Site:	Wrexham Academy
Client:	Wrexham AFC Limited
Job Number:	784-B068276
Survey Type(s):	Great crested newt Reasonable Avoidance Measures Report
Date of Review(s):	November 2024
File Location:	M:\Projects\784-B068276_Wrexham___Hedgerow\60_Output\61_WIP\GCN RAMs

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by Wrexham AFC Limited in August 2024 to provide Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAM) for Great Crested Newts and other amphibians for the works taking place on site. This report has been prepared to discharge the condition: *"No further development, including site clearance, shall commence until a Great Crested Newt (GCN) plan of reasonable avoidance measures has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority".* This will detail actions prior to vegetation clearance/habitat removal and will include appropriate timings for works. This report should be read in conjunction with the Wrexham Academy Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Tetra Tech, 2024) which provides further ecological detail of the site.

The purpose of the RAM report is to:

- Detail the relevant legislation regarding great crested newt and other common amphibian species that may be present on site;
- Review the roles and responsibilities of contractors;
- Detail general good practice measures; and
- Detail working methods and reasonable avoidance measures that are to be adopted during site clearance.

This report has been prepared by Assistant Ecologist Carlos Dolado-Hollyman MSc BSc and the conditions pertinent to it are provided in Appendix A.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is comprised of three red line boundary areas, namely "Block 1", "Block 2", and the "Groundsperson Building" located in Darland School, Chester Road, Rosset, Wrexham, Wales. The sites are centered at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SJ 37388 57674, SJ 37408 57598 and SJ 37587 57534 respectively (Figure 1). For the purpose of the report, Block 1, Block 2 and the Groundsperson Building will henceforth be referred to as "the site".

The site is comprised of hard standing, modified amenity grassland and Darland High School. The surrounding landscape of residential housing to the north and west, and agricultural fields with associated farm buildings to the south and east.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The development will include the creation of a new Academy training facility at Darland High School comprised of two new buildings which will include changing rooms as well as a small ancillary office, plant areas, meeting rooms, medical room, medical office, gymnasium and a new classroom. A further installation of two shipping containers is proposed in the playing fields to serve the pitches. The location of one of the shipping containers is currently unknown. See Appendix B for Proposed Plan.

2.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Reasonable Avoidance Measures Report will be distributed to all relevant personnel involved in the site construction works. An Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoW) will conduct a site walkover with the Biodiversity Champion at the beginning of the project to point out features and points of interest.

2.1 BIODIVERSITY CHAMPION

A Biodiversity Champion will be nominated to influence site activities during construction works in line with the recommendations of this report. The Biodiversity Champion does not need to be an ecologist but should be familiar with this report and have sufficient authority and presence on site to influence activities. Usually, a member of the lead contractor team takes this role during the site Construction Phase. The Biodiversity Champion nominated during the Construction Phase should have a regular site presence. Once management of the site is transferred into the Operational Phase, at the end of the Construction Phase, the role of Biodiversity Champion can be transferred to a new individual (such as the management agent or land agent).

During the Construction Phase the role of a Biodiversity Champion is to advocate for all ecology on site as highlighted by this document as well as preceding documents and to check that the ecological protection and mitigation measures, as specified in this document, are correctly implemented. Advice to the construction teams on all pertinent ecological issues can be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

General responsibilities of the Biodiversity Champion during the Construction Phase are:

- Overseeing that all site contractors know to report any ecological concerns/issues to him/her/them;
- Check and document that an overview of the site's ecological constraints are included within the contractor inductions as appropriate;
- Undertaking weekly checks of any retained or newly created habitats;
- Organising specified protective measures, maintenance/repairs, restoration and monitoring where necessary;
- Supervising and monitoring the implementation of habitat creation measures as set out in this document;
- Regular contact with an ecologist to review plans, constraints, avoidance and mitigation, unforeseen changes or maintenance of baseline data etc. issues surrounding the development;

General responsibilities of the Biodiversity Champion during the Operational Phase are:

- Overseeing that the created habitats on site are managed as per the management plan;
- Checking the success of new habitats and ensuring that remedial action is taken where necessary; and
- Contacting ecologist or relevant organisation if any issues arise.

Where additional issues are identified, or where it is considered that revised maintenance regimes are needed, the Biodiversity Champion should contact a suitably qualified ecologist who can make changes to management prescriptions as appropriate. The Biodiversity Champion will take photographs, make

logbook entries of inspections and produce progress reports as appropriate to evidence that the above responsibilities are being upheld. This monitoring and review process will be carried out as an integral part of the overall management plan.

