



Template Method Statement to be used within a Great Crested Newt Development Licence Application

This template Method Statement is to be used to form part of your Licence Application for a European Protected Species Development Licence. It will be used to determine the impact of the application on the favourable conservation status of the species concerned (Regulation 55(9) (b) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017). It must be prepared by a consultant ecologist or other suitably qualified person. You are strongly advised to refer to the **Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines**¹. Please submit your Application and supporting Method Statement electronically to the contact details provided below.

Please note as of the 1st March 2018 the declaration box found at the end of this template must be included on any Method Statements submitted in support of a licence application, and must be signed and dated by the applicant and ecologist. Any application containing a Method Statement without this declaration will be rejected.

Contact Details

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Method Statement Title:	Oak Road, Wrexham
Method Statement Version Number:	1
Method Statement Issue Date:	12/03/2021
Site Address:	Land to the south of Oak Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham LL13 9RG

¹ Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (NEWT1) available from Natural England website

Background and Supporting Information

A Executive Summary.

The permitted development site has planning consent for the construction of a block of four new industrial units. Greenscape Environmental Ltd carried out a Phase 1 Ecological Appraisal in May 2019; updated in January 2020. Habitat Suitability Index scores and observations indicated that two ponds in the locality (ponds 1 and 2) had 'below average' and 'average' suitability for GCN, respectively. Water samples were taken from pond 2 in May 2019 were found to be positive for GCN eDNA. Subsequent to submission of the original (2019) Ecological Appraisal report, Wrexham County Borough Council reported verbally that pond 1 was believed to contain a medium-sized population of great crested newts. The named ecologist sought clarification of this reported medium population. The WCBC ecologist was unable to verify the verbal report or provide details, as they had no access to the database due to the pandemic. Having visually assessed pond 1 in 2021, the named ecologist considers the report of a medium population in pond 1 unlikely; a small population or absence is deemed significantly more likely and reasoning for this conclusion is given.

However, given that the area being disturbed by building works is between some 30-100 metres of this possible breeding site (pond 1), an offence is considered reasonably likely and thus a development licence is required.

The predicted scale of the unmitigated impact at the site is considered to be low and negative (primarily temporary disturbance and destruction of very low quality terrestrial habitat). However, the proposed mitigation works aims to provide small areas of high quality terrestrial habitat by way of compensation. .

The proposed exclusion and capture is as follows:

- An amphibian barrier will be erected around most of the area of proposed construction. This will utilise existing metal fences for attachment of standard temporary amphibian fencing material. I-section girders and sunken grid across vehicular access will also comprise part of the exclusion barrier.
- Trapping of GCN will take place within the fenced area for 30 days at least and until 5 days have elapsed with no GCN being caught.
- There will also be hand and destructive searches.
- Trapped GCN will be placed in dense vegetation near pond 1.
- The amphibian barrier will be maintained newt-proof for the duration of the proposed development works.

The breeding ponds will be unaffected by the proposed development works. By way of compensation, two refuges/hibernacula will be constructed within some 30 metres of pond 1 and the permitted landscaping includes long grass and tree planting to provide additional high quality terrestrial habitat. In these ways favourable conservation status will be assured.

B Introduction

B.1 Background to activity/development

The permitted development comprises the construction of a block of four industrial units together with associated hardstanding and landscaping and the creation of new vehicular access onto Oak Road. It is required to meet growing demand and will provide employment opportunities for local tradespeople, of which there are many in the Wrexham area, and building works such as this will stimulate wider benefits. These will be not only in terms of generating wealth at the build stage, but also during the lifetime of the building by positively contributing to the local economy by employing local people. See Figure 1 in section E2.1.

B.2 Full details of proposed works on site that are to be covered by the licence

April/May 2021

- Erection of temporary amphibian fencing to partially enclose the working area (along the western, eastern and southern boundaries).
- Exclusion and clearance of newts. This will include placement of amphibian 'traps' such as corrugated Onduline sheets, and also hand searches and soft destruction of potential resting sites around the current storage yard.

May 2021 to October 2022 (approx.)

- Ecologist/Accredited agent supervised removal of all items currently stored within the working area.
- Creation of the new vehicular access and visibility splay.
- Construction of new industrial units.
- New landscaping (partly long grass), including the construction of two refuges/hibernacula within 30 metres of the likely breeding pond south of the site.
- Maintenance of the amphibian barrier.

October 2022 (or on completion of the development, if the newt active period)

- Removal of the temporary amphibian fencing.

B.3 Actions requiring licensing

Many of the proposed works have the potential to temporarily damage or destroy GCN resting places, as well as potentially disturbing, killing or injuring GCN. The proposed temporary exclusion and capture is necessary to minimise the risk of killing or injuring GCN, but will itself involve disturbing newts by capture and translocation. Its installation also has the potential to disturb GCN and damage or destroy resting places.

C Survey and site assessment

C.1 Existing information on great crested newts at the survey site.

