

# Chadwich Lane Quarry Application Ref 18/000036/CM

Construction, Environment, Management Plan (CEMP) -Biodiversity (Information to discharge condition 49)

Prepared by Kedd Limited

On behalf of

Salop Sand and Gravel Company Supply Limited

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#### Appendix A – Drawings

Drawing No. KD CHL.005 Block Phased working and Restoration Scheme

Drawing No. KD CHL.003 Concept Restoration

Drawing No. KEDL CEMP Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Proposed above and below ground hibernacula (taken from HA

DMRB Volume 10 Section 4 Annex D)

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- This Construction Environmental Management Plan for Biodiveristy (CEMP Biodiversity) sets out the ecological protection measures required during site preparation, mineral extraction and restoration at Chadwich Lane Quarry, Chadwich Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. (The Site). The CEMP has been prepared to address the requests of condition 49 of Planning Application Ref 18/000036/CM, which requires that details of the following are submitted:
  - i. Risk assessment of potentially damaging quarry activities
  - ii. Identification of "biodiversity protection zones"
  - iii. Practical means (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during quarrying
  - iv. Responsible person and lines of communication
  - v. The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features

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- vii. The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person
- viii. Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs
- 1.2 The CEMP has been prepared in accordance with the guidance set out in Section 10 of BS42020:2013 Biodiversity- Code of Practice for Planning and Development. It has been informed by both the ecological surveys and desk studies carried out by Camlad Ecology Limited October 2017, as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment (ECIS) which accompanied the planning application for the Chadwich Lane Quarry, together with a further ecological site visit (walk over) carried out by Heaton Planning Ecologists in April 2021.
- 1.3 Both the original ecological survey together with the April 2021 survey have concluded that the site and its surroundings provide very limited habitat/opportunities for wildlife. Surveys find no evidence of bat roosts in the few large trees close to the access route which will not be affected by the proposals and there are no trees within the mineral extension area. There is no current evidence of badger activity within the site boundary or any ponds, and no evidence of any use of the site by other protected species. The land comprising an existing access road and agricultural grazing land. The creation of an additional short section of road access currently the existing agricultural access to the mineral extraction area has necessitated the removal of ~15m of

hedgerow. This hedgerow was principally comprised of sparse hawthorn and did not meet the ecological criteria for clarification as an Important Hedgerow under the Hedgerow Regulations. This short section of hedge being removed outside the nesting bird season.

- 1.4 The CEMP updates the recommended mitigation, protection and restoration measures which the EcIA report proposed should be covered by an Ecological mitigation, Restoration and Management Plan (EMRMP).
- 1.5 The approved Block Phased Working and Restoration Scheme Drawing No. KD.CHL.005 is illustrated within Appendix A of this document together with the Concept Restoration Scheme illustrated on Drawing No. KD.CHL.00? A third plan is provided entitled CEMP Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Measures.

#### 2.0 CEMP FOR BIODIVERSITY

#### 2.1 Risk assessment of potentially damaging quarry activities

As discussed in paragraph 1.3 above the EcIA as part of the planning application and a current April 2021 ecological walk over survey has NOT identified any risk to habitat or protected species other than the removal of  $^{\sim}15$  linear metres of sparse hawthorn hedge which has been previously removed.

Potential sources of	Considered	Mitigation Measures
risk include	level of risk	
Progressive soil	Low	Minimum Standoff of 10m to young
stripping to the		tree planting block which runs along
mineral extension		the south western, western and
area only associated		northern boundary of the extension
with agricultural		area. These tree blocks are to be
grazing land		protected in accordance with
		BS5307/2012
Mineral extraction	Low	Mineral extraction will take phased
		approach within the current
		agricultural field. No further
		mitigation is proposed. ECoW checks
		will be undertaken prior to soil
		stripping and vegetation clearance of
		each phase to ensure there are no

		risks to biodiversity during these
		works.
Transportation of	Low	Any vegetation clearance
extracted mineral to		requirements for access tracks to be
Wildmoor Quarry to		created should be conducted outside
be processed		the nesting bird season (March-
		August). In the case that this is not
		possible that all works should be
		preceded by an ECoW walkover
		survey.

An annual Ecological Site Inspection is proposed to observe any changes in the ecological condition/status of the site specifically in respect of protected species. If change is observed it will be notified to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Ecological Team where upon any agreed activities are to be taken to protect, mitigate or enhance species habitat and biodiversity potential.

In order to safeguard the retained scrub and trees, dust control and abatement measures will be implemented during construction, including:

- Hedgerows, trees or scrub should be protected by the use of dust barriers/screens where practicable;
- Surfaces will be damped down when required by the use of wet cleaning methods;
- All relevant loads entering and leaving the site should be covered;
- Dusty activities should be damped down during dry weather; and
- Stock piles of materials should exist for the shortest possible period of time and be kept away from retained trees or scrub.

