Proposed Development at CCP Building Products Ltd, Llay Road, Llay, Wrexham – Ecology Toolbox Talk

Why is a Toolbox Talk needed?	▶ It is a requirement of the **Great Crested Newt Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs)**. ▶ There are legally protected species present on/ near the work site – nesting birds, Badger, and possibly Great Crested Newt and Grass Snakes. ▶ Non-native invasive plants have been recorded close to the site. ▶ It is possible that you may come into contact with these animals/ plants; it is important that you know what to do if this happens. Remember individuals can be found liable for any offence under the legislation detailed below. You are responsible for your own actions. ▶ The toolbox talk provides information on how to identify certain species and what to do if you find them. It also details actions that should be taken in the event that a Great Crested Newt, Grass Snake, Badger sett or active bird nest is found on the work site.

GENERAL

General ecological protection measures	▶ A temporary protective fence will be installed along the foot of the slope to the north of the work site. **No access/ storage of materials/ construction work, etc will be allowed beyond this fence**. ▶ All spoil from excavations and rubble should be removed from the site on the same day. If this is not possible, it must be placed in a skip or similar. All materials brought onto the site should be stored on hard-standing. ▶ Best practice measures to prevent pollution must be implemented. ▶ Refer to the Great Crested Newt RAMs Method Statement, Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report for further details on ecology matters.

GREAT CRESTED NEWT

Legal Protection	▶ The Great Crested Newt is protected under both (European) and British law. The legislation applies to all life stages, including eggs, larvae, juveniles and adults. ▶ It is illegal to handle, injure/ kill and or disturb any Great Crested Newt. It is also illegal to damage or destroy Great Crested Newt habitat. ▶ Breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5000 per offence and prison sentences of up to six months.
Reasonable Avoidance Measures	▶ Due to the potential presence of this species on site non-licensed Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) are required. The RAMs entail a working protocol that must be adhered to in order to avoid/ minimise potential impacts on Great Crested Newts and will be supervised by the Ecologist.
Identifying a Great Crested Newt	▶ This sub-section of the document is provided for reference in the event that any amphibians are found on site during the works and while the ecologist is not present. Identification of any newts that may be found is likely to require the confirmation of a suitably qualified ecologist. ▶ Great Crested Newts are the largest of the three British species of newt; adult males can reach 15 cm in length, with females slightly larger at 18 cm (the photos/ pictures below are not life-size). The upper surface and flanks are black and warty, with a row of silver dots present along the side of the head and body. The belly is dark orange or yellow with a pattern of black blotches.
Identifying other newts	▶ The Great Crested Newt may be confused with the Smooth Newt, although adults of this species are generally smaller (at 10-11 cm – again, the pictures below are not life-size). The male has brown/ green skin with black spots and the female is light brown with darker spots.

Pictures of Great Crested Newts (Yellow boxes) and Smooth Newts (Orange boxes)



Great Crested Newt female (Above and below)





Great Crested Newt male (Above and below)

