

REPTILE MITIGATION STRATEGY

Stage 1 (October to March)

- Cut all woody material down to leave c.20-30cm long stems/stumps.
- Remove all arisings from the work area, including chipped material.
- This initial preparatory stage is to avoid nesting bird issues outside of this timing. If this initial stage is done outside of this period, it will have to be preceded by nesting bird checks by a supervising ecologist.
- Needs to be done with hand tools as heavy machinery will have the potential to harm any reptiles hibernating amongst tree roots or shallow cavities close to the ground. So chainsaws and brush cutters and light vehicles such as tree surgeon trucks with trailed chippers.
- Chipped material should not be left within the work area as this will form suitable habitat for grass snake, including suitable habitat to lay their eggs in.

Stage 2 (Late April to late September)

- Ground nesting bird check by ecologist 24hrs in advance of work commencing (if Stage 1 completed Oct'-March).
- Strim herbaceous vegetation down to 10cm above ground level and leave for 24hrs.
- Whilst is considered unlikely that the vegetation clearance at Stage 1 is likely to result in conditions suitable for ground nesting birds, a precautionary approach should be taken in advance of the Stage 2 work. If Stage 1 was not completed Oct'-March, then a nesting bird check will still be required.
- The 24hr period following strimming is to allow animals time to move out of the area.

Stage 3 (Late April to late September)

- 24hrs after Stage 1 further strim the vegetation down to ground level.
- Cut the woody stems down to ground level unless they are associated with large trees where the stumps will need to be pulled out.
- Using a mechanical excavator carefully pull tree and shrub stumps out of the ground. • This second strim will provide another opportunity to encourage any animals to move to safety outside of the work area. This cut will then leave the area unsuitable for reptiles.
- It is likely to be useful to leave stems on the stumps of large trees and shrubs un-cut as this will give the jaws of a mechanical excavator bucket something to grip onto for pulling.
- For very large stumps there may be a need to dig out rather than pull, but pulling should be the first attempt.
- Pulling and digging out of stumps will be under the supervision of an ecologist who will carefully look for any animals sheltering in cavities amongst tree roots close to the ground.

General points relevant for all stages:

- All work to be undertaken under the supervision of an ecologist.
- Each stage to be done in 25m widths with the direction of work as set out on Figure 7233-ES-8.6-02 starting with Band 1 and then working progressively westwards
- The supervising ecologist will catch and move any grass snake or other reptiles discovered during the works to the area of retained wet woodland

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Key

- SRRP Planning Application Red Line Boundary
- Ecology Survey Area
- Aggregate Recovery Facility (ARF) Boundary
- Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) Boundary

Proposed Mitigation

- Retained Woodland Area
- Passive Displacement Working Direction
- Passive Displacement 25m Working Strips



A	29.09.22	Minor amendments	NJL/NJL
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