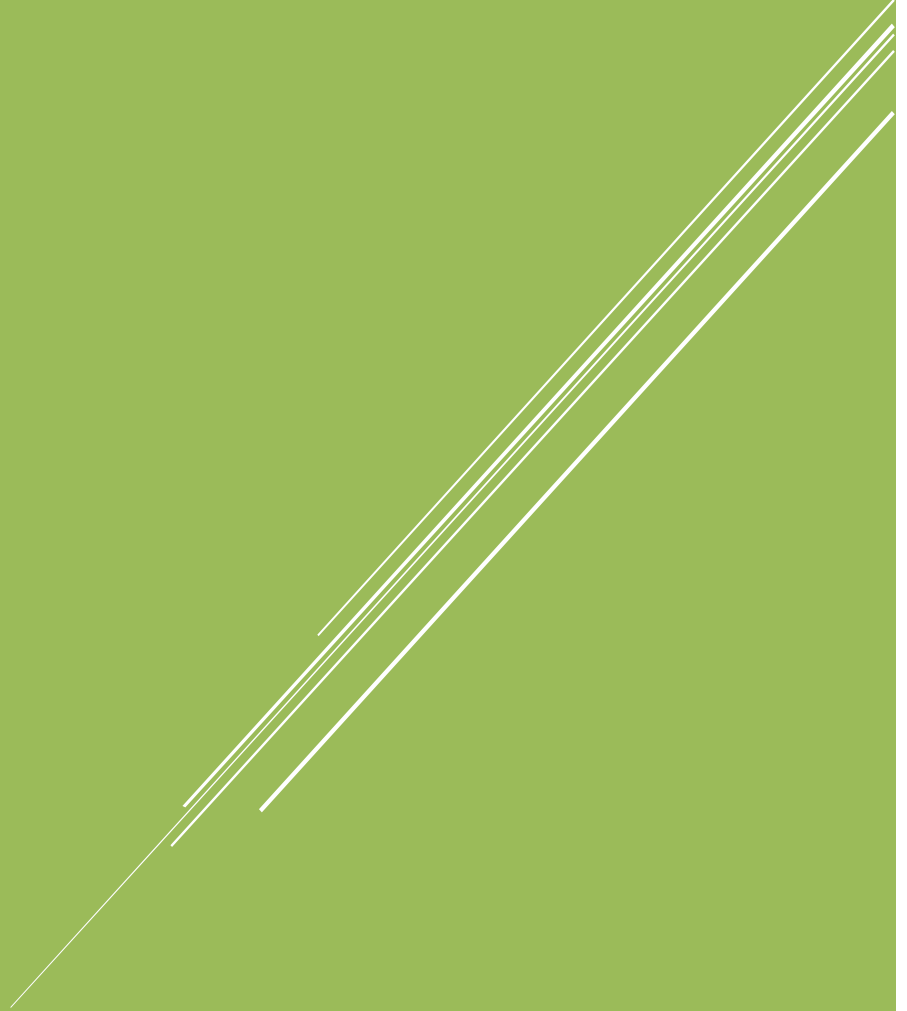




Landscape & Ecological Management Plan

Land Off Church Road, Witherley, Leicestershire CV9 3NA

Date: June 2026

Prepared by: S Latham MCIEEM

N.B. Ecological reports may show information on legally protected, rare or vulnerable species. In such cases, it is recommended that appropriate caution be used when circulating copies.

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LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN	
Surveyor	S Latham
Planning Reference	25/01231/FUL
Site address	Land Off Church Road, Witherley, Leicestershire CV9 3NA
Proposed Works	Erection of a single self-build dwelling and detached garage (Use Class C3)
Boundary as specified by the client	YES

Report Version Control

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
1.0	19 June 2026	S Latham MCIEEM	Document created
1.0	22 June 2026	S Latham MCIEEM	Document completed
1.0	22 June 2026	S Archer ACIEEM	Document reviewed

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INTRODUCTION

This Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared for Land off Church Road, Witherley, Leicestershire CV9 3NA. It sets out the long-term management, monitoring and maintenance requirements for retained and enhanced landscape and ecological features associated with the proposed erection of a single self-build dwelling and detached garage.

