

EN-PLAN

PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE

LOCATION OF APPLICATION

WILLMORE, THE CHEQUER, BRONINGTON, WREXHAM. SY13 2JQ

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION

DYMCHWEL ANNEDD BRESENNOL A CHODI ANNEDD NEWYDD /
DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING AND ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT
DWELLING



Introduction

Precautionary Method Statement:

Great Crested Newts

In order to limit the potential for committing an offence with respect to great crested newts, and to ensure the protection of common amphibians and reptiles, the following advice is given:

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Legislation

The basic protection afforded to great crested newts is listed below:

It is illegal to:

- ☒ deliberately kill, injure or capture (or take) great crested newts
- ☒ deliberately disturb great crested newts
- ☒ deliberately take or destroy the eggs of great crested newts
- ☒ recklessly disturb great crested newts while it is occupying a structure of place which is used for shelter or protection or obstruct access to their places of shelter or protection;
- ☒ damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of great crested newts;
- ☒ possess or transport a great crested newt or any part of a great crested newt, unless acquired legally;
- ☒ sell (or offer for sale) or exchange great crested newts or parts of great crested newts.

Common reptile species (slow worm, grass snake, adder, common lizard) are protected against killing, injuring and sale under UK legislation.

Other amphibians – common frog, common toad, smooth newt and palmate newt, are not offered the same legal protection but it is good practice to try to avoid harm to these species. Common toad is listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 as a species of principle importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity and thus must be regarded by the planning authority in exercising any of its functions.

1.2 Need for this Precautionary Method Statement

Based on the findings from the daytime Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Great Crested Newt (GCN) Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) (Trust Ecology, 2016) it was concluded that GCN are present in surrounding habitats just over 100m from the site and are likely to be breeding in the ponds identified in the Ecological Appraisal report as being of average suitability or higher (Ponds 5-11 and associated ditch) over 100m from the proposed development area. Although their presence within the short grazed improved grassland that makes up the site is unlikely, there is a low risk of GCN in close proximity to working areas as the site is bordered by hedgerows, which are to be unaffected by the works. Individuals of common amphibian species, including common toad and smooth

Precautionary Method Statement If a newt is found:

- If it is suspected that a Great Crested Newt has been found, work must be suspended and the advice of a suitably licensed GCN ecologist sought. Contact details are supplied at the end of this Precautionary Method Statement. A Natural England development license may be required before works can continue. This may entail considerable delays and costs.

- Should the project over run significantly (by more than 1-2 years) then further advice must be sought to determine whether additional survey or licensing are required before work continues.
 - At no point should any worker handle a Great Crested Newt or suspected Great Crested Newt. Unlicensed handling is illegal and untrained handling may cause the newt unnecessary stress and injury.
 - If, using the supplied hand out at the end of this document, the site operatives can CONFIDENTLY (100% certainty) identify that the newt found is NOT a Great Crested Newt, the newt can be carefully moved out of the area of works and placed in nearby habitat similar to that in which it was found. A newt found on land should not be placed into a pond or other water body.
- If reptiles or amphibians (other than GCN) are found
- If any amphibians (other than Great Crested Newt) or reptiles are found within the working area they should be removed to an area outside of the working zone, preferably in dense vegetation, a rubble pile, or under lying wood (taking care not to squash them).
 - Amphibians should be picked up by placing the fingers under the body and lifting, not by grasping any part of them. They can be held still by placing a thumb gently on top of them, if necessary.
 - Handling should be kept to a minimum and latex gloves should be avoided. Vinyl, Nitrile and other non-latex gloves are ok and should be used where possible.
 - If the amphibians/reptiles found are hibernating then they should be collected up and placed in a covered box or bucket while a suitable shelter / hibernaculum is prepared for them under the advice of an ecologist.
- Hand search and destructive searches
- The following methodology will be followed immediately prior to any groundworks/ excavations:
- All potential refuges shall be searched and topsoil stripped within the footprints of the chalets during the active season for amphibians (mid-March - Mid October, weather dependant). The hand search will be carried out by the GCN-licenced ecologist and the topsoil strip by careful use of an excavator and will be undertaken under the supervision of a licenced ecologist.
 - Only when the licensed ecologist is completely satisfied that there remains no risk to amphibians may plant/machine continue to excavate and level the chalet pad areas. identifying great crested newts (Information taken from the Great Crested Newt Handbook)
- ☐ The great crested newt is the UK's largest newt, reaching a maximum adult overall length of up to about 170mm.
 - ☐ Mature female length ranges from 90 - 170mm, typically reaching 110-130mm.
 - ☐ Male newts may mature at a length of only 85mm (normally more), and grow to an adult maximum of about 150mm, though more typically 110-120mm.
 - ☐ Adults are easily distinguished from the two other native newt species, the smooth and palmate newts, by size and colouring; these two smaller species reach a maximum of around 100mm.
 - ☐ The skin of adult crested newts is granular in appearance. It has a black or dark brown background colour with darker spots that in males extend onto the crest. It has very fine white spots on the lower flanks.
 - ☐ The male (below) has a jagged crest along the back that dips at the rear of the

