

REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES – CONSTRUCTION

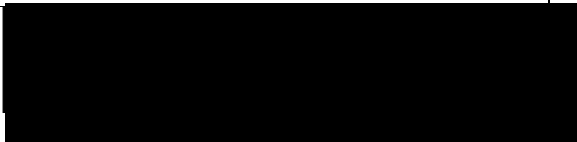
- *Land Adjacent to Lakeland Lodge, Rudyard*



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Document Control Sheet

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1. Purpose of the Statement

This Reasonable Avoidance Measures Statement sets out the ecological precautions required during enabling, clearance and construction works within Development Compartment C1.

The proposed works comprise the construction of four dwellings and associated access, hardstanding, drainage, services and landscaping. The purpose of this RAMS is to allow these works to proceed while avoiding unnecessary harm to protected species, common fauna, retained habitats and the wider ecological network.

The principal ecological objectives are to:

- Confine development works to C1
- Prevent construction access or storage within retained habitat compartments
- Avoid damage or disturbance to active bird nests
- Avoid killing or injuring reptiles, amphibians, hedgehogs and other small fauna
- Prevent animals becoming trapped within excavations, pipework or materials
- Protect retained trees, woodland edges, scrub and habitat corridors
- Prevent disturbance of any newly identified [REDACTED] or mammal refuge
- Avoid damage to potential bat-roost features
- Maintain dark commuting and foraging routes for bats
- Prevent sediment, pollution or invasive plant material reaching connected wetland habitats
- Implement an effective unexpected-find and stop-work procedure

This document addresses ecological avoidance during development works. It does not replace the contractor's health and safety risk assessments, construction method statements or duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations.

2. Scope of this RAMS

This RAMS applies to development-related activities within C1, including:

- Establishment of the construction area
- Installation and maintenance of protective fencing
- Localised vegetation clearance
- Removal of rubble, debris and remnant materials
- Removal of existing hardstanding where required
- Soil stripping and temporary soil storage
- Foundation excavation
- Service and drainage trenches
- Formation of access and hardstanding
- Movement of vehicles and construction plant
- Storage of construction materials
- Building construction
- Temporary lighting
- Reinstatement and completion works within C1

The RAMS applies from the first enabling activity until construction materials, temporary surfaces and ecological hazards have been removed and the development area has been made safe.

2.1 Works Covered by Separate Documents

Document	Principal purpose
Hydrological RAMS	Surface-water interception, sediment controls, pumping, pollution prevention and canal-feeder protection
Habitat Creation and Enhancement Works RAMS	Woodland planting, scrub planting, grassland overseeding, habitat piles and bat-box installation
Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan	Treatment, handling, disposal, biosecurity and monitoring of Himalayan balsam and rhododendron
Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan	Long-term habitat establishment, management and monitoring
Construction Environmental Management Plan	Wider environmental controls during construction
Arboricultural documents	Tree protection and approved tree works

Where activities overlap, the more specific document will apply.

For example, this Development Works RAMS controls the ecological method used when removing rubble from C1. The Hydrological RAMS controls runoff generated by that work, while the INNS Management Plan applies if the rubble or soil is associated with Himalayan balsam or rhododendron.

3. Site and Ecological Context

The site is associated with a former bowling green and pavilion and comprises previously developed and disturbed land that has undergone secondary ecological succession.

Habitats within and around the development footprint include:

- Disturbed and previously developed ground
- Remnant hardstanding
- Artificial unvegetated ground
- Ruderal vegetation
- Neutral grassland
- Mixed scrub
- Secondary woodland edge
- Trees and hedgerow features
- Localised invasive non-native plant species

The disturbed ground includes compacted substrate, rubble, sparsely vegetated areas and pioneer vegetation. These habitats are not considered to be of high intrinsic botanical value but provide structural diversity and opportunities for basking reptiles, invertebrates and foraging birds.

The surrounding scrub and woodland edge provide:

- Nesting habitat for common birds
- Refuge opportunities for reptiles and small mammals
- Foraging habitat for invertebrates
- Bat commuting and foraging habitat
- Connections with the wider Rudyard valley habitat network

The peripheral habitats are therefore to be retained and protected from unnecessary development access.