The LEMP is intended to provide a practical framework for the protection and enhancement of the River Anker corridor, retained scrub and riparian habitat, grass snake habitat, hedgerows, tree lines, neutral/rough grassland, habitat piles and ecological enhancement features. It should be read alongside the approved layout, landscape plan, Construction and Ecological Management Plan (CEMP), ecological assessment and reptile survey information for the site.

The development is understood to be exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements as a self-build development. Nevertheless, the implementation of this LEMP will secure proportionate ecological protection, enhancement and long-term management of retained habitats and wildlife features associated with the site.



PLANNING CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Planning reference 25/01231/FUL relates to the erection of a single self-build dwelling and detached garage (Use Class C3). The LEMP has been prepared to respond to ecological recommendations associated with the site, including the retention and management of the River Anker 10m riparian buffer, retained scrub/riparian habitat, grass snake habitat and retained habitat corridors.

Where this LEMP is used to discharge or support a planning condition or consultee response, the exact wording of the condition/response should be inserted or appended to the final issued document. The site copy of this LEMP should be retained by the applicant/landowner and passed to any future landowner or occupier responsible for ongoing management.

The purpose of this LEMP is to:

- describe and evaluate the ecological and landscape features to be managed;
- identify ecological trends and constraints that may influence long-term management;
- set clear aims, objectives and measurable management targets;
- provide management prescriptions and a 30-year work schedule;
- set out monitoring, reporting and adaptive management mechanisms;
- identify responsibilities for implementation, funding and long-term delivery.



BACKGROUND

The site is located to the west of the village of Witherley in Leicestershire, approximately 400m north of the A5 and immediately east of the River Anker. The site comprises neutral grassland and bramble scrub with boundaries formed by lines of trees and native hedgerow. Mature and semi-mature trees are present along the north and western boundaries, including mature oaks to the west, which are considered to provide value for invertebrates, birds, bats and small mammals.

The River Anker lies adjacent to the site and forms a sensitive ecological receptor and landscape corridor. The scrub, bankside vegetation and riparian habitats associated with the river corridor should be retained and protected. The final CEMP for the site confirms that proposals should be sited a minimum of 10m from the top of the riverbank and that the 10m buffer should be treated as an ecological protection zone.

A reptile survey undertaken by Croft Ecology in March and April 2026 recorded a single grass snake during three of the seven surveys. The site is therefore considered to support a low population of grass snake, with occasional use of the site. The ivy-covered bare ground in the east of the site, where the grass snake was recorded, is due to be retained, together with a corridor linking this area to the west of the site.



DESCRIPTION & EVALUATION OF FEATURES TO BE MANAGED

Feature	Evaluation / Ecological Function	Management Requirement
River Anker 10m riparian buffer	Sensitive watercourse corridor providing habitat connectivity, riparian vegetation, potential foraging/commuting habitat for bats and habitat for aquatic/riparian wildlife.	Retain as undeveloped, low-intervention ecological buffer. Prevent encroachment, dumping, lighting spill, mowing and bank disturbance.
Retained scrub and bankside vegetation	Provides nesting, shelter, foraging and movement habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates and amphibians.	Maintain structurally varied scrub. Use rotational management only where needed. Avoid works during nesting bird season unless checked.
Ivy-covered grass snake area	Specific reptile refuge/basking area where grass snake was recorded.	Retain and protect from disturbance. Maintain sunny and sheltered margins. Avoid intensive mowing or herbicide.
East-west reptile habitat corridor	Maintains connectivity between the retained reptile area and western habitats/riparian corridor.	Retain continuous cover, rough margins, log/brush piles and structural diversity.
Neutral/rough grassland and tall vegetation	Provides foraging, refuge and structural diversity for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, birds and small mammals.	Manage as varied sward with rotational cutting and arisings removal where appropriate.
Native hedgerows and tree lines	Important boundary features and commuting/foraging corridors for bats, birds and invertebrates.	Retain, protect and manage on a sympathetic rotational cycle. Avoid lighting spill.
Mature/semi-mature trees	Landscape value, carbon storage, nesting/foraging resource and potential future roosting value.	Retain where safe. Inspect for health/safety. Retain deadwood where safe and appropriate.
Log/brush/habitat piles	Refuge, hibernation and nesting resource for reptiles, amphibians, hedgehogs and invertebrates.	Create/retain at margins of retained habitat. Check annually and top up as required.
Bat, bird and invertebrate enhancements	Provides additional roosting, nesting and sheltering opportunities.	Install in suitable locations away from direct lighting and disturbance. Check condition during monitoring.

