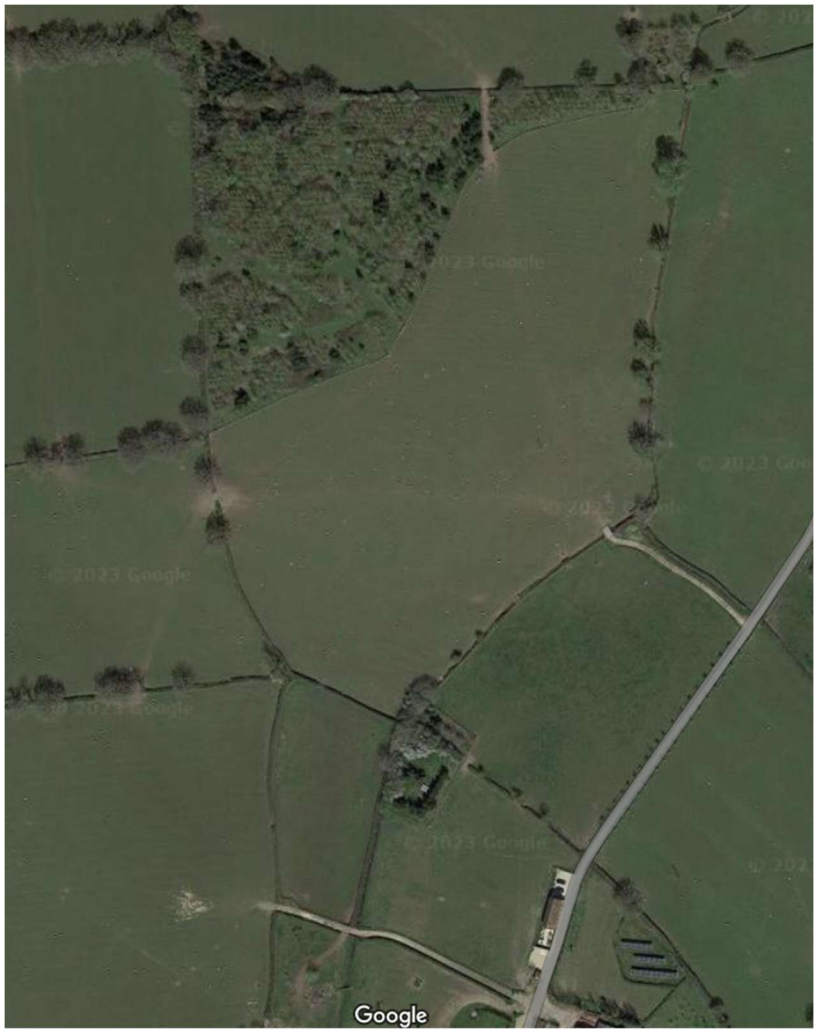
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Method of Work

GCN Ponds



Satellite overview of the site.

Ravenhurst Farm GCN Ponds

9th August 2023

Connor Stapleton-Goddard (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust)

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee no. 730536 and registered as a charity no. 266202. Registered office: Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1NJ.
(01380) 725670 | information@wiltshirewildlife.org | www.wiltshirewildlife.org
facebook.com/WiltsWild @WiltsWildlife

Introduction

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is being funded by Natural England's District Level Licencing scheme to create and restore Great Crested Newt (GCN) ponds throughout Wiltshire.

This method statement has been prepared to provide information for the creation of two GCN ponds at SU 03710 88940 and SU 03562 88625, near Minety (see 'Ravenhurst Farm GCN Ponds-Site Overview'). This project is scheduled to be delivered in Spring 2024 .

CDM roles and responsibilities

The work described in this Method of Work is not notifiable under 2015 CDM regulations (less than 500 person days, less than 30 work days) therefore an F10 document will not be submitted. Whether a project is notifiable or not, does not affect type, severity and likelihood of risks: therefore a CDM action plan in line with 2015 CDM regulation will be produced including a complete suite of practical risk assessments (and mitigation measures) for the different tasks within this project. This will be completed in close cooperation with an expert H&S officer to ensure all workers (paid and voluntary) will be able to work in a safe environment. Furthermore all parties and persons with a CDM role will be made completely aware of their responsibilities.