#### 2.2 <u>Identification of "biodiversity protection zones"</u>

Drawing No. KEDL-009-M.ED.001 CEMP Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Measures illustrates the two principal elements of the biodiversity protection zones. These being the area of young woodland planted by the operator Salop Sand and Gravel Supply Company Limited approximately 15 years ago and existing hedgerows which run along the eastern and southern boundaries of the site.

The required root protection area for the boundary plantation woodlands is a stand-off of 5m, however the design proposals have incorporated a 10m stand-off from all boundary woodlands.

A stand-off of 10m for the Root protection area of the mature oak trees present along the access track should be observed during the extent of the works.

# 2.3 <u>Practical means (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during quarrying.</u>

**Biodiversity Protection Zone** 

Element	
Advanced Planted Woodland Block	An arboricultural walk over survey has taken place (April 2021) to assess and understand the species "make up" of the planting block, its condition and potential root protection requirements and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.
	The findings being: Proposed Mitigation Measures: - due to the age of the trees present within the boundary woodlands, a stand-off limit of 5m is substantial for the RPA zone of the most mature trees within woodland blocks. A stand-off of 10m has been included within the design proposals and therefore substantial protection will be observed for all woodland areas for the extent of the works.  Opportunities for Biodiversity Enhancement: - cut and coppicing of planted woodland every 5-10 years.
Hedgerows	A hedgerow survey has taken place to assess and understand the species "composition" of the hedgerows, their condition and potential protection requirements.  The findings being: - all hedgerows are species poor and dominated by hawthorn. Sections of hedgerow are defunct along the southern boundary and to the north of the access track.

Proposed Mitigation Measures: - 5m stand – off from all hedgerows to be retained during the extent of the works.

Opportunities for Biodiversity Enhancement: hedgerow planting across the site to include thorny native species. 'Beating up' of existing defunct hedgerows to improve the habitat quality for birds and bat across the site. This is to be conducted in areas along the southern boundary and along the hedgerow where the access track connects in the site as these hedgerows are defunct.

#### 2.4 The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features

In order to safeguard nocturnal fauna (bats) from disturbance, it is understood that working hours during construction are restricted to daylight hours (i.e. no night time working) especially during spring and summer months. If lighting is required then the following measures should be incorporated:

- Care will be taken in the placement of external lighting to ensure that no lights are placed near to existing boundary features (hedgerows and trees);
- PIR sensors will be used to minimise the duration of lighting at the site;
   and
- Where lighting is necessary, low spill lighting should be deployed where practicable and any lighting used should be focused on the area of works.

#### 2.5 Responsible person and lines of communication

Operator (Client) Richard Parton – Salop Sand and Gravel

Supply Company Limited.

Admaston Telford TF5 0AN

Contact Telephone No. 01952 254101

Clients Ecological Consultants

(Responsible Person)

Steven Pagett, Heaton Planning,

9, The Square, Keyworth,

Nottinghamshire

NG12 5JP

Contact Telephone No. 01159 375552

Mineral Planning Authority

Worcestershire County

Council

Steven Aldridge

Team Manager/Development Manager

Worcestershire County Council

County Hall Spetchley Road, Worcestershire,

WR5 2NP

Contact Telephone No. 01905 843510

# 2.6 <u>The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person</u>

This role will be carried out by Steven Pagett for and on behalf of the client. Steven Pagetts responsibilities will be:

- a) Pre-development commencement site walk over survey to assess the current ecological status including any changes in habitat and protected species. The site access and areas requiring soil stripping are to be checked for breeding bird nests. These works were carried out in April/May 2021 and species compared to the submitted and assessed EcIA (April 2021)
- b) Ecological site inspection during the Initial Works period which involves the site establishment works to inspect and confirm that all Biodiversity protection zone measures are in place and in accordance with specifications provided (April/May 2021)
- c) Placement and erection of the biodiversity enhancement measure of 5
   Bird Boxes and 5 Bat Boxes at locations cited by the ecologist.
   Construction of 4 Hibernacula refuge within the advanced planting

boxes (May 2021). The bird box type should include 3 Schwegler 1b 32mm boxes and 2 Schwegler 26mm boxes. The bat box type should include 3 x 2F Schwegler bat boxes and 2 x 2FN Schwegler bat boxes. Please see biodiversity enhancement plan for the specific locations of these enhancements.

- d) Site inspection/verification of the proposed native hedgerow/shrub underplanting within both of the Biodiversity Protection Zones to provide a wider range of species.
- e) To carry out an annual site visit/inspection of the ecological status/condition of the site. To observe and report all findings to the client and Worcestershire Mineral Planning Authority (via Steve Aldridge). Any appropriate required remedial and/or enhancement actions to be agreed and actioned.

