

Great Crested Newt Method Statement
(Reasonable Avoidance Measures)

**New vehicular access at
Pool House, LL13 0TE
P/2011/0302**

Mr and Mrs JV Carrier

(Lloyd Surveyors)

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Background and Supporting Information

A Executive Summary

The need for this work comes from the site owners' responsibility to ensure that the development minimises the possible death of, and the consequences of any habitat loss, division and species dispersal on great crested newts. This project is to construct a new vehicular access on pasture land and create a visibility gap through a hedge.

In June 2011 a brief newt assessment carried out by the author recorded great crested newt in the pond on site, within 30m of the proposed development. The commonplace presence of great crested newts in the locality is well documented and hence the need for this statement. During this brief assessment one great newt larva and two eggs were recorded in the pond, proving breeding. The pond had a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) 0.73 - good.

In addition, the hedge and pasture to be removed were closely surveyed. They were found to form good potential hibernation habitat for newts and consequently, it has been decided to employ late summer (August/September) working on the project, so avoiding the risk of killing hibernating newts in the winter, which could not be found in soil, deep in the hedge etc., before the work. Late summer will avoid harm to any birds nesting in the hedge.

Delivery Information

A Mitigation and Compensation.

A.1 Summary of mitigation strategy

The mitigation strategy is based on avoidance of damage and conflict by principally timing work operations in August/September and so avoiding harm.

B Works to be undertaken by the ecologist or suitably qualified person.

B.1 Site modification, enhancement and creation.

1/ Provide copies of this Method Statement and a great crested newt factsheet to workers/contractors

2/ Carry out a hand search for newts on the development site. Any newts found will be relocated to the side of the pond in the garden. If over ten great crested newts are found consideration will be given on whether to contact Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) for their further advice.

B.2 Capture and exclusion (if applicable).

No exclusion is necessary or planned.

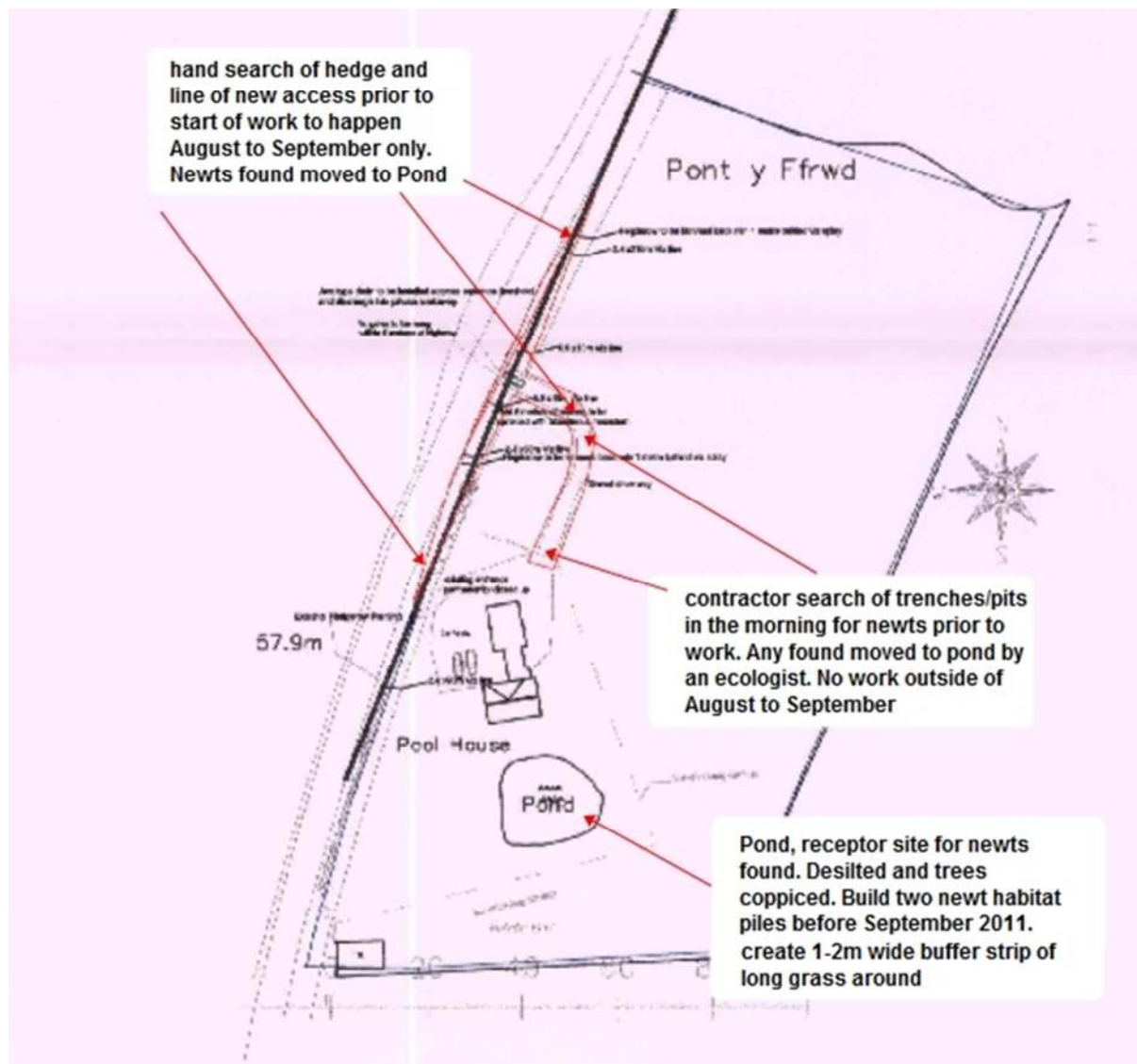
B.3 Temporary loss of breeding sites, resting places