Map 1 shows the predicted distribution modelling in relation to Wrexham Industrial Estate (approximate location indicated by the white circle, just right of centre). The permitted development site appears to lie in a transitional area between areas of moderate to high GCN suitability (orange/red) and areas of lower GCN suitability (yellow/green).

Existing data was obtained from COFNOD by Greenscape Environmental Ltd (hereon Greenscape) in 2019, focusing on records within 2km of the permitted development site. The closest GCN record within this data was from approximately 100m to the north of the site at the nearest point, recorded in 2004.

C.2 Statutory sites notified for the species (SSSIs or SACs) within 10km

There are no known SSSIs or SACs designated for this species within 10km of the permitted development area.

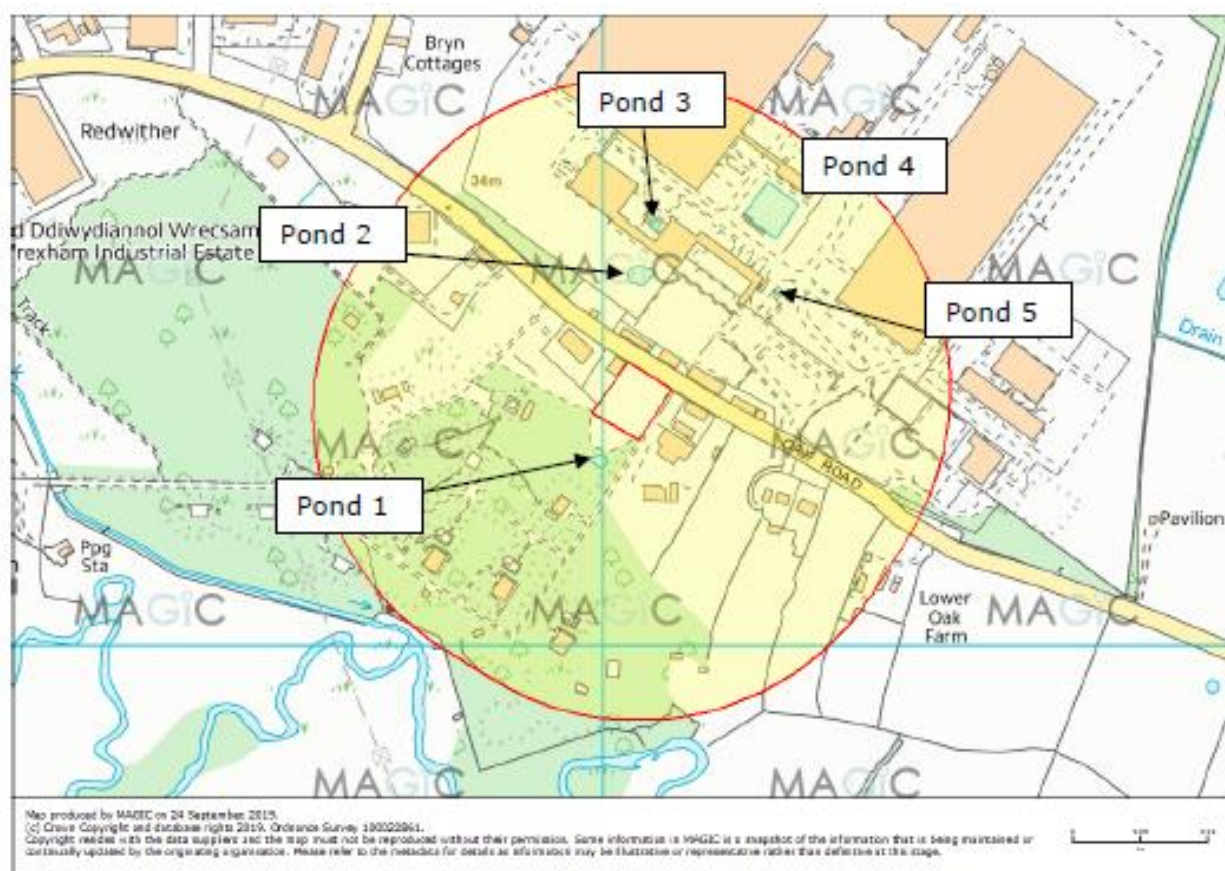
C.3 Objectives of the survey

Following HSI calculations and other observations by Greenscape in 2019, they established presence/likely absence in selected ponds.