A LEMP plan should be appended to the final document showing the River Anker, 10m buffer from top of bank, retained scrub/riparian habitat, ivy-covered grass snake area, retained east-west corridor, retained hedgerows/tree lines, grassland/tall vegetation areas, log/brush pile locations and ecological enhancement locations.



ECOLOGICAL TRENDS AND CONSTRAINTS

Trend / Constraint	Potential Effect	Management Response
Scrub succession	Scrub may become overly dense and reduce open basking/edge habitat for reptiles.	Rotational cutting of limited sections outside nesting bird season, retaining varied structure.
Grassland becoming rank	Coarse grasses/bramble/nettle may dominate, reducing floral and structural diversity.	Introduce annual or rotational cut and remove arisings where appropriate.
Fragmentation of reptile corridor	Loss of cover could reduce movement between east and west habitats.	Maintain continuous rough/tall vegetation and log/brush piles.
Encroachment into 10m river buffer	Dumping, mowing, storage or garden creep may degrade riparian habitat.	Make buffer responsibilities clear to landowner/occupier. Use signage/fencing if needed.
Light spill	Lighting may affect bat commuting/foraging along River Anker and hedgerows.	Retain dark corridors, use low-level, directional, warm-spectrum lighting.
Invasive/non-native species	Could reduce habitat quality and spread along the river corridor.	Annual checks and targeted control plan if species are recorded.
Tree/hedgerow decline	Loss of landscape structure and ecological connectivity.	Inspect periodically; replace failed planting; avoid unnecessary pruning.



AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND MANAGEMENT TARGETS

Aim	Objective	Target / Success Measure
Protect River Anker corridor	Retain a minimum 10m undeveloped buffer from the riverbank.	No built development, storage, routine mowing, dumping or lighting columns within the 10m buffer.
Retain reptile habitat	Maintain the ivy-covered area and east-west habitat corridor.	Reptile refuge areas remain connected, structurally varied and undisturbed.
Maintain scrub and riparian habitat	Retain scrub and bankside vegetation as functional habitat.	Scrub retained with varied age/structure and no significant degradation.
Maintain grassland/tall vegetation	Create a varied sward that supports invertebrates, reptiles and small mammals.	Mosaic of short and tall vegetation; arisings removed from managed areas.
Retain boundary connectivity	Protect hedgerows, tree lines and mature trees.	Continuous boundary features retained and not illuminated.
Deliver ecological enhancements	Provide nesting, roosting and refuge features.	Bat/bird boxes and log/brush piles installed and maintained.



RESPONSIBILITIES, FUNDING & LEGAL MECHANISM

The applicant/landowner will be responsible for implementing this LEMP during the establishment period and for ensuring that the requirements of the LEMP are passed to any future homeowner, occupier or land management contractor. Following occupation, the future homeowner/landowner will be responsible for maintaining the retained habitats, ecological buffer and enhancement features in accordance with this plan.