2.2 CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The contractor responsibilities include the following:

- To adhere to the relevant provisions made within this document and the Construction Management Plan (CMP) prepared by the contractor;
- To adhere to the procedures for great crested newts and other amphibians under the advice of the ECoW / Biodiversity Champion; and
- To contact the Biodiversity Champion, and/or if necessary, the ECoW, regarding any uncertainties or activities that may impact on ecological features on site.

3.0 GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

This section describes the general good practice activities to be carried out during any pre-construction habitat clearance and the Construction Phase of the proposed development. These activities have been designed to reduce the likelihood that any negative impacts will occur to ecological receptors on or adjacent to the site.

3.1 GENERAL GOOD PRACTICE

To minimise the risk of harm to wildlife it is recommended that the below guidance is implemented into a Construction Management Plan (CMP) and be monitored by the Biodiversity Champion:

- Contractors should design and implement a waste management plan in order to avoid causing death or injury to wildlife;
- All excavations should be either covered at the end of the day (preferable) to prevent access and if this is not possible, they should be left with a ramp to allow any fauna which has fallen in with a means of escape;
- All pipes over 200mm in diameter should be inspected be capped at night, to prevent animals, such as badgers, from entering;
- A safe system for the correct storage of materials/chemicals on site should be implemented to ensure that materials are stored in a suitable manner as to avoid potential impacts on vegetation and fauna. This is particularly important with liquids/chemicals, which should not be stored near vegetated areas but stored on an impermeable base;
- Daily checks of any excavations should be made by contractors prior to commencing work to ensure that no animals have become trapped in the excavations. Should a trapped protected/notable species be found within the works area, Tetra Tech ecologists should be immediately contacted for advice; and
- To minimise disturbance of nocturnal species, night-time working should be avoided wherever possible and if necessary, light spill should be minimised and directed away from boundary vegetation.

4.0 REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES

Great crested newt and other common amphibians may be present on site as indicated by the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site (Tetra Tech, 2024) and should be considered during the site clearance and construction phases of the works as follows:

4.1.1 Great crested Newt and Other Amphibians

There were 14 records for amphibians within the previous ten years and within 2 km of the site returned during the desk study. Of these 5 pertained to great crested newt records *Triturus cristatus*, with the closest record located 0.2km south-west of site. Other species included palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus*, smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* and common frog *Rana temporaria*.

All species of native amphibians are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) include:

- A toolbox talk must be provided to the contractors at the start of the works. The toolbox talk will detail any RAMs specific to great crested newts and other amphibians; toolbox to be signed by contractors on site (see Appendix C).
- Any site clearance works, including vegetation removal, removal of natural /artificial refugia and breaking ground must be undertaken during the amphibian active season (March - end October, during periods of suitable weather) to avoid impacting on hibernating amphibians. Any hibernacula i.e. log piles or brash piles must be dismantled by hand under ECoW supervision.
- All removal of the below-ground parts of cleared vegetation e.g. scrub roots must be undertaken during the amphibian active season (March - end October inclusive) to avoid impacting on hibernating amphibians.
- Immediately prior to site clearance works, an ECoW should finger-tip search and check all of the refugia and sheltering places for animals. This will then be followed by the removal of the refugia under the supervision of the ECoW.
- For the loss of any suitable grassland terrestrial habitat, it is recommended that staged strimming is undertaken to displace amphibians from these areas and encourage dispersal to suitable retained areas. A two stage strim is to be undertaken, with the first stim taking the grassland height to roughly 6 inches, encouraging amphibians to move out, with the second strim taking the grass to ground level.
- If a great crested newt is encountered at any time during site clearance, then works must stop and a licensed ecologist contacted. At this stage no license from NRW is considered necessary, however if GCN are encountered on site NRW will be contacted regarding a European Protected Species License (EPSL).
- If any other amphibians are encountered (e.g. smooth newt, palmate newt, common toad or common frog) animals should be carefully handled using gloved hands and moved to a retained area of habitat a suitable distance from machinery and site works/works must be halted and time given for the animal to move safely away from the works area. Any injured animals should be taken to a vet or wildlife clinic. The incident should then be reported to the ECoW. Contact an ecologist for ECoW advice.

- Any pipes stored, or installed on-site, with a diameter of greater than 200mm should be inspected and covered or capped at night to reduce the risk of animals becoming trapped inside.

5.0 RECOMMENDED TIMING OF WORK

Table 1 highlights the anticipated timetable for completion of Reasonable avoidance measures during construction. The nominated Biodiversity Champion will be responsible for undertaking these actions or organising for these actions to be undertaken.