C.4 Scaled plan/map of survey area

Map 2 - Location of the permitted area and ponds subject to assessment by Greenscape



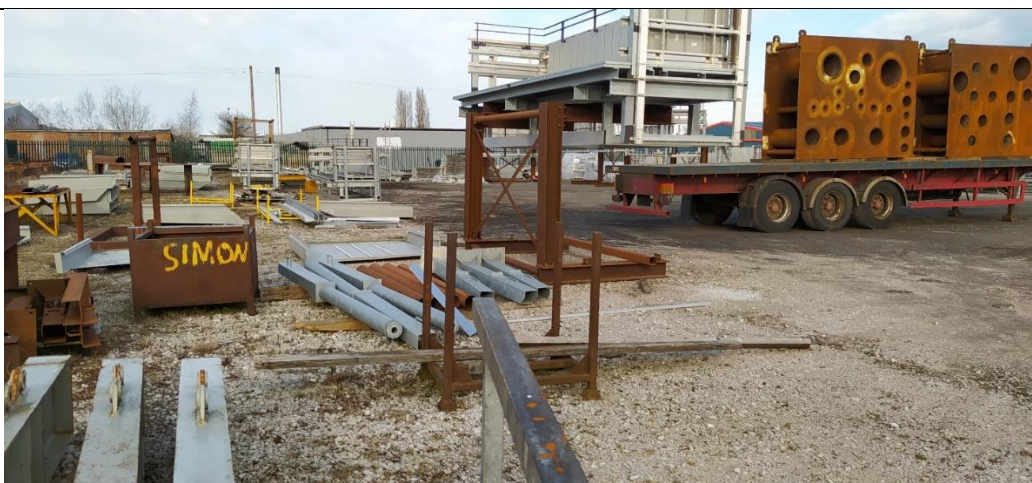
Aerial photos showing the permitted site (approximately outlined in red) as largely bare hardstanding





C.5 Site/habitat description (relevant to great crested newts)

The permitted development area mostly comprises hardstanding, used for storage of industrial materials, mainly formed and pressed steel products. The site is primarily bounded by metal fencing. Very small areas of short ruderal vegetation and grassland are present along some edges of the site. See photos below.

	From the SE corner of the permitted site looking N showing hardstanding that comprises virtually all of the area or works.
	From the SW corner of the permitted site looking N showing hardstanding but also temporarily stored steel that could act as refuges

Greenscape recorded five ponds within 250m of the permitted development site (see Map 2). The following descriptions are based on their 2019 report and also site visits made by the named ecologist in March 2021.

Pond 1 in 2021 had an area of less than 40m². It is approximately 30m south-west of the permitted development site. It was surrounded by dense bramble in both 2019 and 2021 so the water's edge could not be accessed. In both years the water depth appeared shallow (only some 30cm) and heavily dominated by filamentous algae. It is separated from the permitted development area by bramble scrub (about 15m), then hardstanding (about 15m). South, west and east of pond 1 (away from the permitted site) is high quality terrestrial habitat. See photos below and aerial photos in section C4.

Pond 2 has an area of approximately 200m² and lies approximately 70m north of the permitted development site. This pond is heavily shaded by surrounding mature trees. It is separated from the development site by buildings and a busy road that form a significant barrier to dispersal into the permitted site. See photos below and aerial photos in section C4.

Ponds 3 and 4 are unsuitable for breeding GCN, pond 3 was essentially dry in 2019 and 2021 and pond 4 is a lagoon containing chlorinated water understood to be used for cooling. See photos below.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Pond 5 is a very small ornamental pond that could be used by GCN for breeding but the sheer sides make dispersal from this pond effectively impossible. See photos below.

	Pond 1 in 2019
	Pond 1 in 2021
	Pond 2 in 2019

	High quality terrestrial habitat surrounding pond 2 (2021)
	From near pond 2 looking towards the permitted site showing a building as a barrier to dispersal (2021)
	From the NW corner of the permitted site looking towards pond 2 (arrowed) showing a building (same one as in the photo above) as a barrier to dispersal into the permitted site (2021)

	From the N of the permitted site looking towards pond 2 (arrowed) showing buildings, ground level concrete panel fencing and a road as barriers to dispersal into the permitted site (2021)
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	Pond 3 in 2019, described as “Dry at the time of survey.” It is also enclosed by a building on the three sides in the direction of the permitted site making dispersal into it highly unlikely
	Pond 4 in 2019. Considered unsuitable for breeding GCN: a lagoon containing chlorinated water understood to be used for cooling



Pond 5 in 2021 A very small ornamental pond that could be used by GCN for breeding but the sheer sides make dispersal from this pond effectively impossible.

C.6 Field survey(s).

Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessments were carried out by Greenscape on two waterbodies (ponds) within 250m of the permitted development area. Their findings were as follows - Pond 1, some 30m from the southern boundary of the permitted development area, was given a HSI score of 0.57, 'below average'. Pond 2, some 70m north of the permitted development area boundary, was given a HSI score of 0.67, 'average'. Submerged vegetation in pond 2 was checked but no eggs were found. Water samples were taken from Pond 2 on 16/05/19 by Ben Jones (Licence number 78716:OTH:SA:2018) and Chloe Sheil (MZool (Conservation), one year's experience of assisting with surveys), and tested for GCN eDNA. Conditions at the time of survey were 17°C, sunny, with clear sky and no rain.

C.7 Survey Results.

These are taken from Greenscape 2019 verbatim

Pond number	OS Grid Reference	Distance from proposed development site	HSI Score	eDNA
1	SJ38994916	30m	0.57 "Below average"	-
2	SJ39034933	70m	0.67 "Average"	Positive
3	SJ39044937	120m	-	-
4	SJ39154938	170m	-	-
5	SJ39154931	130m	-	-

It is noted that Greenscape state "WCBC has reported that pond 1 has been found to contain a medium sized population of great crested newts."

