



Template Method Statement to be used within a Great Crested Newt Development Licence Application

This template Method Statement is to be used to form part of your Licence Application for a European Protected Species Development Licence. It will be used to determine the impact of the application on the favourable conservation status of the species concerned (Regulation 55(9) (b) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017). It must be prepared by a consultant ecologist or other suitably qualified person. You are strongly advised to refer to the **Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines**¹. Please submit your Application and supporting Method Statement electronically to the contact details provided below.

Please note as of the 1st March 2018 the declaration box found at the end of this template must be included on any Method Statements submitted in support of a licence application, and must be signed and dated by the applicant and ecologist. Any application containing a Method Statement without this declaration will be rejected.

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Method Statement Title:	Newhall Bungalow, Ruabon – GCN Method Statement
Method Statement Version Number:	V1
Method Statement Issue Date:	27/05/2022
Site Address:	Newhall Bungalow, Ruabon, LL14 6HB

¹ Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (NEWT1) available from Natural England website

Background and Supporting Information

A Executive Summary.

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- A.1 The proposed works include the construction of a detached garage (on an existing hardstanding base of a former greenhouse), adjacent to the existing house and the installation of a new septic tank, which has been granted planning permission (REF:P/2021/0998). Other proposed works include the removal of an existing septic tank and the removal of an empty (no water) redundant outdoor swimming pool from the residential garden.
- A.2 The site comprised a residential garden, with unmanaged improved grassland, hardstanding, scattered trees and a small garden pond.
- A.3 Johnstown Newt Sites Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Stryt Las a'r Hafod Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (covering the same area), are both designated for great crested newts, and are located 200m to the north west of the site, with pasture/improved grassland and broadleaved woodland between.
- A.4 As there is a large known population of GCN within the area, which has been well recorded over the years and the homeowner has confirmed seeing GCN occasionally within the garden pond, no surveys were undertaken.
- A.5 Without mitigation, works that are likely to cause short-term disturbance to GCN, include the dismantling of brick and rubble piles, digging of trenches for drainage and for the installation and removal of septic tanks, temporary loss of some grassland habitat from the septic tank areas and from the tracking of small machinery across the site itself.
- A.6 To mitigate, the site will be fenced during the summer/autumn of 2022 and GCN removed from the site by trapping and destructive searches. This will cause short-term disturbance to any GCN relocated, however there are large areas of suitable habitat in the surrounding area and all breeding ponds, including the pond within the garden, will still be accessible.
- A.7 Once the works are complete and the grassland has recovered/been re-sown, there will be no net loss of grassland and the creation of refugia will ensure the site is enhanced for GCN in the long-term.
- A.8 There will be no detrimental impact on the favourable conservation status of GCN at the site or at a local, county or regional level.

B Introduction

B.1 Background to activity/development

Include a brief summary of what the proposed activity is and why it is necessary.

- B.1.1 The proposed works include the construction of a detached garage (on an existing hardstanding base of a former greenhouse), adjacent to the existing house and the installation of a new septic tank, which has been granted planning permission (REF:P/2021/0998). Other proposed works include the removal of an existing septic tank and the removal of a redundant outdoor swimming pool from the residential garden.
- B.1.2 The works are to improve living conditions at the existing bungalow, providing a garage for storage and recreation and improvements to the septic tank system.

B.2 Full details of proposed works on site that are to be covered by the licence

Please ensure sufficient detail is provided on the proposed works e.g. construction of buildings, roads, fences etc. Include current status of planning permission or other consents (if applicable) and any outstanding conditions/reserved matters. Include timescales and order of work.

B.2.1A small garage is to be built on an area of existing hardstanding (formally a greenhouse base), adjacent to the main house. An old septic tank system is to be removed and new septic tank system installed. This has gained planning permission and all ecological planning conditions have been discharged (REF:P/2021/0998). Other proposed works include the removal of an existing septic tank and the removal of a redundant outdoor swimming pool from the residential garden.

B.2.2Amphibian fencing will be erected around the area of the proposed works and GCN trapped out during the summer/autumn of 2022, outside of the winter hibernation period. Once the site is clear, works to garage, septic tank systems, drainage and swimming pool removal will commence during autumn/winter 2022. The fencing will not be removed until after the hibernation period and once temperatures have risen in spring 2023 (more detail regarding timing is provided in Table G.1).

B.3 Actions requiring licensing

E.g. disturb, capture, translocate, damage or destroy breeding site or resting place (terrestrial and/or aquatic), kill. Briefly explain why these actions are necessary.

B.3.1The new garage will be constructed on an existing hardstanding base of a former greenhouse, and the removal and replacement of the septic tank systems will result in the temporary removal of unmanaged improved grassland. Site preparation will include the dismantling of brick and rubble piles, digging of trenches for drainage and temporary disturbance or loss of some grassland habitat from the septic tank areas and from the tracking of small machinery across the site itself.

C Survey and site assessment

C.1 Existing information on great crested newts at the survey site.

Provide records from local environmental records centres, predictive modelling, local herpetile groups, previous survey work by the applicant or others. Include records from within 2km.

C.1.1 There are a large number of GCN records returned from Cofnod within 2km. These records are mostly concentrated within the Johnstown Newt Sites SAC and Stryt Las a'r Hafod SSSI, which have been well recorded and monitored over the years. The SAC and SSSI sites comprise three separate areas within 2km of the site but the closest area (Hafod Quarry) is 200m to the north west.

C.1.2 The Stryt Las a'r Hafod SSSI citation (Date of Notification 1997, 2000) states '*The water bodies at Stryt Las and Hafod support one of the largest known breeding populations of the great crested newt in Great Britain. Torch night counts undertaken during the spring have revealed over 250 adult and sub-adult animals on several occasions.*'

C.1.3 The nearest record to the site is of 4 adult females found under a rock near a pond at the New Hall Independent Hospital, 107m to the north in 2020.

