on pollution prevention[i] to be followed throughout; • All hazardous products need to be stored following current product guideline; • Spill kits should be stored within the plant and all machinery on Site. Daily checks and regular servicing should be performed, with a designated fuelling point and storage area on Site this should be at least at least 15m away from the River Churnet. Any leaking machinery should be removed from the Site immediately; • Daily checks should be made of the ground conditions on Site to look for evidence of petrochemical and reporting of any spill incidents by the Site Foreman; & • Major spills should be reported to the Environment Agency as per the previous section guidance.	

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	Protected feature and potential impact to be managed	Item no.	Details of measures and/or specification	Signed off (*Give name and date)*
Pre-construction Phase	**Nesting Bird Check** Mortality/injury during hedgerow clearance for site access	**7**	**Option 1: Site clearance undertaken outside nesting bird period (i.e. September - March).** **Option 2: If option one is not possible, Site clearance undertaken during nesting bird season (March – September) following pre-check by ecologist.** • Pre-check to be undertaken 24-48 hours prior to clearance. • Any nests found to be left until young have fledged.	

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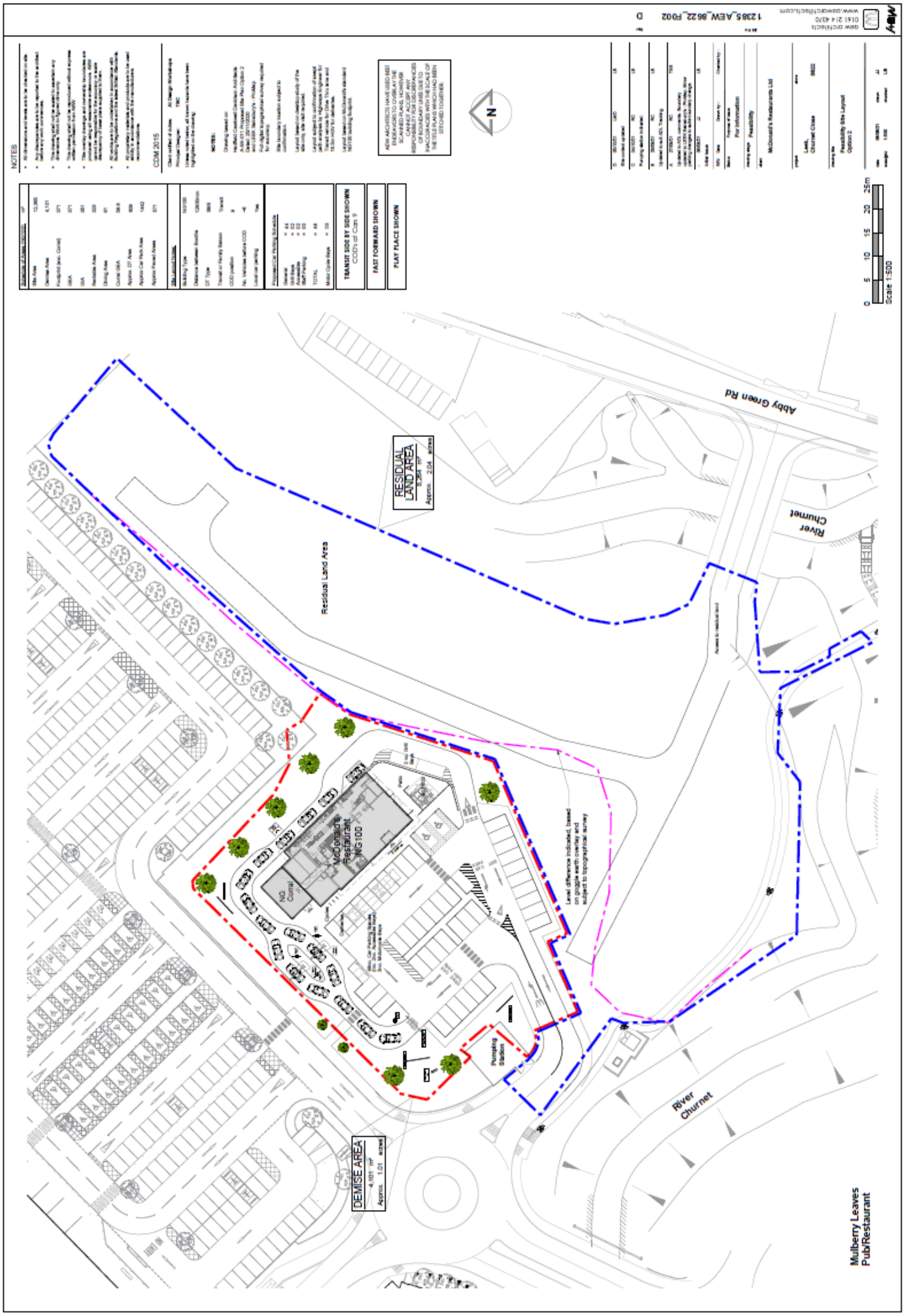
Appendix 1: Site Proposals