However, given:

- no records from COFNOD
- poor suitability, especially small size and shallow water
- severe difficulties faced accessing the pond for survey (see photos above),

the named ecologist sought clarification of this reported medium population. The WCBC ecologist was unable to verify the report or provide details as they had no access to the database due to the pandemic. Therefore, this report of a medium population in pond 1 is here considered to be unlikely; a small population or absence is deemed significantly more likely for the reasons given above.

C.8 Interpretation/evaluation of survey results (Great crested newt Mitigation Guidelines section 5.8)

Given:

- The poor suitability of pond 1, especially its small size;
- The likely small population present in pond 1;
- The proximity of pond 1 to the permitted area;
- The presence of artificial refuges in the permitted area (in the form of temporarily stored steel pressings and the like);
- The very poor connectivity between suitable breeding ponds in the locality (ponds 1 and 2);
- The presence of significant barriers to dispersal between pond 2 and the permitted site (see photos in section C5);
- The presence of high quality terrestrial habitat around pond 2 (see photos in section C5);

It is considered likely that;

a) very few, if any GCN breeding in pond 2 disperse into the permitted development site.

b) the metapopulation size class that has access to the permitted development site from pond 1 is small.

c) the permitted development site may well be used for resting (especially artificial refuges) by a few GCN that breed in pond 1.

In addition, during the works, any GCN dispersing across the permitted development site from pond 1 would be at risk of injury or death as a result of the construction.

D Impact assessment – potential impact of proposed works in absence of mitigation/compensation. See Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (section 6.2)

D.1 Short-term impacts: disturbance

In the absence of mitigation, the proposed works could potentially disturb a small number of GCN.

D.2 Long-term impacts: site modification

A small loss of resting places would result from the removal of stored materials within the permitted development area. However, these places of rest/shelter are themselves hazardous to GCN, which could be accidentally injured or killed by movement of these stored materials.

D.3 Long-term impacts: site loss

In the absence of mitigation, there would be some small-scale loss of possible resting sites, but these are considered to represent only a very small percentage of those available in the locality and so the likely impact is considered to affect only a small number of newts from one possible breeding pond (pond 1). In addition, as D2 above, these places of rest/shelter are themselves hazardous to GCN, which could be accidentally injured or killed by movement of these stored materials. The nature of the site (hardstanding) offers minimal opportunities for foraging and so loss of this to buildings is considered insignificant.

D.4 Long-term impacts: fragmentation and isolation

The proposed development works are considered to have a negligible additional risk of habitat fragmentation or isolation. Barriers to dispersal are already present between pond 1 and pond 2 to the north (see photos in section C5). No features which act as likely dispersion routes or stepping stones would be lost or severed by the proposals.

D.5 Post-development interference impacts

There are no perceived increased interference impacts post-development. Any gully pots used for the new vehicular access onto Oak Road will utilise off-setting from the kerb or pocket kerbs, and amphibian 'ladders' would be placed within them.

Due to the non-residential nature of the proposed development, traffic movement on site will continue to be mostly limited to daylight hours between March and November when GCN are active, hence there will be no increased traffic-related injury or mortality of GCN.

D.6 Predicted scale of impact

In the absence of mitigation, a low level of negative impact on a very local scale is predicted, as only a small extent of very low quality terrestrial habitat is being permanently lost. However, in the long term, with the proposed mitigation, a modest level of positive impact at the local scale is predicted due to habitat improvements.

Delivery Information - Mitigation, compensation and monitoring

Description of how the impacts will be addressed in order to ensure no detriment to the maintenance of the population at a favourable conservation status.

E Works to be undertaken

E.1 Great Crested Newt capture and exclusion (if applicable).

The works area, which will include the area where industrial units will be constructed, will be enclosed within a U-shaped amphibian barrier, to the west, south and east (see Map 3 in Section E2.4 below). All amphibians inside this enclosure will be trapped or otherwise caught and transferred to dense vegetation near pond 1.

Amphibian exclusion barriers will comprise a combination of I-section steel girders and standard amphibian fencing material. Standard temporary amphibian fencing material (such as woven geotextile) will most likely be used along the western and part of the eastern boundaries of the permitted development site (effectively as per the Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (GCNMG), Figure 4). Where feasible, the material will be attached to existing metal palisade fencing with the top curled to face away from the site. It will be as taut as possible with no noticeable creases or folds which could allow newts to climb the fence. Since the hardstanding precludes burying, the base will be folded along the ground and weighted down with sand, soil or similar to prevent any possibility of GCN passing beneath the barrier.

