Statement of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for Great Crested Newt

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Objectives

This Statement of RAMs provides a series of actions that should be implemented for the precautionary protection of amphibians potentially associated with the proposed development at Lower Rackery Farm, Dark Lane, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0AG (National Grid Reference SJ 3270 5754).

The aim of these RAMs is to eliminate as far as possible, the risk of killing, injuring or disturbing amphibians during works.

The main potential impacts are:

1. Amphibians being killed or injured as a result of being within the working areas when works begin.

2. Amphibians becoming trapped in excavations

3. Amphibians taking refuge in stored/waste materials

4. Amphibians being directly injured by general activity on site

Required Actions

Site Clearance and Vegetation Removal

In the lead up to works starting, the proposed construction zone should be kept tidy and free from piles of debris, logs, spoil, or construction materials. This is so that there are no features in which Amphibians will seek shelter.

Vegetation within the proposed works areas should be continued to be mown/cut for at least two weeks before the start of works. Any vegetation should be kept at this low height up to the start of works to perturb great crested newt from taking refuge in the works area.

Storage of Materials

All stored building materials that might be used as temporary resting places by amphibians should be stored off the ground on pallets or similar.

Excavations

Where new trenches are to be excavated, these should not be left open overnight in case dispersing amphibians fall into them. Where this is not possible, trenches should be fitted with wooden ramps or excavated with battered back sides to allow wildlife to escape.

Construction Works

All exposed new pipework and drains should be capped at night so as to avoid trapping amphibians.

Scaffold footings should be placed on sand to prevent newts taking temporary refuge underneath the footings.

Discovery of Amphibians

In the unlikely event that a newt of any kind is encountered during works, works within vicinity of the newt should immediately stop and advice sought from an appropriately qualified ecologist.