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**PRECAUTIONARY METHOD OF WORKING
PROPOSED PENSTOCK AND WEIR**

**INDURENT PARK
LLANWERN
NEWPORT
NP19 4QZ**

Prepared for: Indurent Management Limited

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Report Reference: JN00741/TN01 REV01

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to set out a Precautionary Method of Working (PMW) for the creation of a new weir and penstock at the northern end of the reen running through Indurent Park in Newport.



Figure 1: Site Location Plan

- 1.2 Works will be undertaken to install these two features in order to control the water levels within the reen more effectively. This will include earthworks to two relatively small sections of the reen on both banks, one to install a weir and one to install the penstock. Vegetation within this section will need to be cleared as part of the preparatory works.
- 1.3 Survey work of the site was carried out in November 2024 to re-confirm that no water voles *Arvicola amphibius* were using this part of the reen. No burrows, food caches or latrines were identified.
- 1.4 The Project Manager will ensure that anyone undertaking construction works on the site (including sub-contractors) is made aware of the potential for the site to support nesting birds and water voles. This information will include where to expect them, their protected status and the procedure to follow in the event that nesting birds or water voles are discovered during works. Where applicable this advice will be given through site inductions, toolbox talks or similar. A copy of this Precautionary Method of Working will be kept on site and available for inspection at all times. The document must be read and applied in conjunction with the approved Method Statement for the works MS-004-24102024.

Toolbox Talk

- 1.5 The details of this PMW will be presented to all operatives working on the site through a Toolbox Talk prior to the commencement of works. The Toolbox Talk will be specific to the time of year works are undertaken and will be delivered by a suitably experienced ecologist. The toolbox talk will include guidance on:
- protected species which are present/could be encountered, including identification;
 - what to do should any protected species be found;
 - good working practices; mitigation methods and measures; and
 - what is and is not permitted (including potential legal consequences of not adhering to the PMW).

General

- 1.6 The following general precautions should be adhered to at all times, where possible.
- Works must be carried out at day-time temperatures above 5°C;
 - There will be no lighting used to facilitate the works;
 - There will be no working during dusk or dawn; and
 - No hazards must be left overnight, and any holes/trenches left overnight must have escape routes installed to prevent the trapping of wildlife. Excavations will be inspected first thing in the morning, should a protected species be found in an excavation an ecologist must be contacted immediately for advice.

Birds

- 1.7 Suitable breeding bird habitat includes some of the scrub growth along the reens.
- 1.8 If vegetation clearance is required during the breeding season (March-August inclusive), then a suitably experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will supervise the works and carry out a nesting bird check on all suitable habitats to be removed. If a nest is subsequently identified, then an exclusion zone will be implemented and works within the area will not be allowed to commence until nesting has ceased.
- 1.9 Following the nesting bird check, clearance works may need to be supervised by the Ecologist, if they deem it necessary.

Water voles

- 1.10 A suitably qualified and licenced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECW) must make an inspection of the area to be cleared immediately prior to the start of works.

- 1.11 If field signs such as burrows, food caches or latrines are found present, the works cannot proceed. If no burrows are found present, vegetation must be cut to knee height above water and ground level in the first instance. All cuttings must be removed.
- 1.12 The ECW must then make another inspection of the area.
- 1.13 Following this, vegetation may be removed to ground or water level. All arisings must be removed.
- 1.14 If works are then not started immediately, a monthly inspection must be made and additional cutting be carried out if vegetation re-growth has occurred. This will not require the presence of the ECoW, although one can be on site if required.
- 1.15 Works to install the weir must ideally be carried out before the end of March 2025.
- 1.16 If water voles are found present at any time during the works, then work must cease immediately, and advice sought from a licensed ecologist.

Hand and Destructive Searches

- 1.17 Hand searches comprise the dismantling and removal of potential refuges by hand. This will be undertaken prior to each phase of vegetation removal.
- 1.18 Destructive searches comprise the careful stripping of potential refuge areas or habitat piles that could not be easily dismantled by hand (i.e., larger/heavier/partially buried/labour intensive refugia). Where possible, stripping of these areas will first be undertaken with use of non-mechanical hand tools, followed by machinery for any remaining areas.

Ecological Management and Pollution Prevention

- 1.19 Ecological Management at this site largely revolves around the prevention of pollution and ensuring the footprint of the works stays as small as possible. Measures laid out in the Method Statement for the works largely lay out how this will be achieved. A temporary bund will be installed and the water will be over-pumped. In order to protect aquatic invertebrates, the pump must not be installed directly in the open water, but either banded by sandbags or fitted with a fine wire mesh, or both. The mesh must be checked regularly to ensure it is not being blocked by debris.
- 1.20 Pollution prevention measures must include:
- A spill kit (240l) including all necessary equipment must be located in a designated place, the foreman must check this daily and all workers on site must know its location at all times and be trained how to use it;
 - A perimeter fence must be erected in order to keep vehicle movements in particular contained to as small an area as possible;
 - For containment of sediment, straw bales, mats or similar measures must be used in the watercourse;

- During wet periods, consideration must be given to the installation of mats for vehicles and machinery to track on, in order to avoid excess churning up of the banks;
- Works must stop during periods of high rainfall;
- No materials will be stored within 12m of the watercourse;
- No refuelling to take place within the works area; and
- Measures for the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health have been detailed in the method statement, following these measures will also ensure that adverse impacts on ecology are avoided.

Decommissioning

- 1.21 The works described above are temporary. The weir and penstock are therefore due to be removed at the appropriate time. As water voles are in the process of colonising the area, it is of paramount importance that survey work is carried out prior to the removal, in order to ascertain to what level water voles have become established and what working methods need to be employed to ensure no adverse impacts occur. Supervision by an Ecological Clerk of Works during the actual works is also likely to be required, the precise measures to be followed will need to be informed by the aforementioned survey work.