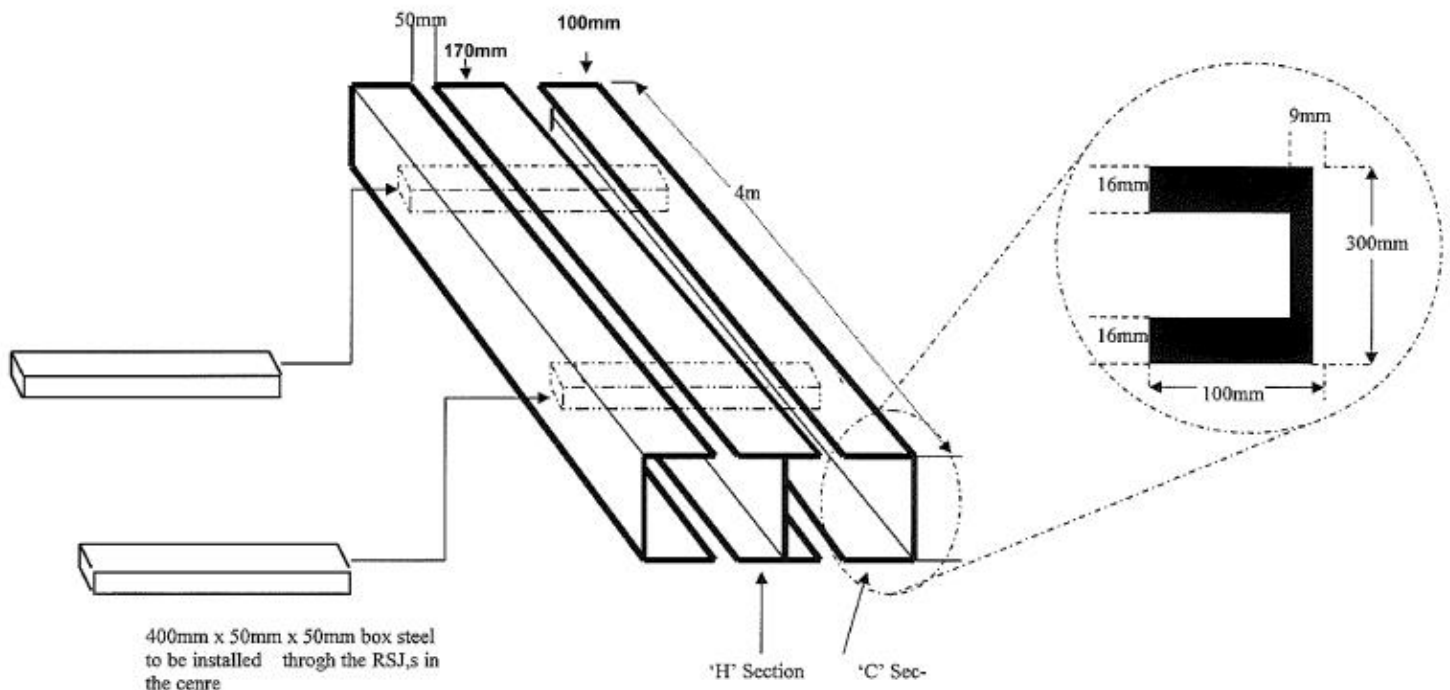
In places, especially on the southern and south-western boundaries of the exclusion area, the amphibian barrier will likely comprise I-section steel girders at least 30cm in height (see photo below), due to their availability onsite.



As with the standard fence, sand, earth or similar will be used to ensure that there are no gaps underneath or between these girders, which could otherwise be used by GCN to enter the permitted development site.

In addition, since vehicular access is required along the eastern boundary (from premises in the same holding), a bespoke 'newt grid' will be constructed along the lines of the diagram below and installed approximately where shown on Map 3 in Section E2.4 below. The grid will be tied into the exclusion fencing to ensure no gaps are present that GCN could pass through.

NEWT GRIDS FOR VEHICULAR ACCESS



Two additional I-section steel girders, each approximately 5m in length, will be placed close to the northern boundary of the permitted development site as 'drift fences' and refuge mats placed along them (see next paragraph). It is considered highly unlikely that GCN will enter the permitted development site from the north, as there are considerable barriers to dispersal from pond 2 which lies some 70m to the north of the site. However, if any GCN are captured in this area, the contingency will be to place additional temporary amphibian fencing and refuge mats along the northern boundary and modify the capture effort accordingly and proportionately.

Due to the hardstanding nature of the site, pitfall trapping is impractical and so traps to be used will be refuge mats (0.5m x 0.5m corrugated roofing sheets), essentially as per the GCNMG, Figure 4. These will be on the development side (i.e. inside) of the exclusion fencing, and placed at 5m intervals. As the total length of the exclusion barriers will be approximately 160m, this will total some 32 refuge mats. Refuge mats will also be placed along each of the I-section 'drift fence' girders close to the northern and north-western boundaries of the site. These will comprise one at each end of each girder, and two along each long side, totalling six around each girder, and so 12 in total.

