Outline Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP) According to BS42020:2013

Moneystone Quarry

Planning Application Reference: SMD/2014/0682

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Control sheet

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1. Introduction

1.1 This document relates to land subject to proposed leisure development proposals (SMD/2014/0682) currently under the ownership of Bolsterstone/Laver Leisure.

1.3 This CEcMP has been produced to remove or reduce the ecological impacts of construction works for the proposed development. Through the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, detrimental impacts and breaches of current British wildlife legislation will be avoided.

1.4 The CEcMP will follow the approach described in BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development (British Standards Institute August 2013). To comply with BS42020 the plan will include the following elements:

- A risk assessment of potentially damaging construction-type activities
- Identification of "biodiversity protection zones" and areas where invasive species have been identified.
- Inclusion of or reference to details for implementation of method statements required to achieve specific biodiversity outcomes, and particularly mitigation measures
- Identification of practical measures, both physical measures and sensitive working practices to avoid impacts during development, for protecting biodiversity through the control or regulation of construction-type activities
- The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.
- The times during construction or development implementation when particular specialists need to be present on site to oversee works.
- Responsible persons and lines of communication
- Defining and communicating the role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW), or appointed ecologist(s) responsible for managing biodiversity issues on site, and times and activities during construction or development implementation when they need to be present to oversee works.
- Use of exclusion fences, protective barriers and warning signs.

2. Risk assessment

2.1 The risk assessment will be in the form of a matrix and will consider the following aspects in relation to the key ecological features identified during the EIA and further informed by pre-construction surveys:

- Site clearance – removal of vegetation and other materials.
- Site set-up (e.g. establishing compounds, stock pile areas, lighting, fencing) Areas for plant maintenance and for storage of oils, fuels and chemicals;
- Groundworks e.g. site investigation, works in relation to services, watercourse and de-watering works.
- Assembly areas for components of construction, if relevant (e.g. concrete preparation)
- Marine works such as piling or other works relating to foundations.
- Construction detail such as night time working, dust and noise, traffic movements
- Environmental incidents e.g. fires and burning of wastes; pollution (air, water and ground); erosion and sediment run-off; and accidents (e.g. fuel leaks and spills).
- Disposal of wastes, removal of site offices and final site clearance after construction.

3. Biodiversity Protection Zones

3.1 As informed by the EIA, risk assessment (described in Section 2 above) and a pre-construction ecological walkover survey the CEcMP will include appropriate scale plans that identify:

- important habitats, species and/or other biodiversity features, and related resources (e.g. soils) and existing hazards (e.g. areas of identified invasive species) that are to be retained and protected during construction or implementation of the development;
- areas that are to be restricted for some or all construction-type activities for the whole or part of the construction/implementation process;
- areas where protective measures (e.g. fencing) are to be installed and maintained; and
- approved layout and areas for construction-type activities necessary to implement the proposed development.

4. Ecological Method Statements

4.1 The CEMP will set out all necessary practical measures to ensure that biodiversity features are protected during construction or development implementation, including some or all of the following, as appropriate to the scale of the development and the risks to biodiversity.

- Siting and timing of all construction-type activities to avoid harm to important nature conservation features.
- Erection of fences to protect sensitive biodiversity features specifying type, location and means of installation.
- Erection of information or warning signs for site workers specifying location, type and means of installation.
- Erection of wildlife exclusion barriers to prevent, where necessary, particular species (e.g. amphibians and reptiles) from moving from one area or feature to another.
- Direction of security/construction lighting away from protection zones, tree canopies and watercourses.
- Regular inspection and maintenance of wildlife exclusion barriers and protective fences to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
- Monitoring and provision of advice by an ecologist of specified destructive activities, e.g. vegetation clearance, hedgerow removal, tree felling or surgery and soil stripping.
- Species rescue and translocation.
- Provision of temporary shelters during construction/implementation for vulnerable species e.g. bat roosts.
- Containment, control and removal of invasive non-native species (e.g. Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan balsam).
- Biosecurity protocol or method statement to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and pathogens between sites.
- Measures and inspections to ensure that wildlife does not become trapped in pipes, excavations or machinery.
- Training and awareness: provision of information to all site workers explaining the importance of sensitive features and any associated protection measures.
- Protection against vandalism, e.g. security fencing around equipment/ materials that could cause pollution.

