



Ipsen East, Ash Road North
Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham
Proposed Manufacturing Facility

Produced For;
Lovelock Mitchell Architects

GCN SURVEY REPORT

October 2023

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report has been produced for Lovelock Mitchell Architects in relation to the proposed development of land off Ash Road North, Wrexham Industrial Estate.
- 1.2 The proposed development is for the construction of a manufacturing facility and associated car parking and landscaping on the former Proserve Site at Land on Ash North Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham (Planning Ref: P/2023/0482).
- 1.3 Concerns were raised by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Wrexham CBC following the submission of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) produced by Cambrian Ecology Ltd (May 2023). The report highlighted the presence of GCN within the local area and also identified a number of stockpiles at the southeast corner of the site which offered potentially suitable refugia for GCN.
- 1.4 Consultation with the Wrexham CBC Ecologist led to the preparation of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) by Etive Ecology Ltd (August 2023) which aimed to determine the presence/absence of GCN within these stockpiles. This report details the finding of the amphibian surveys carried out under those RAMs.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The following actions were undertaken to establish GCN presence/absence, as per the RAMs:
 - Install a ring of GCN exclusion fencing around the rubble piles, off-set approximately 1m from the foot of the stockpiles. The upright exclusion fence was installed to industry standard specification (GCN Mitigation Guidelines, 2001).
 - Artificial refugia in the form of 50cm x 50cm squares of carpet tile were laid every 5m along the inside of the ring fence.
 - Carpet tiles were checked daily for a period of two weeks (14 days) to determine presence/absence of GCN.
- 2.2 The ring fence was installed on 12th September and the refugia checks were completed on 26th September following 14 consecutive mornings of checks for amphibians. The survey findings are presented in Section 3 below.
- 2.3 The survey effort was undertaken in accordance with best practise in terms of survey methods and timing. It is therefore considered that there were no limitations to the survey effort and the conclusions drawn are robust and reliable.

Site Location & Survey Area



3 RESULTS

- 3.1 The details of the GCN survey dates and weather conditions are given in Table 3.1 below. The perimeter fencing was installed and artificial refugia were laid on 12th September 2023 by Ecological Land Management Ltd. Subsequent checks were carried out by Russell Grey (CEnv, MCIEEM) and Sophie Frost (Grad CIEEM).

Table 3.1 GCN Survey Details

Survey No.	Date	Weather Conditions
1	September 13 th 2023	>5°C, no wind, 10% cloud cover, no rain
2	September 14 th 2023	>5°C, slight breeze, 100% cloud cover, no rain
3	September 15 th 2023	>5°C, mild breeze, 80% cloud cover, no rain
4	September 16 th 2023	>5°C, slight breeze, 70% cloud, light rain
5	September 17 th 2023	>5°C, slight breeze, 100% cloud, recent heavy rain
6	September 18 th 2023	>5°C, slight breeze, 100% cloud cover, moderate rain
7	September 19 th 2023	>5°C, mild breeze, 100% cloud cover, light rain
8	September 20 th 2023	>5°C, strong wind, 80% cloud cover, no rain
9	September 21 st 2023	>5°C, mild breeze, 40% cloud cover, no rain
10	September 22 nd 2023	>5°C, mild breeze, 70% cloud cover, no rain
11	September 23 rd 2023	>5°C, slight breeze, 50% cloud cover, no rain
12	September 24 th 2023	>5°C, moderate wind, 100% cloud cover, no rain
13	September 25 th 2023	>5°C, moderate wind, 80% cloud cover, no rain
14	September 26 th 2023	>5°C, moderate wind, 50% cloud cover, no rain

- 3.2 No GCN or any other species of amphibian were found during the course of the 14 survey visits.

Weather conditions were perfectly suitable for amphibians over the duration of the survey effort. It is therefore concluded that GCN are absent from the existing stockpile.

- 3.3 Given that the other areas of land within the red line application site are assessed to be of lower value to GCN than the stockpile, and that they are located further away from the closest GCN record, it is concluded that GCN are likely absent from the whole of the red line application site.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Following the absence of any amphibians found during the survey effort, it is recommended that the stockpile be removed without the need for any further survey effort or a GCN License. However, a precautionary approach is still recommended to ensure that no amphibians are harmed during the works. The following approach is recommended:

- The exclusion fencing and artificial refugia will remain in-situ until the day that works are to commence on removing the stockpile.
- The refugia will be checked by a GCN licensed ecologist at the start of works. Any amphibians present will be removed from the area and relocated into suitable adjacent habitat outside of the working area.
- A minimum length of fencing will be removed under the supervision of the ecologist.
- The stockpile will be dismantled using a large excavator under the direct supervision of the GCN Licensed ecologist. Where possible, the machine will lift the stockpile in sections, allowing the ecologist to check underneath and inside any cavities for any amphibians that may be present.
- The stockpile will be lifted out of the fenced area and the waste material will be removed from site.
- Once the stockpile has been fully dismantled, the remaining GCN fence will be removed under ecological supervision.
- These works must be completed before the start of the hibernation period, taken to be the 1st November.

- 4.2. In accordance with the PEA Report submitted with the planning application for the site, a number of GCN hibernacula will be constructed outside of the development zone for the scheme. The hibernacula will meet the standard described in the GCN Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature, 2001). The precise locations will be determined on site but will be in the southeast corner of the site. These will be permanent mitigation features, for the long-term benefit of GCN and other biodiversity interests.