

EXTRACTED SUMMARY & PLAN

from

PHILIP PARKER ASSOCIATES ECOLOGY REPORT

FOR SUBMISSION TO LDF REPRESENTATIONS

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Land adjacent to Manor Farm Barns, Sluice Road, Denver

7.0 SUMMARY

- 7.1 An amphibian and reptile survey of a proposed development site adjacent Manor Farm Barns, Denver has found a large population of great crested newts (centred around an existing on site pond) and a small population of both viviparous lizard and grass snake on the adjacent field. Surveys have identified that the pond appears to be gradually drying out due to a lack of water and management, whilst the field (not grazed in recent years) is becoming courser with development of ruderal vegetation. Without continued management, over a short period of time the field would continue to degenerate, scrubbing up and losing much of the value for both great crested newts and reptiles and ultimately the populations could disappear.
- 7.2 The original proposed development (as shown on Roberts Malloy Associates Ltd Fig 12) would have had a significant impact on the species and in particular the impact on great crested newts (through impact on the pond and separation of the aquatic and terrestrial habitat) and will require an EPS licence. The level of impact is likely to prove unacceptable to Natural England when applying for this licence.
- 7.3 An alternative design has been agreed that results in the loss of the original pond, moving the housing slightly closer to the road, but maximising the block of terrestrial habitat to the south. This would require the creation of new ponds that will maintain water throughout the year and the translocation of the existing amphibian and reptile populations. The ponds would need to be constructed 1-2 years prior to any translocation commencing to allow them to develop invertebrate populations on which the newts would feed.
- 7.4 Other mitigation/enhancement proposals will need to be included within the development proposals.
- Fencing of the retained newt area from the housing;
 - Management of the grassland to remove areas of developing ruderal vegetation and maximize its foraging potential;
 - Creation of refugia at locations within the site.
 - Restrictions to prevent impacts of residents and cats on the protected area.



Figure 10 – Proposed reptile and amphibian mitigation

6.6 In this design, the original pond would be lost and re-created as a complex of ponds to the south of the housing. The ponds would be lined and take surface run-off from the rising field area to the south. The ponds would be designed to a variety of depths and sinuous margins, and established with locally indigenous wetland plants to ensure appropriate great crested newt breeding conditions.