- Procedures to avoid pollution incidents, e.g. from fuel spills or site run-off, based on an understanding of the wildlife interest at risk.
- Contingency/emergency measures for accidents and unexpected events, for example:
    - pollution incidents, e.g. use of spill kits with machinery;
    - dealing with previously unrecorded protected species found during construction/implementation;
    - unexpected bad weather;
    - other unforeseen causes of delay; and
    - repair of damaged areas and features.
- Temporary management of existing wildlife features during construction/ implementation, e.g. hay cuts.
- Regular review of mitigation measures throughout the construction/implementation process to monitor their effectiveness and compliance with legal, planning and/or contractual requirements.
- Maintenance of records and regular review of environmental procedures to identify and report issues to site managers and project team, identifying remedial action where necessary.

NOTE For England and Wales, more details on non-native invasive species can be found on the web site of the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) at https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/home/index.cfm

5. The timing of sensitive works

5.1 The CEMP will include a rolling timetable showing:

- when specific measures to avoid or reduce impacts are to be carried out; and
- phasing of construction-type activities to ensure that proposed works are aligned with any ecological and legal constraints, e.g. bird nesting season or activities controlled through planning conditions and obligations or an appropriate species licence.

6. Responsible persons and communication

6.1 To ensure that the project team and interested parties know who to liaise with, who the client is and which person is undertaking each required task, the CEcMP will provide details of personnel and lines of communication necessary for its full implementation, including those responsible for providing the following in relation to biodiversity conservation.

- Advice and monitoring in relation to regulations, legal consents, planning conditions, environmental procedures and contractual arrangements.
- Correct installation and maintenance of physical protection measures.
- Training and toolbox talks for staff.
- Contingency measures in the event of an accident or occurrence of other potentially damaging incidents.
- Periodic reporting on the success of a) to d) as required, for example, by planning conditions.

6.2 The CEcMP will identify, with input from the client, project manager and competent ecologists, etc., as appropriate, those situations during the construction/implementation period where an ecological clerk of works is required.

The CEcMP will also make clear the responsibilities of site operatives to follow ECoW instructions

7. Responsibilities: Ecological Clerk of Works

7.1 The specific role and responsibilities for an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) to be engaged for a project (i.e. to continually monitor, advise and report on the works in relation to ecology and biodiversity) will be made explicit within the CEcMP submitted to SMDC. This role will include having a clear understanding of:

- the risk assessment,
- the biodiversity protection zones,
- the practical measures to avoid and reduce impacts during construction/ implementation,
- the method statements required to achieve ecological mitigation, compensation or enhancements associated with non-construction related impacts; and
- the timing of sensitive works during construction/implementation.

7.2 On site the ECOW will be responsible for:

- monitoring and provision of advice, or practical undertaking of ecological works:
    - practical measures to avoid or reduce construction/implementation impacts
    - implementation of method statements (see 9.2) to secure ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancements that are additional to construction/implementation impacts (e.g. for habitat removal and reinstatement); and
    - micro-siting of works;
- provision of training and information, e.g. through “site inductions” and toolbox talks;
- monitoring and reporting on compliance with legal, planning and contract requirements;
- investigation and reporting of unplanned incidents (e.g. pollution, damage to habitats, unexpected occurrence of protected species, implications of delays due to bad weather);
- maintenance of records and regular reporting of outcomes to site managers, the project team, decision-makers and consultees;
- monitoring post-construction/implementation success of mitigation methods and aftercare of sensitive habitats and features; and
- provision of further advice to the client on any of the above as necessary.

7.3 The ecological clerk of works will be able to demonstrate a level of experience and competence commensurate with the complexity of the role needed on site to deal with the wide range of ecological issues likely to be encountered and to adapt to new and unforeseen challenges raised by development activities. Where junior or inexperienced ecologists are placed in this role they will be adequately supported on site by more senior staff who do have appropriate experience and levels of competence, and the latter will be accessible to give advice and guidance at all times.