3.1 Species Records

The ecological records search returned records from the wider landscape of:

- Bat species associated with woodland and water features
- Birds including raptors and wetland-associated species
- Slow worm
- Grass snake
- [REDACTED]
- Otter
- Common amphibians

These records confirm that the wider Rudyard valley supports a productive and connected ecological landscape. They do not confirm the presence of each species within C1, and the measures within this RAMS have therefore been based on habitat suitability and credible impact pathways.

No direct evidence of protected-species presence was identified during the PEA walkover surveys.

3.2 WW2 Bunker

A WW2 bunker referred to in the arboricultural information lies outside the application boundary and outside the development footprint.

No development access, material storage, vegetation clearance or physical disturbance will extend to this structure.

3.3 Hydrological Context

The site lies upslope of a fen meadow Site of Biological Importance and mapped lowland fens priority habitat.

Runoff leaving C1 may connect with downslope surface-water pathways and the Rudyard to Ladderedge canal feeder. Development works will therefore comply with the separate Hydrological RAMS throughout enabling and construction.

4. Ecological Receptors and Risk Assessment

Receptor	Potential development impact	Initial risk	Principal control	Residual risk
Nesting birds	Damage or disturbance of an active nest during vegetation clearance	Moderate	Timing, pre-clearance checks and exclusion areas	Low
Slow worm and grass snake	Injury during vegetation clearance, rubble removal or groundworks	Moderate	Phased clearance, directional working and careful refuge removal	Low
Common amphibians	Injury within damp vegetation, rubble or excavations	Low to moderate	Refuge checks, careful clearance and escape routes	Low
Great crested newt	Injury during site clearance	Low	Precautionary methods and stop-work procedure	Low
Bats	Loss of connectivity, disturbance of a roost feature or lighting of retained habitat	Moderate	Tree checks, habitat retention and sensitive	Low

Hedgehog and small mammals	Injury during clearance or entrapment in excavations and materials	Moderate	Pre-clearance checks, directional working and escape provisions	Low
Otter	Indirect pollution of connected wetland habitat	Low to moderate	Hydrological RAMS and pollution controls	Low
Invertebrates	Excessive removal of habitat and construction disturbance	Low	Retention of peripheral habitats and deadwood	Low
Retained woodland and scrub	Encroachment, compaction or accidental clearance	Moderate	Exclusion fencing and access controls	Low
Fen meadow and canal feeder	Sediment, pollutants or INNS material entering surface water	Moderate	Hydrological RAMS and INNS controls	Low
Himalayan balsam and rhododendron	Spread through soil, vehicles or vegetation movement	Moderate	Demarcation, biosecurity and separate INNS Management Plan	Low

The residual risks are considered acceptable subject to implementation of this RAMS and the associated ecological documents.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 Client or Landowner

The client or landowner will ensure that:

- The approved ecological documents are issued to the principal contractor
- Adequate time and funding are provided for ecological safeguards
- An ecologist is retained where attendance or advice is required
- Retained habitats remain protected throughout construction
- Remedial works are funded where accidental damage occurs
- Ecological records are retained

5.2 Principal Contractor

The principal contractor will be responsible for:

- Implementing this RAMS
- Appointing a named site manager
- Installing the construction exclusion fencing
- Confining construction works to C1
- Delivering the approved clearance sequence
- Maintaining safe excavations and pipework
- Controlling vehicle and material movements
- Ensuring workers receive the ecological toolbox talk
- Maintaining inspection and incident records
- Stopping works where ecological risks are identified
- Coordinating with the project ecologist

5.3 Site Manager

The site manager will be responsible for daily implementation.

The site manager will:

- Hold current copies of the ecological documents and plans
- Confirm completion of the ecological hold point
- Check protective fencing and access controls
- Ensure vegetation and refuge checks are completed
- Maintain emergency and ecological contact details
- Prevent unauthorised access to retained compartments
- Ensure excavations and pipework do not trap fauna
- Record ecological incidents and corrective action
- Stop any activity that conflicts with the RAMS

5.4 Project Ecologist

The project ecologist will:

- Deliver or approve the ecological toolbox talk
- Undertake nesting-bird checks where required
- Advise on phased and directional clearance
- Inspect high-risk rubble, debris or refugia where appropriate
- Advise where reptiles, amphibians or hedgehogs are encountered
- Inspect unexpected potential bat features
- Review accidental damage to retained habitats
- Provide written or recorded advice following ecological incidents

Continuous ecological supervision is not required for all construction activities.