C.1.4 The homeowner stated that smooth and palmate newts are present within the garden pond and low numbers of GCN are occasionally seen.

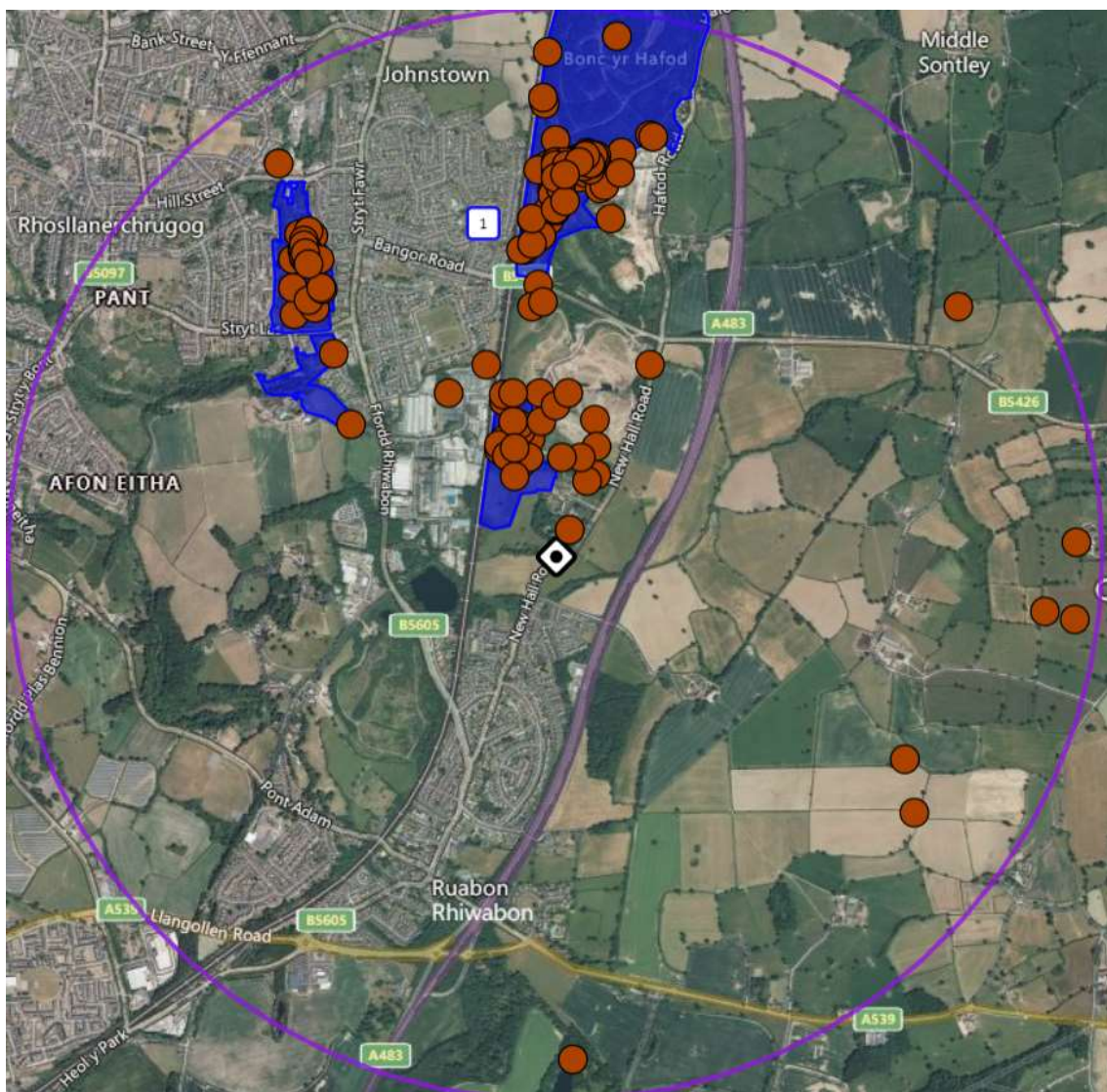


Figure C.1.1 GCN Records (1990-2022) within 2km, shown by brown circles and Johnstown Newt Sites SAC and Stryt Las a'r Hafod SSSI (same boundary) shown in blue.

C.2 Statutory sites notified for the species (SSSIs or SACs) within 10km

Table C.2.1 - Statutory sites notified for the species (SSSIs or SACs) within 10km

Site	Designation	Distance
Johnstown Newt Sites	SAC	200m
Stryt Las a'r Hafod	SSSI	200m

