ARBOR VITAE

ECOLOGY • FORESTRY • LAND USE

REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES METHOD STATEMENT

Project name:	**CROXTON COTTAGE, HANMER**
Species:	Great Crested Newt
Grid Reference:	SJ45734106
Date:	07/10/2024
Prepared by:	William Prestwood BSc Director
Checked by:	Phillipa Stirling MSc ACIEEM
Requested by:	Roger Parry and Partners

Lower Betton Farm, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 6JD

BACKGROUND

The planning consent has been granted for the construction of a garage and stable at Croxton Cottage. Condition no. 5 of the decision notice states:

"No development shall commence until a scheme of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for Great Crested Newts has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall thereafter be carried out in accordance with the approved RAMs scheme."

RAMs are set out below:

REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES

Legislation

Great Crested Newts (GCN) are a European Protected Species (EPS) and they and their habitats are fully protected under national (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)) and European law (The Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)). The combined legislation makes it illegal to:

- deliberately capture, kill or injure a great crested newt;
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place
- intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place used for shelter and protection including resting and breeding places, whether occupied or not;
- deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt when in a place of shelter;
- possess a great crested newt, or any part of it, unless acquired lawfully;
- sell, barter, exchange or transport or offer for sale great crested newts or parts of them.

Risk assessment

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal carried out for this site identified a small pond 260 metres to the east of the site. Given the distance between the site and the pond, the lack of GCN records within one kilometre and the small size of the construction site, the PEA concluded that the risk to GCN was 'negligible'. However, it recommended the adoption of RAMS in order to remove any residual risks.

Induction of contractors

- A toolbox talk will be given to all site personnel in order to make them aware of the possible presence of GCN, how to identify this species and the avoidance measures to be used on site.
- A paper copy of the avoidance measures will be retained on site together with the contact details of the GCN licensed ecologist.

Timing & duration

- All works should take place during daylight hours when GCN are unlikely to be moving around the area.

Site clearance

- All grassland on site will be maintained at a height of 10cm or less for a period of no less than 2 weeks prior to work on site starting.
- An experience ecologist will carry out a ground inspection of the site before the turf stripping commences. If GCN are found or suspected to be present, a GCN mitigation licence will be sought and all work on site will be suspended until such a time that a licence is granted.
- Building demolition will be carried out by hand. All material arising from the work will be stored on raised pallets or be removed from site immediately. This is to avoid creating resting places which amphibians are attracted to.

Site compound

- The site compound will be situated on an area of existing hard-standing to avoid creating GCN resting places beneath stored materials etc.
- All site materials will be stored on pallets or other raised objects to avoid creating resting places/refuges for GCN.
- Any toxic or poisonous materials should be safely stored within a locked container.

Construction methods and special precautions

- All excavations on site will be covered at night or ramps will be provided to allow amphibians to exit excavations. All excavations will be checked for amphibians each morning prior to the re-commencement of works.
- All exposed new pipework and drains will be capped at night so as to avoid trapping amphibians.

- All excavated materials/waste will be stored in skips or similar and not on the ground where it could be used as a refuge/resting area by amphibians. Alternatively, all waste will be removed from site daily.
- All stored building materials that might be used as temporary resting places by amphibians will be stored off the ground on pallets or similar.
- If GCN are found at any point during the development or activities outlined above, works must stop and an appropriately qualified ecologist should be contacted for advice, as well as Natural England. Contractors are prohibited from handling GCN.