Attendance will be targeted towards activities presenting a credible ecological risk, including initial vegetation clearance, disturbance of established refugia and unexpected protected-species findings.

5.5 Individual Operatives

All operatives will:

- Remain within the approved construction area and access routes
- Check the immediate working area before disturbance
- Follow the vegetation-clearance sequence
- Stop work if an animal, nest or ecological feature is found
- Report the finding to the site manager
- Avoid unauthorised handling of wildlife
- Keep excavations, pipework and materials safe
- Avoid damaging protective fencing and retained vegetation

6. Pre-Commencement Ecological Hold Point

No vegetation clearance, rubble removal, soil stripping or excavation will begin until the ecological hold point has been completed.

6.1 Required Documents

The site manager will hold current copies of:

- This Development Works RAMS
- The Hydrological RAMS
- The Habitat Creation and Enhancement Works RAMS
- The INNS Management Plan
- The Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan
- The Exclusion Areas Plan
- The Site Compartments Plan
- The Run-off Pathways Plan
- Approved construction and drainage plans
- Relevant arboricultural protection information

Superseded plans will not be used.

6.2 Demarcation

Before works commence:

- C1 will be marked on the ground
- The construction exclusion area will be protected
- Woodland, scrub and grassland compartments will be identified
- Approved access and delivery points will be confirmed
- Himalayan balsam and rhododendron areas will be marked
- Southeast and southwest runoff controls will be installed
- Material and soil storage areas will be agreed
- Concrete washout and fuel-storage areas will be identified

6.3 Pre-Commencement Ecological Check

The pre-commencement check will look for:

- Active bird nests
- Reptiles beneath accessible refuges
- Amphibians within damp ground or debris
- Hedgehogs or mammal nests
- Newly excavated holes
- Potential bat features within any tree affected by the works
- Expansion of Himalayan balsam or rhododendron
- Newly fallen timber or debris creating refugia
- Changes in habitat boundaries
- Damage to retained vegetation

The level of ecological attendance will be proportionate to the activity. An ecologist will attend where dense vegetation, high-risk refugia or potential protected-species features require disturbance.

6.4 Ecological Toolbox Talk

All personnel involved in clearance and groundworks will receive a toolbox talk covering:

- Site boundaries and exclusion areas
- Retained woodland, scrub and grassland
- Nesting-bird precautions
- Slow worm and grass snake identification
- Amphibian precautions
- Hedgehog and small-mammal measures
- [REDACTED]
- Bat and tree constraints
- INNS identification
- Directional working
- Excavation and pipework precautions
- Hydrological controls
- Unexpected-find procedures
- Authority to stop work
- Emergency contact details

New personnel arriving later will receive the same briefing before commencing work.

6.5 Hold-Point Record

Requirement	Complete	Comments	
Current documents available			
C1 marked			
Exclusion fencing installed			
Access routes agreed			
Retained habitats identified			
Nesting-bird constraints checked			
Reptile and amphibian refuges checked			
Potential bat features reviewed			
INNS areas marked			
Hydrological controls operational			
Storage and washout areas agreed			
Toolbox talk completed			
Clearance authorised			
Sign-off	Name	Signature	Date
Site manager			
Principal contractor			
Project ecologist, where required			

7. Construction Area Setup and Exclusion Controls

Development activity will be confined to C1.

The surrounding woodland, scrub and grassland compartments will remain outside the general construction area and will not be used for:

- Vehicle access or turning
- Contractor parking
- Site compounds
- Material storage
- Soil or aggregate stockpiles
- Fuel or chemical storage
- Concrete washout
- Waste disposal
- Uncontrolled drainage
- Temporary spoil deposition

Protective fencing will remain in place throughout construction unless temporary removal is specifically authorised for approved habitat works.

Any temporary opening will be:

- Agreed in advance
- Kept as narrow as practicable
- Supervised where necessary
- Closed immediately after use
- Checked for accidental habitat damage

Construction fencing will not be attached to retained trees.

Materials will not be leaned against trees, hedgerows or scrub.

8. Vegetation Clearance

8.1 Clearance Limits

Only vegetation required to deliver the approved development will be removed.

No additional clearance will take place for:

- Contractor convenience
- Wider visibility
- Material storage
- Vehicle turning
- General tidying
- Access outside the approved route

The limits of clearance will be marked before machinery is used.