Funding for management will be secured through private landowner/homeowner responsibility as part of normal property and landscape maintenance obligations. Specialist ecological input should be commissioned where monitoring identifies a significant failure, protected species issue, invasive species issue, or uncertainty regarding the correct management approach.

Role	Responsibility
Applicant / Landowner	Ensure the LEMP is implemented, retained with property documents and passed to future owners/occupiers. Fund establishment and long-term management.
Homeowner / Future Occupier	Maintain the 10m River Anker buffer, retained scrub, reptile corridor, hedgerows, grassland and ecological enhancements in accordance with this LEMP.
Landscape Contractor / Gardener	Undertake cutting, arisings removal, weed control, replacement planting and habitat feature maintenance in accordance with prescriptions.
Ecologist / ECoW where required	Provide advice on protected species, review monitoring results, advise on remedial measures and inspect sensitive areas where needed.



LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

River Anker 10m Riparian Buffer

The River Anker 10m buffer shall be retained as an undeveloped ecological protection and management zone. The buffer shall be measured from the top of the riverbank unless otherwise agreed with the project ecologist and Local Planning Authority.

Phase	Management Prescription	Timing / Frequency	Success Criteria
Years 1-5	Retain scrub, bankside vegetation and rough/tall vegetation. Prevent storage, dumping, structures, routine mowing, garden waste and lighting columns within the buffer.	Check twice annually and after any significant works or storm event.	10m buffer retained intact with no encroachment, dumping or avoidable damage.
Years 6-30	Continue low-intervention management. Undertake only selective cutting where needed for safety, invasive species control or ecological enhancement.	Annual visual check; selective works only outside nesting bird season unless checked.	Riparian corridor remains continuous, vegetated, dark and ecologically functional.
Monitoring	Check for erosion, pollution, invasive species, garden encroachment, tree/scrub damage and lighting spill.	Annually for first 5 years, then every 5 years or as needed.	Issues identified and remedied promptly.

Retained Scrub and Bankside Habitat

Phase	Management Prescription	Timing / Frequency	Success Criteria
Years 1-5	Retain scrub within the riparian buffer and reptile corridor. Avoid wholesale clearance. Remove only hazardous or invasive material.	Annual inspection; works Sept-Feb where practicable.	Scrub retained with varied structure and no significant loss of habitat area.
Years 6-30	Manage by rotational cutting of small sections only if scrub becomes too dense or shades important reptile habitat. Retain scalloped edges and transitional margins.	Cut no more than one third of relevant scrub area in any one year unless advised by ecologist.	Mosaic of dense scrub, edge habitat and open/tall vegetation maintained.
Monitoring	Record extent, structure, evidence of nesting bird habitat and connectivity to other habitats.	Annually for first 5 years, then every 5 years.	No significant degradation or fragmentation.

Grass Snake / Reptile Habitat Area and Corridor

Phase	Management Prescription	Timing / Frequency	Success Criteria
Years 1-5	Retain ivy-covered grass snake area and east-west corridor. Maintain tall vegetation, sunny margins and	Check twice annually during establishment. Habitat piles installed	Reptile refuge area retained, connected and not intensively managed.



	refuge features. Install/retain log and brash piles at margins.	in first suitable season.	
Years 6-30	Use rotational cutting to prevent full succession while retaining cover. Avoid cutting all tall vegetation in one year. No blanket herbicide use.	Cut in Sept/Oct where needed; leave refuges undisturbed.	Continuous habitat corridor remains available between east and west of site.
Monitoring	Check for corridor continuity, refuge condition, shading, disturbance, mowing damage and log/brash pile condition.	Annually for first 5 years, then every 5 years.	Habitat remains suitable for occasional grass snake use and wider reptile/amphibian refuge.