#### 2.7 <u>Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs</u>

Badgers- Badgers and their setts are protected under the protection of Badgers Act 1992, under which it would be an offence to intentionally kill or injure a badger or to interfere with a sett by damaging, destroying or obstructing access to it. It is also an offence to disturb a badger whilst it is occupying a sett. No badgers or badger setts have been identified on site. New badger setts could be created during the working period of the quarry and its progressive restoration, particularly within temporary soil storage bunds and/or exposed and accessible quarry faces. If badger setts are unexpectedly encountered at any time, all works within 30m of the sett entrance will be stopped immediately and the project ecologist contacted for advice.

Birds may nest in the retained boundary features. The following safeguards and reasonable avoidance measures will be required during construction to prevent the direct loss of active nests during site preparation works and to minimise noise and visual disturbance to nesting birds in close proximity to construction areas:

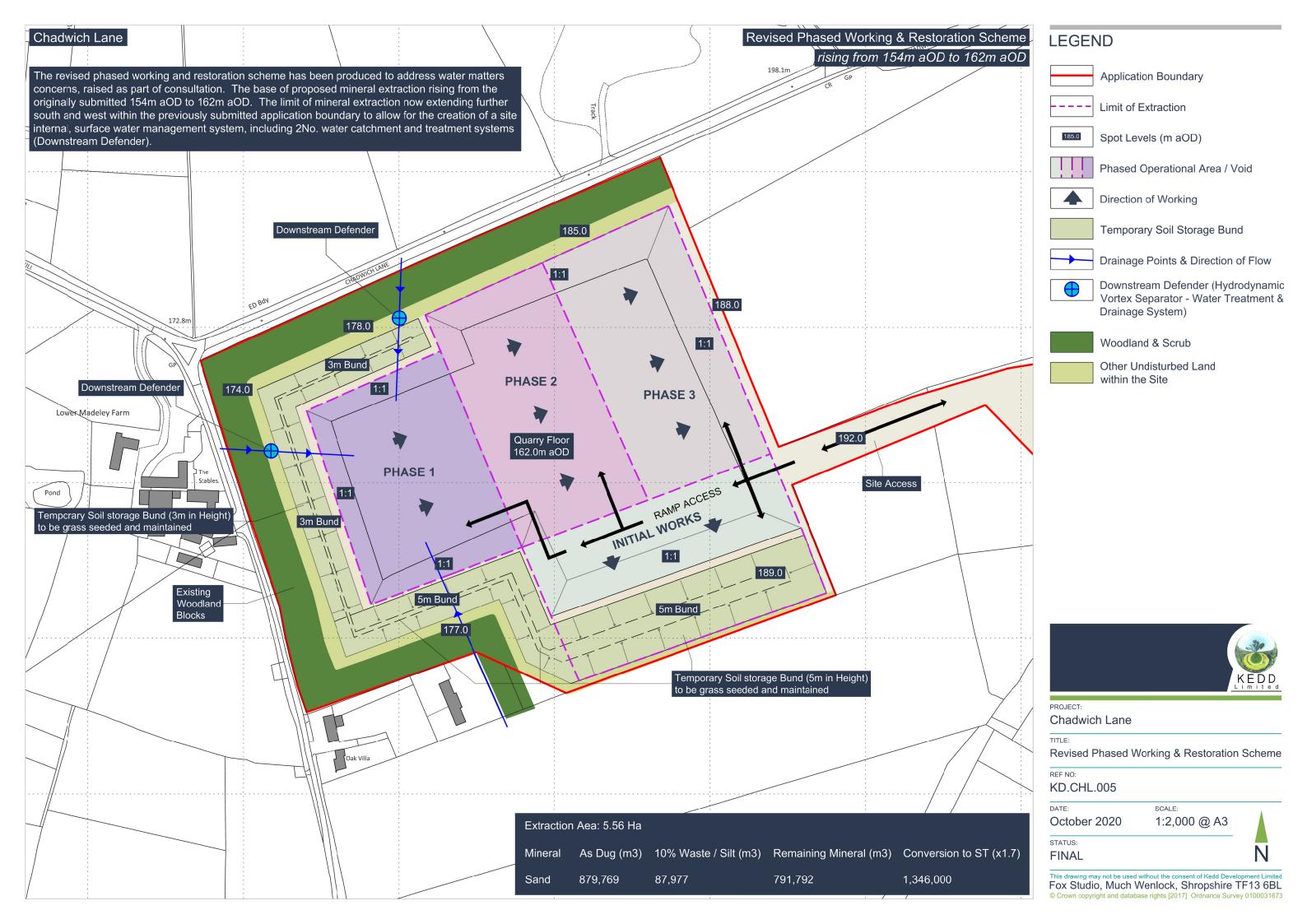
 It is recommended that any clearance or pruning back of potential nesting habitat (e.g. scattered scrub, hedgerows or trees) be undertaken outside of the nesting season (i.e. outside March to August inclusive).
 Should this not be practicable, it is recommended that a suitably qualified ecologist first checks any suitable habitat to be cleared in order to determine the location of any active nests before removal. Any active

nests identified should be cordoned off and protected until the end of the nesting season or until the nests are no longer active; and

