ARBOR VITAE

ECOLOGY • FORESTRY • LAND USE

REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES METHOD STATEMENT

Project name:	**Land at Penyllan Farm, Marchwiel, Wrexham, LL13 0PF**
Species:	Great Crested Newt
Planning Reference:	P/2025/0115
Date:	09/06/2025
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Reviewed by:	William Prestwood BSc Director
Requested by:	Roger Parry & Partners

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

BACKGROUND

Planning consent has been sought the erection of a replacement agricultural building at Penyllan Farm.

Condition 4 of the planning consent states that:

> 4. No development, including site clearance, shall commence until a Great Crested Newt (GCN) Plan of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The plan of RAMs should include the submission of details concerning both reasonable avoidance and mitigation measures. The plan shall be carried out in strict accordance with the approved details.

There are three waterbodies within 250m of the proposed building, all of which appear to be man-made agricultural lagoons. The risk to GCN is low but in order to remove any residual risk, the following avoidance measures will be adopted during all works on site:

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.

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 will take place during daylight hours when GCN are unlikely to be moving around the area.

Site clearance

- All grassland/vegetation 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 experienced ecologist will carry out a ground inspection of the site before any vegetation clearance is carried out. 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.

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.
- Any trenches left overnight will be covered or provided with ramps to prevent animals from falling into the trenches and being trapped. Excavations left overnight should be checked prior to filing. Any open pipes left overnight will be covered.

- **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 Resources Wales. Contractors are prohibited from handling GCN.**









FIGURE 1 LOCATION PLAN

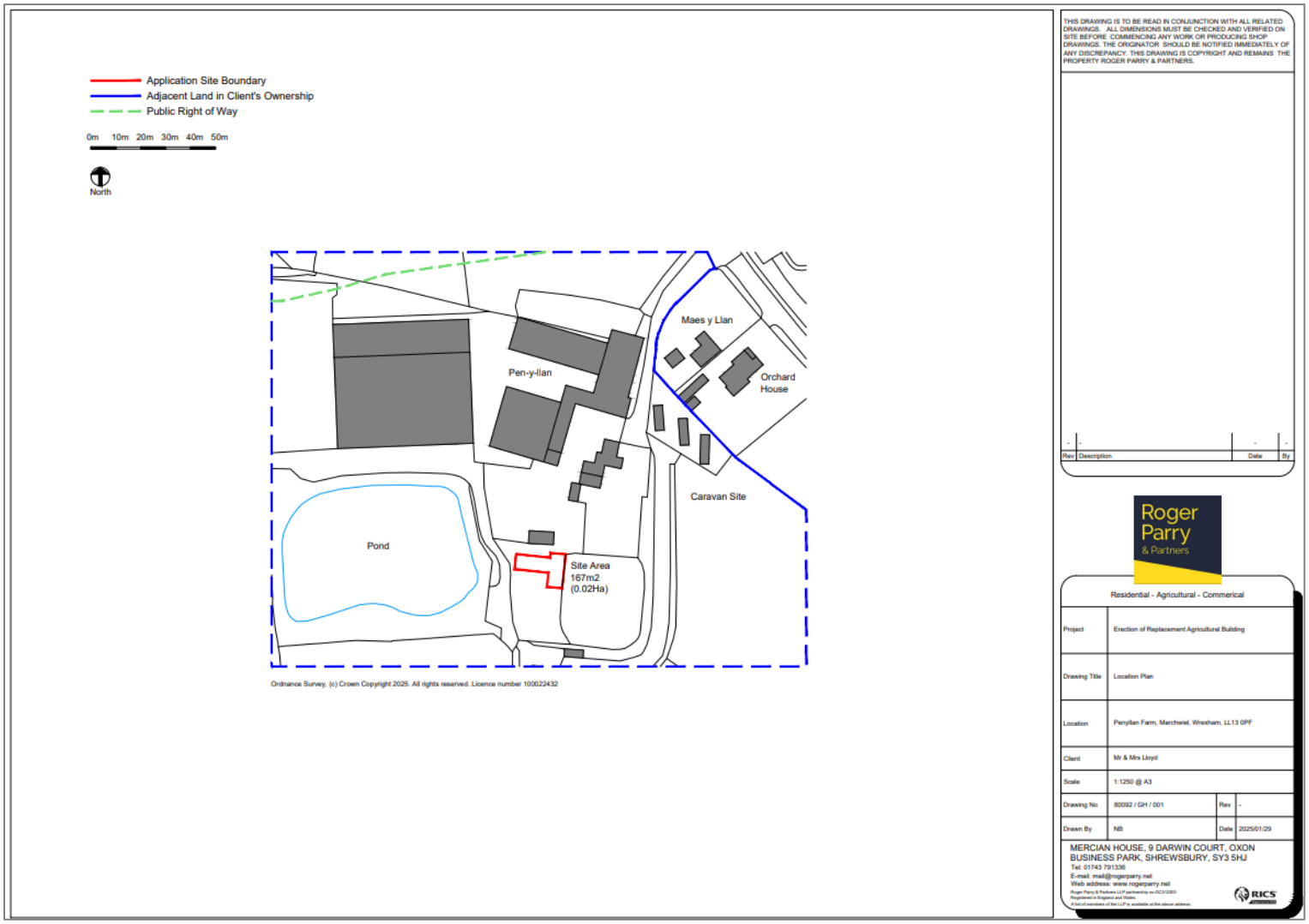


FIGURE 2 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH



FIGURE 3 PONDS WITHIN 250M