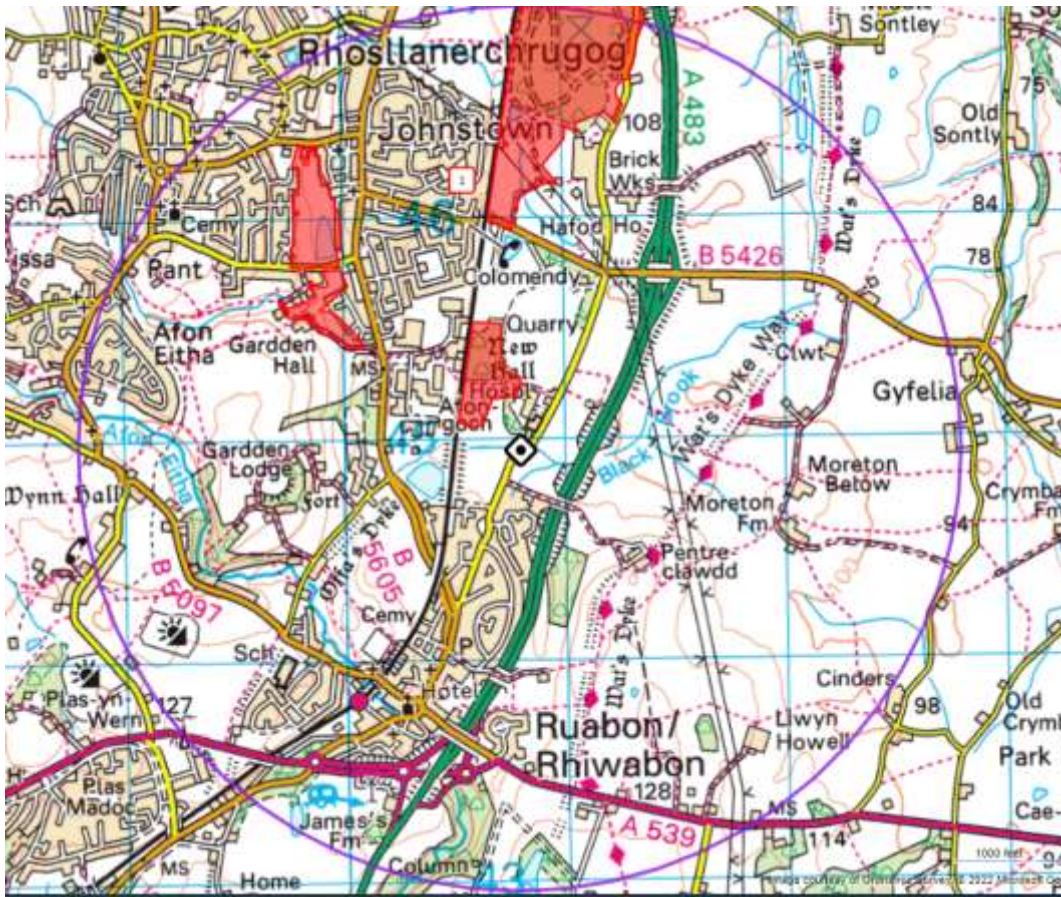


Figure C.2.1 SSSI and SAC sites within 10km. Johnstown Newt Sites SAC and Stryt Las a'r Hafod SSSI (same boundary) shown in red. Cofnod May 2022.

C.3 Objectives of the survey

E.g. to determine presence/absence of all sub-populations of great crested newts likely to be affected, an estimate of population size and their usage of site (e.g. breeding, hibernation, and foraging).

- C.3.1 As there is a large known population of GCN within the area, which has been well recorded over the years and the homeowner has confirmed seeing GCN occasionally within the garden pond, no population or presence/absence surveys were undertaken.
- C.3.2 A site visit was carried out on 9th February by Lucy Boyett (accredited agent on licence S091158-1 to assess the suitability of the site for GCN and the potential for the known GCN populations within the area to visit or use the site for foraging, breeding or hibernating.
- C.3.3 Given the types of habitats present on site including piles of rubble and brash and unmanaged grassland and the proximity to known populations, it is highly likely that GCN use the site for hibernation and foraging. The small and shallow garden pond within the site scores 'Below Average' using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) and so is unlikely to be used for breeding.

C.4 Scaled plan/map of survey area

This should be of appropriate scale and orientation with integral or separate location map at 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 scale and aerial photographs.



Figure C.4.1 Site location – Site boundary is shown in red. Base Image © Google 2022



Figure C.4.2 Wider Site location – Site boundary is shown in red. Base Image © Google 2022