Neutral / Rough Grassland and Tall Vegetation

Phase	Management Prescription	Timing / Frequency	Success Criteria
Years 1-3	Allow suitable areas to establish as rough/tall grassland. Control injurious/invasive weeds by hand pulling or targeted spot treatment.	Monthly checks in growing season during establishment.	Bare/damaged areas establish and tall vegetation provides refuge value.
Years 3-30	Manage using a mosaic approach with some areas cut annually and others retained longer for refuge/overwintering. Remove arisings from managed areas where practical.	Late summer/autumn cut; rotational management annually.	Varied sward height maintained with areas of long grass retained.
Monitoring	Record sward height variation, weed dominance, scrub encroachment, litter and habitat connectivity.	Annually for first 5 years, then every 5 years.	No single coarse/invasive species dominates; habitat remains structurally varied.

Hedgerows, Tree Lines and Trees

Phase	Management Prescription	Timing / Frequency	Success Criteria
Years 1-5	Retain and protect existing hedgerows, tree lines and mature/semi-mature trees. Replace any failed new planting with appropriate native species.	Annual inspection; replacement planting in Nov-Mar.	Boundary features remain continuous and healthy.
Years 6-30	Manage hedgerows on a rotational cycle, avoiding annual hard flailing. Retain flowering/fruitlet value and connectivity. Tree works only where necessary for safety or good arboricultural practice.	Hedgerow cutting ideally Jan-Feb and not every section every year; tree inspections as required.	Dense, connected hedgerow/tree line corridor maintained.
Monitoring	Record gaps, dieback, damage, lighting impacts and need for replacement planting.	Annually for first 5 years, then every 5 years.	No significant breaks in ecological connectivity.



Ecological Enhancements

Enhancement	Specification	Timing	Management / Success Criteria
Bat boxes	2-4 durable bat boxes, e.g. Schwegler, Greenwood Eco Habitats or similar.	Install during first suitable season after construction or as part of landscape works.	Locate on retained trees/structures away from direct lighting; check presence/condition externally during monitoring.
Bird boxes	Mix of 32mm entrance and open-fronted boxes where suitable.	Install during first suitable season.	Locate away from disturbance and direct lighting; replace damaged boxes.
Invertebrate features	Log piles, deadwood, bee bricks/insect hotels using durable materials.	Install during landscape establishment.	Retain in sunny/sheltered locations close to nectar resources.
Hedgehog permeability	13cm x 13cm gaps at base of solid fencing where safe and appropriate.	During fencing installation.	Gaps retained and not blocked by future occupiers.
Log/brash piles	Use site-won timber/brash where possible.	Create during/after clearance or landscaping.	Retain at margins of scrub/grassland; top up if degraded.



30-YEAR WORK SCHEDULE

Management Item	Years 1-5	Years 6-10	Years 11-30
River Anker 10m buffer	Establish and protect buffer; check twice annually; remove encroachment/waste.	Annual checks; selective remedial works only.	Check every 5 years minimum and after incidents; retain as low-intervention habitat.
Retained scrub/riparian habitat	Retain; inspect annually; minor selective works only.	Begin rotational cutting if scrub becomes too dense.	Continue rotational management, no wholesale clearance.
Grass snake habitat/corridor	Retain ivy area and corridor; create log/brush piles; inspect twice annually.	Maintain corridor and refuges; rotational cutting where needed.	Maintain connectivity and structural diversity.
Grassland/tall vegetation	Establish mosaic management and control weeds.	Refine cutting regime based on monitoring.	Continue rotational cut and arisings removal where appropriate.
Hedgerows/tree lines	Inspect annually; protect and replace failures.	Rotational hedgerow management.	Maintain continuity and structural diversity.
Enhancement features	Install boxes/gaps/habitat piles; replace failures.	Check condition and replace damaged features.	Check every 5 years and replace as needed.
Monitoring/reporting	Annual monitoring for first 5 years.	Monitoring in Year 10 or as required.	Monitoring every 5 years or following significant issues.



MONITORING PROGRAMME

Monitoring should be proportionate to the scale of the development and the ecological sensitivities present. The responsible landowner/homeowner should retain a simple monitoring record including photographs, dates of management works, issues identified and remedial actions taken.

