

- Protected species survey & licensing
- Habitat survey
- Habitat creation & management
- Arboricultural survey & impact assessment
- Invasive species survey & control
- Management plans

[www.pennineecological.co.uk](http://www.pennineecological.co.uk)

S & I Developments Limited  
44 Moor Road  
Croston  
Leyland  
PR26 9HQ

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

For the attention of: Barnaby Wastell.

Dear Barnaby,

**Re: Redevelopment of Wood End Farm, Red Lane, Ecclestone – Reasonable Avoidance Measures in Respect of Amphibians. Planning Reference 22/00851/FUL.**

Further to your request for a Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Method Statement in respect of amphibians at Wood End Farm, please find the method statement below.

**1.0 Reasonable Avoidance Measures Method Statement:**

The scoping study, site survey, evaluation, and formulation of the Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) method statement was undertaken by myself, an experienced and class-licensed great crested newt (GCN) ecologist that has been the named ecologist or licensee on eleven DEFRA/Natural England licences since 2001, with the most recent project being the completion of the licensed mitigation scheme at James Towers Way (Broughton Bypass), Preston.

I have also been an accredited agent on over ten other GCN mitigation schemes overseen by Pennine Ecological.

**1.1 Precautionary Measures:**

The following section outlines RAMs that will ensure that amphibians are not adversely affected during the proposed works.

It should be noted that eDNA surveys for GCN were undertaken in spring 2022 which showed GCN to be absent in any pond where any GCN population might possibly be adversely affected by the proposals.

It should also be noted that egg searches were undertaken in Ponds WEP1, WEP2 and WEP3 in mid-April and May 2022, and no smooth/palmate newt eggs were found. No sign of the presence of common frog or common toad was found during the survey.

The RAMs presented below can be dealt with by planning conditions implemented under reserved matters.

**Method: Remove any tall vegetation prior to construction.**

**Rationale and Prescriptions:**

- These areas have very restricted foraging and refuge value for amphibians, as habitat is available and abundant nearer to the ponds, together with better foraging and overwintering sites in the hedgerows, dense vegetation and pond banks.
- Cut tall on-site vegetation to a height of 15cm to discourage amphibians from resting in those areas.

**Method: Terrestrial search of on-site debris prior to construction.**

**Rationale and Prescriptions:**

- A simple check of on-site debris should be undertaken by lifting materials looking for any amphibians resting below.

**Method: Prevent creation of temporary refuges for amphibians through correct storage of materials on-site.**

**Rationale and Prescriptions:**

- All materials brought to site should be stored off the ground on pallets and/or skids to prevent amphibians seeking refuge.
- Waste and other material can also be stored in skips or other suitable sealed containers.
- Avoid leaving loose tipped loads such as aggregates overnight. Bulk bag deliveries are advised.

**Method: Prevent entrapment of amphibians in open trenches/excavations**

**Rationale and Prescriptions:**

- Avoid leaving open footings and other excavations open overnight.
- Where this is unavoidable, then simple earth ramps should be provided to provide a means of escape by any amphibians that might fall in the trench.
- Open trenches must be checked at the start of each working day by the site manager or delegated member/s of staff.

**Method: Procedures in the event of amphibians being found during works.**

**Rationale and Prescriptions:**

- Any other amphibian species found during the works will be removed from the site and placed on land in suitable habitat in the scrub/tall grass/herb north-west of Pond 2. See Figure 1 below.

- If GCN are found during the works, work must stop and the ecologist called for advice on how the development can proceed in line with the Regulations.



**Figure 1: Pond 2 - the terrestrial release site for any amphibians found during the works.**

If you have any queries whatsoever please do not hesitate to contact me direct on 01772 600441.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Ryding', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ian Ryding (Ecological Consultant)