

District Level Licensing

Pond Creation Method Statement

Hoodlands Farm

Site Summary

The proposed site lies within the boundary of Hoodlands Farm located north of the A616 in Langsett, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S36 4GY (at the grid reference, SE 21545 00642). The site area falls within a SSSI Risk Zone due to its proximity to Little Don Stream (situated 590m from the proposed pond site) and Spring Meadows, Aldermen's Head and Cow Croft Meadows (situated 900m from the proposed pond site). The site is classed as Arable and Horticultural and comprises a mix of Neutral and Improved Grassland. Bridge Lane Brook runs from east to west 20m south of the proposed site, which is lined by small stands of mature broadleaf trees. The proposed site lies within a field currently utilised as hay meadow, which is mob grazed by sheep once a year for one week.

The proposed development is to construct one wildlife freshwater pond (centred on the grid reference SE 21545 00642).

Pond Specification

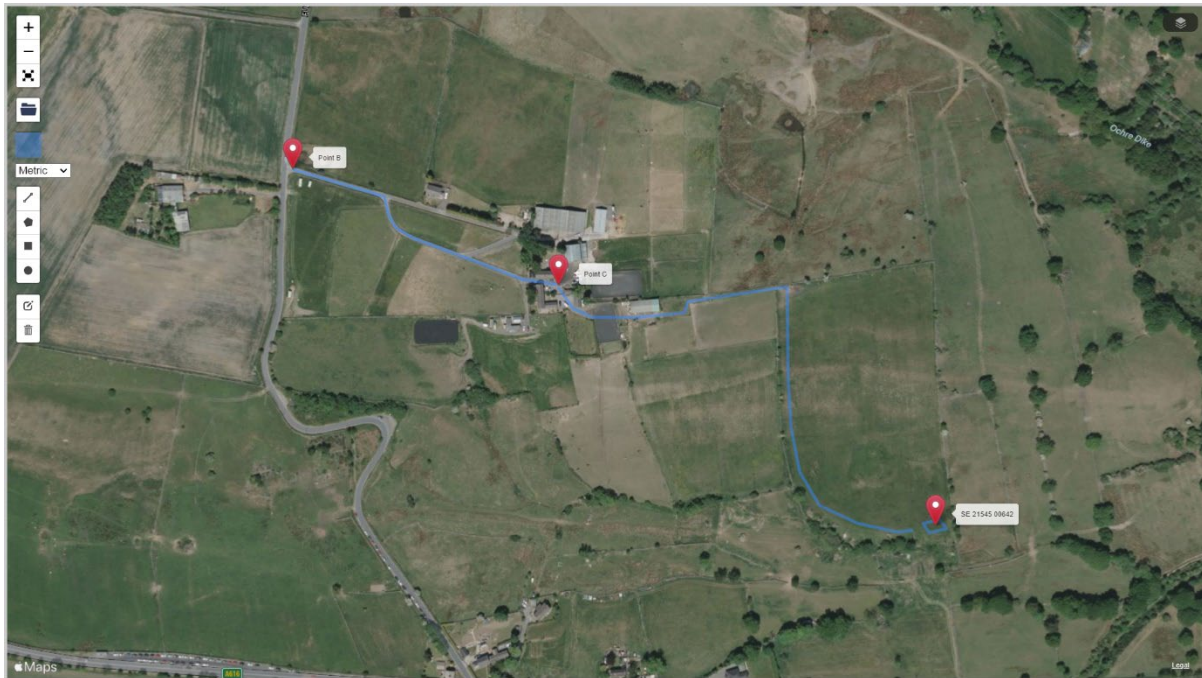
The pond will be constructed in accordance with the specification provided by Natural England, which is as follows;

- Surface area between 150m² and 1000m² – On this site, the pond will be constructed to 150m²;
- Maximum central depth of 1m to 3.5m; - This particular pond will have a variable depth of 1-1.5m.
- Variable bank gradients of 1:10, or ideally 1:20
- A range of depths across the pond;
- Located in areas of good quality terrestrial habitat;
- Terrestrial buffer zone of at least 3m around each pond (to be left untouched);
- Ponds constructed as part of a cluster (near to existing ponds);
- Absence of shading on the south side;
- Good water quality, with negligible run-off from agriculture and roads.

Site Access

The Drop off point for the excavator has been previously agreed with the plant hire company to be at the farmyard at Hoodlands Farm (see Point C below). This drop off point will be accessed through Fulshaw Lane (see Point B below).

The excavator to be used for the planned pond creation works will be an 8 tonne 360° excavator. This will be tracked to the pond creation location (SE 21545 00642) via the farm access tracks shown by the route below under supervision from a project staff members.



Method Statement

- Arrive at Hoodlands Farm and offload 8 tonne excavator in the farm yard. Track the machine to pond location via the access track shown above.
- Measure & mark out the dimensions of the pond surface area to match with the planning permission application using marking posts & spray.
- Cat-scan the outlined area to determine presence/absence of services with Cat-scanner & Genny to complement the previously carried out Cornerstone utilities search.
- Strip away the top soil within the marked-out area to establish sub-soil depth. Pile the top soil separately to other spoil during the pond construction process.
- Begin the excavation process of the ponds keeping them in line with the Natural England District Level Licensing Pond creation specification (as noted above). The site supervisor will monitor this process to ensure the pond is created to specification.
- Once the pond creation process is completed, the remaining spoil will be graded in around the work footprint area and be used alongside logs & brash (brought in from a previous site) to create the hibernaculum required for the pond creations (1m x 2m hibernacula size, x 2 per pond).

- Excavator will be tracked back along the above shown access route back to the farm yard for the pre-arranged pick up with the plant hire company.
- A 3m perimeter around the pond border will be marked out and a standard post & wire stock fencing (double barb top wire) will be installed along this perimeter by project staff members to eliminate any potential grazing pressures.