Hence, using a total of 44 refuge mats across the permitted development site measuring approximately 0.27ha; the refuge density will be some 162 per hectare. Given this high refuge density (just over twice the minimum of 80 per hectare that is recommended in the GCNMG for a medium population size class), it is proposed to have a capture effort of 30 nights (all with suitable

weather conditions), in the period of April and May 2021. If there are GCN captures from night 25 onwards, the trapping effort will continue until there are five nights without captures (which also had suitable weather conditions). If the contingency noted above is triggered, the capture effort will be modified accordingly and proportionately.

The suitability of weather conditions for trapping will be via online checking of weather data for Wrexham. Suitable weather conditions will be taken as being a night-time air temperature above 5°C and ground is damp, i.e. if it is raining or has rained in the last few days.

The exclusion fencing will be inspected daily and appropriate repairs undertaken immediately. All GCN captures will be recorded by sex and life stage (adult or immature). All captured amphibians will be taken by clean bucket to, and released at, the proposed receptor site which is dense vegetation near to pond 1.

The exclusion fencing will remain in-situ until the building works and associated landscaping have been completed. All work will follow the biosecurity protocol (Annex K.4).

All of the above will be undertaken or supervised by a licensed ecologist and/or accredited agents or assistants they have trained. Training will include how to identify, sex and categorise the age of GCN, appropriate working methods in line with this method statement and translocation protocols.

E.2 Great Crested Newt habitat

E.2.1 Receptor site modification, enhancement or creation.

Two refuges/hibernacula that are based on the design in the GCNMG, Figure 3, will be located adjacent to the southern boundary of the site, closest to pond 1. These will be constructed as part of the final landscaping. This landscaping will also include areas of long grass and tree planting as shown on the permitted final layout reproduced as Figure 1 below.

This work will follow the biosecurity protocol (Annex K.4).

Figure 1 Permitted final layout showing landscaping (long grass and tree planting), The locations of the two refuges/hibernacula are approximately shown as red circles. For scale, the grid is 20m square



E.2.2 Temporary loss of breeding sites, resting places

There will be no impact on the likely breeding ponds. The temporary loss of resting places within the exclusion fencing will be mitigated by translocation of any GCN found.

Removal of stored industrial material on site will be carried out carefully, supervised by the named ecologist and/or accredited agents, in order to avoid accidental harm to GCN and to translocate any amphibians found to the receptor site.

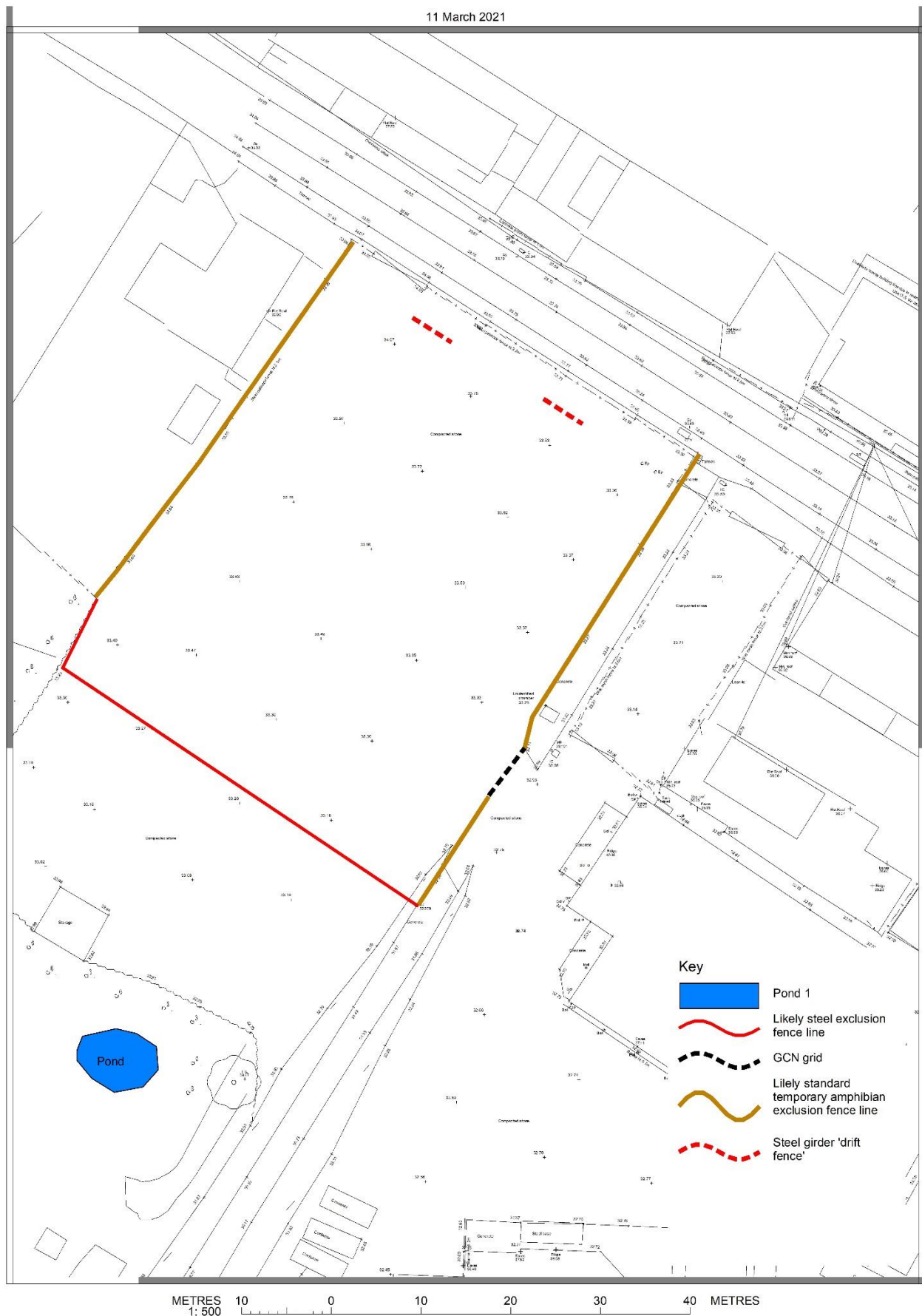
E.2.3 Destruction of existing breeding sites, resting places

