

Lloyd's Animal Feeds,
Bridge Road (North),
Wrexham Industrial Estate
Ecology Toolbox Talk



marches ecology

Why is a Toolbox Talk needed?

- ▶ It is a requirement of the planning consent.
- ▶ There are legally protected species present on/ near the work site – Great Crested Newt, Badger, and possibly reptiles and nesting birds.
- ▶ 'Ash dieback' has been identified at the site. It is a disease of Ash trees that can be spread from site to site.
- ▶ Parts of the site adjacent to the work area support species-rich grassland which is of conservation value.
- ▶ It is possible that you may come into contact with these animals/ plants; it is important that you know what to do if this happens. Remember individuals can be found liable for any offence under the legislation detailed below. You are responsible for your own actions.
- ▶ The toolbox talk provides information on how to identify certain species and what to do if you find them. It also details actions that should be taken in the event that a Great Crested Newt, reptile, Badger sett or active bird nest is found on the work site.

GENERAL

General ecological protection measures

- ▶ **The boundary of the work site is delineated by protective heras fencing and prohibition signs. This fencing has been installed to protect adjacent habitat. Do not access the areas beyond this fencing, outside the work site.** No tools, equipment, materials, machinery, vehicles and or soil/ rubble should be stored outside this fence. Do not move the heras fence.
- ▶ Do not access any areas where there is existing vegetation particularly trees, shrubs and grassland. If you are unsure or may be working in such areas contact the Site Manager before starting work. Such work will need to be discussed and agreed with the Ecologist.
- ▶ Best practice measures to prevent pollution must be implemented.
- ▶ Refer to the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report for further details on ecology matters.

GREAT CRESTED NEWT

Legal Protection

- ▶ The Great Crested Newt is protected under both European and British law. The legislation applies to all life stages, including eggs, larvae, juveniles and adults.
- ▶ It is illegal to handle, injure/ kill and or disturb any Great Crested Newt. It is also illegal to damage or destroy Great Crested Newt habitat.
- ▶ **Breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5000 per offence and, potentially, prison sentences of up to six months.**

Reasonable Avoidance Measures

- ▶ **This work site is subject to the requirements of a non-licensed Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Method Statement. This Method Statement details a working protocol that must be adhered to in order to avoid/ minimise potential impacts on Great Crested Newts.**

Identifying a Great Crested Newt

- ▶ Great Crested Newts are the largest of the three British species of newt; adult males can reach 15 cm in length, with females slightly larger at 18 cm (the photos/ pictures below are not life-size). The upper surface and flanks are black and warty, with a row of silver dots present along the side of the head and body. The belly is dark orange or yellow with a pattern of black blotches.

Identifying other newts

- ▶ The Great Crested Newt may be confused with the Smooth Newt, although adults of this species are generally smaller (at 10-11 cm – again, the pictures below are not life-size). The male has brown/ green skin with black spots and the female is light brown with darker spots.

Pictures of Great Crested Newts (Yellow boxes) and Smooth Newts (Orange boxes)



Great Crested Newt female (Above and below)



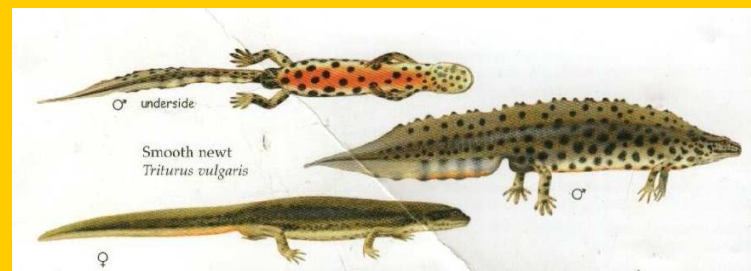
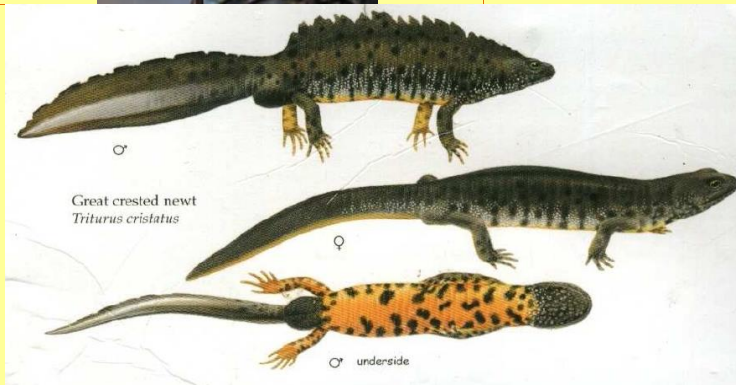
Great Crested Newt male (Above and below)



Smooth Newt male (above)



Smooth Newt female (above)



Drawings from Field Studies Council, 1999. *Guide to the reptiles and amphibians of Britain and Ireland.*

What are the requirements of the RAMs Method Statement?