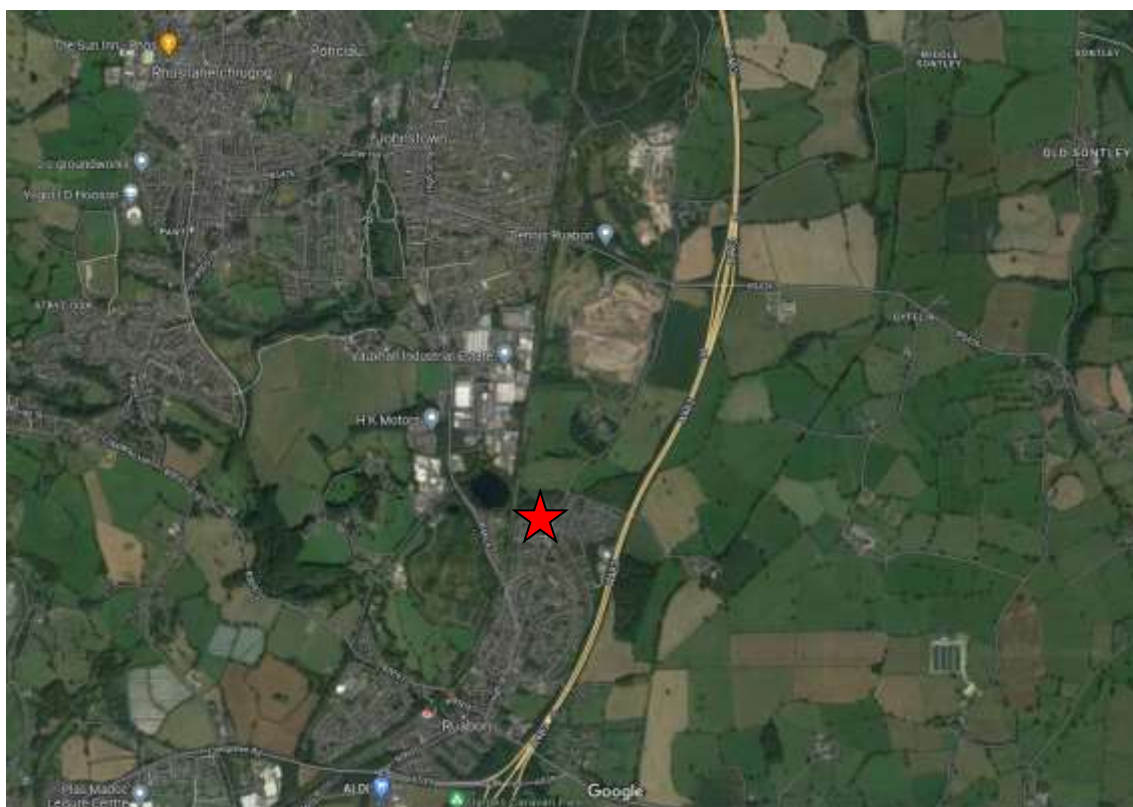


Figure C.4.3 Wider Site location – Site is shown by the red star. Base Image © Google 2022

C.5 Site/habitat description (relevant to great crested newts)

This should be based on day-time visits (to include description of site and habitat relevant to great crested newt ecology). Include annotated photographs if applicable.

C.5.1 The site comprised a residential garden, with unmanaged improved grassland, hardstanding, scattered trees and a small garden pond (Table C.5.1).

Table C.5.1 Site description

Description	Photo
This area of hardstanding is a former greenhouse base, at the centre of the site, which will form the footprint of the proposed new garage. There are numerous piles of bricks and rubble here and in other areas of the garden.	
Within this area of unmanaged improved grassland, a new septic tank (underground) will be dug and an old one in a different location will be removed. Some drainage pipes will need to be installed across the site. Small machinery will need to track across the grassland.	

Redundant outside swimming pool, along the western boundary, to be removed. The former pool did not contain water at the time of survey and was full of brash piles and scrub and therefore did not provide potential breeding habitat for GCN.



Garden area to the east of the site, will not be affected by the proposed works (outside of proposed newt fencing).



Small garden pond located at the far south eastern corner of the site and will not be affected by the proposed works (outside of proposed newt fencing).

Scores 'Below Average' using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)



C.6 Field survey(s).

Include survey method (night counts, bottle trapping, egg surveys, site inspections), timings (day/evening), weather conditions (wind, rain, air and water temperature – tabulated for multiple survey visits), personnel involved (provide individual licence numbers, if held) and details of experience/competence in this type of work, and equipment used (type and power of torch). Also record any occurrence of non-native invasive plant species or fish, and structures or features that may cause incidental capture or killing, e.g. gully pots. Also include any constraints and justifications for departures from best practice.

- C.6.1 Due to the sites proximity to historically well recorded ponds approx. 200m to the north, and the presence of known, well-established GCN populations, surveys of the surrounding ponds were not undertaken. Records of GCN from these ponds, available from Cofnod, were used to evaluate the impact of the proposed works were used to form this method statement.

C.7 Survey Results.

Summarise findings in table form (if appropriate); provide clear, annotated and cross-referenced maps/plans/photographs to show locations of breeding sites, and habitat maps. Raw data to be appended.

- C.7.1 No surveys were undertaken. Please see Annexe K.2 for detailed records within a 2km radius of the site.
- C.7.2 Figure C.7.1 shows all GCN records (1990-2022) within 500m of site, many of which are also breeding ponds. The habitat between the site and these records is predominantly pasture/improved grassland and broadleaved woodland.



Figure C.7.1 GCN Records (1990-2022) within 500m of site (shown with white diamond), shown by brown circles and Johnstown Newt Sites SAC and Stryt Las a'r Hafod SSSI (same boundary) shown in blue.

C.8 Interpretation/evaluation of survey results (Great crested newt Mitigation Guidelines section 5.8)

Provide count/estimate of great crested newt numbers, status of site (e.g. breeding, foraging, resting or hibernating), population significance, constraints on survey (e.g. time of year, cold weather, access problems – justify as necessary).

C.8.1 Given the types of habitats present on site including piles of rubble and brash and unmanaged grassland and the proximity to known populations, it is highly likely that GCN use the site for hibernation, resting and foraging. The small and shallow garden pond within the site scores 'Below Average' using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) and so is unlikely to be used for breeding but it cannot be discounted and will not be impacted by the proposed works.

D Impact assessment – potential impact of proposed works in absence of mitigation/compensation. See Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (section 6.2)

D.1 Short-term impacts: disturbance

E.g. artificial light, restricting access to feeding or breeding sites, sheltering habitats and dispersal corridors.

D.1.1 Without mitigation, works that are likely to cause short-term disturbance to GCN, include the dismantling of brick and rubble piles, digging of trenches for drainage and for the installation and removal of septic tanks, temporary loss of some grassland habitat from the septic tank areas and from the tracking of small machinery across the site itself.

D.1.2 To mitigate, the site will be fenced and GCN removed from the site by trapping and destructive searches. This will cause short-term disturbance to any GCN relocated, however there are large areas of suitable habitat in the surrounding area and all breeding ponds will still be accessible.

D.2 Long-term impacts: site modification

E.g. destruction or damage of part of breeding site or preferential sheltering/foraging habitats Note that impacts can be positive or negative as this is in absence of mitigation.

D.2.1 The new garage is going to be sited on the footing of a former greenhouse structure (currently hardstanding/bricks) and access to it is already hardstanding. Where there will be works to install drainage, a new septic tank and remove an old one and the removal of the swimming pool will result in the temporary loss of small areas of unmanaged improved grassland. The removal of the brick and rubble piles will also result in the loss of sheltering habitat/hibernaculum.

D.3 Long-term impacts: site loss

Impact on different sub populations to be taken into account at 2km, 10km, local, regional, and national level.