Table 1: Timetable for completion of management and monitoring of tasks.

Works Phase	Species	Relevant Legislation	Ecological Activity	Timeframe/Time of Year	Task Complete (to be completed be contractor)
Pre-construction	N/A	N/A	Nomination of Biodiversity Champion.	Prior to instruction works	
Pre-construction			Biodiversity Champion to meet with ECoW to discuss document.	Prior to construction works commencing	
Pre-Construction	Great crested newts and other Amphibians	*GCN*: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Fingertip searches of refugia and any suitable vegetation (to be cleared) for great crested newts and other amphibians.	Prior to vegetation clearance / construction if works commencing during March – September	

Works Phase	Species	Relevant Legislation	Ecological Activity	Timeframe/Time of Year	Task Complete (to be completed be contractor)
		(as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.			
Pre-Construction	Great crested newts and other Amphibians	*GCN*: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	Toolbox talk to include; • Detailing the RAMS required such as supervision of strimming and dismantling of refugia to be undertaken by ECoW prior to site clearance; • Identification of great crested newts and other amphibians; • Procedure if animals are found; - If GCN then works must stop and a licensed ecologist contacted - If other newt or amphibian this may be moved by the biodiversity champion to a similar habitat away from ongoing works..	Site / vegetation clearance to commence prior to hibernation period.	

Works Phase	Species	Relevant Legislation	Ecological Activity	Timeframe/Time of Year	Task Complete (to be completed be contractor)
Construction	Great crested newt and other amphibians	*GCN*: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	Site workers to be aware of potential presence of great crested newt and other amphibians and report any sightings to Biodiversity Champion.	During construction	
Construction	-	-	Implement best practice measures to protect wildlife and habitats during site works.	Entire construction period	

6.0 CONCLUSION

There should be no ecological constraint to construction works if the provided RAM's are implemented throughout works. Any queries are to be directed to the relevant contact as detailed in Section 7.

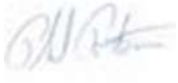
7.0 USEFUL CONTACTS

Table 2 below provides useful local contacts which may be of use.

Table 2: Local contacts of ecological and animal welfare organisations.

Organisation	Contact
Tetra Tech	**Tetra Tech** 2nd Floor 11 York Street Manchester M2 2AW Email: ecology.manchester@tetratech.com Tel: **0161 874 8722**
	ECoW Queries: Candice Howe **07773166760** candice.howe@tetratech.com Bronwyn Dennis (non-bat related queries) **07929101796** BRONWYN.DENNIS@tetratech.com
Local Ecology Records Centre	**Cofnod - North Wales Environmental Information Service** Intec Ffordd y Parc Parc Menai Bangor Gwynedd LL57 4FG Email: record@cofnod.org.uk Tel: **01248 847456**
Wildlife Hospital	**Animal Trust Vets CIC - Wrexham** 31 Caia Rd Wrexham LL13 8DS Tel: **01978 802658**
Local Wildlife Trust	**North Wales Wildlife Trust** Llys Garth Garth Road Bangor Gwynedd LL57 2RT Email: info@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk

	Tel: **01248 351 541**

Document Control			
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Prepared by: Carlos Dolado-Hollyman **Assistant Ecologist** 	**Checked by:** Gareth Parry **Senior Ecologist** 	**Approved By:** **Phil Preston** **Associate Ecologist** 	

REFERENCES

- Natural England (2014). Great crested newts: protection and licences. Accessible from: Great crested newts: protection and licences - GOV.UK
- North Wales Wildlife Trusts (2024). Great Crested Newt. Accessible from: Great crested newt | North Wales Wildlife Trust
- Tetra Tech (2024) – Wrexham Academy, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report
- UK Public General Acts (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Accessible from: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Ecological Features and Constraints – Main Works



Site Location Plan

Wrexham Academy

Wrexham AFC Limited

Legend

Site Boundary

Site Boundary 30m Buffer

Notes:

Drawn by: AARON.HOWARD

Checked by: Bronwyn Dennis

Figure No. 1

Revision No. A

24 September 2024

0 20 40 60 80 Meters

Scale 1:1,500 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 337490E 357603N

