

## KFD ARCHITECTURE

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### **BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STATEMENT**

#### **1.0 – Introduction and Site Location**

- 1.1** This statement is in support of a Discharge of Conditions 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 **3,999m<sup>2</sup>**. 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.

#### **2.0 Planning Condition 4**

- 2.1** A full Ecological Report was carried out by Norfolk Wildlife Services and concluded the following:
  - *No negative impacts to nearby statutorily and non-statutorily designated nature conservation sites.*
  - *No negative impacts to valued habitats. There is high potential for overall site biodiversity enhancement by following a wildlife-oriented pond creation and management strategy.*
  - *No impacts to protected species.*
  - *A potential for a minor negative impact on local hedgehogs during the construction phase, which can be mitigated by fitting any open excavations with escape ramps and having precautionary methods of material storage and movement*
- 2.2** The Ecologist for Mid Suffolk submitted a consultation response to our application on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 stating, *'I am satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available for determination of this application, subject to securing biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures'* and the following pre-commencement condition was included in the decision notice.

**4. PRIOR TO SLAB LEVEL: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT LAYOUT**  
*Prior to works following excavation of the hereby approved development, a Biodiversity Enhancement Layout, providing the finalised details and locations of the enhancement measures contained within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Norfolk Wildlife Services., August 2023) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*

*The enhancement measures shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to first use and all features shall be retained in that manner thereafter.*

- 2.3** Section 3.0 below will outline the ecological enhancement measures proposed to secure biodiversity net gains, as outlined in Paragraph 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This statement shall be read in conjunction with the **Precautionary Method Statement**.

### **3.0 Biodiversity Enhancement Measures**

- 3.1** The creation of the **new pond will be an incredibly valuable resource for wildlife**, but the following guidelines as outlined in Norfolk Wildlife Services Ecological Report are to be followed:

- *Pond creation is recommended to commence between August and October, due to the ground being easiest to work;*
- *The use of hand tools or a toothed bucket digger is recommended to create an uneven finish which increases microhabitat diversity;*
- *The pond edges will be gently sloping (gradient no steeper than 1 in 10), and excavated spoil may be used to create a raised pond edge;*
- *It is not necessary for the pond depth to exceed 1.2m, so long as a natural pond lining can be achieved;*
- *The pond will encompass a range of depths including shallow areas less than 30cm deep;*
- *The pond will have an irregular shape;*
- *If a water source is required this will be rainwater or ground water only, but also not direct run-off from ditches or drains which could carry pollutants or nutrient loading;*
- *Avoid fish stocking;*
- *The pond will be stocked with native plant species only (e.g. common reed Phragmites*
- *australis) from a reputable source to avoid introducing non-native species or diseases.*

- 3.2** The retained boundary hedgerows shall be protected during the construction of the pond by creating a Construction Exclusion Zone to protect stems and root systems.

- 3.3 Mitigation measures to reduce potential impact to mobile priority species** during the construction phase are set out in the **Precautionary Method Statement**. This will ensure everyone working on the site for the duration of the works are aware of the potential for the site to support protected species, where to expect them and the procedure if any are encountered.

- 3.4 Timetable / Implementing** – The working methods will be adopted immediately from the offset of pre-construction / general site set-up.

- 3.5** Ecology mitigations will be implemented throughout the construction phase.

- 3.6** The developer / contractor / applicant will be responsible for implementing the mitigation works.

**3.7 Aftercare / Long Term Maintenance** – Ecology mitigations to be maintained in perpetuity.

**3.8** Post development of the pond, a set of management actions, prescribed over five years will be required to ensure establishment of the pond. These management action prescriptions are set out in Table 3 (Page 13 and 14) of the Ecological Report and can be seen in the snippet images below:

*Table 3: Management action prescriptions*

Ecological feature	Action	Implementation year (post development)	Timing	Details
Pond	Aquatic vegetation removal	Year 2 or 3 (depending on growth)	July - September	The optimum plant cover is between 60 and 85% of the surface area, therefore remove no more than a quarter of the aquatic plants present in any one cycle
	Silt removal	Year 5	September - November	Depending on siltation rate, remove no more than a quarter of the pond sediment every three to five years. Do not steepen the water's edge profile or reduce the extent of the drawdown zone
	Pond bank vegetation cutting	Year 2 or 3 (depending on growth)	October - February	To control vegetation such as nettle and bramble or shading shrubs and trees, cutting may be required. For wildlife this cutting is best done on a rotational basis so that no more than half the area is cut in any one year leaving part as an undisturbed refuge
	Management review	Year 5	April - September	Assessment of the pond to ensure it is functioning as expected as a wildlife pond. Review of management actions required if pond is not functioning as expected, using easily accessible information <sup>3</sup>