- ▶ Refer to the RAMs Method Statement for further information on the required working protocol. The Method Statement details the approach to be taken during initial site clearance including vegetation removal. The ecologist will supervise this work.
- ▶ Following initial site clearance, etc, all site personnel will maintain a 'watching brief' and look out for amphibians.
- ▶ It is the responsibility of all site personnel to follow the requirements of the RAMs Method Statement.
- ▶ If you are unsure about any of the requirements of the RAMs contact the Site Manager and Ecologist.
- ▶ If you need to undertake any work outside the temporary protective fence you must first get permission from the Site Manager. The Site Manager will contact the Ecologist who may need to supervise the work.

What do I do if I find a newt?

- ▶ If any newt is found at any time you must immediately stop all work in the area and contact the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist. Then wait until the Ecologist arrives to identify and remove the newt. Remember, a licence is required to handle Great Crested Newts.
- ▶ If a Great Crested Newt is found it is likely that it will be necessary to obtain a Natural Resources Wales licence before work can re-commence. Do not re-start work until the Ecologist and the Site Manager have confirmed that it is ok to do so.
- ▶ If other amphibians such as a Common Frog or Common Toad are found, and confidently identified, then you can move it to an area well away from the work site under some cover such as long grass (firstly making sure your hands are damp).

REPTILES

Legal Protection

- ▶ Reptiles (Grass Snake, Adder, Slow-worm & Viviparous Lizard) are protected under British law.
- ▶ It is illegal to kill or injure a reptile.
- ▶ **Breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5000 per offence and, potentially, prison sentences of up to six months.**

Identifying a Slow-worm

- ▶ See photos/ pictures below (not life-size).
- ▶ A cylindrical legless lizard that looks like a small snake with a shiny metallic appearance.
- ▶ Up to 40-50 cm long.
- ▶ Males are grey or brown, while females have dark brown flanks and usually have a dark stripe down the back. Juveniles are typically gold in colour with dark sides and a stripe on the back.

Identifying a Grass Snake

- ▶ Up to 1 m long.
- ▶ Usually dark green or greyish, with dark vertical bars along the sides.
- ▶ Has a yellow 'collar' behind the head and round pupils.
- ▶ They emit a foul-smelling anal secretion when captured.

Identifying an Adder

- ▶ **Venomous.**
- ▶ A stocky snake usually up to 60 cm long.
- ▶ Recognisable due to the black/ brown zigzag pattern on the back.
- ▶ Males are typically greyish with a black zigzag, while females are ginger or brown with a brown zigzag. Juveniles tend to be ginger.

Identifying a Viviparous Lizard

- ▶ A small slender lizard, typically 12 – 15 cm long.
- ▶ Males generally have a speckled appearance on their backs with yellow/ orange undersides. Females are less speckled and have a 'vertebral' dark stripe down the back. Both are generally brown/ green. Juveniles are smaller and almost black when born, becoming a bronzy brown colour.

Reptiles at the Work Site	▶ Reptiles may be found within areas of rough grassland/ scrub and under objects such as logs/ rubble piles/ sheets of metal. ▶ Refer to the RAMs Method Statement for further information on the required working protocol.
What should I do if I find a reptile in/ close to the work site?	▶ Stop all work within close proximity to where the reptile was seen and immediately notify the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist. ▶ An escape route should be provided to the work site boundary and the reptile should be allowed to find its own way out. ▶ Reptiles should not be picked up or handled if it can be avoided. It is acceptable to pick up a Grass Snake, Slow-worm or Lizard to move it out of a working area if no other options are practical. Care should be taken when handling reptiles. Please note that Grass Snakes can bite although this is harmless. Remember that Adders are venomous and should not be approached or moved. ▶ Do not re-start work in this area until the Ecologist and Site Manager have confirmed that it is ok to do so.



Slow-worm. Above left: adult male; above right: adult female; left: juvenile.



Grass Snake. Left above: Male (smaller individual) and Female.

Left below: Male.

Adder. Below: Adult female.





Viviparous Lizard. Left: Adult; Below left: Juvenile.



