

Ecological Management Plan (EcMP)

Plot 1a & 1b, Cwm Woods Grove, Colliers Row, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil

Site: Plot 1a & 1b, Cwm Woods Grove, off Upper Colliers Row, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1DP

Planning Reference: P/26/0049

Applicant / Client: Maxiom Development Ltd on behalf of Gabe Jones

Prepared in response to: PEA (Certhia Ecology, July 2026), Section 4/5 recommendations; MTCBC Ecologist Memo 3 (13/07/2026)

Date: July 2026

STATUS:

Reviewed By: Matt Dowling – Certhia Ecology

Review Date: 19/08/2026

1. Introduction and Objectives

1.1 This Ecological Management Plan (EcMP) has been prepared as recommended in the 1A-B Colliers Row Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Certhia Ecology, July 2026) and requested by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's (MTCBC) Ecologist, Matt Davies, in Memo 3 (13 July 2026).

1.2 The objective of this EcMP is to set out how ecological features and protected/notable species identified in the PEA will be safeguarded during the enabling and construction phases of the Proposed Development on Plots 1a and 1b, and to ensure the Proposed Development achieves compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (2024).

1.3 This EcMP should be read alongside the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which addresses wider environmental best practice, and the Landscaping, Habitat and Ecology Scheme (LHES), which addresses long-term habitat provision and management.

2. Legislative and Policy Context

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 7 (Species and Habitats of Principal Importance)
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12 (2024), Chapter 6

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 An appropriately experienced person will be retained by the self-builder for the duration of the works, performing the role of Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoW). The EcoW will:

- Approve method statements and toolbox talk content prior to works commencing;
- Undertake or supervise the Site Assessment / Pre-Works Check (see separate methodology document) where required;
- Be available to advise site staff on protected species matters throughout construction;
- Certify completion of ecological mitigation and enhancement measures for the Compliance submission to MTCBC.

4. Pre-Construction Ecological Requirements

4.1 The PEA concludes that, due to the current (cleared) condition of the Site, pre-construction survey checks for protected species are not considered necessary at present. However, if vegetation has recolonised the Site by the time works commence, a Site Assessment / Pre-Works Check by a suitably qualified ecologist will be required before any clearance works, in accordance with the separate Site Assessment / Pre-Works Check Methodology document.

5. Species-Specific Measures During Construction

5.1 Nesting Birds

Vegetation clearance (if any regrowth requires removal) will avoid the bird nesting season (March to September inclusive) where practicable. Where clearance cannot avoid this period, an ecologist will inspect the vegetation to be cleared immediately beforehand and confirm in writing that no active nests are present; if active nests are found, works in that area will not proceed until the EcoW confirms nesting has finished.

5.2 Reptiles and Amphibians

Any clearance of scrub/ruderal habitat will, so far as practicable, be undertaken during the reptile and amphibian active season (March to October) and supervised by the EcoW to minimise the risk of harm to hibernating or sheltering animals.

5.3 Hedgehog

Vegetation clearance will be preceded by a visual 'finger-tip' search using hand tools, consistent with the approach adopted on Plots 1, 5 and 9 & 10 of the wider site. Any hedgehog found will be permitted to move away unaided or, if necessary, relocated by the EcoW to adjacent suitable habitat.

5.4 Bats

No trees or structures with bat roost potential currently exist on Site. Should mature trees suitable for bats establish or be identified prior to works, the Best Practice Protocol for Tree Felling (as applied on the wider Colliers Row site) will be followed, and Natural Resources Wales notified immediately if bats are found during any tree or structure works.

5.5 Invertebrates and the B-Line

Given the Site's location within a B-Line corridor, works will seek to retain flowering/foraging vegetation where practicable until immediately prior to construction, and replacement wildflower/native planting (LHES Section 4) will be established as early as practicable in the construction programme.

6. Habitat Protection During Construction

6.1 The retained western boundary hedgerow, and the new northern boundary hedgerow extension once planted, will be protected by temporary high-visibility fencing for the full duration of construction operations, erected before works commence and maintained throughout, consistent with the approach used on Plots 5 and 9 & 10.

6.2 No storage of materials, plant, spoil or waste will take place within the fenced protection zone. Any excavation within or adjacent to the root protection area of retained trees/hedgerow will be supervised by the EcoW.

7. Toolbox Talks and Site Inductions

7.1 All site personnel will receive an ecological induction and toolbox talks covering: the protected and notable species that may be present or nearby (Hedgehog, bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates); their legal obligations under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Habitats Regulations; the

location of protective fencing and no-go areas; and the procedure to follow if a protected species is encountered unexpectedly (stop work in the immediate area, contact the EcoW).

8. Monitoring and Reporting

8.1 The EcoW will maintain a written log of site visits, checks undertaken and any protected species observations. On completion of construction, the EcoW will provide written confirmation to the developer and MTCBC that the measures in this EcMP have been implemented, supporting the Compliance requirement of Memo 3.

9. Review and Amendment

9.1 This EcMP may be reviewed and updated by the EcoW in agreement with MTCBC should Site conditions change materially prior to or during construction (for example, significant vegetation regrowth, or discovery of a protected species not currently anticipated).