

METHOD STATEMENT

Protection of mammals and amphibians during construction work of 3No Bungalows at Gravel Bank Farm Caverswall Common Lane Staffordshire ST11 9EU

INTRODUCTION:

This method statement has been prepared in relation to condition 12 of Outline Planning Approval SMD/2022/0344.(Redevelopment of previously developed site for erection of up to 4No. bungalows) It provides precautionary working methods to avoid harm to protected species during demolition, construction and excavation works. It outlines measures such as sensitive demolition works, vegetation clearance, manual searches, and the provision of escape routes for animals trapped in excavations.

Prior to commencement of works, all site operatives will be made aware of the potential presence of mammals and amphibians within the site and its surrounding area, relevant legislation, and the required actions if animals are encountered.

The following avoidance measure will form part of the onsite CEMP which will be retained on site during the construction works.

REMOVAL OF EXISTING STRUCTURES:

All structures will be dismantled and removed by hand.

VEGETATION CLEARANCE:

To encourage any amphibians to move out of the working area, vegetation clearance will be undertaken in phases. Works will commence between March and June, clearance of the site will be completed before October. Any tall vegetation will be strimmed to a height of approximately 150 mm and then hand searched by for amphibians.

Cuttings are to be raked and removed immediately to deter animals from sheltering within them. After a period 48 hours a second cut to ground level is performed together with hand search for amphibians.

SITE STORAGE:

Storage of onsite materials will be kept to a minimum, pipes should have their ends covered overnight, where practical site materials will be stored on sheeting, in skips, and raised off the ground on pallets. Transporting/delivery of materials, movement of topsoils will be done during daylight hours.

EXCAVATIONS AND TRENCHES:

All open excavations and trenches must be checked each morning before work commences for trapped wildlife (e.g., amphibians, reptiles, hedgehogs).

If excavations cannot be backfilled or covered at the end of each working day, a means of escape, such as a broad wooden planks (scaffolding boards) are to be securely placed within the trench at a maximum 45-degree angle. Any trapped animals must be allowed to escape or be carefully removed and placed in a safe, suitable receptor habitat away from the works area.

LIGHTING:

All external lighting will be bat-friendly, conforming to the Institute of lighting professionals and Bat Conservation Trust. Detail of all external lighting will be provided for approval prior to installation as required in condition 17 SMD/2022/0344.

ECOLOGY ENHANCEMENT:

Ecology enhancement will be provided in accordance with Site Plan Drawing 1967-12.

Comprising of Bird boxes, Hedgehog boxes, Bat boxes, Bee Bricks and Wildflower Meadow will be provided towards the South Western corner of the site