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: REPORT CONDITIONS

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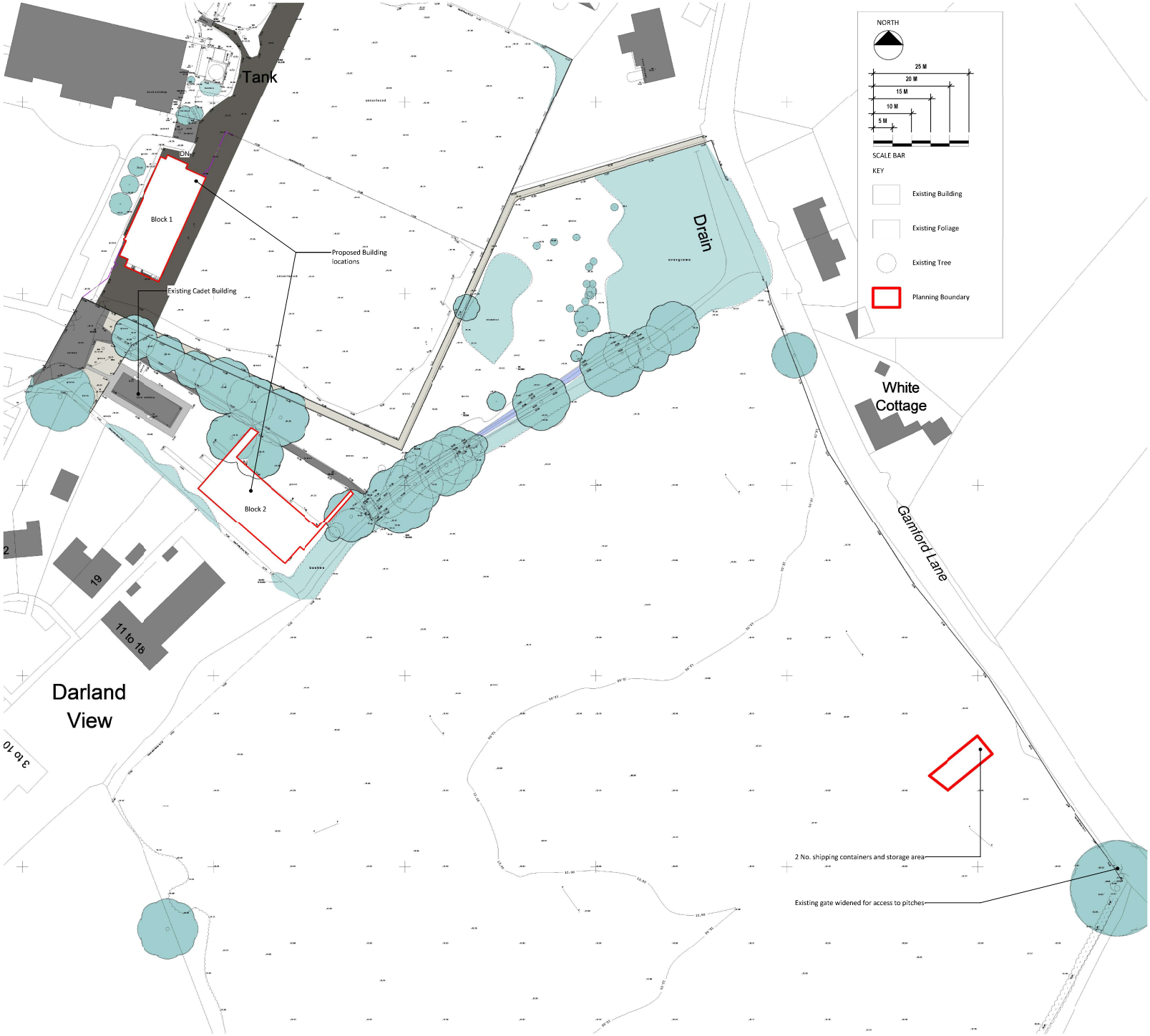
The report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections'. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times. No investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather-related conditions. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions. The "shelf life" of the Report will be determined by a number of factors including; its original purpose, the Client's instructions, passage of time, advances in technology and techniques, changes in legislation etc. and therefore may require future re-assessment.

The whole of the report must be read as other sections of the report may contain information which puts into context the findings in any executive summary.

The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. Tetra Tech accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors.

APPENDIX B: PROPOSED PLAN

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1 Site Plan - Planning
1 : 500

NOTES
All dimensions and levels to be checked on site

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P03	02.10.24	WR	REVISED PLANNING
P02	02.08.24	WR	PLANNING ISSUE
P01	19.07.24	WR	DRAFT PLANNING ISSUE

project
Wrexham Youth Academy

location
Darland High School

Employer
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key plan

drawing title
Wrexham Academy - Site Plan

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PLANNING	S0	P03

bim project | origin | zone | level | type | role | 5-digit no.
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APPENDIX C: TOOLBOX SIGN IN

Name	Date	Signature