

Construction and Environmental Management Plan
For Residential Development on Land off Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks,
Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST9 0BN

1. Protection of the retained trees and hedgerows including details of temporary tree protection barriers;

See drawing prepared by Tree Heritage ref. THL-1167-4 and previously submitted with the outline planning application for details of the temporary tree protection barriers.

2. Reasonable avoidance measures for birds, bats and hedgerows.

Birds

Birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) constituting that it is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built;
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Any vegetation to be removed shall be done to avoid the breeding bird season (March-August) and the hedgehog/reptile hibernation season (October-February) if this cannot be achieved, works will be immediately preceded (up to 48 hours prior) by a check for nesting birds or hibernating reptiles/hedgehogs.

Any active nests or hibernating hedgehogs will be given a suitable buffer, with vegetation retained within the buffer until the chicks have fledged/hedgehogs have emerged from hibernation;

Bats

All bats, their breeding and resting places are nationally protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (amendments) (EU Exit) 2019. In England and Wales, bats are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill bats;
- Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place;
- Obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places;
- Possess, sell, control or transport live or dead bats, or parts of them;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection.

If disturbance of bats cannot be avoided during works, then a mitigation licence from Natural England may be required before works can commence.

The development has the potential to disturb roosting bats in the retained trees on or adjacent to the site as well as commuting and foraging bats along the hedgerows adjacent to the sites.

The following precautions are set out to avoid any potential impact on roosting, commuting and foraging that may be present on or adjacent to the site.

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Potential Impacts

The development has the potential to disturb roosting bats in any retained trees on or adjacent to the site as well as commuting and foraging bats along the hedgerows adjacent to the sites.

The following precautionary measures are set out to avoid any potential impact on roosting, commuting and foraging that may be present on or adjacent to the site.

A Sensitive Lighting Strategy will be implemented within proposals to avoid adverse impacts on foraging and commuting bats and other nocturnal and crepuscular species.

The lighting strategy will be implemented during site clearance, construction, and post-development by:

- Use of unnecessary lighting will be avoided, particularly on to retained trees within the site, and areas of woodland and dense scrub adjacent to the site.
- Spatial spread of lighting – the horizontal and vertical spread of artificial light will be minimised and consider both primary and reflected light sources.

Hedgerows

The existing hedgerows surrounding the site are to be retained.

Heras fencing is to be installed along hedgerows to prevent accidental damage during construction (i.e. from vehicles). No materials are to be stored alongside the hedgerow bases during construction.

The eastern section of the Mill Lane roadside boundary which requires removal to allow the vehicular access to be formed, and any hedgerow cutting, should be done outside of the bird nesting season.

Replacement native hedgerows are to be incorporated into the landscaping scheme to offset the loss of hedgerows.

All work on the site is to be carried out in accordance with the recommendations and requirements contained within the Tree Heritage Arboriculture Report and Peak Ecology Ecological Impact Assessment documents submitted with the Outline Planning application for this development.