



Reasonable Avoidance Measures for Great Crested Newts

Land at Llay Hall Farm,
West of Miners Park,
Wrexham LL12 0PD

Prepared on behalf of
Biogas Technology Ltd

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QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Quality Management Approved prior to Issue			
Report Ref:	SE0963-01_RAMs_G01a_DH		
Site Address:	Land at Llay Hall Farm, West of Miners Park, Llay, Wrexham LL12 OPD		
Doc Title:	Llay, Wrexham RAMs for Great Crested Newts		
Issue Date:	15 th September 2021	Revision No:	a
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1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Biora Ltd was commissioned in August 2021 by Biogas Technology Ltd to produce Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) in satisfaction of Condition 3 of LLA P/2019/0210 for the '*erection of two generator units and ancillary development*'.
- 1.2 The conditions states '*no part of the development shall commence until a scheme of reasonable avoidance measures in relation to great crested newts, including a timescale for their implementation, has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority*'.
- 1.3 The proposed development comprises development of a two gas-powered generator units and ancillary development on land at Llay Hall Farm, west of Miners Park, Llay, Wrexham LL12 0PD.
- 1.4 For further information on this document, please contact:

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background and Scope of Survey

2.1.1 Biora Ltd was commissioned in August 2021 by Biogas Technology Ltd to produce Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) in satisfaction of Condition 3 of LLA P/2019/0210 for the 'erection of two generator units and ancillary development'.

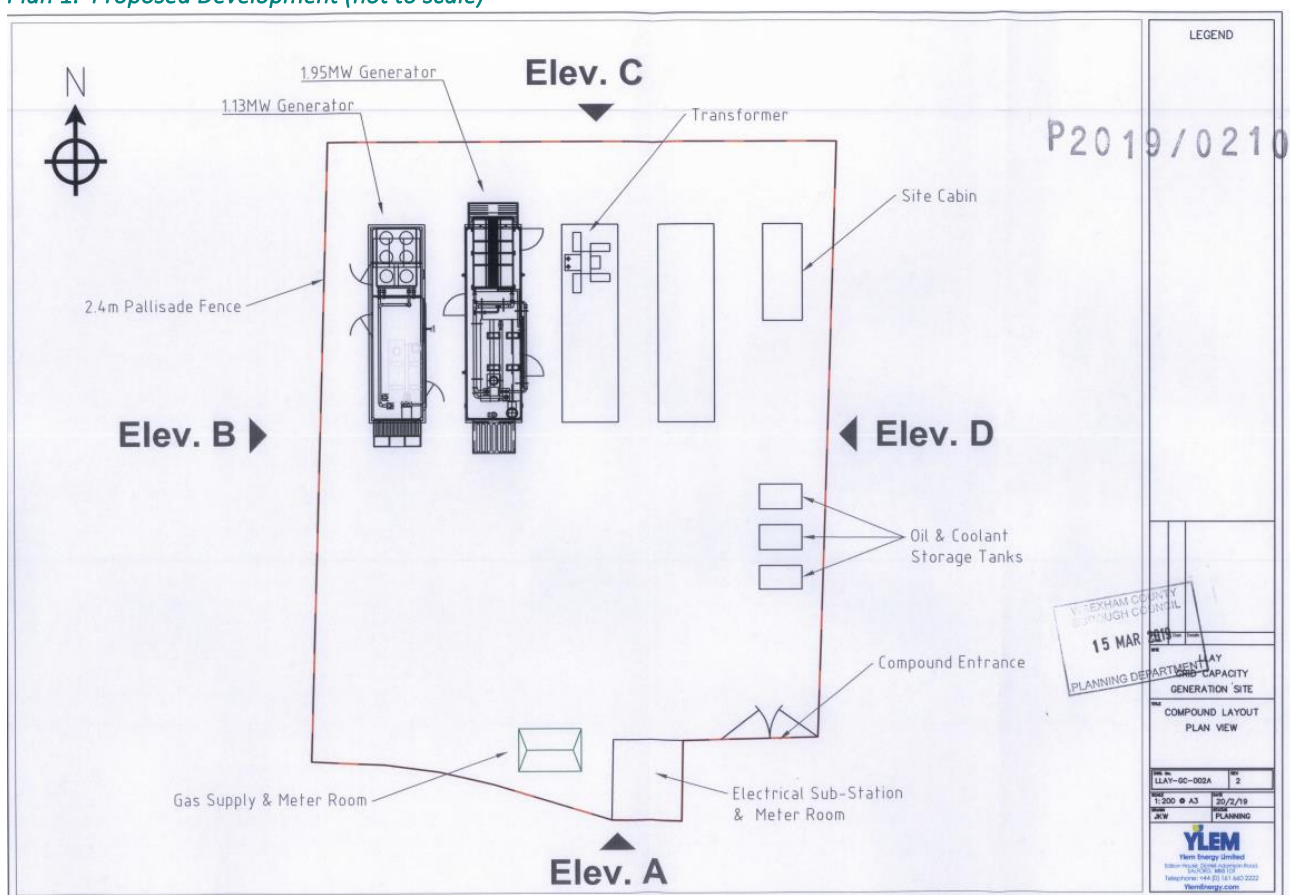
2.1.2 The conditions states 'no part of the development shall commence until a scheme of reasonable avoidance measures in relation to great crested newts, including a timescale for their implementation, has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'.

