

Sam Briggs
Barratt David Wilson Southampton
Tollbar House
Tollbar Way
Hedge End
Southampton
SO30 2UH

12 March 2024

784-B065852 – MANOR FARM, DENVILLES – SITE WALKOVER

Introduction

Tetra Tech were commissioned by Bargate Homes on 27th February 2024 to conduct a walkover of Newgate Lane East, hereafter known as ‘the site’. The purpose of this report is to detail the findings of the site walkover to address comments from the Local Authority Ecologist in relation to Havant Borough Council application **APP/24/00032 – Engineering works to reconfigure existing drainage ponds, Land East of Manor Farm Close, Havant**. The consultee comment states,

‘I have no overriding ecological concerns with the proposed drainage basin modifications. However, the existing basins are now well-established and may support valuable semi-natural habitats and protected and notable species may occur. I would recommend that an ecological statement is provided, by a suitably qualified person, to provide details of the potential impacts of the proposed works and any avoidance and mitigation deemed necessary. I would also like to see details of proposed landscape seeding/planting’.

The proposed works included the reconfiguration of the banks of two Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) basins and the subsequent relocation of three concrete headwalls¹.

¹ Pond Planning Layout. MJA Consulting, Drawing Number: 4527-MJA-SW-XX-DR-C-702, Rev P1.

The following report summarises the results of the assessment completed on 7th March 2024 by Senior Ecologist Ben Cooke BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM.

The weather conditions during the survey included scattered cloud, a moderate breeze with a temperature of approximately 8°C.

Site Walkover

Habitats

The site comprised sections of two vegetated SuDS basins bordered by areas of managed grassland, hedgerow planting and a gravel footpath (Photographs 1 and 2). The vegetated areas of the basins and surrounding grassland margins were species-poor and dominated by a combination of perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and white clover *Trifolium repens*. The inundated areas within the basins themselves contained soft-rush *Juncus effusus* and hemlock water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*.

Photograph 1: Northernmost SuDS basin



Photograph 2: Southernmost SuDS basin and adjacent eastern habitat



No evidence of non-native plant species were identified within the site.

Protected and Notable Species

The areas of denser vegetation along the banks and within the basins themselves were considered to offer low ecological value for commuting and / or foraging herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles). The inundated areas of the basins were also considered suitable for breeding amphibians including great crested newts (GCN), with a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment of the two basins scoring 0.59 (below average) for the northern basin and 0.60 (average) for the southern basin. The hedgerow planting adjacent to the SuDS were considered to offer suitable habitat for nesting birds.

The site was considered to have no potential for other protected or notable species, other than those mentioned above. In addition, no evidence of protect and / or notable species were observed during the site assessment.

Mitigation and Enhancements

Mitigation

To reduce and avoid the likelihood of an offence being committed, it is recommended that working methods and precautionary measures must be implemented as follows:

- All site operatives, including contractors and sub-contractors will receive a briefing prior to works commencing (toolbox talk) by a suitably qualified ecologist (i.e., holding a Natural England licence for GCN or an accredited agent under such a licence).
 - The toolbox talk will include:
 - The potential presence of GCN on site;
 - Legislation and ecology of GCN;
 - Identification of GCN;
 - Which specific structures and habitats to be cautious of; and
 - What to do if GCN or other amphibians are found during works.
- A suitably qualified and licensed ecologist will supervise all vegetation removal to check for herpetofauna. Areas of the site deemed unsuitable including areas of bare ground and hard standing will not need to be hand searched prior to works.
- No development works will be permitted within the site until suitable areas of the site (grassland) have been strimmed to 150 mm and subsequently hand searched comprising a fingertip search undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist. All arisings should either be left in situ on site; and
- All works will only be undertaken in daylight hours and in conditions of 5°C and above.

In the unlikely event a GCN is discovered, all works must cease and advice sought from any named Tetra Tech ecologists detailed below and NE.

Should any other species of herpetofauna be found during the remainder of the works, all activity in proximity to the individual must cease and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted for further advice.

Enhancement

In line with the consultee comments, it is recommended that the reconfigured banks as shown within the associated plan¹ are seeded with a species rich mix seed, containing native species of local provenance suitable for the basin conditions.

Grass seed used for re-seeding in the pond's draw area will be a mix suitable for the wet condition it is expected to experience, such as river plain/ water meadow grass seed containing native species of local provenance such as Emorsgate EM8 Meadow Mixture for Wetlands. This

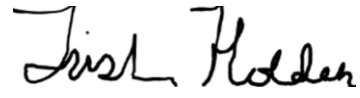
seed mix comprises 80 % slow growing grasses and 20 % native wildflower seed. Seed will be sown at the appropriate time of year when the ground temperature will be high enough for germination i.e., between April and October.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Cooke'.