Element	Method	Frequency	Responsible Person / Organisation
River Anker 10m buffer	Walkover inspection and fixed-point photographs; check encroachment, dumping, erosion, pollution and lighting.	Annually Years 1-5; every 5 years thereafter.	Landowner/homeowner; ecologist if issue identified.
Grass snake habitat and corridor	Inspect ivy area, corridor continuity, refuge piles and vegetation structure.	Twice annually Years 1-5; every 5 years thereafter.	Landowner/homeowner or ecologist.
Scrub/riparian vegetation	Assess structure, extent, scrub dominance, invasive species and nesting bird risk.	Annually Years 1-5; every 5 years thereafter.	Landowner/homeowner; ecologist as required.
Grassland/tall vegetation	Assess sward height, weed dominance, litter and habitat mosaic.	Annually Years 1-5; every 5 years thereafter.	Landowner/homeowner or landscape contractor.
Hedgerows/tree lines	Check gaps, dieback, damage, pruning needs and lighting impacts.	Annually Years 1-5; every 5 years thereafter.	Landowner/homeowner or arborist/ecologist as required.
Enhancement features	Check boxes, habitat piles, hedgehog gaps and invertebrate features remain in place and functional.	Annually Years 1-5; every 5 years thereafter.	Landowner/homeowner.



ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIAL MEASURES

If monitoring shows that the aims, objectives or targets of this LEMP are not being met, adaptive management should be implemented. Remedial measures should be proportionate and should avoid creating additional ecological impacts.

Issue Identified	Potential Cause	Remedial / Adaptive Management
Encroachment/dumping in 10m buffer	Garden creep, poor awareness or contractor activity.	Remove waste/materials, reinstate vegetation, install signage/fencing if needed, brief occupier/contractor.
Scrub becoming too dense	Natural succession.	Rotationally cut small sections outside nesting bird season; retain edge habitat and refuges.
Reptile corridor becoming fragmented	Over-mowing, development creep or shading.	Reinstate tall vegetation, log/brush piles and continuous cover.
Grassland becoming rank or dominated by coarse species	Nutrient enrichment or insufficient cutting.	Introduce spring cut; remove arisings; spot-control weeds.
Lighting spill onto river/hedgerows	Poorly directed domestic/security lighting.	Re-angle, shield, dim or replace with warmer, motion-controlled lighting.
Invasive non-native species found	Colonisation or imported material.	Seek specialist advice and implement targeted control/disposal plan.
Tree/hedgerow failure	Drought, disease, damage or poor establishment.	Replace in next planting season with appropriate native species.
Enhancement feature failure	Weathering, vandalism or poor installation.	Repair, replace or relocate to suitable low-disturbance position.



RESTRICTIONS & PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

- No routine mowing, storage, dumping, structures, garden waste, refuelling, fires or lighting columns should be placed within the River Anker 10m riparian buffer.
- No scrub, hedgerow or tree works should be undertaken during the main nesting bird season (March-August inclusive) unless a competent ecologist confirms no active nests would be affected.
- No blanket herbicide should be used within retained reptile habitat, the riparian buffer or the reptile corridor. Any weed control should be targeted and proportionate.
- External lighting should avoid illuminating the River Anker corridor, hedgerows, tree lines, bat boxes, bird boxes or mammal/reptile refuge features.
- Habitat piles and log/brash piles should be retained undisturbed where safe to do so and should not be dismantled during winter without ecological advice.
- Any protected species or injured wildlife encountered during management should trigger cessation of works in that area and advice from a suitably qualified ecologist.



CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The implementation of this LEMP provides a proportionate long-term framework to ensure that retained and enhanced habitats associated with Land off Church Road, Witherley are protected, maintained and monitored. The key ecological priorities are the retention of the River Anker 10m riparian buffer, protection of scrub and bankside habitat, retention of the ivy-covered grass snake area, maintenance of the east-west reptile corridor, sympathetic management of grassland/tall vegetation, and retention of hedgerows, tree lines and mature trees.