Peripheral woodland edge and scrub will be retained wherever shown on the approved plans. The PEA identifies these habitats as important for nesting birds, reptiles, bats, small mammals and landscape connectivity.

8.2 Direction of Clearance

Clearance will proceed in a phased and directional manner towards retained habitat.

Work will not proceed from all sides towards an isolated central patch.

The preferred sequence will:

1. Begin within the most disturbed or least vegetated part of C1
2. Progress slowly towards retained scrub or woodland edge
3. Keep at least one dispersal route open
4. Avoid directing animals towards roads, hardstanding or steep-sided water features
5. Complete the final low cut only after the initial vegetation has been removed and checked

The PEA specifically recommends phased and directional clearance towards retained habitat to allow reptiles, amphibians and other fauna to disperse.

8.3 Two-Stage Cutting

Tall grass, ruderal vegetation and dense low scrub suitable for reptiles or small mammals will be reduced in two stages where practicable.

The initial cut will reduce vegetation to approximately 150 mm above ground level.

Cutting will:

- Proceed slowly
- Move towards retained habitat
- Avoid repeatedly passing over the same area
- Stop where an animal is observed
- Leave ground-level refuges undisturbed for inspection

A second cut to the required construction level will occur following an appropriate interval, normally not less than 24 hours where conditions allow animals to disperse.

Where vegetation is short, open and demonstrably unsuitable, the ecologist may confirm that a two-stage cut is unnecessary.

8.4 Scrub and Bramble

Dense scrub and bramble will be reduced progressively.

The initial upper growth will be removed before the base is disturbed. This will allow the lower vegetation and ground surface to be inspected.

Root systems and ground-level material will not be mechanically grubbed out until the area has been checked.

Vegetation will not be pushed into a dense heap by machinery without inspection.

8.5 Clearance Timing and Weather

Ecologically sensitive clearance will be undertaken during daylight.

Clearance of reptile-suitable vegetation will, where practicable, take place during mild conditions when animals can move away.

Clearance will be postponed during:

- Frost or very cold conditions
- Heavy rainfall
- Waterlogged conditions
- Poor visibility
- Conditions causing severe rutting or ground damage

9. Nesting Birds

Trees, scrub, bramble, ivy and dense herbaceous vegetation may support nesting birds.

Vegetation clearance capable of damaging a nest will be undertaken outside March to August inclusive where practicable.

These dates are a guide rather than an absolute definition of nesting activity. An active nest will be protected whenever it occurs.

Where potentially suitable nesting habitat must be cleared during March to August inclusive, a suitably experienced ecologist will undertake a check no more than 48 hours before work commences.

Where an active nest is identified:

- Work will stop in the immediate area
- The nest will not be touched
- An exclusion area will be established by the ecologist
- Workers will be informed of the restricted area
- Materials and equipment will not be stored within the exclusion
- Work may continue elsewhere where this does not disturb the nest
- The exclusion will remain until the ecologist confirms that the nest is no longer active

Workers will remain alert for bird behaviour indicating a nest, including alarm calling, repeated entry into vegetation and distraction displays.

10. Reptiles

10.1 Site Context

The site provides suitable habitat for common reptiles within scrub margins, rubble, ruderal vegetation and unmanaged habitat mosaics.

Slow worm and grass snake records occur within the wider landscape. The PEA considers that any population present is likely to occur at low to moderate levels typical of secondary successional habitat.

10.2 Working Method

The following measures will apply:

- Vegetation will be cleared progressively
- Clearance will proceed towards retained habitat
- Rubble and refugia will be checked before disturbance
- Machines will not drive over uninspected vegetation or debris
- Large or embedded refuge features will be assessed before removal
- Open dispersal routes will remain available
- Ecological supervision will be provided where high-risk refugia are disturbed

10.3 Reptile Encounter

Where a reptile is found:

1. Stop work immediately
2. Keep machinery and workers away
3. Allow the animal to move into retained habitat
4. Inform the site manager
5. Contact the project ecologist where the animal does not move safely or further animals are found

Operatives will not chase or independently capture reptiles.

Where repeated reptile encounters occur, works will stop while the method and requirement for additional ecological input are reviewed.

11. Great Crested Newt and Common Amphibians

No pond occurs within or immediately adjacent to the application site.