D.3.1 Without mitigation potential hibernacula and foraging habitat will be lost, which could impact populations at a local scale, though surrounding habitat clearly provides other suitable areas as we know GCN are present. Works, even without mitigation are unlikely to affect breeding populations on a local or national level.

D.4 Long-term impacts: fragmentation and isolation

E.g. loss of ponds or terrestrial habitat including stepping stones and linear features such as hedges, tree lines, severance of migration routes by roads.

D.4.1 The proposed works will not cause fragmentation or isolation for GCN and the habitats present will be retained and enhanced. During the works and when the site has been fenced, there will still be large areas of highly suitable habitat available and breeding ponds will still be accessible.

D.5 Post-development interference impacts

E.g. gully pots or other features that could effect incidental capture or killing, predation, disturbance, including those associated with recreation and human pressure,.

D.5.1 The construction of the new garage, on a current area of hardstanding, will not have a detrimental impact on GCN after the works are completed. With enhancements measures put in place including the replacement of lost grassland and the creation of refugia, the site will be enhanced for GCN. The works will not result in any additional footfall or human presence than what is already at the site. All excavations/ trenches will be filled in following the works and all drainage will be underground so not accessible for GCN and will not inadvertently results in their entrapment or capture.

D.6 Predicted scale of impact

Include impacts on species status at the site, 2km, 10km, local, county, regional and country levels.

D.6.1 There will be no detrimental impact on the favourable conservation status of GCN at the site or at a local, county or regional level.

Delivery Information - Mitigation, compensation and monitoring

Description of how the impacts will be addressed in order to ensure no detriment to the maintenance of the population at a favourable conservation status.

E Works to be undertaken

Please identify which works will be undertaken or supervised by a licensed ecologist

The following works will be undertaken or supervised by a licenced individual:-

- Erection and removal of a GCN exclusion fence
- Placing pit-fall traps and refugia mats to trap GCN within the development area
- Checking of pit-fall traps and refugia
- Transporting GCN (therefore possessing/disturbing) from within the development area to the receptor site (immediately to the north of the site)
- Destructive searches of rubble piles and grassland

E.1 Great Crested Newt capture and exclusion (if applicable).

Timings, effort, methods to be employed, reasonable avoidance schemes or measures for great crested newts (fencing, fence maintenance, logging captures, inspection and maintenance of fences), locations of receptor sites etc. Include diagrams to show locations of draft and exclusion fencing, pitfall trap design and trap density. State if site based weather stations are used to demonstrate appropriate trapping conditions

Great Crested Newt capture and exclusion

E.1.1 To prevent GCN from being harmed during the proposed works, exclusion fencing will be erected around the site, to capture GCN and to then translocate them to the area of woodland just to the north of the site (receptor site). The garden pond is to the east of the house and will therefore not be included within the fenced area.

E.1.2 The points below detail the methodology that will be followed to exclude GCN from the site, under the NRW licence.

- The fencing along the northern boundary will be one-way fencing, at an angle of between 45° and 40°, to allow GCN to move into further suitable habitat in the surrounding area of their own accord. The remaining boundaries of the site will be fenced with standard vertical GCN exclusion fencing (See Figure E.1.1)
- The fencing should be erected by professional fencing contractors who are either licenced or are supervised by a licenced ecologist, to the specifications detailed in Figure E.1.1.
- Pitfall traps will be placed at 5m intervals along the fencing, with refugia mats placed between.
- The refugia mats and pitfall traps will be set flush to the fences. The rims of the pitfall traps will be at ground level and abut the newt fencing in order to maximise capture rate. A mammal ladder will be provided within traps to allow for shrews and other small mammals to escape. The floor of the traps will contain appropriate materials to protect captured animals.
- Carpet tiles will also be placed surrounding the rubble piles within the development site.
- The traps and mats will be checked daily before 10am, for a minimum of 30 days, stopping only when there has been 5 clear days. Depending on the numbers of GCN being caught, it may be possible to reduce the number of trapping days, however this will need to be with agreement from NRW.
- Trapping operations will cease, with pitfalls closed by a close-fitting lid, if weather conditions are unsuitable. A survey night is considered unsuitable if the dusk temperature is below 5°C. This work should commence between mid-march and mid-September. If trapping is carried out during autumn, a weather station will set up on site to log weather conditions and will be reviewed daily by the site ecologist.
- Due to the high suitability of the habitat and to ensure the capture of GCN, hand searches, including the dismantling and removal of refuges such as brash piles, piles of rubble and bricks and some vegetation clearance may also be needed (under supervision by licenced ecologist) and will take place during the trapping process. This will then encourage any GCN remaining to move across the site and enter the traps/leave the area via the one-way fencing.
- Approx. 10 days before the end of trapping, and if the number of GCN being caught is low, the grassland will be strimmed to 10cm (under ecological supervision) and then strimmed to ground level 1-2 days after, following a finger-tip search by a licensed ecologist. A strip of grassland along the fence line will be retained at 10cm to provide some cover.
- A daily log of all captures will be kept by surveyors visiting the site and the fence will be checked daily during the capture period.
- Newts will be captured in a small plastic bucket and will be relocated to the area of woodland to the north of the site, which will be the receptor site.
- During the project, the vegetation along the GCN fence needs to be maintained to ensure the vegetation doesn't grow over the newt fence providing amphibians with a mean of crossing the fence. This should be carried out by spraying herbicide along

the fence or using hand tools such as shears; no automatic hand tools (strimmers etc) should be used within the vicinity of the fence.