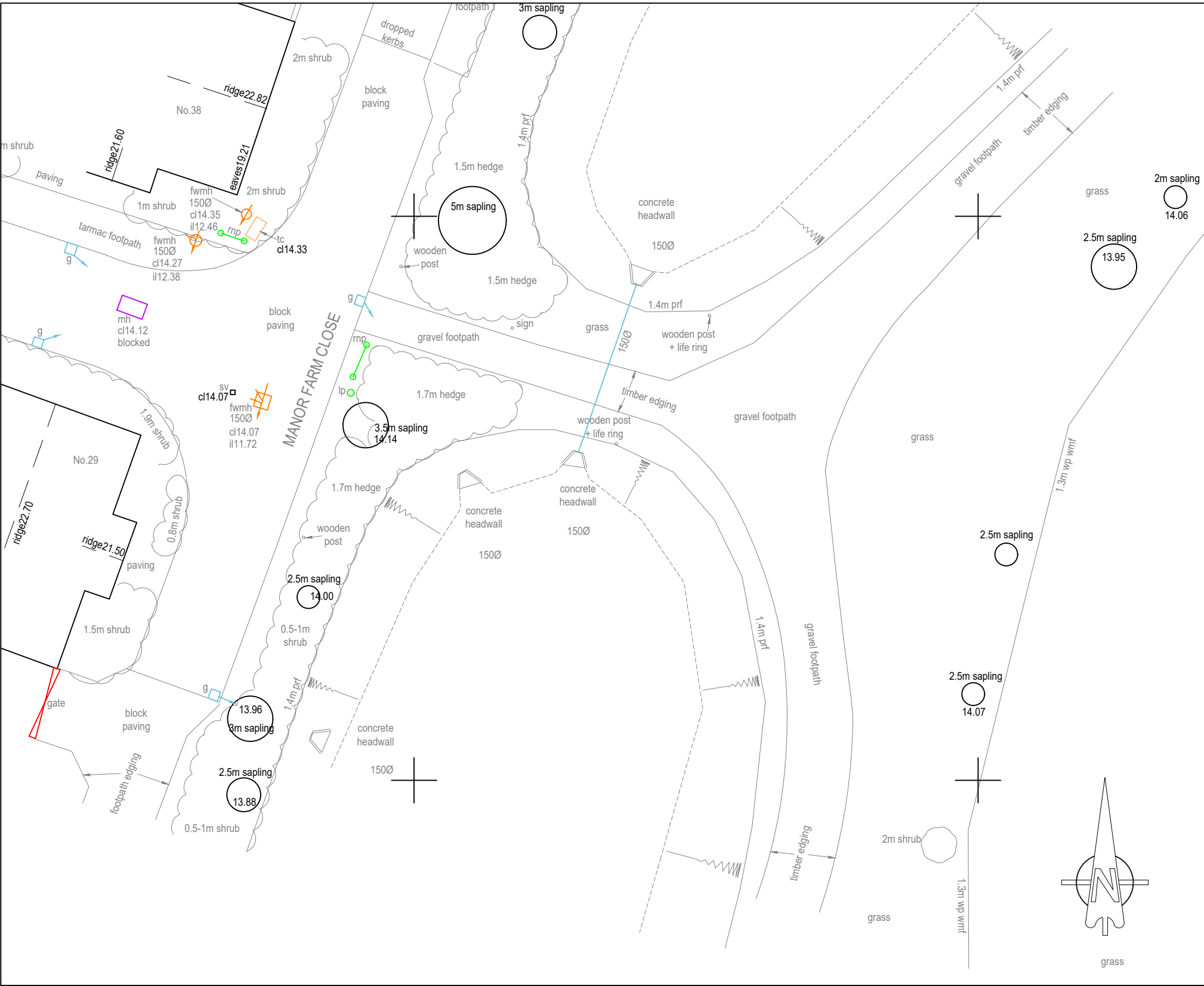
Ben Cooke BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM

Senior Ecologist

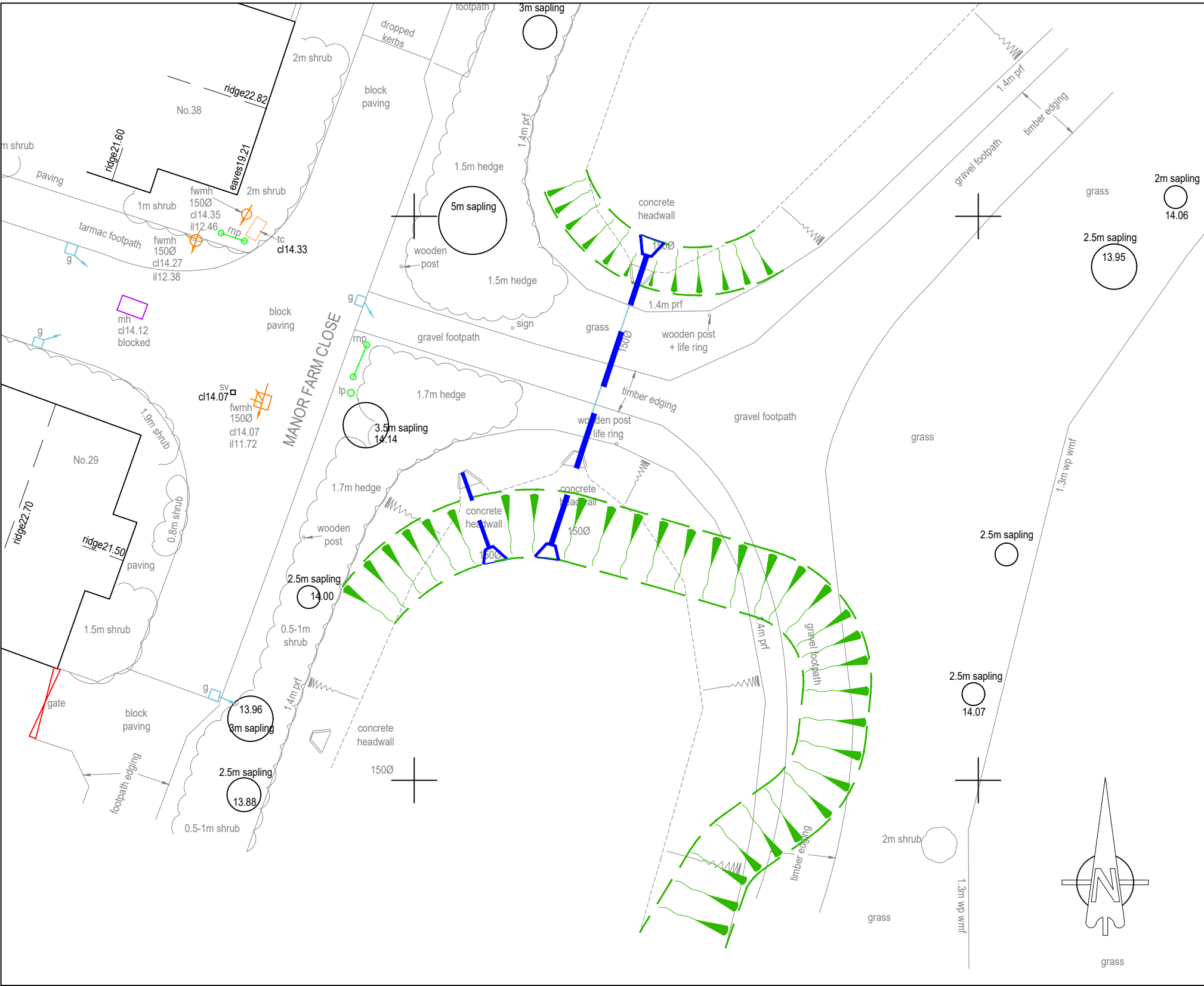
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Holden'.

Trish Holden BSc MSc MCIEEM

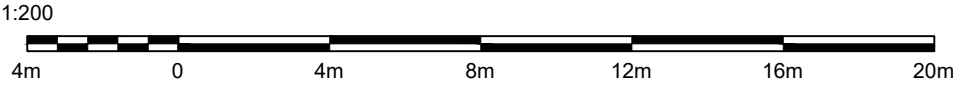
Principal Ecologist



ORIGINAL POND CONFIGURATION
Scale 1:200



AMENDED POND CONFIGURATION
Scale 1:200



P1	07.06.23	First issue for comment	KTG		AMc	
REV. No.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN		CHECKED	
Client	 BARRATT DEVELOPMENTS PLC		MJA CONSULTING CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS Ipsum Court, 24 The Quadrant, Abingdon Science Park, Abingdon Oxon, OX14 3YS Tel: 01235 555173 Email: mail@mjaconsulting.co.uk 			
Project	Manor Farm Denvilles					
Title	Pond planning layout		Scale: 1:200@A2		Status: PRELIMINARY	
			Drawn: KTG	Project Engineer: AMc	MJA Project No: 4527	Date: 05/06/23
			Drawing Number: 4527-MJA-SW-XX-DR-C-702			