



Leigh Ecology Ltd

Office 01606892032 Mobile 07815711678 8 Hall Drive, Marston, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 6DT

The Chequer, Bronnington, Wrexham, SY13 2JQ



Amphibian RAMs

Office 01606892032 Mobile 07815711678
Directors R S Leigh & J J Leigh. 8 Hall Drive, Marston, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 6DT

Leigh Ecology Ltd have been commissioned to provide an amphibian safeguard method statement in support of the proposed development of a garage and office building at The Chequer, Bronnington, Wrexham SY13 2JQ..

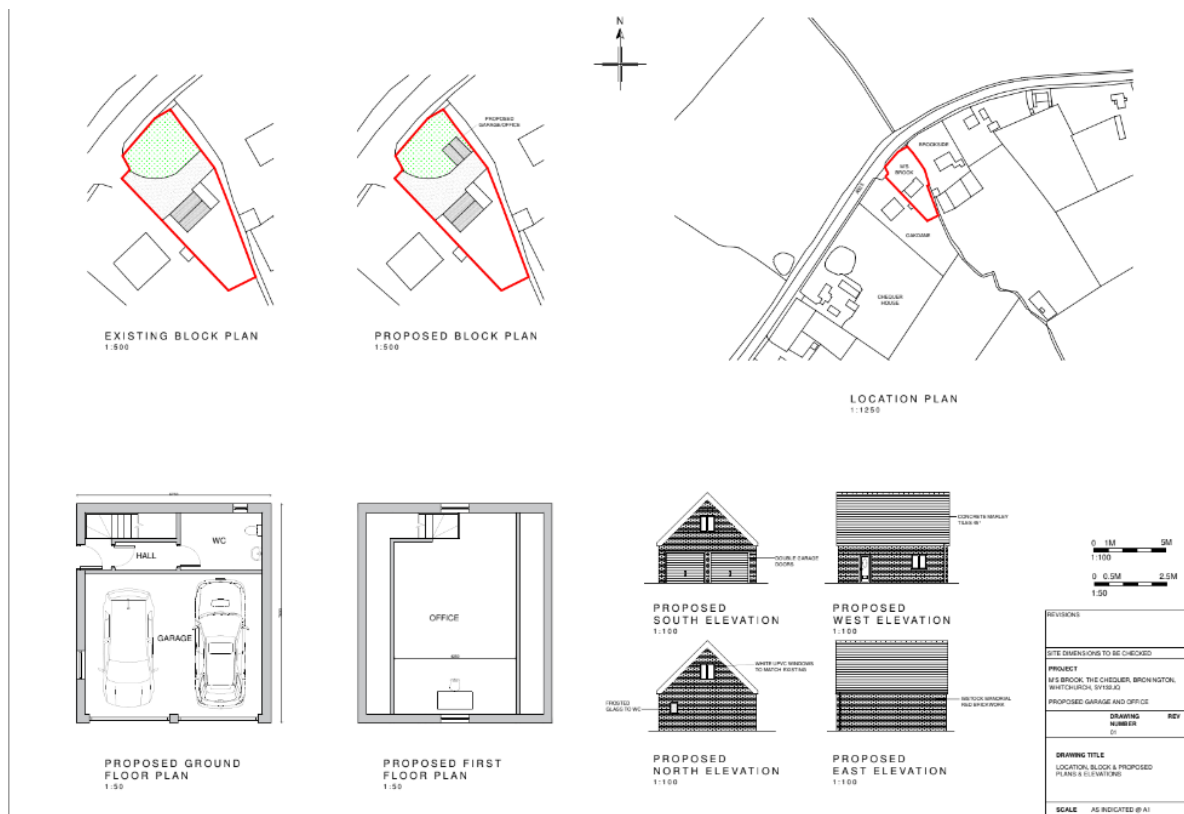
This is required in order to satisfy the following condition 5 (below) from Wrexham County Borough Council Planning Consent No BRN P/2022/0451 , relating to a pond located C76m Southwest of the proposal.

5. Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, a scheme of Great Crested Newt reasonable avoidance shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved scheme

Impact Assessment

The disturbance to the pond near the site will be minimal because the pond is located across a garden and grazed improved pasture.

There will be no loss of optimal terrestrial habitat, however given the pond is approximately 76m from the proposed development it is suggested that the construction works follow the Reasonable Avoidance Measures set out below.



Method Statement Objectives

The objectives of this method statement are: -

- To avoid committing an offence under the above legislation; and,
- To ensure that favourable conservation status of amphibians and reptiles are maintained.

Any development related activities on the site, such as vegetation clearance or excavations in areas of suitable newt habitat, may potentially affect this species. As a result, safeguards must be implemented to protect this species and the Method Statement below details measures to be implemented to ensure that these objectives are achieved.



LEGISLATION

Some Reptiles and Great crested newts (GCN) and their habitat are fully protected under national (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)) and European law (The Habitats and Species Regulations 2010) as a European Protected Species (EPS). The combined legislation makes it illegal to:

- intentionally or deliberately capture, kill or injure a great crested newt or reptile.
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or 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 or reptile when in a place of shelter
- possess a slow worm, adder, grass snake, sand lizard or great crested newt, or any part of it, unless acquired lawfully
- Sell, barter, exchange or transport or offer for sale reptiles or great crested newts or parts of them.

METHOD STATEMENT

This method statement should be followed for the initial phase of works within the site, which may affect the surrounding terrestrial habitat. Minor or short term destructive or disturbance works will also follow this Method Statement to ensure legal compliance and to ensure the favourable conservation status of the species is not compromised.

The following measures will be adopted throughout the construction period of the proposed development:

- A toolbox talk covering the following points will be presented to the developer undertaking the construction activities.
- A fingertip search by a licensed ecologist of the proposed dwelling area immediately prior to any turf removal.
- Should any trenches or excavations be required, an escape route for animals that enter the trench must be provided, especially if left open overnight. Ramps should be no greater than of 45 degrees in angle. Ideally, any holes should be securely covered.
- All excavations left open overnight or longer should be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling.
- There will be no impacts on surrounding hedgerows. All hedgerows will be maintained throughout the construction programme.
- Any excavated material should be placed on boards or sheeting to reduced damage to the grass sward (if present). If left overnight this material should be searched prior to being used as infill.
- Back filling should be completed immediately after any excavations, ideally back filling as an ongoing process to the work in hand.
- Terrestrial and aquatic habitat improvements should be undertaken on ponds in the wider ownership of the client as part of the proposed development, this should include pond vegetation clearance and provision of more primary terrestrial habitat within proximity of the ponds.
- If a GCN is found during the construction activities, work must stop immediately and contact should be made with a licensed, qualified ecologist, who will liaise with **Natural Resources Wales**