The LEMP should be retained with the property information and passed to any future owner or occupier. Management should be implemented in accordance with the prescriptions and work schedule set out above, with adaptive management applied where monitoring shows that the aims and objectives are not being met.

Through careful establishment, ongoing management, and adaptive monitoring, the habitats within the site will:

- Transition from low-value or newly created environments into species-rich, structurally diverse ecosystems.
- Support a wide range of taxa, including pollinators, birds, amphibians, bats, and other protected species.
- Provide ecological connectivity across the site and into the wider landscape through linked habitats such as the River Anker corridor, retained scrub, rough grassland, hedgerows, tree lines and reptile habitat corridor.
- Deliver ecosystem services such as improved water management, carbon sequestration, pollination, and enhanced soil health.
- Offer long-term resilience against environmental pressures, including climate change, invasive species, and habitat fragmentation.

Overall, by adhering to the LEMP prescriptions, the site will deliver proportionate ecological protection, enhancement and long-term management of retained habitats and species features, including the River Anker riparian corridor, retained scrub, grass snake habitat, hedgerows, tree lines and ecological enhancement features.

All prescriptions are the responsibility of the applicant.



QUALITY ASSURANCE



Scott Latham MCIEEM Founder & Principal Ecologist.

Scott has extensive experience and over a decade's expertise in professional ecological consultancy, built on a lifetime's involvement in a range of environmental science and natural history subjects both in the UK and overseas (Sri Lanka, Uganda, South Africa, the USA and several continental European countries). His career has included species reintroduction, human-wildlife conflict resolution and legally protected species work under licence.

Scott is practised in BNG, GIS, EIA, ECoW, wildlife law, animal behaviour, ornithology, entomology and a range of applied ecological topics as well as project management and planning, as well has been a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) holder through Natural England.

Besides his extensive ecological consultancy background, Scott is one of the co-founders of Wild Staffordshire. A purpose-driven not-for-profit founded to give conservation a creative voice, bringing together communities and organisations from across the world to help protect wild species and their habitats. Working with conservation NGOs, communities and expert advisory boards to ensure a combined road to conservation success. One of the projects led by Wild Staffordshire is Schools for Wildlife, whereby, as the founder of the project, I act as project lead. Schools for Wildlife was established as a response to the State of Nature (UK) report and is the first of its kind sustainable school initiative to bring schools, communities, and nature together. He is also Chair of the Staffordshire Squirrel Project and is involved in various Professional Institute initiatives.

In addition, Scott is a storytelling wildlife & conservation photographer, whose work has been recognised worldwide including becoming the Winner of the prestigious British Photography Awards 2019 for Wildlife Photography. His photographs have been regularly shown in exhibitions, and galleries and are featured in several books, including his self-authored and published charity book about Mountain Gorillas.



The BNG Guy T: 07784713627 E: thebngguy@gmail.com



Steven Archer ACIEEM Senior Ecologist.

Steve is a highly experienced ecologist and site manager with over 30 years' experience working across countryside management, conservation delivery and ecological consultancy. His career spans local authority leadership, large-scale habitat management and protected species work, supported by a strong background in land, contract and people management.

Steve has extensive experience in planning and delivering ecological and landscape projects, including long-term stewardship of designated sites such as Cannock Chase SAC and SSSI. His work has included protected species surveys and mitigation for bats, great crested newts, white-clawed crayfish and breeding birds, alongside wider ecological monitoring such as invertebrate surveys, invasive species management and habitat condition assessments.

In addition to his field expertise, Steve has a strong track record in training, education and stakeholder engagement, having delivered nationally recognised conservation training programmes in partnership with colleges, as well as leading initiatives for volunteers, apprentices and alternative education groups.

Steve holds multiple protected species licences and is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. He is highly experienced in Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEAs), protected species surveys, report writing and client liaison, and regularly coordinates teams of ecologists and subcontractors to deliver projects efficiently and to a high professional standard.