The nearest identified pond lies approximately 300 m away and is understood to be a heavily used fishing pond. The Rudyard to Ladderedge canal feeder separates the pond from the site and forms a substantial dispersal barrier.

The likelihood of a significant functional relationship with breeding great crested newt habitat is therefore considered low. Common amphibians may nevertheless occur occasionally within damp refuges, rubble, leaf litter and dense vegetation.

Precautionary measures will include:

- Careful disturbance of damp rubble and debris
- Checks beneath boards, logs and vegetation piles
- Immediate closure of unattended holes
- Retention of routes towards woodland and scrub
- Avoidance of unnecessary works in damp peripheral habitat

Where a common amphibian is found, work will stop locally and the animal will be allowed to move into suitable cover.

Where an animal suspected to be a great crested newt is found:

- It will not be handled by the contractor
- Work will stop
- The location will be protected
- An appropriately licensed ecologist will be contacted

12. Rubble, Debris and Refugia Removal

Rubble, timber, boards, vegetation piles and other debris may provide refuge for reptiles, amphibians, hedgehogs and small mammals.

Before removal, each accessible feature will be visually checked.

Where practicable, material will be:

1. Approached slowly
2. Lifted from one edge
3. Lifted towards the operative
4. Inspected underneath
5. Removed progressively

Material will not be:

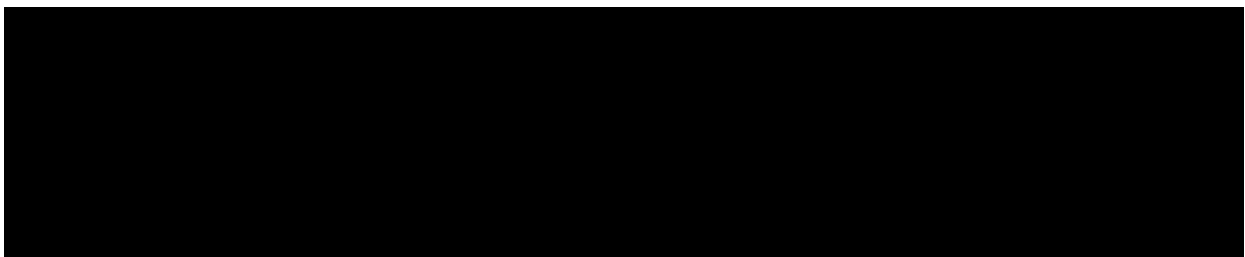
- Crushed in situ before inspection
- Driven over
- Dragged blindly through vegetation
- Pushed into a heap by machinery
- Tipped into retained habitat

