



Kent Sussex Ecology Ltd
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Condition discharge document for Gravesham Borough Council application 20231115

INTRODUCTION

As part of approved Gravesham Borough Council application 20231115 (Mid Kent Golf Club), condition three stipulates the following:

No development shall take place (including any ground works or vegetation clearance) until a precautionary method statement for protected species (e.g., reptiles and nesting birds) has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The content of the method statement shall be produced by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and through liaison with the construction.

The sections below detail the method statement for protected species during the construction phase of the development. The author is a qualified (BSc) and CIEEM-accredited ecologist with over 15 years of experience in the field of ecology. It is considered that the agreed approach for both reptiles and breeding birds is sufficient to allow the discharge of condition three.

REPTILE PRECATUIONARY MITIGATION MEASURES

All species of reptile are afforded protection against killing and injury under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and are listed as priority species under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

From the commencement of works (including site clearance), habitat manipulation will be carried out by cutting the long grassland down to a height of c.250mm using handheld equipment during the herptile active season (March to September, inclusive). This will take place two weeks before groundworks begin.

Approximately 48 hours after the first cut, the vegetation will be cut down to a maximum of 150mm. The second phase should be undertaken in a directional manner, moving towards suitable areas of boundary habitat. The cuttings will be collected and removed.



During the construction phase, any trenches and excavations will be covered overnight and/or escape routes provided to prevent reptiles from being harmed or becoming trapped. Excavations will be checked each morning to ensure reptiles (or other terrestrial wildlife) have not become trapped.

BREEDING BIRDS PRECATUIONARY MITIGATION MEASURES

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) makes it illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird and to take damage or destroy the nest, while being built or in use.

Any work to vegetation that is suitable nesting habitat for birds, i.e., the scrub and small trees, should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season (March to August, inclusive). If vegetation needs to be removed during the breeding bird season, it is recommended that an experienced ecologist inspect the vegetation prior to works. If nesting birds are found to be present, works cannot take place until after the young are fully fledged.

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