

Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs)- Amphibians

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Prepared for: Edgefold Homes

Springside Road
Walmersley.

RE: REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES STATEMENT

Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAM's):

BACKGROUND

The PEA states:

“The desktop and field survey exercises indicate field ponds are located within 500m of the site. There is no aquatic breeding habitat associated with the site itself and sub optimal habitat for amphibians to be present.

An amphibian appraisal is not required for these species. A set of Reasonable Avoidance Measures are needed to support the application”.

The following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAM's) are to be implemented:

- 1) Prior to commencing works, the site manager or main contractor is to ensure that the RAM's are successfully implemented throughout development and in accordance with guidance documents to be kept on site at all times. Toolbox talks for amphibians and small mammals will be delivered directly by the site manager using published guidance.
- 2) No Ecologist supervision or attendance is required during site works unless a species of ecological significance is discovered. A copy of this report and supporting materials such as 'Amphibian ID Sheets' and 'on call' Ecologist contact details should be kept on the site and be available to refer to during site works.
- 3) Prior to any site works starting the developer/contractors should attend an ecological site induction, where the implications arising from the presence of amphibians in the local area and the need to implement the RAM's detailed in this report should be fully

detailed by the site manager. A stop works and escalation protocol will be included, ensuring that any unexpected findings are reported and assessed appropriately.

- 4) Winter hibernation/dormancy period for amphibians is generally accepted to run from November to February/March, with hibernation/dormancy for individual amphibians usually commencing following the first hard winter frost. Consequently, any work which is likely to result in the disturbance of a potential amphibian hibernation site should not be scheduled or undertaken during this period or during any periods of cold or frosty weather outside of this period when amphibians are likely to be hibernating/dormant. Should such works be required the site manager will formulate and implement appropriate measures to minimise the risks to hibernating amphibians.
- 5) Where practicable, the duration/timing of the works and implementation of RAM should encompass the period when most amphibians are considered likely to be at their breeding sites. Consequently, the risk of amphibians being adversely impacted by the works will be minimised.
- 6) Before any vegetation clearance and/or ground disturbance works commence at the site, the extent of works should be agreed by the appointed ecologist and the contractor.
- 7) The contractor and the appointed ecologist should work together to ensure that trees and hedgerows that are required to be retained in the area of works should be protected from direct impact and severance or asphyxiation of root systems. Any ground disturbance works should only take place at a minimum distance from individual trees. Staged cutting of vegetation (to a height of 15cm for a short period of time before fully removing to allow amphibians to escape) is required.
- 8) Terrestrial habitat protection measures, including the use of exclusion zones, should be implemented as deemed appropriate.

Clean Site Policy

- 9) The area of works, together with any on-site storage/lay down areas, should operate under a 'Clean Site' Policy. In effect, and as far as is practicable, the site should be kept clear of debris and materials stored off the ground on pallets or stillages to prevent amphibians from seeking shelter underneath or within them.

Discovering Amphibians On-Site

- 10) If at all possible, amphibian capture should always be carried out by an Appointed Ecologist or their Accredited Agent.
- 11) However, if ecological supervision is not possible on-site when an amphibian (other than Great Crested Newt GCN) is found, the contractor should place the amphibian/s into a secure, clean container/s lined with damp moss. If more than one amphibian species is found (other than GCN) they should be kept in separate secure, clean container/s lined with damp moss to avoid injury and/or predation. The Appointed Ecologist or their Accredited Agent should be contacted immediately to ensure that the amphibian species is correctly identified/recorded and for advice on where and how to release it (as deemed appropriate by the Appointed Ecologist).
- 12) The amphibian RAM's proposed do not allow GCN to be captured or removed from the site and released at another location (as personnel require a class survey licence to handle GCN). If GCN are found within the working area, works will cease and the Appointed Ecologist immediately contacted for advice on how best to proceed.
- 13) The landowner and main contractor will be responsible for adequately resourcing and ensuring the successful

implementation of the GCN/amphibian mitigation measures detailed above.