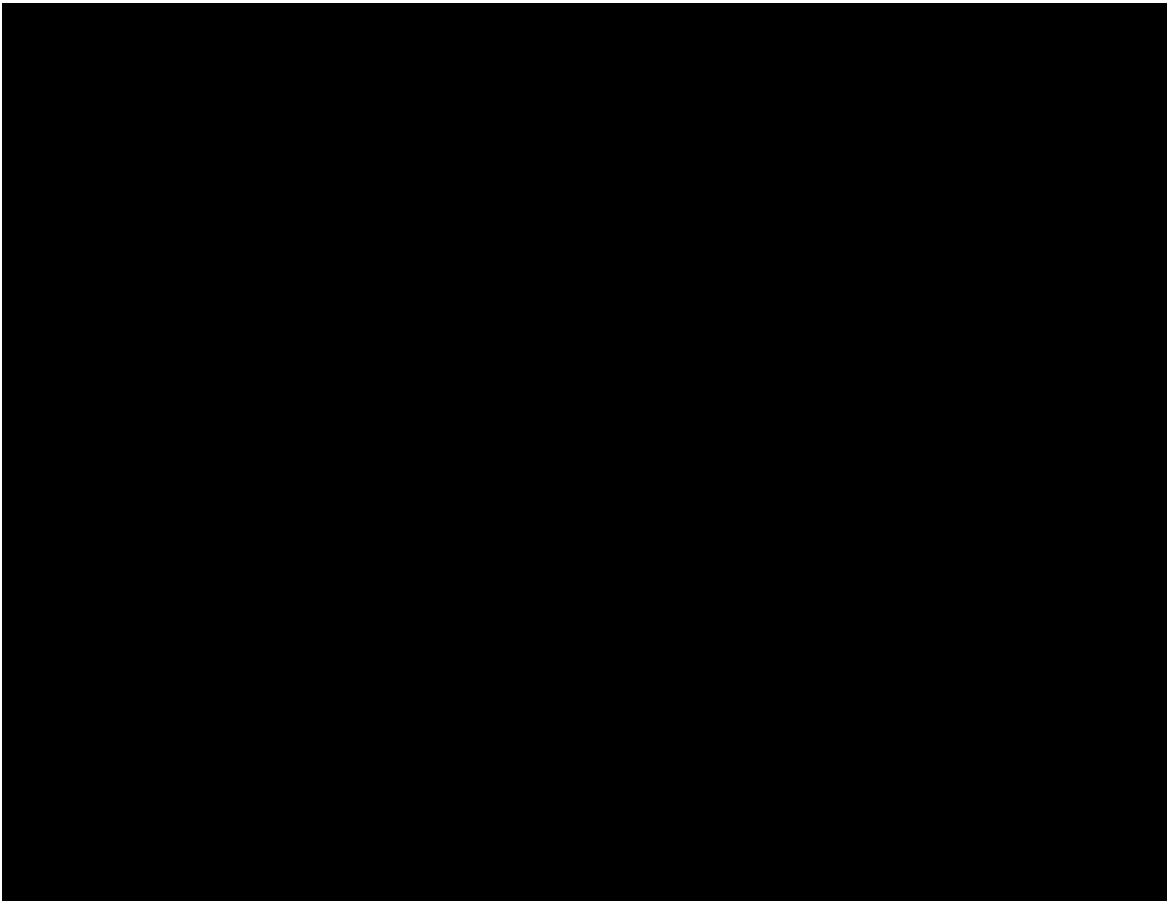
The PEA recommends careful and progressive removal of rubble, debris and refuge features to minimise harm to reptiles and small mammals.

Large, embedded or established refuge features will be assessed before mechanical removal.

Clean native timber suitable for ecological reuse may be transferred to an approved habitat-pile location under the Habitat Creation Works RAMS.

Material containing Himalayan balsam, rhododendron or potentially contaminated soil will be managed under the INNS Management Plan.





14. Hedgehog and Other Small Mammals

The scrub, ruderal vegetation and habitat transitions provide refuge and foraging opportunities for hedgehogs and common small mammals.

The PEA recommends sensitive vegetation clearance, checks of debris and refuges, avoidance of entrapment and retention of habitat connectivity.

Before strimming dense vegetation or moving debris, workers will check:

- Bramble bases
- Long grass
- Leaf piles
- Brash and timber
- Stored materials
- Boards and sheeting

Where a hedgehog is identified:

- Work will stop
- The animal will be allowed to move into retained cover where safe
- It will not be handled unnecessarily
- An active nest will be protected
- Ecological advice will be sought where the animal is injured, nesting or unable to move safely

No rodenticide or poison will be used as part of ecological site clearance.

15. Bats and Retained Trees

15.1 Habitat Connectivity

Woodland edge, scrub margins and tree lines may be used by commuting and foraging bats.

These habitats will be retained and protected as shown on the approved plans. Construction access and material storage will not extend into the retained corridors.

The PEA identifies habitat retention and sensitive lighting as the principal bat-related requirements.

15.2 Tree Works

No mature tree will be felled, pruned or damaged unless the work is shown on an approved plan and has been subject to the relevant ecological and arboricultural review.

Where a tree proposed for removal or pruning contains:

- Cavities
- Splits
- Rot holes
- Lifted bark
- Woodpecker holes
- Dense ivy
- Other potential bat-roost features

the tree will be subject to an appropriate inspection before work proceeds.

The PEA requires trees with potentially suitable roost features to be inspected before removal.

Where a bat or evidence of possible roosting is identified:

- Work will stop
- The feature will not be touched
- The tree will remain undisturbed
- An appropriately licensed bat ecologist will be contacted

15.3 Temporary Lighting

Temporary construction lighting will:

- Be directed into C1
- Be positioned away from retained woodland and scrub
- Avoid illumination of tree canopies and habitat corridors
- Avoid excessive upward light
- Use timers, shields or directional fittings where appropriate
- Be switched off when not required

No floodlighting will be directed towards retained peripheral habitats.

16. Excavations, Trenches and Pipework

Excavations and trenches may trap REDACTED hedgehogs, amphibians and other fauna.