There will be none.

B.4 Destruction of existing breeding sites, resting places

There will be none.

B.5 Scaled maps/plans



B.6 Contingency prescriptions

If more than 10 newts are found CCW's advice will be sought.

C Works to be undertaken by the Developer/Landowner

C.1 Design of development

When footings, pits, holes etc. and similar are being dug and left overnight, prior to work in the morning they will be searched for newts, and a suitably qualified ecologist called if any are found, and those newts removed to the side of the pond in the garden. If over ten great crested newts are found consideration will be given on whether to contact CCW for their further advice.

C.2 Provide sufficient resources

Effective site management will ensure these details are carried out.

C.3 Ensure appointment of an independent auditing scheme

Not relevant – large scale schemes with a development licence only.

C.4 Habitat/site management and maintenance

1/ The pond in the garden was heavily shaded by trees. The trees were coppiced in January 2011, avoiding the bird nesting season. The reduced evapotranspiration will increase water levels. The influx of light will encourage oxygenating and egg laying plants for newts to grow in the water and at its margin. **Branches and brash will be formed into two habitat and brash piles around the ponds, for newt hibernation, left permanently and not chipped or burnt.** All to be completed by September 2011.

2/ The pond was prone to drying and consequently has been desilted to remove the large build-up of organic matter, so increasing water levels, and increasing oxygen levels by reducing the take-up of oxygen by the bacterial decomposition of this organic matter.

3/ A newt foraging habitat buffering strip will be created some 1-2m wide around the pond. The buffer strip will be subject to no cultivations, no fertiliser and no spraying of pesticides. It will be managed each year by cutting to 15cm height in August/September every other year.

4/ Long term management will be to continue to coppice the returning growth of the scrub in and around the pond on an approximately 5 to 10 year rotation.

D Other matters

D.1 Population monitoring,

As this is not licensed work no monitoring of the newt population is proposed.

D.2 Mechanism for ensuring delivery

This statement meeting condition 2 of the Planning approval.