There will be no loss of likely breeding sites.

On completion, the landscaping will include compensation in the form of two refuges/hibernacula as well as areas of long grass and tree planting as shown on the permitted final layout reproduced as Figure 1 above.

E.2.4 Scaled maps/plans

Map 3 Fencing layout. Note that refuge mats are not shown but are at the distances stated in section E1. Also the type of fencing in the locations shown could be subject to modification at the time of placement depending on the materials then available.



E.3 Mechanisms for ensuring delivery of mitigation and compensation measures

E.3.1 Measures to ensure compliance with this method statement.

An internal compliance audit for this scheme has been produced to NRW guidance and is included as Annex K.3. It has been designed to be proportionate with the low risk of impact at this site. The completed audit will be submitted to NRW, along with the required NRW licence report form, at the end of the licence period. If required, additional recommendations regarding the findings of the compliance audit will also be submitted at that time.

E.3.2 Ensure that sufficient land has been acquired for compensation purposes

N/A: no compensation land outside of the permitted site is required.

E.3.3 Ensure that designs of subsequent development are newt friendly

N/A.

E.3.4 Provide sufficient resources

The on-going site management is essentially the retention of long grass vegetation created as part of the landscaping and the two refuges/hibernacula. This will be the responsibility of the owner/applicant, who will have been trained as detailed in section E1 above, and will also take advice from the licensed ecologist, as and when required. This management requirement is known to the owner/applicant who, under this licence, will be required to fund the requirement.

E.4 Mitigation contingencies

It is considered highly unlikely that any contingencies will be required and none are proposed.

E.5 Biosecurity risk assessment

No invasive non-native species are known to be present on or immediately adjacent to the site.

Potential future spread of invasive non-native species will be prevented by adherence to the biosecurity protocol (see Annex K.4).

F Post-development site safeguard

F.1 Habitat/site management and maintenance

As per section E3.4, the on-going site management is essentially the retention of long grass vegetation created as part of the landscaping and the two refuges/hibernacula. This will be the responsibility of the owner/applicant, who will have been trained as detailed in section E1 above.

F.2 Population monitoring

Given the predicted low impact and the inaccessibility of pond 1, no monitoring is proposed.

F.3 Post-development mitigation contingencies

N/A.

F.4 Mechanism for ensuring delivery of post-development works

N/A.

G Timetable of works

As Section B2 above.

H Land Ownership – Mitigation Site/Compensation Site

H.1 Mitigation Site/Compensation Site Ownership

N/A: all licensable and mitigation works are understood to be in the same ownership.

H.2 Mitigation Site/Compensation Ownership post construction

N/A: all licensable and mitigation works are understood to be in the same ownership, and there are no plans for this to change.

I Declaration

I declare that should a licence be granted, the work as proposed in this Method Statement will be strictly adhered to. I understand that any deviation from the works as proposed in this Method Statement without agreement from NRW would result in a breach of the licence.

NB. Applicants should note that it is an offence under regulation 59 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 to knowingly or recklessly provide false information in order to obtain a licence.

Signature of the Applicant		Date	12/03/21
<i>For electronic submissions please insert an electronic signature above or place an x in the box opposite to confirm agreement with the declarations above.</i>			X
Full name in BLOCK LETTERS	Steve Wingett		
Signature of the Ecologist	Robert Mileto	Date	12/03/21
<i>For electronic submissions please insert an electronic signature above or place an x in the box opposite to confirm agreement with the declarations above.</i>			X
Full name in BLOCK LETTERS	Robert Mileto		

J References

English Nature (2001) Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines.

Russell, L. et al (2017) Spatial Action Plan For Great Crested Newts In Wrexham: A Manual For Achieving Favourable Conservation Status. NRW.