BADGERS

Legal Protection

- ▶ Badgers are protected under British law.
- ▶ It is illegal to kill, injure or disturb a Badger; or to damage a Badger sett without a licence.
- ▶ **Breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5000 per offence and, potentially, prison sentences of up to six months.**

Identifying a Badger

- ▶ Adult Badgers grow up to a metre long.
- ▶ Their body is stout with grey fur, short legs and a short white tail.
- ▶ Their head is white with broad black stripes.
- ▶ Badgers live in underground setts made up of tunnels and chambers.



Badgers at the Work Site

- ▶ **There is no currently known Badger sett located within the work site. A sett could potentially be located within dense scrub adjacent to the work site.**
- ▶ Badgers do forage on, and travel across, some parts of the work site.

What should I do if I find a hole that might be a Badger sett in/ close to the work site?

- ▶ Stop all work within 30 m of the hole and immediately notify the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist.
- ▶ The Ecologist will need to confirm whether it is inhabited by a Badger or not.
- ▶ Do not re-start work in this area until the Ecologist and the Site Manager have confirmed that it is ok to do so.
- ▶ You are unlikely to see a Badger during the work as they are nocturnal.

What else do I need to do to help Badgers?

- ▶ If your work includes the excavation of deep holes, pits or trenches, such features should be filled in overnight or otherwise made safe by securely covering them or the provision of suitable 45° ramps.
- ▶ If you fence any part of the site (25 cm) gaps under or around the fence should be provided.
- ▶ Do not leave harmful substances uncovered. Badgers are strong and able to push over small storage drums.
- ▶ All open ends of pipes or other materials that Badgers may access should be securely blocked up overnight.

BIRDS

Legal Protection

- ▶ Birds are protected under British and in some cases European law.
- ▶ The damage/ destruction of any bird nest that is in use is illegal.
- ▶ It is also illegal to kill or injure any wild bird and or take/ destroy any egg of a wild bird.
- ▶ Some species receive additional legal protection.



Nesting birds at the Work Site

- ▶ It is possible that birds could nest in the remaining scrub and vegetation within the site. They could also nest in or on the building as it is constructed. Birds do nest in some unusual places and the discovery of a nest in the work site cannot be completely discounted. See photo to right of Collared Dove nest in building still under construction.
- ▶ The nesting period is usually considered to be March to August inclusive. Some birds nest earlier and later than this.



Where might I find nesting birds?

- ▶ Almost anywhere; for example, some birds could utilise the building. If you suspect that there may be a nest present in the area that you are working you should contact the Site Manager.
- ▶ The Site Manager may need to contact the Ecologist for further advice.
- ▶ The Ecologist may need to check any features that might be affected for bird nests prior to the start of work.

What should I do if I find a bird nest?

- ▶ Stop all work close to the nest and notify the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist.
- ▶ Do not re-start work in this area until the Ecologist and the Site Manager have confirmed that it is ok to do so.

BIO-SECURITY

What is bio-security?

- ▶ Bio-security is a term that relates to measures taken to prevent the spread of diseases, invasive non-native species, etc.
- ▶ The photo to the right shows the characteristic diamond shaped lesion on a young Ash sapling caused by Ash dieback recorded on the site.



How is bio-security applicable at the Work Site?

- ▶ Ash dieback which is caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* has been recorded from the site.
- ▶ Whenever machinery/ vehicles, materials and personnel are transported on/ off site there is a risk that non-native invasive plants and/ or diseases could be spread. **Certain species of plant are listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is illegal to spread these plants.**
- ▶ Wrexham Industrial Estate is important for amphibians; the chytrid fungus is a threat to these populations.

What do I need to do?

- ▶ Prior to starting work on the site, you must ensure that you are aware of, and carry out, the requirements of the bio-security measures prescribed in the RAMs Method Statement.
- ▶ You will need to discuss and agree an approach (for control measures) with the Site Manager and the Ecologist.

Two Key Rules

If you find a protected animal or are unsure of something to do with the Great Crested Newt and Reptile RAMs
Method Statement:

- ▶ Stop work immediately.
- ▶ Contact the Site Manager; if he is not available contact the Ecologist.

Contact Details

- ▶ Ecologist: Tom Knight 07928 212545 or if not available Max Ellson 07950 220188.
- ▶ Site Manager: Paul Jones 07944892306.

Signatories

I have read and understand the requirements of this Toolbox Talk.

Print	Signed	Company	Date

Print	Signed	Company	Date