

Calcareous Grassland Translocation Method Statement

Site: Princewood Rd, Corby, Northants

Date: 21st February 2017

Prepared For:

Storefield Aggregates Ltd
Storefield Rd
Rushton
Northamptonshire
NN14 1RN

Prepared By:

Jonathan Tye Consulting
252 Rockingham Rd
Kettering, Northants
NN16 9AL

Telephone:

Mob: 07944 692721

LI: 01536 516269

Email: jonathantye@btopenworld.com



Storefield 
AGGREGATES LIMITED

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1	Terms of Instruction	3
1.2	The Site	3
2.	BACKGROUND	3
2.1	Donor Area.....	3
3.	PROPOSED TRANSLOCATION.....	3
4.	METHOD STATEMENT	3
5.	REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN FENCE	5
5.1	Fence removal and re-installation	5
6.	PROTECTED SPECIES.....	5
6.1	Great Crested Newts.....	5
6.2	Reptiles.....	5
6.3	Nesting Birds.....	5
7.	MANAGEMENT	6
	APPENDIX 1: SITE LOCATION PLAN.....	8
	APPENDIX 2: REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN FENCE DRAWINGS.....	9

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Terms of Instruction

- 1.1.1 Jonathan Tye BSc (Hons) ACIEEM was instructed by Storefield Aggregates Ltd to prepare a suitable method statement in relation to the translocation of calcareous grassland from a previously allocated receptor area to an alternative receptor area at the same site.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The site is located within towards the north of the Earlstrees Industrial Estate. The proposed development area lies approximately 150m north of Princewood Rd, Corby, Northants. The National Grid Reference of the centre of the area is SP 88432 91521.
- 1.2.2 The majority of the site currently comprises of bare soil. The site is bordered by mature woodland to the north along with rough grassland fields. Patches of scrub and ruderal vegetation are present along its boundaries.
- 1.2.3 A site location plan is presented at Appendix 1.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Donor Area

- 2.1.1 The calcareous grassland previously translocated in 2009 cannot be retained in its current location due to the requirement to extend the operational area of the landfill site. The current receptor area is divided from the operational area by a reptile and amphibian fence.

3. PROPOSED TRANSLOCATION

- 3.1.1 It is proposed that all calcareous grassland species will be soil stripped and translocated to a suitable receptor site. Any areas of low quality grassland will also be stripped and translocated to the donor site to replicate the structure and arrangement of species within the donor area.

4. METHOD STATEMENT

- 4.1.1 As the current receptor area will no longer have the capacity for the calcareous grassland it is propose that suitable mitigation will involve the translocations of the calcareous grassland turfs from the donor area displayed on Figure1.

Figure 1. The donor area



4.1.2 The proposed receptor area is located approximately 250m East of the donor area. the donor area measures approximately 800m² which is equal to the size of the receptor area.

4.1.3 The receptor area is located on a south facing slope with the gradient of the batter at approximately 45°. The receptor area is displayed on Figure 2.

Figure 2. The Receptor Area



- 4.1.4 The receptor area comprises of bare subsoil with no grass species or any other vegetation present.
- 4.1.5 The translocation of grassland will be completed using a tracked excavator with a tooth bucket and a preferable bucket width of 2m.
- 4.1.6 Top soil will be spread over the subsoil within the entire area of the subsoil to a depth of 40cm.
- 4.1.7 The turfs should be removed to a depth of approximately 40cm to ensure that all root systems remain intact and transported across to the receptor area. All turfs must be transplanted immediately after stripping to ensure the turfs are not stored following cutting.
- 4.1.8 The receptor areas surfaced is to be prepared by shallow scarification which can be implemented using a toothed bucket on an excavator.
- 4.1.9 The turfs are to be systematically placed onto the receptor surface under the supervision and instruction of the ecological clerk of works to ensure that the turfs are at the same configuration as the donor area.
- 4.1.10 The turfs will be placed to ensure they are in the same direction as previous within donor area and will be securely placed to ensure no gaps are present at the turfs edges, should any gaps form then these will be filled with soil from the donor area.
- 4.1.11 The stripping and translocation operations should ideally be undertaken in spring or early autumn, when it is relatively warm and damp. The translocations are not to occur in wet conditions when the soil may be waterlogged or during cold weather periods when the soil is frozen.

5. REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN FENCE

5.1 Fence removal and re-installation

- 5.1.1 A reptile and amphibian fence is present alongside the donor area which was installed as part of mitigation for European protected species. As the fence divides the current operational area from the donor site the proposals include the repositioning of the fence.
- 5.1.2 In order for the excavator to obtain access to the donor area the fence will be lowered to allow access to the machine. On completion of the stripping works the fence will be removed under supervision of the ecological clerk of works, hand searches will be carried out throughout the trench, backfill and material.
- 5.1.3 Following completion of the soil stripping and fence removal operations the fence will be installed at the location displayed on the drawing at Appendix 2.
- 5.1.4 The fence installation will be supervised by the ecological clerk of works and pre works hand searches will be undertaken before any ground disturbance occurs. All fencing operations will be undertaken with the great crested newt mitigation guidelines.

6. PROTECTED SPECIES

6.1 Great Crested Newts

- 6.1.1 During previous surveys in 2016 presence of great crested newts was confirmed in a single water body located approximately 100m to the West of the donor area.
- 6.1.2 No soil stripping or other ground disturbance works are to be undertaken during the amphibian hibernation and dormancy period.
- 6.1.3 Reasonable avoidance measures are to be implemented when soil stripping which involve pre works inspections, supervision by the ecological clerk of works and hand searches' where required.
- 6.1.4 Should any great crested newts be discovered during these operations then works will stop immediately and the great crested newts will be translocated to the receptor area adjacent to the hibernacula and waterbody.

6.2 Reptiles

- 6.2.1 The ecological clerk of works will undertake pre works inspections of any natural refugia e.g. deadwood, stone piles etc. The ecological clerk of works will provide supervision at all times during the stripping operations and carry out hand searches' where required.
- 6.2.2 Any reptiles discovered during the stripping operations will be translocated to the receptor area.

6.3 Nesting Birds

- 6.3.1 Nesting bird inspections are to be undertaken by the ecological clerk of works within the grassland prior to its removal.
- 6.3.2 Should any evidence of breeding or nesting be observed then works will not commence until the nesting activity is complete.

7. MANAGEMENT

- 7.1.1 During establishment of the grassland, management should be similar to that of the proposed grassland areas within the site. This will include spot treatment with a selective herbicide to any noxious and broadleaved weeds. Any bare patches or gaps at turf edges will be enhanced with supplementary seeding with a suitable seed mix.
- 7.1.2 Once established the translocated grassland would be subject to the same management as proposed for the other grassland areas within the ecological mitigation plan (EMP) (2016) for the site.
- 7.1.3 The EMP proposes a programme of mowing for years 1-2 and long term management by introduction of sheep grazing. All mowing works undertaken will include the removal of the arisings to ensure a dense sward is achieved.

REFERENCES

Crofts, A. & Jefferson, R.G. (1999). *The lowland Grassland Management handbook (2nd edition)*. English Nature, Peterborough.

English Nature (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*

Lockhart Garratt Ltd (2017) *Ecological Management Plan* , Hildreth, J. Corby, Northants.

**APPENDIX 1:
SITE LOCATION PLAN**