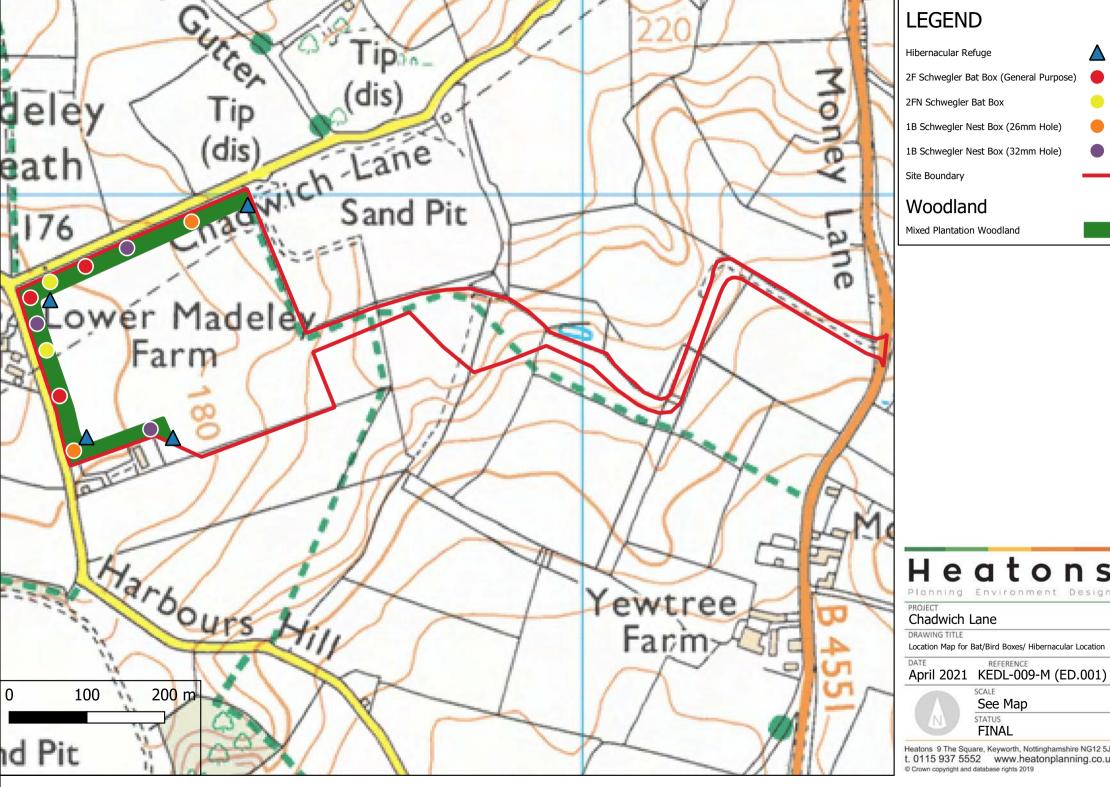
 The use of tree protection fencing around retained habitat will minimise the potential disturbance, which may occur from noise and plant tracking close to active nests by providing a buffer.

All trees and hedgerows proposed for retention are to be protected by tree protection fencing in accordance with the requirements of BS 5837:2012, as part of the development proposals. This barrier fencing is to be erected along the extent of the root protection areas (RPAs) marked out for each tree/hedgerow to be retained. This area will define Construction Exclusion Zone's (CEZ) to ensure that all works access is prevented within trees RPA's and canopy spreads, to ensure that the works do not adversely affect the trees to be retained. The protective fencing is to be erected prior to the commencement of works on site and is to remain in place for the duration of the works.

All-weather notices should be fixed to the fencing with the words: 'Construction Exclusion Zone - KEEP OUT', or similar and special attention should be paid to ensuring that the fencing remains rigid and complete.







# **LEGEND**

Hibernacular Refuge





2FN Schwegler Bat Box



1B Schwegler Nest Box (26mm Hole)



1B Schwegler Nest Box (32mm Hole)



Site Boundary



Mixed Plantation Woodland



Location Map for Bat/Bird Boxes/ Hibernacular Location

REFERENCE

April 2021 KEDL-009-M (ED.001)



See Map

STATUS **FINAL** 

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