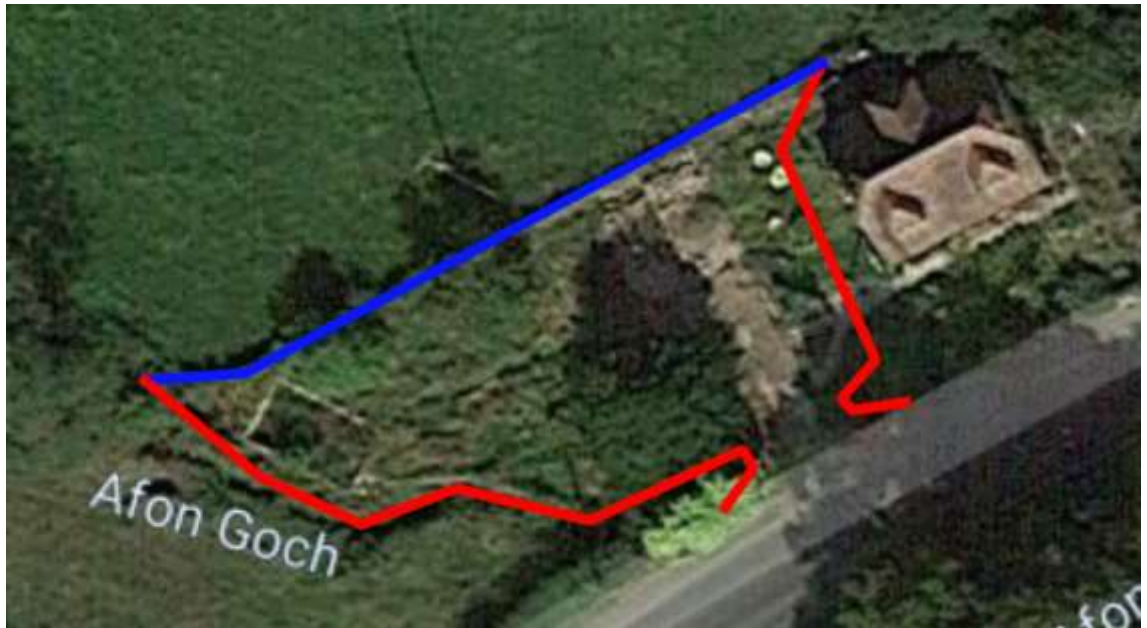


Figure E.1.1 Indicative newt fence outline. Red line is vertical fencing and the Blue line is one-way fencing at an angle of 45° to 40°.

During construction works – Mitigation

E.1.3 During construction works and whilst the GCN fencing is still present, the following measures will be adhered to.

- Works will only commence once the site has been deemed cleared of GCN and it is unlikely that GCN will be found on site during works. However, in the event of GCN being found on site during works all works must stop and the licenced ecologist called.
- If there is need for further removal of suitable habitat, this will done under the supervision of a licence ecologist.
- All materials brought onto site must be either stored within the exclusion fence or if this is not possible that they are elevated off the ground, for example, on pallets to avoid creating refugia habitat for GCN.
- The exclusion fence must remain intact for the duration of the development. The homeowners will check the exclusion fence daily during works to ensure that the fence is in a condition to prevent GCN from entering the site and maintain a log of checks. The fence must also remain clear of vegetation. If the fence becomes damaged at any point during the works, and tears/holes become apparent, these will need to be repaired immediately and the ecologist should be called to advise and assess whether the fencing has become comprised enough to warrant further trapping to be carried out.
- All contractors will be given a toolbox talk before works begin. This will include information about the potential to harm great crested newts and other amphibians, and the measures to be taken to avoid this, the identification of all three newt species found in the area, smooth, palmate and great crested newts and the key identification features between them, and provide detail regarding their ecology.

The toolbox talk will also provide information regarding the design of the newt fence, the importance of its integrity throughout the project, and the trapping which has taken place on site. The toolbox talk will also discuss biosecurity on the site. The toolbox talk will be provided in the first instance by the ecologist, and available on site for any further inductions which are necessary.

- The exclusion fence will be removed once all construction and mitigation works are complete by a licenced contractor or under the supervision of a licenced ecologist; following a thorough search down the side of the fence that is on the outside of the exclusion zone for any GCN and other amphibians that may be taking refuge there.
- If works need to take place outside the newt fence but in suitable habitat, this must take place after a fingertip search by the ecologist (following vegetation cutting if required) and under the supervision of the ecologist. Depending on the extent of the works, further liason with NRW may be required and the licence method statement may need to be amended to mitigate sufficiently.

E.2 Great Crested Newt habitat

E.2.1 Receptor site modification, enhancement or creation.

Include details of new breeding sites and resting places e.g pond creation- design, layout, number, planting schemes, water supply and hydrology regimes, terrestrial habitat diversification or creation – design, habitat type, planting schemes, provenance of imported plants, consideration of biosecurity impacts.

E.2.1.1 The areas of grassland affected by the works, will be replaced/re-sown and the homeowners will continue to manage their garden and pond for wildlife.

E.2.1.2 A minimum of two refugia and one hibernaculum will be created to enhance the site for GCN. The hibernaculum will follow the design in the great crested newt mitigation guidelines (English Nature, 2001) and will be a minimum of 2m length x 1m width x 1m height and will comprise logs, bricks and rocks covered with soil/turf.