7.4 This role may also be performed by the involvement of a number of competent persons with differing skill sets, provided written instructions to cover all contingencies are implemented and that a demonstrable and effective management

structure within the project team is made available so that team members understand their own remit and responsibilities.

7.5 Copies of all ecological reports relevant to sites works (that have been prepared to inform a development proposal), as well as copies of relevant planning conditions and protected species licences, will be kept in on site in a designated Site Ecology Management File and this information will be available to the ECoW and site/project manager at all times so that they are familiar with all identified ecological issues relating to the proposal.

8. Responsibilities: Site Manager and Contractors

8.1 The specific role and responsibilities for the Site Manager and contractors will be made explicit within the CEcMP submitted to SMDC. It should be clear that all parties are responsible for the delivery of the ecological requirements of the CEcMP. The Site Manager and Contractor/Subcontractor roles will include having a clear understanding of:

- the risk assessment,
- the biodiversity protection zones,
- the practical measures to avoid and reduce impacts during construction/ implementation,
- the method statements required to achieve ecological mitigation, compensation or enhancements associated with non-construction related impacts; and
- the timing of sensitive works during construction/implementation.

8.2 The Site Manager will:

- Develop and review the CEcMP, Construction Method Statements (CMS's), and other specialist procedures.
- Identify competence requirements for all staff working on the project and ensure delivery of appropriate training to personnel within the project team.
- Review and improve method statements for ecological aspects prior to work starting.
- Monitor construction activities performance to ensure that identified and appropriate control measures are effective and ensure compliance with the CEcMP.
- Act as main point of contact between the regulatory authorities and the project.
- In conjunction with ECOW, monitor the programme of ecological works, and provision of status reports as necessary
- Prove advice and liaise with the construction teams to ensure that ecological and environmental risks are identified and appropriate controls are developed and included within method statements.
- Assist in the development and delivery of appropriate training for site personnel and subcontractors.

<u>Site Reporting</u>

- The Environmental Manager will investigate the cause of major incidents, which will be recorded and notified to the relevant Project Manager/LPA representative. The site manager will be responsible for the site reporting system. All staff (ECOW, contractor and subcontractors) will report incidents immediately using the site based reporting system (method to be described in the detailed CEcMP to be submitted to SMDC).

8.3 Contractors/subcontractors will:

- Comply with direction relating to ecological requirements given in the Site Induction.
- Proactively approach ecological issues whilst on site.
- Ensure they are fully aware of the ecological procedures in place and if they have any questions they should be directed towards the Site Manager.
- Ensure all construction activities are carried out in line with the procedures detailed in the CEcMP.
- Report any incident to the Site Manager

9. Protective Fencing

9.1 The ecologist or ECoW will advise on the type of protective fencing or wildlife exclusion barriers required to protect various features on site and/or to exclude particular wildlife from specific areas. Fencing and barriers will be proportionate to the value of the biodiversity feature, the predicted degree of risk, the duration required and the nature and scale of the development.

9.2 Protective fencing will be erected before any materials or machinery are brought onto the whole or part of a site where a risk has been identified, and before any demolition, development or removal of soil or vegetation commences. Once erected, barriers will not be removed or altered without prior recommendation by an ecologist and (where required as a part of a planning condition) approval in writing by the decision-maker. Appropriate signage will be installed on this fencing in appropriate numbers and locations to inform people of the importance of the features it protects and the need to avoid moving the fencing without authorization.

9.3 Wildlife exclusion fencing/barriers (e.g. for amphibians) Will conform with good practice guidelines (for example, Natural England's specification for newt fences in the Great crested newt mitigation guidelines 2011 and specifications in any other approved documents, e.g. in protected species licence method statements).

9.4 Warning signs will be fixed securely in appropriate locations (e.g. next to sensitive features) and will explain to construction site personnel why certain areas or features are being protected for part or for the whole duration of the development. They will be written in plain language and will be large enough to be visible and clearly legible from the cab of any construction machinery that might be operating in close proximity. Lost or damaged signs will be replaced at the earliest possible opportunity.

9.5 The purpose of protective fencing, wildlife exclusion barriers and warning signs, and the potential consequences of removing or damaging them, will be explained to all site personnel, e.g. through appropriate toolbox talks.