2.1.3 The site comprises a small area of hard standing compound and associated access track off Llay Road (B5102), immediately to the west of Llay Industrial Estate. The site is located in an area that has been identified as supporting a population of Great Crested Newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*, a European Protected Species, and the proposed development work lies in proximity to potential and known GCN breeding ponds.

2.2 Proposed Development Works

2.2.1 The proposed development applications is for the installation of two gas-powered generators [Plan 1](#), below.

Plan 1. Proposed Development (not to scale)



2.3 Site Description and Context

2.3.1 The site is centred at OS grid reference [SJ 31986 56240](#) and located to the west of Llay industrial estate in an – otherwise - rural setting. The rural landscape comprises hedge-lined fields with occasional trees and ponds scattered through the fields.

3.0 LEGISLATION

3.1 European Protected Species (EPS)

3.1.1 Great crested newts are European Protected Species and are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under the legislation it is an offence to:

- Intentionally or deliberately capture, kill or injure Great Crested Newts (GCNs).
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb them in a place used for shelter or protection.
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a place used for shelter or protection.
- Possess a great crested newt, or any part of it, unless acquired legally.
- Sell, barter, exchange or transport or offer for sale great crested newts or parts of them.

3.1.2 Wrexham County Borough Council operate GCN mitigation measures that are determined by the location (in relation to GCN habitat), nature and extent of the proposed development. For the current proposal, the relevant prescription is '*Undertake Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) to prevent harm to GCN*'.

4.0 REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES

- 4.1 **Site Induction:** As part of the site induction, all staff working on site will be made aware of the potential for the presence of Great Crested Newts (GCNs) within the site and immediate landscape and of their legal protection and status as European Protected Species through a **Toolbox Talk**, provided by a qualified ecologist. An illustration of the species (see Appendix) included on the Toolbox Talk hand out will be displayed in the Site Office for reference for the duration of the works.
- 4.1.2 **Timing of Clearance Works:** All works to prepare the site for development will be undertaken during the spring/summer season (April to mid-June) when GCN enter into / are around aquatic habitat to breed, and outside of the hibernation period (avoiding November to February, inclusive).
- 4.3. **Vegetation Clearance:** For the initial stages of the development, any vegetation clearance may be undertaken in a phased manner under the supervision of an ecologist holding a Great Crested Newt Survey Licence. Ground vegetation, and any debris clearance will encompass a finger-tip search around all potential refugia in a careful and controlled manner, with constant vigilance for any sheltering newts and/or any other potential species.
- 4.4 Any areas of tall, rough grassland and scrub will be strimmed to a height of 150mm under supervision of the ecologist. All arisings will be removed by hand, and these areas will then be left undisturbed for at least 48 hours. Thereafter, areas which have been strimmed will be hand searched by the qualified ecologist.
- 4.5 Where tree removal is required, this will be supervised by the ecologist, who will inspect the root ball for amphibians and ensure that there is no tracking of machinery or dragging out of trees over areas in which GCNs might be present.
- 4.6 **Storage of Materials:** Building materials should be stored only within existing areas of hard-standing and should be raised above ground level using pallets in order to prevent amphibians from seeking shelter underneath. In addition, care should be taken that all works, plant and materials remain on existing open areas of hard-standing; avoiding the surrounding boundaries and woodland margin.
- 4.7 **Removal of Rubbish:** Waste materials should be removed from site immediately or placed in skips. No piles of rubbish or waste should be allowed to remain on site as this could create a potential shelter for amphibians which could then be disturbed in their removal. This is a precautionary measure only, and the chance of significant numbers of newts moving to shelter under stored materials is considered to be very low.
- 4.8 **Trenches and Holes:** All trenches, or holes should not be left open overnight. They should either be backfilled or covered, and the edges sealed to prevent amphibians getting trapped overnight. They should be checked in the morning prior to work restarting.
- 4.9 **Where GCN are found:** In the unlikely event that any individual GCN is found during development, then all works must cease immediately, and advice sought from an ecologist holding a Great Crested Newt Survey Licence. Where the GCN's live is in imminent danger, the GCN can be moved to the nearest point of safety.

APPENDIX 1: GCN Toolbox Talk