Where practicable, excavations will be backfilled or securely covered before the end of the working day.

Where an excavation must remain open overnight:

- A suitable escape ramp will be installed
- The ramp will extend from the base to ground level
- The surface will provide sufficient grip
- The excavation will be checked at the start of the following working period
- Steep-sided water accumulation will be avoided
- Loose sheeting will not create a further entrapment hazard

The PEA identifies open excavations as a potential risk and recommends covering excavations or providing escape ramps.

Open pipework will be:

- Capped when unattended
- Stored above ground where practicable
- Checked before installation
- Kept free from trapped animals

No trench, chamber or foundation excavation will be backfilled before a visual check has been completed.

17. Vehicle and Machinery Movement

Vehicles and plant will remain within C1 and approved access routes.

A low site speed will be maintained.

Before moving machinery following an extended stationary period, the operator will check:

- Beneath and around the vehicle
- Wheel arches and tracks where accessible
- Stored buckets and attachments
- Adjacent materials or vegetation

Machinery will not be parked:

- Against retained scrub
- Beneath retained tree canopies where this conflicts with tree protection
- Over refuge features
- Within INNS stands
- Across mammal paths
- Within hydrological control areas

Unnecessary idling close to retained habitats will be avoided.

18. Construction Materials and Waste

Materials will be stored within agreed parts of C1.

Materials will not be stored within retained woodland, scrub or grassland.

Pallets, boards, membranes, pipes and stacked materials can provide temporary refuge for fauna. Where they remain undisturbed for an extended period, they will be checked before movement.

Waste will be:

- Contained
- Removed regularly
- Prevented from entering retained habitat
- Prevented from entering runoff pathways
- Separated from any material requiring control under the INNS Management Plan

No waste will be burned on site.

Food waste will be stored securely to avoid attracting wildlife into the construction area.

19. Hydrological and Otter Protection

Otter records occur within the wider Rudyard landscape, principally in association with Rudyard Lake, connected watercourses and wetland habitats.

No suitable otter resting habitat was identified within C1. The principal potential impact is indirect and relates to contaminated runoff affecting downstream waterbodies and wetlands.

All surface-water, sediment, pumping and pollution controls will therefore be implemented through the Hydrological RAMS.

Development works will not:

- Discharge directly to the Rudyard to Ladderedge canal feeder
- Allow sediment-laden water to leave C1
- Direct runoff into retained habitat compartments
- Damage the southeast or southwest runoff controls
- Wash cement, fuel or chemicals onto the ground
- Pump excavation water to an unauthorised location
-

Where sediment or pollution enters or threatens to enter a surface-water pathway, work will stop and the Hydrological RAMS incident procedure will be implemented.

20. Invasive Non-Native Species Interface

Himalayan balsam and rhododendron occur within the site and will be managed under the separate INNS Management Plan.

Before development works:

- Affected areas will be identified and marked
- Workers will receive INNS identification information
- Soil and vegetation movement restrictions will be explained
- Cleaning and biosecurity arrangements will be established

Development workers will not:

- Cut Himalayan balsam or rhododendron without authorisation

- Move soil from an affected area
- Track through an INNS stand unnecessarily
- Use contaminated soil for bunds or backfill
- place cut vegetation within a runoff pathway
- Transfer contaminated material into retained habitat

Where an unexpected INNS stand is found, work will stop in the affected area and advice will be obtained under the INNS Management Plan.

21. Unexpected Finds and Stop-Work Procedure

21.1 General Procedure

Where an unexpected ecological receptor is found:

1. Stop the affected activity
2. Leave the animal, nest or feature undisturbed
3. Move personnel and machinery away
4. Prevent other workers entering the area
5. Inform the site manager
6. Contact the project ecologist
7. Record the location and circumstances
8. Implement the advice provided
9. Resume only when authorised

21.2 Species-Specific Response

Finding	Immediate response
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Active bird nest	Stop work and establish an exclusion area under ecological advice
Slow worm or grass snake	Stop, allow dispersal and obtain advice where necessary
Suspected great crested newt	Do not handle and contact a licensed ecologist
Common amphibian	Allow safe dispersal or seek ecological advice
Hedgehog	Stop and allow dispersal, protecting any nest
Bat or roost evidence	Stop and contact a licensed bat ecologist
Otter evidence	Stop locally and obtain ecological advice
Injured wildlife	Stop and contact the project ecologist or wildlife veterinary service
Unexpected INNS	Stop soil and vegetation movement
Polluted runoff	Stop and implement the Hydrological RAMS
Damage to retained habitat	Stop encroachment and record the incident