K Annexes

K.1 Pre-existing survey reports - see associated Greenscape report from 2019

K.2 Raw survey data – N/A (see associated Greenscape report from 2019)

K.3 GCN Compliance Audit Template

K.4 Biosecurity Protocol

Annex K.1: Pre-existing survey reports

See associated Greenscape report from 2019

Annex K.2: Raw survey data.

N/A (see associated Greenscape report from 2019)

Annex K.3: GCN Compliance Audit Template (This template has been adapted according to the requirements of this scheme)

Natural Resources Wales licence reference number:		Site name:	Land off Oak Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate
		Site grid reference:	SJ3902049216
Name of licence holder:	Steve Wingett	Name of developer if different from licence holder:	N/A
Name of ecological consultant:	Robert Mileto	Date/s of audit (dd/mm/yy):	TBC
Date licence issued (dd/mm/yy):	Date licence expired:	Licence implemented between (dd/mm/yy)	
TBC	TBC	From: TBC	To: TBC

No	Performance Indicator	Evidence required - this list should be adapted to reflect the agreed method statement	Pass (Yes/No), comments	What action is required as a result of findings?
1	Before starting work the licensee will advise the NRW Species Officer of the date the works will start.	Written or electronic documentation of notification of start of works.		
2	A suitably experienced licensed ecologist will be appointed and retained during the life time of this licence to provide on-site advice.	Letter, contract or other document outlining the appointment of an ecologist for the lifetime of the project.		
3	Prior to the start of any works on site, all site workers will be inducted by the Project Ecologist or an accredited agent. This induction will cover the legal status of the species, the method of working, and action to be taken	Copy of documents from ecological induction, showing content of induction. List of induction attendees		

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

	if protected species are encountered.			
4	Implementation of a biosecurity risk assessment as detailed in Section E.5 and Annex K.4 of the method statement	Biosecurity risk assessment is available for inspection. Log of implementation of bio-security measures is available for inspection and shows that they have been implemented. Field observation shows that biosecurity measures are in place		
	E1 GCN capture and exclusion			
5	Design and installation of amphibian fencing to the specifications provided in the method statement:	Log and field observation show that exclusion/ drift fencing have been installed as detailed in the method statement, including: - - fencing layout does not contain gaps through which newts may pass. - fencing membrane has been installed without noticeable creases or folds; - joints in the membrane have been well secured		
6	Amphibian fencing has been subject to inspection and maintenance according to CCW guidance sheets/ EN (2001) and as detailed in the method statement throughout the translocation and construction periods.	A fence inspection log of all inspections and all repairs required has been maintained and is available to NRW at 48 hours notice to show that: - the fence has been inspected by the project ecologist or one of their agents at least twice a week. - any repairs have been completed within 12 hours throughout the duration of construction works. - that 99% or more of the length of the exclusion fencing has been maintained in a satisfactory condition		

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

		- fencing has been kept clear of vegetation or other materials that may enable newts to climb over the fence		
7	Works within amphibian habitats will not commence until working areas are confirmed to be clear of amphibians by the licensed ecologist.	Log of activities, including clearance activities, is available for inspection recording captures.		
	E2/E3 GCN habitat modification and creation for mitigation and compensation			
8	All mitigation and compensation measures have been implemented as per section E2 and E3 of the Method Statement:	Log of works demonstrates habitat creation /enhancement implementation Design and installation of refuges: log and field observation show installation was in accordance with the method statement including: - dimensions - construction materials - number and locations		
	F and H: Long Term Site proposals	N/A		
9				
	Any other points to note/comments from auditor:			

Auditor name and organisation	Signature	Date

Annex K.4: Biosecurity Protocol

As far as is known there are no invasive non-native species (INNS) on site or in the immediately locality.

The following Biosecurity Risk Assessment (BioRA) outlines the measures to be taken to try to ensure this continues to be the case. It will be given to all contractors and surveyors working at the site. In addition, all contractors will be asked for their biosecurity policies. Each policy must include, at the very least, a protocol that matches the GB Non-native species secretariat “Clean check dry procedure” which can be found at <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/biosecurity-for-everyone.cfm> (accessed February 2021).

Oak Road, Wrexham Biosecurity Protocol March 2021			
Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational procedures / actions required to minimise risk
Himalayan balsam, <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Introduction of species via construction machinery. Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil.	Low: Himalayan balsam is not known to be on site or in the locality. Low: there are no requirements to import untreated soil.	Ensure owner and contractors know what Himalayan balsam looks like. If any plants are identified, these should be pulled up and left to dry before the seeds set (July/August).
Japanese knotweed, <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Introduction of species via construction machinery. Introduction of fragments via contaminated soil.	Low: Japanese knotweed is not known to be on site or in the locality. Low: there are no requirements to import untreated soil.	Ensure contractors know what Japanese knotweed looks like. If it is identified on site, refer to the standard Japanese Knotweed codes of practice for control

Since the proposals are at least 30m from the likely breeding pond (pond 1), some 15m of the intervening ground is hardstanding and there are no proposals for monitoring, there is considered to be minimal risk of introducing invasive non-native aquatic plants or chytrid fungus to that pond.