**Wildlife Management Plan**

**Description:**

A wildlife management plan to satisfy Condition 13 relating to planning application **DC/23/03826 Rewilding project including provision of woodland, construction of a wetland lake and angling lake and erection of anglers boat house / tractor shed**

**Site:**

Valley Farm, Valley Lane, Great Finborough, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 3BD

Report prepared by A Hart, Hartbuild Ltd

27 March 2024

A cartoon of a deer with antlers

Description automatically generated

**1 Introduction**

Planning permission was granted on 7 December 2023. Condition 13 in the planning requires that a Wildlife Management Plan is submitted and approved prior to commencement.

This report is to be read in the context of the wider submission and particular reference is made to:

* Proposed Lake Details
* Site Layout Plan
* Footpath Details
* Watercourse Connection
* Planting Your Own Trees (Woodland Trust Tree Care Guide)

**2 Footpath Safety Measures**

There is a distance of 7 meters from the nearest edge of the footpath to the top of the slope leading down to the Wetland Lake.

The footpath is clearly delineated by being closely mown with long meadow grass on either site. There is to be a 1.2m high post and rail fence constructed at the top of the slope closest (7m distance) to the footpath which will include signage at either end of the fence that states ‘Warning Steep Slope – Keep Off’.

A life ring is to be installed at the bottom of the slope.

**3 Lake Construction Details**

The extent and profile of the lakes is stated in the Proposed Lake Details document. It is likely that at least the lower lake will need to be lined because of anticipated ground conditions. The type of lining (on-site clay or rubber butyl) is to be kept open until groundworks commence. If possible the clay extracted from the upper lake will be used to line the lower lake. If this is not possible because of, for instance, there not being sufficient or high enough quality clay present, then a rubber butyl liner will be used.

The bunding will be constructed from hard packed clay extracted from the lakes and capped with 200mm of topsoil excavated from the lake areas. This will be planted with meadow grass.

Details of the watercourse connection is included in the Watercourse Connection document.

Marginal planting to the lakes is to include:

Myosotis scorpiodes – Water forget me not

Mentha aquatica – Water mint

Iris Pseudacorus - Yellow iris

Lythrum Salicaria - Loosestrife

Typha Minima - Bullrish

Lysimachia nummularia – Creeping Jenny

Carex pendula – Pendulous sedge

Oenanthe javanica – Variegated water dropwort

The immediate area surrounding the ponds will be planted with meadow grass which will be cut annually.

**4 Decking Information**

There will be a small area of decking to the lower lake, as shown in the Proposed Lake Details. This will be of timber, cantilever construction and 3m x 1.8m in size.

**5 Maintenance of Planting**

The meadow grass surrounding the ponds is to be mown annually after establishment, with just the paths being regularly mown.

Marginal planting to be maintained as per the recommendation from the suppliers, with some being cut back, and cuttings removed to reduce organic matter in the ponds, in the Autumn and others in the spring according to the species. Proper maintenance of marginal planting will improve the water quality of the lakes and encourage a healthier environment for wildlife.

As part of the wider context there are 1,750 native trees plus native hedging that have been planted in the land surrounding the lakes. These have been provided and contracted to as part of the Woodland Trust’s More Woods scheme.