His combination of practical site management experience and ecological consultancy expertise ensures that projects are delivered with a strong focus on quality, compliance and real-world implementation.



The BNG Guy T: 07784713627 E: thebngguy@gmail.com



Craig Davis Senior Ecologist.

Craig is an experienced ecologist with over 10 years' specialist expertise in ornithology and bat ecology, developed through a career dedicated to the study, survey and conservation of these key species groups. His work is underpinned by a strong understanding of species behaviour, habitat requirements and survey methodologies, ensuring robust and reliable ecological assessments.

Craig has extensive experience undertaking protected species surveys, with a particular focus on bats and breeding birds, including roost assessments, activity surveys, acoustic analysis and mitigation design. He is a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) holder for bats, enabling him to lead licensed works and provide compliant mitigation strategies in line with current legislation and best practice guidance.

He is a Qualifying Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and is experienced in delivering Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEAs), species-specific surveys and technical reporting to support planning applications and ecological compliance.

Craig combines detailed field expertise with a pragmatic, solutions-focused approach, ensuring ecological constraints are clearly identified and managed effectively. His passion for ornithology and bat conservation, alongside his technical capability, ensures high-quality outputs that meet both client needs and regulatory requirements.



The BNG Guy T: 07784713627 E: thebngguy@gmail.com



Patrick O'Connor Bsc (Hons) Ecologist.

Patrick BSc (Ecology and Conservation Biology), B.App.Sc (Hons), is an experienced ecologist with over a decade of international and UK-based field and research experience. Patrick has directed and delivered ecological surveys and reporting across diverse habitats, with expertise in mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, and invasive species monitoring.

His background includes ecological research and management roles in the UK, Australia, South Africa, and Botswana, covering protected species surveys (including bats and badgers, Koala's, Black Rhino, Elephants), invasive species control, and habitat assessment in line with statutory requirements. He has also managed ecological teams, contributed to conservation strategies, and delivered compliance-focused ecological clerk of works (ECoW) support for infrastructure projects.

Patrick is skilled in GIS mapping, ecological impact assessment, and compliance with UK and international wildlife legislation, with a proven track record of producing robust ecological reports to support planning applications, protected species licensing, and habitat management strategies.



The BNG Guy T: 07784713627 E: thebngguy@gmail.com



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Croft Ecology (2026) Reptile Survey Report. Land off Church Road, Witherley. May 2026.

The BNG Guy (2026) Construction and Ecological Management Plan. Land off Church Road, Witherley. June 2026.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Legislation and Policy Summary

This appendix provides a concise summary of key legislation and policy relevant to CEMP: Biodiversity documents. It is not a substitute for legal advice and should be updated to reflect the latest legislation and statutory guidance before issue.

Species / Feature	Summary of legal status / relevance
Bats, dormouse, great crested newt, otter and other European Protected Species	Protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and/or Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Offences can include deliberate killing/injury, disturbance and damage/destruction of breeding sites or resting places.
Nesting birds	All wild birds, their active nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Schedule 1 species receive additional protection against disturbance.
Reptiles	Common reptile species are protected against intentional killing and injury under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
Badgers	Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Offences include wilful killing/injury and interference with an active sett.
Invasive non-native species	Certain species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) must not be planted, caused to grow in the wild, released or allowed to escape.
Hedgerows	Certain hedgerows are protected by the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. Removal may require permission from the local planning authority.
Priority habitats and species	Habitats and species of principal importance are relevant to planning decisions and biodiversity duties.
National Planning Policy Framework	Planning decisions should seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity, minimise impacts and provide net gains for biodiversity where relevant.
Environment Act 2021 / Biodiversity Net Gain	Mandatory BNG requirements may apply to relevant developments. CEMP controls should protect retained and created habitats that contribute to BNG outcomes.



Appendix 2: LEMP Monitoring Record Template

Date	Feature checked	Condition / Issue	Action required	Action completed / by whom