abdomen, and a smoother edged crest above and below the tail. The crest decreases in size outside the breeding season. There is a white, silver or grey stripe running from the tail tip along the central, fleshy section of the tail that fades as it approaches the abdomen.

♀ Females (below) lack a crest and white tail stripe, but have a yellow-orange stripe running along the bottom edge of the tail. Both sexes have a vivid orange or yellow belly with an irregular pattern of dark black spots or blotches. ♀ On land, the great crested newt appears virtually black, and in males the crest shrinks back against the body. Males of all newts have a relatively more swollen cloaca (vent).

Comparison: Great Crested Newt (darker) & Smooth Newt

♀ On leaving the water, great crested newt juveniles are similar in appearance to adults, apart from lacking the black spots/patterns that develop on the orange belly as they grow. The pattern becomes 'fixed' as the adults approach maximum size.

Details of the toolbox talk to be given by a licenced ecologist

An ecological toolbox talk is a service in which a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) attends your site to discuss the site and species-specific ecology with personnel and contractors. The talks cover everything from an ecologist's role on site, relevant legislation, a discussion on any European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses (EPSML) in place on site, and permitted and prohibited working practices.

A toolbox talk will be delivered by Greenscape ecologists

Name and contact details of ECoW

Peta Marshall

Greenscape Environmental Ltd
Long Acres,
Lyth Bank,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire,
SY3 0BW

<https://www.ecologysurveyors.co.uk/meet-the-team>

Fence Specification

Ecofender™ Newt Fences supplied by Hy-Tex (UK) Ltd. Tel: 01233 720097

Ecofender™ Temporary/Semi Permanent Newt Fences are tough plastic sheets used to temporarily exclude, or contain, newts, frogs, snakes and small wildlife - protecting them from entering hazardous areas (such as construction sites) - and conform to the CIRIA "Wildlife Fencing Design Guide" and English Nature "Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines" criteria.

Hy-Tex Ecofender™ Newt Barriers sheets can be fixed to a simple post and rail timber fence, and the bottom edge entrenched to provide an impenetrable barrier. While the smooth surfaces are difficult for reptiles and amphibians to climb. The tough, 1000 gauge, UV stabilised, green or clear polythene “Standard” grade is designed to resist weather damage - providing reliable protection throughout the works. A “Heavy-Duty” 2000 gauge reinforced grade is available for more demanding applications (such as exposed sites) or for prolonged protection; while a “Woven” grade is available for windy and/or budget solutions.

https://www.hy-tex.co.uk/product/ecofender-newt-fences/?gclid=CjwKCAjw04yjBhApEiwAJcvNofEtrvQsnqGZEMrDKkKb95qIJinaEVlue5pd6lBS3Tjqxf8zAFSd4RoCDOwQAvD_BwE

The attached plans show a newt proof fence to the front of the property and a fenced storage area for materials to reduce the risk of any harm to great crested newts further. Please refer to figure A2 on page A01.