David Leach Ecology Ltd.

Ecological Consultants

Land at the Street

West Knoyle

Wiltshire

Construction Method Statement.

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Bats

In accordance with Guidance Note 08/18 Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK. Bats and the built environment series, Bat Conservation Trust (London) & Institution of Lighting Professionals (Rubgy) (2018) a suitable lighting schemes and regimes will be implemented which will include:

- Extra care will be taken to ensure that external lights are kept to a minimum and will not illuminate bat access points or flight paths around buildings or hedges and trees which could be used by foraging or commuting bats.
- Any lights will be aimed to illuminate only the immediate area required by using as sharp a downward angle as possible.
- A shield or hood will be used to control or restrict the area to be lit and limit "light spillage" on the site.
- Security lights will be on motion sensors and on for a maximum of 1 minute.
- Lighting units will be of a maximum lighting colour temperature of 2700 K.

Reptiles & amphibians.

- Reptiles are all protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) from intentional killing, injury and selling. Actions which could predictably kill or injure reptiles may result in an offence.
- The measures below are designed to avoid harm to any reptiles which may be present.
    - The vegetation within the construction zone must be cut down carefully in stages, initially to 30cm and then to 50mm a week later. This must be done during the period March to October when reptiles are active. All cuttings must be removed to prevent reptiles using them as shelter. **During the second cut, an ecologist must be present who will check for reptiles and move any found to a safe area to the south of the site which has suitable reptile habitat.**
    - Vegetation on site must be maintained below 50mm to render it sub-optimal habitat for reptiles throughout the duration of works.
    - A 'buffer' area of a minimum of 2m between boundary hedgerows and scrub and the construction zone must be maintained at all times.
    - All construction and building materials must be stored on areas of hard standing or on raised pallets or sealed-based containers at least 5m away from suitable reptile habitat to prevent reptile colonisation during works.
    - Any footings must be excavated and back-filled overnight; if this isn't possible then earth ramps must be left in the trench to allow reptiles to easily climb out.

Alternatively if any foundation excavations left open at the end of a day will be covered over with plywood and the edges sealed with sand or soil.

- The site manager must check the footings at the start of each day to look for reptiles (and other wildlife) which could not get out of the footings. If any are found the ECoW must be informed and they will advise on how to proceed.

Birds

- Birds' nests, when occupied or being built, receive legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is highly advisable to undertake clearance of potential bird nesting habitat (such as hedges, scrub, trees, suitable outbuildings etc.) outside the bird nesting season, which is generally seen as extending from March to the end of August, although may extend longer depending on local conditions.
- Any trees and shrubs to be removed will be cut down by hand between September and the end of February to around 1m to remove potential nesting habitat.
- If there is absolutely no alternative to doing the work in during this period then a thorough, careful and quiet examination of the affected area must be conducted by a qualified ecologist before clearance starts. If occupied nests are present then work must stop in that area, a suitable (approximately 5m) stand-off maintained, and clearance can only recommence once the nest becomes unoccupied of its own accord.

Hedgehogs

- As a precautionary measure the following measures will be conducted.
  - Dense vegetation around the site will be checked for hedgehogs by an ecologist immediately prior to, and during vegetation clearance which must be done using hand tools, not machinery such as a motorized flail or Allen scythe.
  - The ruderals must be cleared between April and October to avoid disturbing hibernating hedgehogs.

Hedges and trees

- Heras fencing must be erected at least 2m away from the inner base of the hedges and trees around the site to protect the hedge and roots from damage and compaction by construction vehicles.
- Building materials must be stored away from hedges and trees to avoid root compaction.
- Heras fencing must be erected to create a tree root protection zone around the trees

to be retained. The distance of the root protection zone must be determined following British Standard 5837: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.

Good practice precautions.

- Any deep holes or footings must be back-filled overnight or if this isn't possible then earth ramps must be left in the trench to allow wildlife such as reptiles and hedgehogs to easily climb out. Alternatively any foundation excavations left open at the end of a day will be covered over with plywood and the edges sealed with sand or soil.
- Any chemicals or fuels that are to be stored on site will be in a locked compound. A bund will be created around the compound to avoid accidental spillages into surrounding areas.
- Concrete will be mixed off site and poured in a controlled manner.
- Materials will not be left lying loose anywhere on site.
- No off-loaded or pumping of any potential pollutant will be undertaken, at any time.
- Washing or cleaning of equipment will occur in a controlled manner to prevent run off into local watercourses.
- All waste materials on site will be put immediately into a skip, or vehicle, for removal from the site.
- The site manager must check the footings at the start of each day to look for reptiles (and other wildlife) which could not get out of the footings. If any are found the ECoW must be informed and they will advise on how to proceed.