

Reasonable Avoidance Measures with Regard to Great Crested Newts 4, Sunnyacre, LL11 4RH

It is a criminal offence to harm a great crested newt.

Great crested newts (GCN) spend most of their time on land, returning to still water only to breed once they are mature at about 3-4 years of age.

They may travel more than kilometre from their breeding pond.

They move about mostly at night, and by day creep underground or beneath shelter such as stones or logs.

They hibernate during the winter, which is generally from the beginning of November until late March, depending on the weather. Hibernation is underground in burrows made by other small animals or beneath substantial cover such as large stones or piles of logs.

1. Any debris which needs to be moved before work starts should be moved carefully, by hand. This should be done by hand and in the presence of a licensed GCN worker.
2. A tool box talk will be given by a licensed GCN worker to all contractors immediately before work starts. This will explain the legislation and give a visual and verbal guide to identification of GCN and procedure to follow if one is found.
3. If any trenches cannot be filled the same day they will need a ramp of earth at the ends of the trenches, to the full depth of each trench, so that newts can climb out. It is not sufficient to leave a piece of wood against the sides, which would allow small mammals to escape, but not newts, which are not good climbers. The trenches must be inspected carefully before filling, and any animals carefully removed and released into the surrounding area (but see below).
4. Building materials should be stored clear of the ground (say, on pallets) so as to avoid crushing any animals which might seek refuge under them, when the materials are lifted. Any such storage should be on the drive or other hard surface, and not on a lawn or other soft surface.
5. Bulk materials should be used on the same day as delivery where possible to reduce the likelihood of GCN taking shelter underneath.
6. Any open pipework should be capped overnight. All open trenches and pipework should be inspected at the start of each working day to ensure no animal is trapped.
7. Any excavated material which is not replaced on the same day must either be removed from the site or stored on a hard surface and covered with an impermeable membrane, such as a plastic sheet or tarpaulin, and the edges of the sheet secured so that no amphibians can gain access.
8. If any great crested newt is discovered in the area of the work, then work in that area must stop and a licensed great crested newt worker contacted immediately for advice.