Planning Statement	
Job reference & client	2021/1338/FUL DLL/11202_Natural England
Ecologist	Philip Bych
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Background

EMEC was commissioned by Natural England (NE) to find landowners whose land falls within a Strategic Operating Area (SOA) in support of NE's District Level Licencing (DLL) scheme. To assess the lands potential for creating ponds to provide breeding locations for Great Crested Newt and mitigate future land developments within the county of Rutland.

A site visit was conducted on 15/10/2021. This entailed an ecological walkover of the site and discussion of the location and size for the pond to be created. Once agreement is met and the landowner is happy with designs a Landowner agreement is to be signed so that work can progress such as planning applications and prep for creation.

After successful creation/restoration of the ponds the landowners agree for the ponds to be monitored. eDNA samples taken every year for the first 5 years, then once every 5 years thereafter, a total of 25 years monitoring.

Methodology

The site is accessed via a field gate Grammas Lane and following a farm track past the farm buildings to the field gate at SK88978 02313as shown on the location plan.

There are no services in the work area, a line search has been done to confirm this and prior to commencement of works a precautionary CAT +4 scan will be done.

The pond construction will be carried out by an 8tonne excavator. The top layer of land will be scraped off and used as the base for the hibernacula with the deeper excavation building up the hibernacula to a height of 1.5m. The remaining spoil will be spread around the pond area but within the confines of the fence. On the map this is shown as the brown polygon with the hibernacula defined as green polygons surrounding the pond. As per NE specifications no soil to be taken off site.

A hibernaculum structure is comprised of large stones and locally sourced logs and covered in spoil from the nutrient poor layer of the pond to create a bank approximately 1.5meters in height, 2-3m wide with varying length between a boundary and the pond.

The pond will be excavated in layers creating varying depths to a maximum depth of 2 meters. All spoil will be used in the construction of the hibernaculum with the remainder spread around the pond. As per NE specifications there is no planting plan the ponds will be allowed too naturally regenerate.

As the ponds are wildlife ponds, it will be unlined and previous soil checks have showed a slowly permeable and clayey soil suitable for holding water as well as both ponds having natural up welling's of water.

The pond will be naturally filled with rainwater and groundwater. The location where the groundwater arises a smaller pond 3m by 3m with a 2m depth in size will be created and connected to the main pond by pipe. A precautionary overflow pipe will be fitted to the main pond so that any excess water is directed to adjacent ditches. Both ponds will be individually fenced as shown on the block plans. The fence specification is wooden strainers and posts holding up with galvanised staples L8/80/15 mild steel galvanised stock fence. With top wire barbed.

The total maximum heigh of the fence will be 1.5m. P1-068 150m length. P1-069 100m.