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Appendix 2: Site Plan and Work Areas

To be added when available

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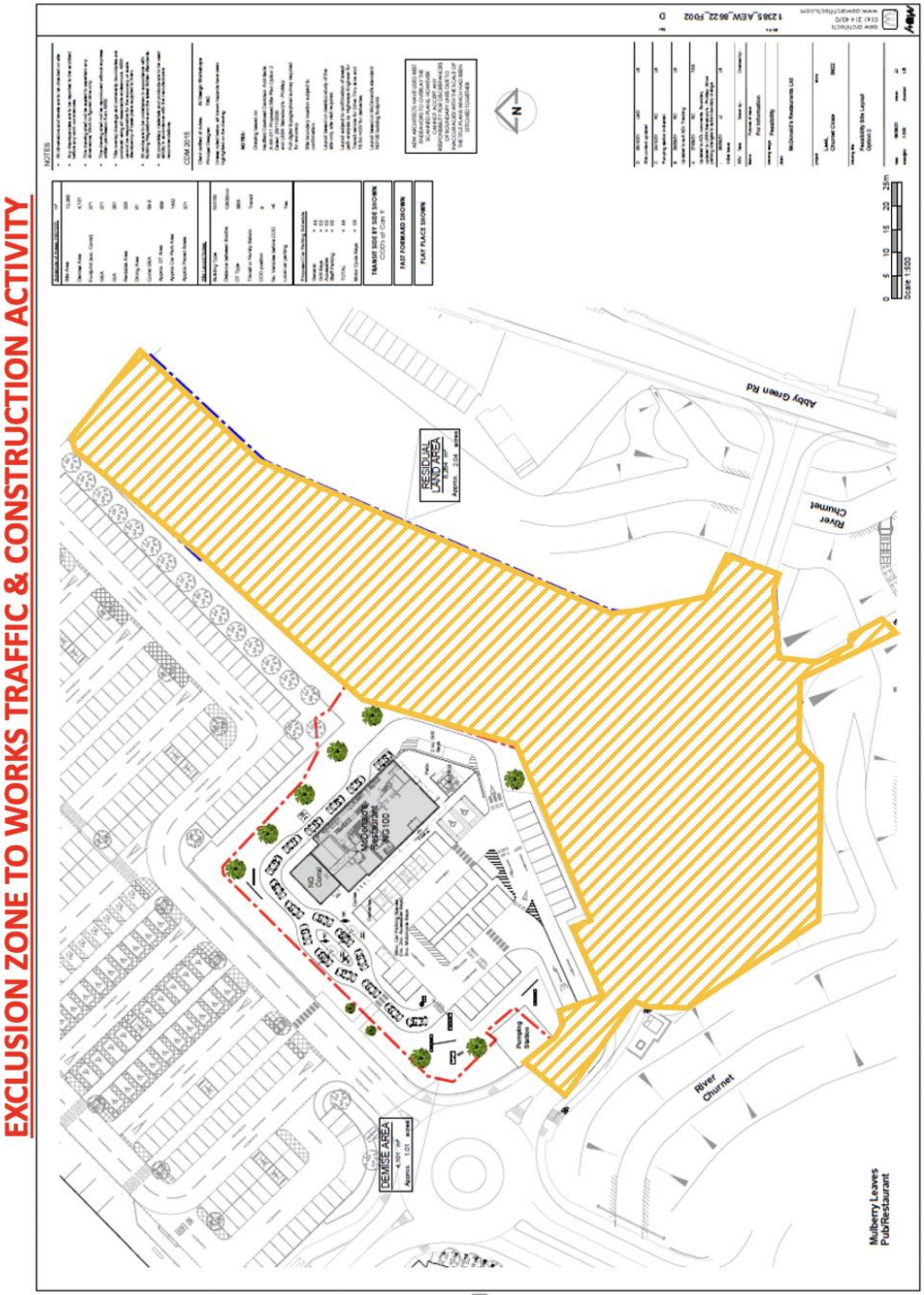
Appendix 3: Habitat Protection Zone



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Appendix 4: Habitat Fencing Sign

KEEP OUT!

HABITAT PROTECTION AREA

NO STORAGE OF MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, WORK TRAFFIC OR PERSONNEL WITHIN THE FENCED AREA.

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Record of Attendance

To be signed by all staff to confirm they have read the CEcMP

Name	Date	Signature