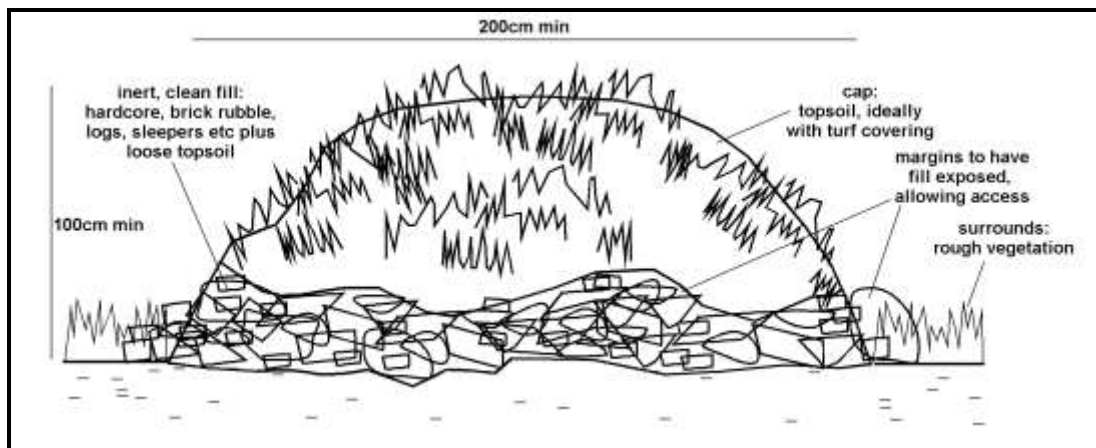


Figure E.2.1.1 Suggested hibernaculum design (English Nature, 2001)

E.2.2 Temporary loss of breeding sites, resting places

Provide details of all reasonable avoidance measures to be undertaken throughout the period of works

E.2.2.1 No breeding sites will be lost during works (temporarily or permanently). The small garden pond (not thought to be a breeding pond), will be outside of the fenced area and will therefore still be accessible to GCN in the area.

E.2.2.2 The fencing of the site and will result in a temporary loss of resting and foraging habitat (grassland/rubble piles), however there are large areas of suitable habitat in the surrounding area, and the receptor site to the north, including breeding ponds.

E.2.2.3 To prevent GCN from being harmed during the proposed works, exclusion fencing will be erected around the site, to capture GCN and to then translocate them to the area of woodland just to the north of the site (receptor site). One-way fencing will be installed along the northern boundary to allow for GCN to move to areas of suitable habitat to the north of the site.

E.2.2.4 Due to the high suitability of the habitat and to ensure the capture of GCN, hand searches, including the dismantling of refuges such as brash piles, piles of rubble and bricks and some vegetation clearance may also be needed (under supervision by licenced ecologist) and will take place during the trapping process. This will then encourage any GCN remaining to move across the site and enter the traps/leave the area via the one-way fencing.

E.2.3 Destruction of existing breeding sites, resting places

Full project programme including dewatering schemes (including filter specifications), programmes of terrestrial searches, fencing location and construction, transport methodologies, void infilling.

E.2.3.1 There are no breeding sites within the site and therefore will not be affected by the works.

E.2.3.2 Rubble and brick piles, which may be used as a resting place, will be removed under supervision of a licenced ecologist near the end of the trapping period. Also, depending on the numbers of GCN being found, Approx. 10 days before the end of trapping, the grassland will be strimmed to 10cm and then strimmed to ground level 1 – 2 days after under the supervision of a licenced ecologist.

E.2.4 Scaled maps/plans

To show proposals for mitigation outlined above in relation to existing and proposed habitat features and in relation to the proposed development outline. A GIS data layer may be included with your application to illustrate locations of habitats in E.2.1 to E.2.3



Figure E.2.4.1 Proposed location for hibernaculum shown in red and refugia shown in blue.

E.3 Mechanisms for ensuring delivery of mitigation and compensation measures

E.3.1 Measures to ensure compliance with this method statement.

This may require appointment of an external auditing scheme including audit key performance indicators, for medium, large scale or long term schemes e.g. residential development, pipeline construction or maintenance, way leaves for utilities, quarrying and mineral extraction.

E.3.1.1 The works will be audited by Enfys ecology to ensure only the work specified in this method statement has taken place and ensure the correct methodology has been undertaken.

E.3.2 Ensure that sufficient land has been acquired for compensation purposes

Provide scaled maps/plans

E.3.2.1 N/A - Due to the work being carried out, no further land has been acquired for compensation purposes. All mitigation and enhancement is within the land currently owned by the landowner.

E.3.3 Ensure that designs of subsequent development are newt friendly

Do not include features likely to result in incidental capture or killing

E.3.3.1 Once construction has been completed, there will be no features present which are likely to result in incidental capture or killing

E.3.4 Provide sufficient resources

To ensure effective site management and associated wardening and monitoring where relevant.

E.3.4.1 The homeowners will continue to manage their garden and pond for wildlife and will ensure the refugia and hibernaculum created remain fit for purpose.

E.4 Mitigation contingencies

Describe any contingency proposals including circumstances when the contingencies will be instigated.

E.4.1 If during the works it becomes apparent that more GCN are found than expected (over 30), then further mitigation will be reviewed, an example of this will be the creation of extra refugia and hibernacula.

E.5 Biosecurity risk assessment

Consider presence of non-native species and disease on site and actions to be undertaken that will prevent their spread onto or off the site

E.5.1 No invasive non-native plant species are known within the site or recorded within the immediate area. However, *Chytrid* is known in the area. This document tabulates those species that have been identified as having the potential to be imported during works and the likely pathways and operational mitigation have also been identified.