21.3 Repeated Finds

Where several reptiles, amphibians or other animals are encountered, work will stop while the project ecologist reviews:

- The level of habitat use
- The clearance method
- The timing of the work
- The need for further survey
- The need for increased supervision
- Whether the RAMS remains appropriate

22. Ecological Inspections

The ecological controls will be inspected:

- Before works commence
- Before each new clearance phase
- At the start of groundworks
- Following a prolonged break
- Following heavy rainfall
- After damage to exclusion fencing
- Following an unexpected ecological find
- Following an ecological incident
- Before temporary controls are removed
- At completion of construction

22.1 Routine Inspection Schedule

Inspection item	Requirement
C1 boundary	Clearly marked and not exceeded

Exclusion fencing	Secure and continuous
Retained habitats	No encroachment or storage
Nesting constraints	No active nest at risk
Rubble and refugia	Checked before disturbance
Excavations	Covered, ramped or backfilled
Pipework	Capped and checked

Tree protection	Intact
Temporary lighting	Directed away from retained habitat
INNS areas	Marked and not disturbed
Hydrological controls	Intact and functioning
Waste and materials	Correctly contained
Ecological incidents	Recorded and addressed

23. Records

The following records will be maintained:

- Pre-commencement ecological check
- Hold-point sign-off
- Toolbox-talk attendance
- Nesting-bird checks
- Ecological supervision records
- Vegetation-clearance dates and methods
- Refuge and rubble-removal records where applicable
- Protected-species encounters
- Excavation inspections
- Exclusion-fencing inspections
- Temporary-lighting checks
- INNS incidents
- Hydrological incidents
- Photographs of ecological controls
- Accidental habitat-damage records
- Completion inspection

Records will be retained by the site manager and made available to the client, project ecologist or Local Planning Authority where requested.

24. Completion and Demobilisation

Construction controls will not be removed until:

- Development works are complete
- Exposed soils within C1 are stabilised
- Permanent drainage is operational
- Temporary materials and waste have been removed
- No open excavation or pipework remains
- Retained habitats are secure
- Any accidental damage has been remediated
- Habitat creation areas can be transferred to the approved management regime
- The site manager has completed the final ecological inspection

Protective fencing may remain in place where it continues to be required for habitat establishment.

Demobilisation will not involve driving through retained habitat or depositing surplus material outside C1.

Appendix 1 – Contact Schedule

Role	Name	Contact details
Client representative		
Principal contractor		
Site manager		
Project ecologist		
Arborist		
Drainage adviser		
INNS contractor		
Emergency pollution contact		
Wildlife veterinary or rescue contact		

Appendix 2 – Daily Ecological Inspection Record

Inspection detail	Record
Date and time	
Inspector	
Weather conditions	
Works underway	
C1 boundary secure	

Exclusion fencing secure	
Retained habitat undamaged	
Nesting-bird risk checked	
Refugia checked before removal	
Excavations safe	
Pipework capped	
Tree protection secure	
Temporary lighting compliant	
INNS areas secure	
Hydrological controls functioning	
Wildlife encountered	
Corrective action required	
Corrective action completed	
Signature	

Appendix 3 – Ecological Incident Record

Incident detail	Record
Date and time	
Location	
Person reporting	
Work activity	
Species or feature involved	
Immediate action taken	
Works stopped	
Exclusion area established	
Site manager informed	
Project ecologist informed	
Advice received	
Remedial action	
Date work resumed	
Authorised by	
Photographs retained	
Signature	

Appendix 4 – Completion Sign-Off

Completion requirement		Complete	Comments
Development remained within C1			
Retained habitats protected			
Exclusion fencing maintained			
No unresolved nesting-bird constraints			
No unresolved protected-species incidents			
Excavations and pipework made safe			
Materials and waste removed			
Hydrological controls retained where required			
INNS requirements completed			
Accidental habitat damage addressed			
Habitat areas transferred to management			
Sign-off	Name	Signature	Date
Principal contractor			
Site manager			

Project ecologist			
Client representative			