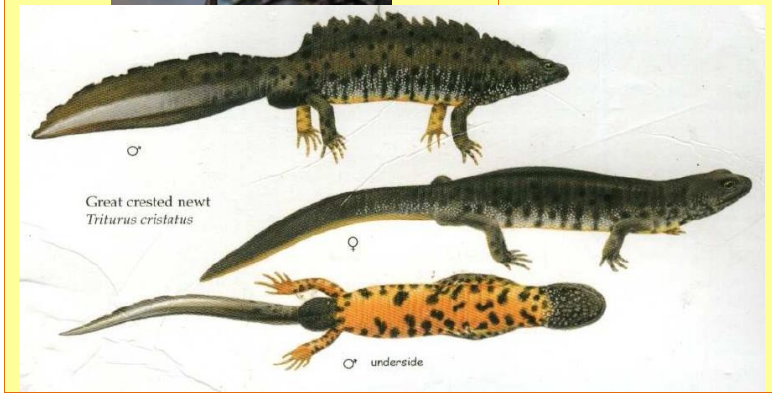


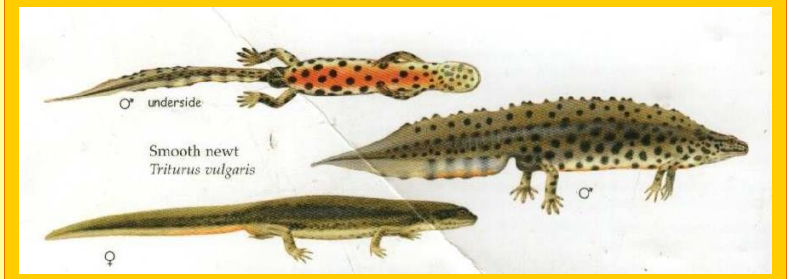


Smooth Newt male (above)



Smooth Newt female (above)





Drawings from Field Studies Council, 1999. *Guide to the reptiles and amphibians of Britain and Ireland*.

What are the requirements of the RAMs?	▶ **Refer to the Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Method Statement for further information on the required working protocol. The RAMs include for the Ecologist to undertake searches for Great Crested Newts prior to the start of works. The Ecologist will supervise any work where there may be a risk to Great Crested Newts.** ▶ **Following implementation of the RAMs, when the Ecologist is not present at site, all site personnel will maintain a 'watching brief' and look out for amphibians.** ▶ **It is the responsibility of all site personnel to follow the requirements of the RAMs/ maintain a watching brief.** ▶ **If you are unsure about any of the requirements of the RAMs contact the Site Manager and Ecologist.**
What do I do if I find a newt?	▶ **If any newt is found at any time you must immediately stop all work in the area and contact the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist. Then wait until the Ecologist arrives to identify and remove the newt. Remember, a licence is required to handle Great Crested Newts.** ▶ **If a Great Crested Newt is found it is likely that it will be necessary to obtain a Natural Resources Wales licence before work can re-commence. Do not re-start work until the Ecologist and the Site Manager have confirmed that it is ok to do so.** ▶ **If other amphibians such as a Common Frog or Common Toad are found, and confidently identified, then you can move it to an area well away from the work site under some cover such as long grass (firstly making sure your hands are damp or you are wearing gloves).**

GRASS SNAKES

Legal Protection	▶ Reptiles (Grass Snake, Adder, Slow-worm & Viviparous Lizard) are protected under British law. ▶ It is illegal to kill or injure a reptile. ▶ **Breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5000 per offence and prison sentences of up to six months.**
Identifying a Grass Snake	▶ Up to 1 m long. ▶ Usually dark green or greyish, with dark vertical bars along the sides. ▶ Has a yellow 'collar' behind the head and round pupils. ▶ They emit a foul-smelling anal secretion when captured.





Grass Snake. Left above: Male (smaller individual) and Female. Right above: Male.

Grass Snakes at the Work Site	▶ Grass Snakes may be found within areas of rough grassland/ scrub and under objects such as logs/ rubble piles. ▶ Following implementation of the Great Crested Newt RAMs, when the Ecologist is not present at site, all site personnel will maintain a 'watching brief' and look out for Grass Snakes. ▶ It is the responsibility of all site personnel to maintain a watching brief. ▶ If you are unsure about any of the requirements of the watching brief contact the Site Manager and Ecologist.

What should I do if I find a Grass Snake in/ close to the work site?	▶ Stop all work within close proximity to where the Grass Snake was seen and immediately notify the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist. ▶ An escape route should be provided to the work site boundary and the Grass Snake should be allowed to find its own way out. ▶ Grass Snakes should not be picked up or handled if it can be avoided. It is acceptable to pick up a Grass Snake to move it out of a working area if no other options are practical. Care should be taken when handling reptiles. Please note that Grass Snakes can bite although this is harmless. ▶ Do not re-start work in this area until the Ecologist and Site Manager have confirmed that it is ok to do so.