Waste Management

The value of works falls under the £300,000 threshold which would require a Site Waste Management Plan. However, consistent with good site husbandry we shall demonstrate that:

- Waste is minimised, and all waste is taken off site (unless agreed otherwise)

Environmental legislation and pollution control

The principal contractor (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust) shall undertake all works in a manner which ensures compliance with all relevant environmental and biosecurity legislation.

Spill kits will be readily available on site. GPP5 and PPG-5 (Pollution Prevention Guidelines part 5- now out of date) guidelines shall be included in the site file for reference in an emergency spill incident.

Any incident shall be reported promptly to the Environment Agency – Tel 0800 80 70 60.

Health and safety

Site safety, security and access

All workers and visitors on site will receive a site induction. This induction will include information on:

- Project objectives and design;
- Site hazards and risks, control measures and the project Works Method Statement;
- Specific dangers and considerations;
- Site designations, protected species e.g. water voles, bats, salmonids;

- Compulsory bio-security risks and control measures;
- Pollution control and the response to incidents;
- Emergency procedures.

A daily register will be held to account for everyone being on site.

The site is on private land with 2 main access routes along the drives to the north and east (see 'Ravenhurst Farm GCN Ponds-Site Overview'). Access for staff and deliveries will be via the northern route. Access to the northern pond will be off the main farm drive and through a 5-bar gate to the south. Similarly access to the southern pond will via a track and 5-bar gate, close to the main farm property. The site access track is private, but a banksman will be present for the movement of plant machinery to ensure safety of site operatives and any other personnel. In order to reduce the risk of accident and damage to the ground and to people on site, vehicle access to the project will be restricted to the distribution and delivery of tools, equipment and plant. Vehicles will be limited to 5mph. Construction site signs will also be erected at the site entrances.

Services search

A full services search will be carried out before the work commences. All workers on site will be informed about any services that are present on site (overhead cables as well as services in the ground).

H&S file and policy

A Health and Safety file is kept on site as an active document and updated accordingly with risk assessments, site safety sheets, induction sheets and current method statement. Any changes to design shall be entered according to CDM 2015.

Any accident that occurs will be recorded in the accident book held at the registered office in Devizes and, if regulations demand reported to the HSE.

In case of emergency dial 999

Nearest Hospital:

Great Western Hospital, Swindon, SN3 6BB

PPE

Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is to be worn whenever required by risk assessments. The minimum requirement is expected to include steel toe-capped boots, Hi-Visibility jackets and hard hats. Heavy-duty gloves will also be supplied and will be the required PPE for most tasks. Ear defenders will be provided if noise levels exceed 80dB and their use will be mandatory at above 85dB.

Machinery

All equipment for these works is supplied by the contractor and are routinely serviced and inspected (according to regulations). Only staff trained to use designated plant shall operate machinery.

Proposed Works

Task	Description	Resources Required
Creation of two ponds	An 8 tonne low-pressure excavator (or other appropriate plant) will be used to create two ponds on the site. All three ponds will be roughly ovate, approximately 25m long by 20m at their widest. Each will be no more than 1.5m at its deepest (see 'Ravenhurst Farm GCN Ponds-Representitive Cross Section and ,Ravenhurst Farm GCN Ponds-Northern Pond, for detailed design drawings and indicative cross sections). All spoil will be deposited outside the floodplain within the field boundaries, around the margins of each pond (see 'Ravenhurst Farm GCN Ponds-Representitive Cross Section'). Height will not exceed 1.5m above present soil level, and slopes will not exceed 1:5 to maximize stability. Approximately 25m of the hedge along the western bank of the ditch at the southern pond will be removed to make space for the pond	Tools and Materials: • 8 tonne tracked excavator • Chainsaw • Tracked or wheeled dumper