

KFD ARCHITECTURE

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PRECAUTIONARY METHOD STATEMENT

1.0 – Introduction and Site Location

- 1.1** This Precautionary Method Statement is in support of a Discharge of Condition Application, submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council for the **excavation and creation of new wildlife pond with hardstanding and bunds constructed from the resulting spoil under reference DC/23/03731, approved in October 2023.**
- 1.2** The areas edged in red on the submitted existing location and proposed site plan measure approximately **3,999m²**. The additional owned by the applicant is edged in blue.
- 1.3** The proposed site forms part of an existing domestic residence, the seemingly narrow plot then expands North into a large square field, where the new pond will be sited (North-East corner) along with an orchard to the far West and vegetable / animal area in-between.
- 1.4** This Precautionary Method Statement sets out measures and works to reduce potential impact to mobile priority species during the construction phase. This statement should be read in conjunction with the **Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy.**
- 1.5** The site manager will ensure everyone working on the site for the duration of the works is made aware of potential for the site to support protected species, where to expect them and the procedure if any are encountered.
- 1.6** **A copy of this Ecological Precautionary Method Statement will be kept on site and available for inspection at all times.**

2.0 Mitigation Measures

- 2.1 Amphibians and Reptiles** – Heras fencing will be installed around the perimeter of the construction zone to prevent any vehicle or construction encroachment onto habitats beyond site.
- 2.2** Trenches or open excavations will be covered at the end of each working day, or include a means of escape such as sloping ramp for any wildlife that may fall in.
- 2.3** Waste will be stored in skips or removed from site at the end of the day, to prevent amphibians or reptiles seeking refuge.
- 2.4** All building materials will be stored off ground on pallets.
- 2.5** Provide toolbox talks to the contractors on commencement of the works, to provide advice on level of awareness and care when working on site.

- 2.6** All pipework shall be capped to prevent animals gaining access.
- 2.7** A scheme of progressive vegetation clearance to ensure that future works areas are clear of reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals prior to ground excavations. Gradual reduction of grassland and scrub vegetation to be carried out in accordance with the following:
- *Reduce (using handheld machinery) height of vegetation to 30cm working from the centre of the site towards the perimeter.*
 - *Leave undisturbed for 24 hours.*
 - *Further reduce height of vegetation- to ground level.*
 - *Maintain grassland at ground level height via regular cutting / strimming.*
 - *Always remove all cuttings ('arisings') from the site - to prevent them becoming refugia.*
 - *Woody vegetation, such as Ivy, growing at the base of walls or other features which are to be removed, should be cut by hand and carefully removed.*
 - *Piles of stone, bricks and other material should be dismantled by hand, and removed from site.*
- 2.8 Bats / Birds** – The existing boundary hedgerow will be retained as part of these proposals.
- 2.9** A Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) will be created along the line of any Root Protection Areas (RPA). Fencing will be maintained and inspected by the site manager regularly and repairs to damaged fencing rectified within 24 hours.
- 2.10** Protective fencing is only to be removed once all construction work is completed and final inspections have been made. Protection fencing must be in place before any works commence.
- 2.11** Construction activities will be restricted to the normal working day (7am to 7pm) to avoid any disturbance to nocturnal animals.
- 2.12** Any lighting required during construction works will be directed to where it is needed and not directed towards retained habitats such as trees and hedges.
- 2.13 Hedgehogs** – Clearance of vegetation and debris shall be loaded into skips or removed from site at the end of the day to prevent animals using as refuge, that could be injured / killed during the eventual removal.
- 2.14** Trenches or open excavations will be covered at the end of each working day, or include a means of escape such as sloping ramp for any wildlife that may fall in.
- 2.15** All trenches shall be inspected for presence of hedgehog or any other wildlife prior to commencement of concrete pours.
- 2.16** If any hedgehogs are found, these shall be relocated to a safe area of the landholding away from the demolition zone.