BADGERS

Legal Protection	▶ Badgers are protected under British law. ▶ It is illegal to kill, injure or disturb a Badger; or to damage a Badger sett without a licence. ▶ Breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5000 per offence and prison sentences of up to six months.
Identifying a Badger	▶ Adult Badgers grow up to a metre long. ▶ Their body is stout with grey fur, short legs and a short white tail. ▶ Their head is white with broad black stripes. ▶ Badgers live in underground setts made up of tunnels and chambers.
Badgers at the Work Site	▶ There is no currently known Badger sett located within the work site. A sett could potentially be located within dense scrub adjacent to the work site. Badger setts have been recorded from close to the work site. ▶ Badgers do forage on, and travel across, some parts of the wider site.
What should I do if I find a hole that might be a Badger sett in/ close to the work site?	▶ Stop all work within 30 m of the hole and immediately notify the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist. ▶ The Ecologist will need to confirm whether it is inhabited by a Badger or not. ▶ Do not re-start work in this area until the Ecologist and the Site Manager have confirmed that it is ok to do so. ▶ You are unlikely to see a Badger during the work as they are nocturnal.
What else do I need to do to help Badgers?	▶ Do not leave harmful substances uncovered. Badgers are strong and able to push over small storage drums. ▶ All open ends of pipes or other materials that Badgers may access should be securely blocked up overnight.



BIRDS

Legal Protection

- Birds are protected under British and in some cases (European) law.
- The damage/ destruction of any bird nest that is in use is illegal.
- It is also illegal to kill or injure any wild bird and or take/ destroy any egg of a wild bird.
- Some species receive additional legal protection.



Nesting birds at the Work Site

- It is possible that birds could nest on the existing building within the site. Birds do nest in some unusual places and the discovery of a nest in the work site cannot be discounted. See photo to right of Collared Dove nest in building still under construction.
- The nesting period is usually considered to be March to August inclusive. Some birds nest earlier and later than this.



Where might I find nesting birds?

- Almost anywhere. If you suspect that there may be a nest present in the area that you are working you should contact the Site Manager.
- The Site Manager may need to contact the Ecologist for further advice.
- The Ecologist may need to check any features that might be affected for bird nests prior to the start of work.

What should I do if I find a bird nest?

- Stop all work close to the nest and notify the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist.
- Do not re-start work in this area until the Ecologist and the Site Manager have confirmed that it is ok to do so.

BIO-SECURITY

What is bio-security?

- Bio-security is a term that relates to measures taken to prevent the spread of diseases, invasive non-native species, etc.
- A Bio-security Risk Assessment and Method Statement has been produced that details measures required to avoid the spread of non-native invasive plants and a fungus that is harmful to amphibians.



How is bio-security applicable at the Work Site?

- Four non-native invasive plants (Cotoneaster, see photo above, Montbretia, Knotweed) have been recorded from the wider site, though none from the work site. These species are **listed in the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*. It is illegal to spread these plants.**
- Whenever machinery/ vehicles, materials and personnel are transported on/ off site there is a risk that non-native invasive plants and/ or diseases could be spread.
- The chytrid fungus is a threat to any population of amphibians that may be present.

What do I need to do?

- Prior to starting work on the site, you must ensure that you are aware of, and carry out, the requirements of the Bio-security Risk Assessment and Method Statement.
- Most importantly all machinery, vehicles, equipment/ tools, footwear and clothing must be appropriately cleaned both before coming to site and before leaving site. Follow the Check-Clean-Dry approach.
- You will need to agree your responsibilities (and control measures) with the Site Manager and the Ecologist.

Three Key Rules	**If you find a protected animal, suspect a protected animal may be present or are unsure of something to do with the Great Crested Newt RAMs:** ▶ **Stop work immediately.** ▶ **Contact the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist.** ▶ **Work should only re-commence when the Site Manager and Ecologist have confirmed that it is OK to do so.**
Contact Details	▶ **Ecologist: Tom Knight 07928 212545 or if not available Max Ellson 07950 220188.** ▶ **Site Manager: Wesley Gounder 01642 382116.**

Signatories

I have read and understand the requirements of this Toolbox Talk.

Print	Signed	Company	Date

Print	Signed	Company	Date