Table E.5.1 Species identified as having the potential to be imported during works

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
Himalayan balsam	Spread of species via construction machinery/	Low. Himalayan Balsam is not known to	Ensure contractors know what Himalayan Balsam looks like. If any

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
	movement of soil. Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil.	be present on site. Low. There are no requirements to import soil.	plants are identified these should be pulled up and left to dry before the seeds set (July/ August).
Japanese knotweed	Spread of species via construction machinery/ movement of soil. Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil.	Low. Japanese knotweed is not known to be present on site. Low. There are no requirements to import soil.	Ensure contractors know what Japanese knotweed looks like. If it is identified on site, refer to the Environment Agency's Japanese knotweed Code of Practice.
Giant Hogweed	Seed being carried from site to site	Low. Giant Hogweed is not known to be present on site.	Ensure all boots, tools, tyres, plant and machinery are thoroughly cleaned before coming on site.
Invasive non-native plants	Planting	Medium	All new planting stock be to grown in an environment free from invasive non-native plants.
<i>Chytrid</i>	Transport of spores on boots or field equipment from one water body to another.	Low. No contact by personnel with other amphibian sites. High if machinery has been in contact with water on an infected site, otherwise low	Ensure all ecologists clean their footwear and survey equipment between sites. If amphibians are handled disposable vinyl gloves should be worn.

E.5.2 Biosecurity Procedures

E.5.2.1 Prior to accessing the site, and before leaving the following procedures must be followed.

- All footwear and outerwear must be cleaned to remove any organic material, for example leaves and soil. Clean brushes to be carried for this purpose.
- Following the removal of organic material all footwear must be sprayed or dipped in disinfectant until it runs off. See disinfection procedure, below.
- Mud and other organic material to be cleaned from vehicle tyres, wheels and wheel arches prior to arrival on site.
- Clean and disinfect tools and equipment before accessing site.

E.5.2.2 Disinfection Procedure:

1. Brush off all debris, plant fragments including wood chippings, and all organic material e.g. soil.
2. Rinse with water.

3. Disinfect by spraying with a solution of Virkon disinfectant, (10mg/ml or as printed instructions, if for example using tablets) until the spray runs off. Boots should be stood in a bucket or other container of solution, especially prior to going on site. Spraying should take place away from vegetation.
4. Leave for at least 1 minute
5. Rinse with clean water, brought to site for this purpose.

E.5.2.3 Virkon solution should ideally be kept and flushed into a sink, or drain with water. If on site disposal is required the solution should be disposed of on a large hardstanding area away from vegetation.

F Post-development site safeguard

F.1 Habitat/site management and maintenance

Include ongoing land management proposals, details of who will be responsible for management and maintenance, on going running costs, site/structure ownership and monitoring development of new habitats.

F.1.1 The current owners will continue to manage their garden and pond for wildlife and will ensure the refugia and hibernacular created remain in good condition and fit for purpose.

F.2 Population monitoring

Include details of monitoring effort and timing, personnel involved and equipment to be used.

F.2.1 As the development will have a low impact on the population and a low - medium population is likely to be present, according of the GCN mitigation guidelines no further monitoring is required; as long as all mitigation and enhancements are carried out as per this method statement.

F.3 Post-development mitigation contingencies

Describe the action that you will take if monitoring results are unfavourable.

N/A

F.4 Mechanism for ensuring delivery of post-development works

As appropriate e.g. Section 106 Agreement, to include details of who will undertake the work and reporting details, other covenants, contractual agreements or wardening schemes.

F.4. The presence of GCN on site will be written into the deeds of the property to ensure that any future owners are aware and the hibernacula and refugia present on site are retained.

G Timetable of works

Include timings of all capture, development activities and mitigation measures, monitoring and other post development works

	June/July 22	Late July/ early August	August/ Sep 22	Sep 22	Sep/Oct 22 – Spring 23	Spring 23
Licence application processed by NRW						
Fencing to commence on receipt of licence						
Newt trapping						
Supervision and destructive searches						
Development						
Fence removal						

Table G.1 – Timetable of works

H Land Ownership – Mitigation Site/Compensation Site

H.1 Mitigation Site/Compensation Site Ownership

If mitigation is to be undertaken at a location not owned by the applicant, you must provide the written consent of the relevant land owner(s). You must also provide details of how the mitigation is to be maintained in the long term (e.g. a legal agreement, transfer of legal interest).

N/A

H.2 Mitigation Site/Compensation Ownership post construction

If the ownership of the mitigation site will change after construction please confirm the identity of the prospective owners/occupiers together with timescales associated with transfer of occupancy or other forms of legal interest. You must also provide details of how the mitigation is to be maintained in the long term (e.g. a legal agreement).

N/A

I Declaration

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

I declare that should a licence be granted, the work as proposed in this Method Statement will be strictly adhered to. I understand that any deviation from the works as proposed in this Method Statement without agreement from NRW would result in a breach of the licence. NB. Applicants should note that it is an offence under regulation 59 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 to knowingly or recklessly provide false information in order to obtain a licence.			
Signature of the Applicant		Date	27/05/2022
<i>For electronic submissions please insert an electronic signature above or place an x in the box opposite to confirm agreement with the declarations above.</i>			X
Full name in BLOCK LETTERS		Carolyne Alison Prew	
Signature of the Ecologist		Date	27/05/2022
<i>For electronic submissions please insert an electronic signature above or place an x in the box opposite to confirm agreement with the declarations above.</i>			X
Full name in BLOCK LETTERS		Keymar Wake	

J References

Credits for source information.

Amphibian and Reptile conservation UK (ARG-UK) (2008). *Amphibian Disease Precautions: a guide for UK fieldworkers*. Version 1. February 2008. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation UK, See publications section of www.arguk.org.

Enfys Ecology, 2022 *GCN Reasonable Avoidance Measures and Biosecurity Risk Assessment Report* EE.1021.22.LB

English Nature (2001). *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough

Lanton T, Beckett C & Foster J (2001). *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*. Froglife, Halesworth, Suffolk

K Annexes

K.1 Pre-existing survey reports

Enfys Ecology, 2022 *GCN Reasonable Avoidance Measures and Biosecurity Risk Assessment Report* EE.1021.22.LB

K.2 Raw survey data

Cofnod Data Search – Public

Cofnod Data Search - Confidential